

30th July 2019

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: 2019/0182 RE

Thank you for your freedom of information request received on the 11th of July 2019 in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I read in the Manchester Evening News yesterday of your award of £25m to the building of the Manchester Cancer Research Centre following the fire, and demolition of the Paterson Institute on the Christie Hospital site.

The planning application for the proposed MCRC building is around three times the size of the previous institute. Within the application it states that "This collaborative research [Team Science] approach is one of the key drivers behind the floorspace requirements and thus the size and scale of the building". The Draft Strategic Planning Framework Addendum also states "The evidence shows that co-locating research groups and clinicians within a single Team Science building has considerable research advantages."

Might I ask:

1. *Was the introduction of "Team Science" a factor that influenced your funding decision?*
2. *Other than documents placed in the public domain related to the MCRC planning application (including: the Draft Strategic Planning Framework Addendum; the "Team Science: An Introduction" paper or Planning Application*), did any of the MCRC partners or agents working on the MCRC project, share with you documents related to the benefits of Team Science, and would it be possible to have sight of these?*

Our response

I can confirm UK Research and Innovation do not hold information relevant to your request.

Q1) "Team Science" was noted a small number of times in the submission documents (both Expressions of Interest and Full Submission) however this did not contain the level of detail nor was as fully described as in the documents you provided. In the submission documents it is introduced as a concept of multi-disciplinary working and co-location.

Co-location is a prominent feature and advantage conveyed through UK Research Partnership Investment Fund (UKRPIF) and therefore is not a concept unfamiliar to the Panel. The feedback recorded from the Panel makes no account of 'team science' as a feature in the decision to recommend the project for funding, where the research, leadership and clinical acceleration opportunities take precedence.

UKRPIF proposals are assessed against a range of criteria with the three primary criteria being:
1) Research Excellence, 2) Co-investment, and 3) Value for money

Q2) The panel were not provided any documents related to 'Team Science'.

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/>

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