

John Lubbock

By email: request-976194-283afa76@whatdotheyknow.com

17 July 2023

Dear John Lubbock,

G02119: Freedom of Information Request

We refer to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the 'Act'), below. Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding to you.

We have received several requests similar (if not identical) to yours, including one (G02435) which is publicly available on the WhatDoTheyKnow web site at:

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/i_am_conducting_a_survey_of_uk_h.

That request (G02435, for "*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*") is identical to your request, and the University's response to G02435 was (excerpted) as follows:

In accordance with [Section 1\(1\)\(a\)](#) of the Act, we confirm that the University holds the information of the description specified in your request.

Information pertaining to the scope of your request, is exempt from disclosure by virtue of [Section 43\(2\)](#) of the Act, entitled Commercial Interests.

As Section 43(2) is a qualified exemption, the University has considered the [public interest test](#).

If you do not feel that we have dealt with your request in accordance with the requirements of [Part I](#) of the Act, you may request a review. Your request for a review **must** specify in what respect you consider that the requirements of [Part I](#) of the Act have not been met; mere dissatisfaction with our response is insufficient. Please address your request for a review by completing the [form](#) and selecting FoI Review.

In accordance with section 5.3 of the [Code of Practice](#), a request for a review must be sent within 40 working days of the date of this letter. The University is not obliged to accept any requests for a review beyond 40 working days. We will acknowledge your request for a review and endeavour to respond within 20 working days of its receipt but please note that a deadline for a review response is not prescribed by the Act.

The Information Commissioner is responsible for enforcing rights of access to information and the operation of the publication scheme. You may apply to the Information Commissioner in writing (FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF) or [electronically](#) for a decision whether, in any specified respect, your request for information has been dealt with by the University in accordance with the requirements of [Part I](#) of the Act. The Information Commissioner will not normally act unless they are satisfied that the University's review procedure has been exhausted.

Please note that, although the University's response to G02435 did not contain hyperlinks, hyperlinks to [section 43\(2\)](#) and the [public interest test](#) have been inserted in the University's excerpted response, above.

As the two requests (G02435 and your own) are identical, the University's response to your request must perforce be the same [as the University's response to G02435, set out above].

If you do not feel that we have dealt with your request in accordance with the requirements of [Part I](#) of the Act, you may request a review. Your request for a review **must** specify in what respect you consider that the requirements of [Part I](#) of the Act have not been met; mere dissatisfaction with our response is insufficient. Please address your request for a review by completing the [form](#) and selecting FoI Review.

In accordance with paragraph 5.3 of the [Code of Practice](#), a request for a review must be sent within 40 working days of the date of this letter. The University is not obliged to accept any requests for a review beyond 40 working days. We will acknowledge your request for a review and endeavour to respond within 20 working days of its receipt but please note that a deadline for a review response is not prescribed by the Act.

The Information Commissioner is responsible for enforcing rights of access to information and the operation of the publication scheme. You may apply to the Information Commissioner in writing (FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF) or [electronically](#) for a decision whether, in any specified respect, your request for information has been dealt with by the University in accordance with the requirements

of [Part 1](#) of the Act. The Information Commissioner will not normally act unless they are satisfied that the University's review procedure has been exhausted.

Yours sincerely,



Freedom of Information
Legal, Corporate and Information Governance
University of Southampton

-----Original Message-----

From: John Lubbock <request-976194-283afa76@whatdotheyknow.com>
Sent: 26 April 2023 23:39
To: foi <foi@soton.ac.uk>
Subject: |Team:Legal - FOI|Freedom of Information request - University of Southampton and BGI Genomics

CAUTION: This e-mail originated outside the University of Southampton.

Dear University of Southampton,

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.

Yours faithfully,

John Lubbock

Please use this email address for all replies to this request:
request-976194-283afa76@whatdotheyknow.com

Is foi@soton.ac.uk the wrong address for Freedom of Information requests to University of Southampton? If so, please contact us using this form:
https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/change_request/new?body=university_of_southampton

Disclaimer: This message and any reply that you make will be published on the internet. Our privacy and copyright policies:
<https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/help/officers>

For more detailed guidance on safely disclosing information, read the latest

Page not found (<https://ico.org.uk/global/page-not-found?aspxerrorpath=/media/2013958/how-to-disclose-information-safely.pdf>)

Page not found (<https://ico.org.uk/global/page-not-found?aspxerrorpath=/media/2013958/how-to-disclose-information-safely.pdf>)

Page not found (<https://ico.org.uk/global/page-not-found?aspxerrorpath=/media/2013958/how-to-disclose-information-safely.pdf>)

Please note that in some cases publication of requests and responses will be delayed.

If you find this service useful as an FOI officer, please ask your web manager to link to us from your organisation's FOI page.
