



Ref. FOI/2018/March

27 April 2018

**Reply to request for information under Freedom of Information of Act**

Your Ref Email dated 22 March 2018

Address xxx

Request I would like to know whether the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism has received any funding from Google (or its parent company Alphabet) over the past five financial years. If so, I would like to know the total received as well as a breakdown of donations, giving the amount and money purpose of each. Please also include all forms of financial support including event sponsorship, offers of training/work experience for staff/students and any funding provided to individual academics for their projects.

I would like the same information regarding any financial support received from Facebook.

Dear xxx,

I refer to your email of 22 March 2018, requesting the information shown above.

The Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism (RISJ) is part of the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Oxford. It receives core funding from the Thomson Reuters Foundation, as well as grants, sponsorship, and donations and gifts in kind to support our research projects, events, publications, and the Journalism Fellowship Programme.

The Thomson Reuters Foundation is the only funder that has representation on our Steering Committee, which has strategic oversight of the RISJ and reports to the Head of Department and General Purposes Committee of the Department of Politics and International Relations.

In the academic year 2016/2017, we received support from 30 different individuals or organisations beyond the core grant from the Thomson Reuters Foundation, as noted in our [annual report](#). Google is one of these, and has been since 2013, when it joined several other sponsors in supporting our [Digital News Report produced that year](#). Facebook has not supported the institute in the past, but we have agreed a new grant with them that starts in 2018.

There have been no donations and no funding direct from either Google or Facebook to individual academics.

Funding from both Google and Facebook is in the form of grants. Major grants are announced on our website.

Grants behind individual publications are always clearly indicated in the publication in question, as with our [Digital News Project publications](#) and our annual and internationally renowned Digital News Report (DNR), which was supported in [2017 by 13 different sponsors](#), including Google. Further details are given below.

**Google**

### Research Funding received by the Reuters Institute

Year(s)	Project / Publication	Received from Google	Received from other sponsors	Number of other sponsors
2013	<a href="#">Digital News Report 2013</a>	£30,000	£90,000	6
2014	<a href="#">Digital News Report 2014</a>	£50,000	£136,500	9
2015	<a href="#">Digital News Report 2015</a>	£50,000	£222,500	12
2015	<a href="#">Supplementary Digital News Report</a>	£135,000	n/a	n/a
2016, 2017, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Digital News Project 2016</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Digital News Project 2017</a></li> <li>• Digital News Project 2018</li> </ul>	£5,278,095*	£695,203	13

\*Grant period 1<sup>st</sup> August 2015-31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 to cover 2016-2018 activity.

### In-kind support

RISJ events held at Google (hosted but no funding or sponsorship received):

- 23 July 2015: "Innovators in Digital News" - launch of report and presentation of key findings by author Lucy Kueng (hosted by Google)
- 23 November, 2017: "Going Digital: A Roadmap for Organisational Transformation" – launch of report and presentation of key findings by author Lucy Kueng (hosted by Google)

These are among c.80 events we have been involved in 2016/2017 with a range of different hosts and partners.

### Funding announcements

1. [28<sup>th</sup> April 2015](#)
2. [2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015](#)

### Facebook

Year	Project / Publication	Received from Facebook
2018 - 2019	Journalism Innovation Project	£190,000

Funding announcement: [New Journalism Innovation Project](#)

We have not organised any events hosted or sponsored by Facebook in the period in question, but this grant does make provision for several events to be held throughout the course of the project. We anticipate these will be organised and hosted by the Reuters Institute.

Yours sincerely

(xxx)

**FOI OXFORD**