

8 December 2020

Freedom of Information request: FOI2020/00381

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 5 November, and further refinement on 23 November in which you requested the following:

Your request:

Please kindly provide us with the scores, project ID number, project title, project duration and funds supported with for all the successful and unsuccessful applications to the January 2020 and April 2019 Smart Grant competitions.

We would also like to know how much the total allocated fund for each competition was when it was first advertised.

It would be also useful for us to see the public summary of the successful applications for both of the above requested SMART rounds.

Our response:

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

Please note that:

Stream 1: Projects 18 months or less in duration, with total project cost of £500k or less

Stream 2: Projects either over 18 months in duration and/or £500k project costs

The following are the raw scores for all eligible applications to the January 2020 and April 2019 Smart Grant competitions, split into Streams 1 and 2:

Score	Number of Applications			
	January 2020		April 2019	
	Stream 1	Stream 2	Stream 1	Stream 2
0 – 49.9%	322	15	109	4
50 – 59.9%	364	24	101	11
60 – 69.9%	560	62	184	47
70 – 79.9%	589	149	230	96
80 – 84.9%	201	78	66	35
85 – 100%	53	23	8	12

The following are the lowest scoring funded projects for each Stream, in each competition:

Stream	Lowest Scoring Funded Project	
	January 2020	April 2019

Stream 1	82.6%	80.2%
Stream 2	85%	85.4%

We can also confirm that the total advertised commitment of funds when the competitions were first advertised was £25 million for each.

Under Section 21 - Information already reasonably accessible, of the FOIA the following information you have requested for the April 2019 Smart Grants competition is already available in the public domain:

- Application Number (Project ID number)
- Project Title
- Project Duration
- Grant Offered

The public summary of this information is available from the [Innovate UK Transparency Data](#)¹. An excel spreadsheet can be downloaded and each column filtered to locate the information of interest to you. Column B indicates the competition, column C the programme title (Stream 1 or 2), column E the application number, column G the project title, columns N and O the project start and end date, by which duration can be determined, and column P the grant amount offered.

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

The same information, for the January 2020 Smart Grants competition, is exempt from disclosure under Section 22(1) of the FOIA as it is intended for future publication. Section 22 is a qualified exemption meaning that it is subject to the public interest test.

UKRI understand that being transparent in regard to data on successfully funded projects is in the public interest. However, as many of the projects are ongoing, the data is still incomplete and we are of the view that releasing the information as it currently stands would be inaccurate and misleading and thus not in the public interest.

We have therefore determined that the outcome of this test is that the public interest is insufficient to justify immediate disclosure.

Once completed, the information on these projects will be made available as part of the [Innovate UK Transparency Data](#). This data is updated on a monthly basis, as and when each competition has been completed and the data is ready for publication.

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

To explain further, Innovate UK's guidance states that if applications are successful that their information will be published. It is therefore implied that all organisations can confidently apply to Innovate UK and 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.

As this exemption is absolute there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

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.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/innovate-uk-funded-projects>

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: <http://www.ico.gov.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