Freedom of Information request: 2019/0099 N

Thank you for your freedom of information request received on 29th April.

Your Request:

At this time I would request that you undertake a search of any data files that you may have, for the following identified search terms, and provide me with a list of any results from this search. This will hopefully enable me to identify any specific data that I am interested in before requesting a copy of this data from you, and hence reducing the workload at your end.

Search Terms:
- Solar power stations
- Aquaponics
- Anaerobic digestion
- Bee colonies
- Fish Farming
- Polytunnels
- Vertical farming
- Living walls
- Crop growth tables
- Sea/saline based crops
- Hot-Dry-Rock geothermal energy

Our response:

The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) has been brought together with the 6 other Research Councils, Innovate UK and Research England to form the single organisation UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). I can confirm UKRI holds information relevant to your request.

The information requested falls within Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000, information reasonably accessible by other means. Information on UKRI/NERC, funded research can be found on the Gateway to Research webpage: https://gtr.ukri.org/.

On the Gateway to Research webpage above you will be able to enter each search term you have requested. The results will list all the projects that fall under the search term. You can then click into each research project individually and be provided with further information such as the research abstract, the organisations involved and any outcomes, including publications, that have been reported.

To fulfil our obligation to offer advice and assistance, if you are unable to access the Gateway to Research website above, please narrow your request. We would advise reducing the number of search terms to 1 or 2.
items and making the search terms more specific. We would also advise specifying the type of data you are most interested in receiving. This is because the information requested as it stands would exceed 18 hours to extract, and so would be refused under the Section 12 exemption, where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit. Some of the search terms you have requested could fall within the scope of the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR), the equivalent EIR exceptions would then be applied.

I have included the number of NERC results per search term on the Gateway to Research webpage to provide an indication of the amount of information held on the specific areas of research you have requested.

Solar power stations: 1344
Aquaponics: 0
Anaerobic digestion: 53
Bee colonies: 117
Fish Farming: 910
Polytunnels: 0
Vertical farming: 749
Living walls: 1356
Crop growth tables: 1457
Sea/saline based crops: 2904
Hot-Dry-Rock geothermal energy: 2093

If you have any queries regarding our response or you are unhappy with the outcome of your request and wish to seek a review of the decision, please contact:

**Head of Information Governance**
UK Research and Innovation
Polaris House
North Star Avenue
Swindon
SN2 1FL
Email: foi@ukri.org or infogovernance@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/](http://www.ico.gov.uk/)

If you wish to raise a complaint regarding the service you have received or the conduct of any UKRI staff in relation to your request, please see UKRI’s complaints policy: [https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/complaints-policy/](https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/complaints-policy/)

Yours sincerely,

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