



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Directorate J - Common Support Centre  
J.1 - Common Legal Support Service  
**The Head of Unit**

Brussels,

To: Laura Motet

Grimmstrasse 10A

10967 Berlin, Germany

*By registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt*

*Advance copy by email:*

[ask+request-2330-eb5524xx@xxxxxxxxx.xxx](mailto:ask+request-2330-eb5524xx@xxxxxxxxx.xxx)

Dear Madam,

**Subject: Your application for access to documents, reference GestDem  
No 2015/5554**

We refer to your e-mail dated 7 October 2015 in which you make a request for access to documents, registered on 14 October 2015 under the above mentioned reference number.

Please note that we have limited the scope of your request to grants funded under the Horizon 2020 and FP7 programmes because they are within the remits of DG RTD. We have noticed that you sent a similar request for information to other services of the Commission and we hope that you have received a reply which addresses all the other grants and studies which are mentioned in your list, but do not relate to FP7 or Horizon 2020.

**1.-** We regret to inform you that after contacting the operational services in charge of the payments for the projects concerned, no documents were found that would correspond to the description given in your application.

This is explained by the fact that in on-going multi-beneficiary FP7 and Horizon 2020 grants the Commission makes payments only to the project co-ordinator who afterwards distributes the payments to the beneficiaries within the consortium. The

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Commission does not have information on precise sums given by the project co-ordinator to the beneficiaries. The Commission is aware about costs claimed by the beneficiaries only after the end of the grants; even for these cases, the payments linked to these costs are not refunded directly by the Commission to the beneficiaries, but paid to the project co-ordinator, who later distributes them among the other partners in the consortium according to their own agreements.

For on-going mono-beneficiary FP7 and Horizon 2020 grants, there is only one beneficiary, and therefore the payment is direct, but the precise sums given by the Commission to the beneficiary are known also only after the end of the project, because it is the moment when the EU contribution per partner, based on costs actually incurred and approved by the Commission, is known.

The only information that is available for on-going mono or multi-beneficiary FP7 and Horizon 2020 grants is the estimated EU contribution per beneficiaries. However, this is only an estimation, the precise sums received in reality by the beneficiaries can be different provided that they remain within the maximum EU contribution for the grant. In principle, the estimated EU contribution per beneficiaries in FP7 and Horizon 2020 is published on CORDIS (see for example the project COMPARE [http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/194068\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/194068_en.html), you can find the information under the name of each participants in the grant).

**2.-** Following this, and given that no such documents have been identified, the Commission is not in a position to handle your request as a request for access to documents under *Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001*. As specified in Article 2(3) of *Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001*, the right of access as defined in that *Regulation* applies only to existing documents in possession of the institution.

**3.-** Although the Commission is not in a position to handle your request as a request for access to documents under *Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001*, we understand that you would like to obtain as much information as possible on this issue. Therefore we have decided to treat your request as a request for information under the *Code of Good Administrative Behaviour*. We are now compiling by ourselves the information we have received from the research DGs and EAs and preparing a harmonized reply on behalf of all the research family, containing information about the estimated EU contribution to the selected UK universities. We expect to be able to send you this information in the coming days.

If in addition you are interested to know about the EU contribution linked to the costs claimed by the UK universities in closed grants (as mentioned above, these are the only ones for which we could retrieve actual data), please be aware that this will concern only a small number of the research projects mentioned in your list. If nevertheless you are interested in this, please let us know it and we will try to collect and provide you with this additional information.

If you are not satisfied with our reply to your access to documents request, you are entitled, in conformity with Article 7(2) of *Regulation 1049/2001*, to make a confirmatory application requesting the Commission to review this position concerning access to documents.

Such a confirmatory application should be addressed within 15 working days upon receipt of this letter to the Secretary-General of the Commission at the following address:

European Commission  
Secretary-General  
Transparency unit SG-B-4  
BERL 5/327  
B-1049 Bruxelles

or by email to: [sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu](mailto:sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu)

Yours faithfully,

*[e-Signed]*

Liliane De Wolf