Freedom of Information request: 2019/0059

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 20th February 2019 in which you requested the following:

Your Request:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information:

The cost that different Universities in the UK requesting for maintaining mouse lines in their facilities in 2017. I am happy to have the cost itemized in whichever way is the least effort for you to provide (e.g. per cage/week or per mouse/week would be useful). I understand that this information might be regarded as commercially sensitive so I do not require the identity of the Universities to be provided.

Our response:

I can confirm UK Research and Innovation holds information relevant to your request.

Proposals are submitted in confidence to protect confidential research plans and commercially sensitive information provided to us by applicants and research organisations. UKRI considers that providing individual level data would breach the duty of confidence established as universities may become identifiable, therefore this has been withheld under Section 41(1)(b) of the FOIA, as this would constitute a breach of confidence. As this exemption is absolute there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

However, we believe that providing information on average costs requested would support transparency while protecting the information provided to UKRI in confidence.

For proposals submitted to the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Councils (BBSRC) and the Medical Research Council (MRC) the mean average costs requested for weekly maintenance costs per mouse was £1.01, the median was £1.70.

Data from BBSRC and MRC was used as the primary research councils to which research proposals involving the use of mice are submitted. The data is based on weekly maintenance costs requested at the time of application and does not reflect any changes in costs over the lifetime of an award. The average is based on costs requested in applications submitted in 2017 by 53 UK universities.
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,

[Signature]

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