

31st May 2019

Sent by email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Internal Review of Freedom of Information request: 2019/0064

Thank you for your email of 26 April 2019 regarding the response to your Freedom of Information request, reference: 2019/0064.

To the best of our knowledge, neither the MRC nor any other part of UK Research and Innovation had any involvement with the gulf war illness/ syndrome study conducted by Professor Atkin and Dr Sathyalapan. As the paper (*Pituitary hypophysitis and gulf war syndrome: a case series and hypothesis*) that you referred to in your request of 27 February 2019 itself specifically states that there was no external funding, this would support UK Research and Innovation's response of 15th April 2019. We apologise if this wasn't clear.

The MRC, as part of UK Research and Innovation, is a research funding body which primarily funds research at universities and MRC institutes, centres and units (<https://mrc.ukri.org/about/institutes-units-centres/>), in response to proposals from the research community. UK Research and Innovation would only hold detailed information on studies conducted at units and institutes owned by the MRC and does not have any remit in advising what research areas should be carried out by independent research organisations such as universities and medical schools.

If you have not done so already, we would suggest that you contact Hull York Medical School to find out further information about the study and whether any further research was undertaken elsewhere. Contact details can be found on the university's website at: <https://www.hyms.ac.uk/contact>.

In relation to your question about which Departments may have discussed the study we don't hold any information that would address this. The main Government Department with responsibility for research relating to Gulf War Syndrome would be the Ministry of Defence. If you have not done so already you may wish to contact them. Contact details can be found on the Gov.UK website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-defence>

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/>

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/>

Yours sincerely,

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