Thank you for your Freedom of Information request asking:

Please could the Medical Research Council (MRC) tell me (for each of the last five years) how much of the budgets it grants to research bodies are spent on:

a) data centres
b) the energy bills for data centres.

How we fund research

The MRC supports research through a range of funding mechanisms which include grants, fellowships and studentships awarded to universities and research institutes. We also support research programmes within MRC research units and institutes.

Information held relating to your request

a) Funding provided through grants for Data Centres
Funding for Data Centres can be provided through all of our main funding streams. However, there is no specified format for requesting support for Data Centres and therefore we have searched for awards that specified costs relating to computing and for text within funded grant and fellowship applications referring specifically to Data Centres. We have also identified Infrastructure awards to MRC research units and institutes which specifically relate to computing infrastructure. However, as there is no specified format to request information on these costs within applications we cannot state that it is a complete representation of all Data Centre and computing costs.

Support for Data Centres and computing costs can also be funded through the Indirect Costs element of grants and fellowships however we do not hold any information relating to how funding might be used to support these areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Year</th>
<th>Infrastructure awards £k</th>
<th>&quot;Computing&quot; awards £k</th>
<th>&quot;Data Centre&quot; awards £k</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>£97 k</td>
<td>£70 K</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>£332 k</td>
<td>£129 K</td>
<td>£17,416 K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>£2,601 k</td>
<td>£192 K</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>£1,295 k</td>
<td>£238 K</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/17</td>
<td>£999 k</td>
<td>£15 K</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: The data shows award value by year of decision and therefore are not comparable to spend figures.

b) The energy bills for Data Centres.
Energy costs are not specified within funding applications but may be requested under the general heading of estates costs. Therefore, for grants and fellowship awards we do not hold any information on energy costs associated with Data Centres.
Detailed information on energy costs relating to Data Centres at MRC Research Units and Institutes is not held.

I hope that you find this response to be helpful, if you are not satisfied that this response has been handled appropriately; you may appeal using the MRC’s complaints procedure. Details are on the MRC website at: www.mrc.ac.uk/index/about/about-contact/about-complaints_procedure.htm. You may contact the MRC Complaints Officer at:

The Complaints Officer
Medical Research Council
14th Floor, One Kemble Street
London, WC2B 4AN.
email: customer.service@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner’s Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire, SK9 5AF.
Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Website: www.ico.gov.uk

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely,