



[REDACTED]

19 January 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2023/00004

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 5 January in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I have examined the UKRI Competitive Funding Decisions data tables which are very helpfully published from 2015/16 on your website. However, I would also like to be sighted on the equivalent data relating to projects that were not successful.

I would therefore like to request under FOI for each Financial Year starting from 2015/16 a list of the awards/applications that were not successful, and ideally including:

- *The FY decision date*
- *The UKRI Council*
- *Grant Category applied for*
- *Any reference*
- *Project title*
- *Award value sought*
- *Organisation*
- *Lead status*

Our response:

I can confirm that UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) does hold information relevant to your request.

We have determined that the information you have requested falls under Section 41 of the FOIA, information provided in confidence.

To explain further, UKRI's guidance states that applications are treated as confidential and, if successful, selected information about projects will be published. It is therefore implied that all applicants can confidently apply to UKRI for funding, and that information relating to their application will be kept confidential unless they are successful. If the information was released, we believe it would result in an actionable breach of confidentiality.

Section 41 is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test.

Summary information on unsuccessful applications can be found in the UKRI Competitive Funding Decisions spreadsheets ([April 2020 to March 2021](https://www.ukri.org/publications/competitive-funding-decisions-data-2020-to-2021/)¹ and [April 2015 to March 2020](https://www.ukri.org/publications/competitive-funding-decisions-data-2015-to-2020/)²), indicated by the number of applications received and the award rate. This information is presented by grant category, organisation, and organisation by council.

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/publications/competitive-funding-decisions-data-2020-to-2021/>

² <https://www.ukri.org/publications/competitive-funding-decisions-data-2015-to-2020/>

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

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

Yours sincerely,


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