From: [redacted]
Date: Wed, 4 Mar 2026 at 16:23
Subject: Cloud seeding/dimming the sun.
To: info@aria.org.uk <info@aria.org.uk>, [redacted]

Good afternoon to you.
Under the Freedom of information act can you both let me know what chemicals are used when dimming the sun and what is being sprayed into the atmosphere over the UK.

Pictures taken yesterday morning 3rd March 2026 over Cardiff. Await your reply.
Regards
[redacted]

Sent from Outlook for Android

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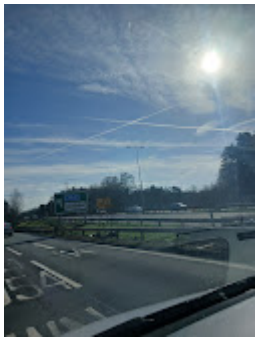
4 attachments



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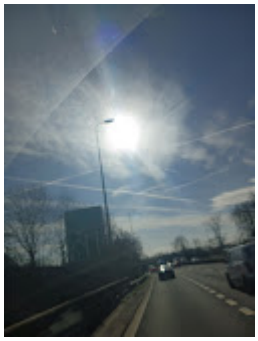

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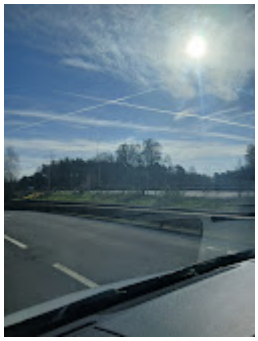

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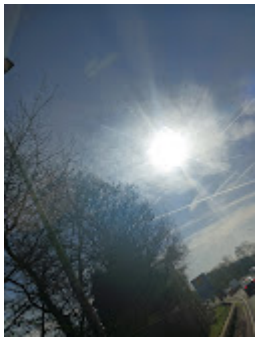


7281.jpg
3187K

Advanced Research + Invention Agency ARIA

[redacted]

10 March 2026

Dear [redacted],

Request for information

We are writing in response to your recent request for information to the Advanced Research + Invention Agency ("**ARIA**") dated 4 March 2026 in which you asked:

> *"Under the Freedom of information act can you both let me know what chemicals are used when dimming the sun and what is being sprayed into the atmosphere over the UK.*
>
> *Pictures taken yesterday morning 3rd March 2026 over Cardiff. Await your reply."*

Please note that ARIA is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However, we have provided a response to your query under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 ("**EIR**").

Response to EIR request

ARIA is not funding the deployment of climate cooling approaches. The Exploring Climate Cooling programme is funding 5 projects which will carry out carefully-controlled, outdoor experiments, with the goal of building an evidence base to support the effective governance of emerging climate cooling approaches. No such experiments have yet taken place in the UK. When sites are provisionally selected for these experiments, public engagement with the communities local to the experiment sites will be undertaken prior to any experimental work starting.

The outdoor experiments being funded by ARIA's Exploring Climate Cooling programme are as follows:

- One project will explore the efficacy of rethickening arctic sea ice using seawater.
- Two projects will explore the effects of seawater spray on cloud reflectivity.
- One project will explore the effects of electric charge on cloud reflectivity.

- One project studies how milligram quantities of mineral dusts age in the stratosphere. In this controlled experiment, none of these materials will be released; all are returned to the ground for analysis by scientists.

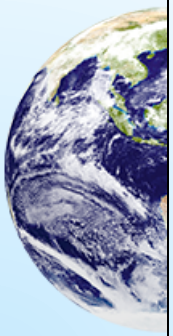
For more information about the Exploring Climate Cooling programme, including details of the funded projects, teams, amount of funding and locations, please see our website: Exploring Climate Cooling. For your convenience, we have enclosed a copy of this information at **Annex 1**.

Yours sincerely,

ARIA

Advanced Research + Invention Agency ARIA

Annex 1: Exploring Climate Cooling



Opportunity space: Future Proofing Our Climate and Weather

Programme: Exploring Climate Cooling

Exploring Climate Cooling

This £56.8m programme aims to build a robust evidence base to explore – with independent oversight – if climate cooling approaches could ever be feasible, scalable, safe, and governable.

Overview
Oversight + Governance
Funded projects
FAQs

To build an evidence base to support the effective governance of emerging climate cooling approaches. We are funding transparent, public-good research — from ethics to real-world experiments — so the world can make better-informed decisions about this field.

Why this programme

Cutting emissions is the only sustainable solution to the climate crisis. However, ever-rising global temperatures are driving a surge of interest in approaches designed to cool the climate on timescales faster than decarbonisation.

This new field is evolving fast, attracting venture capital and giving rise to new private companies. Yet our understanding of the impacts, risks, governability, and even the basic feasibility of these approaches is poor.

We lack the deep technical and societal understanding required to govern this field responsibly: to reduce risk in a way that is ethical, legitimate, and inclusive.

This programme exists to fill that evidence gap. We are funding fundamental research — transparently, and free from any profit motive. We are focused on building the open knowledge base the world needs to make better-informed decisions, which could include deciding not to use these approaches.

How we're doing it

Our international research portfolio is comprehensive, funding everything from computer modelling, to ethical frameworks, and observations of natural analogues of climate cooling approaches (like volcanoes). Where essential questions cannot be answered by models, we also fund a limited number of small-scale, carefully controlled outdoor experiments, with stringent requirements for safety, respectful engagement, and transparency.

The world has a critical window of opportunity to build this evidence base, ensuring that robust safeguards can be developed while this field is still at a nascent stage. We are committed to sharing our results openly for the common good, and to working in partnership with others with the same goals.

Read the programme thesis

Explore the funded projects

We're funding 22 research teams uniting specialists across diverse disciplines – from atmospheric physics, chemistry, and climate modelling to chemical engineering, systems analysis, and oceanography, alongside crucial expertise in governance and ethics – reflecting the programme's holistic approach.

Discover more

Our Programme Directors are supported by a core team that provides a blend of operational coordination and highly specialised technical expertise.

Mark Symes

Programme Director

Mark is an electrochemist with a 15-year career developing sustainable fuels in the drive towards net zero. He joined ARIA from the University of Glasgow, where he is Professor of Electrochemistry and Electrochemical Technology.

George Horner

Technical Specialist

George has a background in atmospheric physics, holding a PhD from Imperial College London, where he was researching how clouds evolve over time and how they may be impacted by aerosol particles.

Mike Farrar

Programme Specialist

Mike is a condensed matter physicist by training and joined ARIA from his postdoc in Oxford, where he conducted research on novel photovoltaics. Prior to this, he was responsible for the set-up of several high volume, thin-film deposition operations across the globe for the world's largest electronics original equipment manufacturers. Mike supports ARIA as an operating partner from Pace.