



25 February 2025

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2025/00114

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 30 January in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I would like to request information regarding the funding allocated to consortium partners delivering the Innovate UK EDGE (now Innovate UK Business Growth) program. Specifically, I request the following details:

- *A list of consortium partners that have received funding to deliver Innovate UK EDGE support services from 2021 to the present.*
- *The amount of funding allocated per annum to each partner during this period.*
- *The conditions and required expenditure guidelines for these funds.*
- *Copies of any contracts or grant agreements between UKRI/Innovate UK and these partners related to the delivery of business growth advisory services.*
- *Any publicly available audit or performance reports related to this funding.*

Our response:

I can confirm that UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) holds information relevant to your request. Please see the information below and attached.

Under Section 21 of the FOIA, Information already reasonably accessible, the following information you have requested is already available in the public domain:

- A list of all consortium partners that have received funding to deliver Innovate UK (IUK) Business Growth (previously known as Innovate UK EDGE) support services since 2021 can be found at the bottom of this [page](#)¹.
- The amount of funding allocated to each partner is also publicly available, from [IUK's Funded Projects Data](#)². Consortium partners can be filtered in 'Participant Name' (column K) to identify relevant funding amounts.
- Terms and conditions, and cost guidance for Innovate UK funds are available as part of the guidance made available for applicants, under the [Costs we fund](#)³ section.

Section 21 is an absolute exemption which means that there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

Please find attached "UKRI-IUK UK EDGE - Grant Funding Agreement Template" and "EDGE - UKRI Standard GOL Template" which are template agreements showing typical arrangements between IUK and consortium partners.

¹ <https://iuk-business-connect.org.uk/business-growth/privacy-policy/>

² <https://www.ukri.org/publications/innovate-uk-funded-projects-since-2004/>

³ <https://www.ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk/guidance-for-applicants/costs-we-fund/>

We believe copies of specific contracts or grant agreements between IUK and consortium partners falls under the scope of Section 43(2) of the FOIA. This exemption is used where disclosure would likely result in a person's (an individual, a company the public authority itself or any other legal entities) commercial interests being prejudiced.

This is a qualified exemption, and a test was carried out to determine whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs public interest in disclosure.

Public interest in favour of disclosure

- There is a general public interest in the disclosure of this information to ensure transparency and openness of a public organisation.
- There is also a public interest in transparency in order to ensure the accountability of public organisations and how they spend public funding.

Public interest in favour of withholding the information

- Grant Funding Agreements and Grant Offer Letters contain information that is commercially sensitive, such as cost information, which if released may an organisation's ability to compete for future funding or commercial opportunities.
- Releasing template agreements provides transparency to the terms and conditions on which funding is provided, without revealing information that is commercially sensitive to consortium partners.
- Releasing information provided in confidence to UKRI is likely to damage the possibility of ongoing relationships with other organisations. Relationships may become untenable if third parties cannot be certain that their commercial information will remain confidential when held by UKRI.
- Breaching the commercial interest may also adversely affect future negotiation opportunities for UKRI. UKRI may be seen as a 'confidentiality' risk if it routinely releases information relating to business arrangements into the public domain, particularly where this is third party information.
- We follow the government guidance on [managing public money](#)⁴. Standards expected of all public services include integrity, reliability, spending money in the public interest and achieving value for money. Our current thorough process ensures that only the best projects receive public monies. Releasing this information could jeopardize the fair and transparent competition process and undermine our function to fund the best projects. In turn, undermining this process would go against our responsibilities to manage our use of public funds.
- We also considered the impact on UKRI if commercially sensitive information of companies and organisations we and engage and work closely with were disclosed. We believe it would damage the trust in UKRI and likely impact our ability to carry out our role and manage our current and future investments.

Taking the above arguments into consideration, we reached the decision that the need for commercial confidentiality outweighs the public interest in disclosure; therefore the information is exempt from disclosure.

An evaluation of Innovate UK Edge Business Support was last produced in August 2023 and is due to be published to the [Innovate UK publications and reports](#)⁵ page. Please find attached a copy of this report; "*EDGE Evaluation Final Report Aug 2023*".

If you have any queries regarding our response please do let us know. If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review, explaining which elements of this decision you disagree with and why. Internal review requests should be submitted within 40 working days of the date of our response and should be addressed to:

⁴ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65c4a3773f634b001242c6b7/Managing_Public_Money_-_May_2023_2.pdf

⁵ <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/innovate-uk/our-publications/>

Head of Information Governance

Email: foi@ukri.org

Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are still not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply to refer the matter to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review procedure provided by UKRI. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: www.ico.org.uk.

If you wish to raise a complaint regarding the service you have received or the conduct of any UKRI staff in relation to your request, please see [UKRI's complaints procedure](#)⁶.

Yours sincerely,


Information Governance
Information Rights Team
UK Research and Innovation
foi@ukri.org | dataprotection@ukri.org

⁶ <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>