

5<sup>th</sup> August 2019

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information request: 2019/0184 EP**

Thank you for your freedom of information request received on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July 2019 in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*I would like to make a Freedom of Information request regarding the internal EPSRC guidance on how the choice of reviewers is made for an EPSRC Standard Grant.*

*The grant applicants have the right to know exactly how their reviewers are chosen.*

*If the policies are different for various panels, then the one I would like to get information on is Mathematical Sciences.*

**Our response**

I can confirm UK Research and Innovation hold information relevant to your request. Please see the attached document "Choosing Reviewers" which is the internal EPSRC guidance for choosing reviewers.

A small amount of information has been redacted from this document under Section 40(2) of the FOIA, the exemption relating to personal information.

We are not obliged, under section 40(2) of the FOIA, to provide information that is the personal data of another person if releasing would contravene any of the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018. In this instance we believe that the release of information would contravene the first data protection principle and therefore section 40(2) has been applied. Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and therefore a public interest test is not required.

Additionally, further information is available on the EPSRC website on how reviewers are selected by EPSRC staff: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/assessmentprocess/reviewerselection/>

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](mailto:foi@ukri.org) or [infogovernance@ukri.org](mailto: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,

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