12 September 2022

Dear ████████████

Freedom of Information request: FOI2022/00258

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 8 August in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I am looking for some data on women's participation in innovation projects.

Please could you provide the following information with regard to the Innovate UK Smart Grants and the competitions from the last three years to the January 2022 Competition:

1.Total number of applications funded by year
2.Number of applications involving a female partner irrespective of organisation type by year
3.Number of applications involving a female lead business partner by year
4.Number of applications involving a female academic partner by year

Could you also please provide the following information with regard to the Knowledge Transfer Partnerships and the competitions from the last three years to the 2021 to 2022, round 5:

1.Total number of applications funded by year
2.Number of applications involving a female partner irrespective of organisation type by year
3.Number of applications involving a female lead business partner by year
4.Number of applications involving a female academic partner by year
5.Number of female KTP Associates by year

Our response

I can confirm UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) hold some information relevant to your request. Please see the information in tables 1 and 2 below in relation to Innovate UK Smart Grants and Innovate UK Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP).

UKRI does not hold information in the format requested and the tables are representative of the gender breakdown of the information we hold. Please note that the submission of gender data is voluntary.

The numbers provided are for all competitions that have closed and awards have been allocated, and includes data for the April 2022 Smart competition and KTP 2022 to 2023 round 2. Innovate UK started to routinely collect gender data in August 2020, therefore no data is available for earlier competitions. The survey has only collected responses from the lead applicant.

The survey asks for 'gender' and provides the response options of "female" "male" "prefer not to say" and "prefer to self-describe". "Non-binary" has been made into an additional category from 'prefer to self-describe' submissions. All survey responses have been provided to show a complete record.

To ensure anonymity of applicants, counts are rounded to the nearest multiple of 5. Counts and results are not disclosed for groups with 1 to 4 members, which are denoted with '--'. Where there are no applicants in a group, a count of zero would be included. Percentages shown are calculated on the unsuppressed counts. As a result some totals may not correspond with the data provided.

Innovate UK launched an updated EDI survey in May 2022, which aims to increase the response rate to the survey. The data provided is up to 18 August 2022 and includes some data from the updated survey, where applications were received beyond May 2022. In addition, Innovate UK has committed to annual publications of EDI data and expects to start publishing EDI data next year.

Table 1: Smart grant competitions 2020 – 2022 – lead applicant only

	Applications				Proportion of applicants		
	2020	2021	2022		2020	2021	2022
Female	300	970	215		13.6%	15.8%	8.5%
Male	1100	4000	740		50.3%	50.3%	29.5%
Non binary	--	5	0		0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
Prefer not to say	--	155	45		2.2%	2.5%	1.8%
Prefer to self describe	--	0	0		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
No data given	740	1925	1505		33.8%	31.3%	60.1%
Total	2190	6155	2505				

	Successful				Proportion of successful		
	2020	2021	2022		2020	2021	2022
Female	10	50	25		11.7%	13.9%	8.4%
Male	35	185	70		45.5%	53.6%	21.3%
Non binary	0	--	0		0.0%	0.3%	0.0%
Prefer not to say	--	10	5		3.9%	3.5%	1.6%
Prefer to self describe	0	0	0		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
No data given	30	100	220		39.0%	28.7%	68.8%
Total	75	345	320				

	Award rate		
	2020	2021	2022
Female	3.0%	4.9%	12.6%
Male	3.2%	6.0%	9.2%
Non binary	0.0%	16.7%	n/a
Prefer not to say	6.1%	7.8%	11.1%
Prefer to self describe	0.0%	n/a	n/a
No data given	4.1%	5.1%	14.6%
Total	3.5%	5.6%	12.8%

Please note that submission of gender data is voluntary. The collected data shows that 33.8% (2020) 31.3% (2021) and 60.1% (2022) of applicants did not complete the survey. Limited conclusions can be drawn from the data due to the low response rate.

Table 2: Knowledge Transfer Partnerships 2020 – 2022 – lead applicant only

	Applications				Proportion of applicants		
	2020	**2021**	**2022**		**2020**	**2021**	**2022**
Female	35	155	45		41.0%	41.4%	23.4%
Male	15	50	25		15.7%	13.0%	12.0%
Non binary	0	0	0		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Prefer not to say	--	5	--		1.2%	1.4%	1.0%
Prefer to self describe	0	0	0		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
No data given	35	165	120		42.2%	44.3%	63.5%
Total	85	370	190				

	Successful				Proportion of successful		
	2020	**2021**	**2022**		**2020**	**2021**	**2022**
Female	25	130	40		42.2%	42.7%	22.1%
Male	10	40	20		14.1%	12.6%	11.6%
Non binary	0	0	0		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Prefer not to say	--	5	--		1.6%	1.6%	1.2%
Prefer to self describe	0	0	0		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
No data given	25	135	110		42.2%	43.0%	65.1%
Total	65	310	170				

	Award rate		
	2020	**2021**	**2022**
Female	79.4%	86.3%	84.4%
Male	69.2%	81.3%	87.0%
Non binary	N/A	N/A	N/A
Prefer not to say	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Prefer to self describe	N/A	N/A	N/A
No data given	77.1%	81.1%	91.8%
Total	77.1%	83.5%	89.6%

Please note that submission of gender data is voluntary. The collected data shows that 42.2% (2020) 44.3% (2021) and 63.5% (2022) of applicants did not complete the survey. Limited conclusions can be drawn from the data due to the low response rate.

More information on UKRI's work in promoting Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) can be found here[1], including diversity data[2] and progress on the EDI Strategy[3].

If you have any queries regarding our response or you are unhappy with the outcome of your request and wish to seek an internal review of the decision, please contact:

Head of Information Governance
Email: foi@ukri.org or infogovernance@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.

[1] https://www.ukri.org/what-we-offer/supporting-healthy-research-and-innovation-culture/equality-diversity-and-inclusion/
[2] https://www.ukri.org/what-we-offer/supporting-healthy-research-and-innovation-culture/equality-diversity-and-inclusion/diversity-data/
[3] https://www.ukri.org/what-we-offer/supporting-healthy-research-and-innovation-culture/equality-diversity-and-inclusion/edi-strategy/

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 policy: https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/complaints-policy/

Yours sincerely,

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