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WhatDoTheyKnow

# University of Bristol and BGI Genomics

[John Lubbock](#) made this Freedom of Information request to [University of Bristol](#)

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The request was **successful**.



John Lubbock 1 May 2023



[Delivered](#)

Dear University of Bristol,

I am conducting a survey of UK higher educational institutions to find out which have had business dealings with the Chinese genomic sequencing company BGI Genomics.

I would like to ask whether your university has ever had any contracts or business relationships with BGI Genomics or its UK subsidiary MGI Tech UK. If there has been any work undertaken by BGI Genomics with your university, please can you provide a list of these contracts with dates from and to, and a short description of what the contract was for. I would like to clarify that I am requesting information on any contracts with BGI Genomics from 1 January 2015 to 1 May 2023.

Yours faithfully,

John Lubbock



University of Bristol FOI mailbox, University of Bristol 1 May 2023

Thank you for your e-mail. The University will endeavour to respond to your request under the Freedom of Information Act within 20 working days of receipt.

We may need to ask you certain questions to clarify your request to ensure we fully understand what information is being requested. If so, the 20 working day deadline will be calculated once we have received such clarification.

The University's A-Z index can help in locating information that is publicly available on the University's website: [1]<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/index/>.

Our Publication Scheme is available at: [2]<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/s...>

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) annually publish certain data about students and higher education: [3]<https://www.hesa.ac.uk/>. Bespoke datasets can be requested from Jisc: [4]<https://www.jisc.ac.uk/tailored-datasets>.

For further information about the University's FOI procedure, please see: [5]<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/secretary/foi/>

#### References

#### Visible links

1. <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/index/>
2. <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/s...>
3. <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/>
4. <https://www.jisc.ac.uk/tailored-datasets>
5. <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/secretary/foi/>

— SecOInformation Governance, University of Bristol 3 May 2023

Dear Mr Lubbock

We write to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 1 May 2023. We assume that you intended this to act as clarification of the timeframe in relation to the request for information in your previous email dated 24 April 2023. We will therefore treat it as part of the same request (under our reference FOI23198), but we will now take 2 May 2023 (as 1 May was a bank holiday) as being the date of receipt of your request. The deadline for the University to respond to your request is now 31 May 2023.

Kind regards

Freedom of information team

Legal Services, Governance and Information Compliance - Office of the University Secretary

University of Bristol

Email: [1][University of Bristol request email]

Please quote our reference number in all correspondence.

To: SecOInformation Governance ([University of Bristol request email])  
From: John Lubbock ([FOI #977251 email])  
Title: Freedom of Information request - University of Bristol and BGI Genomics  
Sent: 01/05/2023 13:51

Dear University of Bristol,

I am conducting a survey of UK higher educational institutions to find out which have had business dealings with the Chinese genomic sequencing company BGI Genomics.

I would like to ask whether your university has ever had any contracts or business relationships with BGI Genomics or its UK subsidiary MGI Tech UK. If there has been any work undertaken by BGI Genomics with your university, please can you provide a list of these contracts with dates from and to, and a short description of what the contract was for. I would like to clarify that I am requesting information on any contracts with BGI Genomics from 1 January 2015 to 1 May 2023.

Yours faithfully,

John Lubbock

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[FOI #977251 email]

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References

Visible links

1. [mailto:\[University of Bristol request email\]](mailto:[University of Bristol request email])

SecOInformation Governance, University of Bristol 10 May 2023

Dear Mr Lubbock

Freedom of Information Request (our reference FOI23198)

We refer to your Freedom of Information request dated 24 April 2023. You requested the following information:

“... whether your university has ever had any contracts or business relationships with BGI Genomics. If there has been any work undertaken by BGI Genomics with your university, please can you provide a list of these contracts with dates from and to, and a short description of what the contract was for.”

On 1 May 2023, you expanded your request to include information about contracts or business relationships with the UK subsidiary of BGI Genomics, MGI Tech UK. You also stipulated that the timeframe you are interested in is 1 January 2015 to 1 May 2023.

#### University's Response

Further to Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act') we confirm that the information requested is not held by the University of Bristol ('the University'). We can find no record of any contract or business relationship with either BGI Genomics or MGI Tech UK during the period specified.

#### Internal Review Procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, then you have a right (in accordance with the Code of Practice issued under Section 45 of the Act) to request an internal review. All such requests must be sent to us within 40 days, clearly stating your reason for requesting an internal review. We will aim to respond to your request for an internal review within 20 working days of receipt.

Your request for an internal review should be sent to  
[1][University of Bristol request email], quoting our FOI reference number  
(see above). Alternatively, you could post it to:

Director of Legal Services

Secretary's Office

University of Bristol

Beacon House

Queens Road

Bristol

BS8 1QU

Information Commissioners Office

Should you remain dissatisfied with the final outcome of the internal review then you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner ('the ICO') for an independent review. The ICO is the Government's Independent Body responsible for overseeing the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018 and The Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Please note the ICO will only review cases that have exhausted the University's internal review procedure. All correspondence to the ICO must quote the University's reference number and your reasons for your appeal. The ICO's contact details are as follows:

The Information Commissioners Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

More information can be found on the ICO's website  
at [2]<http://www.ico.org.uk>

Kind Regards

Freedom of Information Team

University of Bristol

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From: John Lubbock ([FOI #977251 email])  
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References

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1. [mailto:\[University of Bristol request email\]](mailto:[University of Bristol request email])
2. <http://www.ico.org.uk/>

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