Dear [Name]

Freedom of Information request: 2019/0058

Thank you for your freedom of information request received on the 20th February 2019, in which you requested the following:

Your request:

1. A breakdown of funds allocated to vertebrate research and invertebrate research for the period of 2016/17 to 2019/20.
2. Any data on how much money goes into entomological research and a breakdown how these funds are divided into different areas of entomology.
3. Any data on how many practicing entomologists and entomology departments exist in the UK today.

Our response

I can confirm that UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) would hold information relevant to your request. However, the information available to us is in awarded research proposals and as such this information is not easily accessible in a form that would help us address the questions you have identified. While our councils do support research relating to or involving animals, funding is not allocated, or routinely analysed, by species or by group, for example by commitments to research relating to vertebrate or invertebrate animals or entomological research. Therefore, we are unable to provide you with the break down you have requested in questions 1 and 2.

However, we are able to suggest two alternative sources of UKRI published information that will provide some indication of how we use animals in our research:

Firstly, UKRI’s research councils are signatories to the Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK1 and as such are committed to being clear about when, how and why we use animals in research. Therefore, each research council which supports research relating to animals publishes information on its website, this includes:

- https://bbsrc.ukri.org/funding/apply/application-guidance/animal-use-in-research/
- https://epsrc.ukri.org/about/standards/animalresearchpolicy/
- https://mrc.ukri.org/research/research-involving-animals/facts-and-figures/

1 http://concordatopenness.org.uk/
Secondly, all UKRI councils publish information on funded research on the UKRI Gateway to Research (https://gtr.ukri.org). In line with the Concordat on Openness on Animal Research, we encourage the researchers we fund to include information on research involving animals in the research abstract for their projects and these are available to search on the Gateway to Research. This information is not comprehensive but may help you to identify research relevant to different groups of animals, and searching for terms such as ‘entomology’, ‘vertebrate’, and ‘invertebrate’ may provide an indication of projects funded in these areas and the amounts awarded. However, it should be noted, that it will not provide you with a complete picture of research relating to or involving animals funded across UKRI.

UKRI do not hold information in response to question 3, however websites such as the Royal Entomological Society may be helpful - https://www.royensoc.co.uk/.

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
Wilmslow
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/

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted]

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