Dear [NAME],

Freedom of Information request: 2018/0250

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 15th December 2018 in which you requested the following:

Your Request:

Under FOI, I am requesting the below information:

Copies of all correspondence (this includes both physical and digital) to AND from the Infected Blood Inquiry since 1st January 2018 to present day.

Our response:

I can confirm UK Research and Innovation does hold information relevant to your request in the form of correspondence between the Infected Blood Inquiry and the Medical Research Council, which is part of UK Research and Innovation.

However, as the information held takes the form of correspondence between the Inquiry team and the MRC relating to the work of the Inquiry we consider them to be Inquiry Records, and therefore exempt under Section 32(1) Court Records.

Section 32(1) is an absolute exemption and so there is no requirement to carry out a public interest test.

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,
Yours sincerely,

[Redacted]

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