Freedom of Information request: 2018/0217 M

Thank you for your clarification to your Freedom of Information request received on 5th December 2018 in which you confirmed that you wanted the following information for the Medical Research Council (MRC), relating to the provision of catering services that we manage directly and/or under a contract with a third-party provider:

Your Request:

Within the past two calendar years:

1. Has in-house catering (e.g. staff or public cafeteria etc.) ever included halal meat?
2. Whenever the catering has included halal meat, was it always labelled as such?
3. Whenever the catering has included halal meat, was there always a separate meat option for people who do not wish to eat halal meat?
4. Was halal meat from animals that have not been stunned before slaughter ever served? (NB: halal meat certified by HMC is never stunned before slaughter)
5. If the halal meat was from animals that have not been stunned before slaughter, was it clearly labelled as such?

Our response:

I can confirm UK Research and Innovation does hold information relevant to your request. The response below addresses the information held relating to the operation of two MRC sites where the provision of catering services is managed under a contract with a third-party provider. Across other MRC sites different catering services and third-party providers are used and the provision of halal meat varies, however no information is held by the MRC for the remaining sites.

Within the past two calendar years:

1. Has in-house catering (e.g. staff or public cafeteria etc.) ever included halal meat?
   Yes.

2. Whenever the catering has included halal meat, was it always labelled as such?
   In all cases where halal meat was used it was clearly labelled as such.
3. *Whenever the catering has included halal meat, was there always a separate meat option for people who do not wish to eat halal meat?*  
Yes.

4. *Was halal meat from animals that have not been stunned before slaughter ever served? (NB: halal meat certified by HMC is never stunned before slaughter)*  
No.

5. *If the halal meat was from animals that have not been stunned before slaughter, was it clearly labelled as such?*  
Not applicable. Please see response to question 4.

If you have any queries about this response please contact me, or if you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to request a review of our decision, please write to:

**Complaints Officer**  
UK Research and Innovation  
Polaris House  
North Star Avenue  
Swindon  
SN2 1FL  
Email: foi@ukri.org

Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are still not content with the outcome of the review, you may apply to refer the matter to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review procedure provided by UKRI. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner  
Wycliffe House,  
Water Lane  
Wilmshurst  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Enquiry/Information Line: Between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745  
Further information about the Office of the Information Commissioner can be found at [http://www.ico.gov.uk/](http://www.ico.gov.uk/)

Yours sincerely,

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UK Research and Innovation, Information Governance Team  
Email: foi@ukri.org