



[REDACTED]

5 February 2025

Dear [REDACTED],

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2025/00026**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 10 January in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

Competition: Cyber Local, deadline 9 October 2024 (<https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/2037/overview/d949561f-60cd-4e50-8edf-be85c29eaa5f>)

*Please provide details on:*

- 1. The total number of evaluators who participated in the evaluation of the cyber local competition proposals,*
- 2. The number of evaluators who were also applicants,*
- 3. The success rates of proposals submitted by evaluators and the proposals that did not include evaluators,*
- 4. A breakdown of the above figures per region.*
- 5. Please provide any details on the training the evaluators received, NDAs and other contractual documentation the evaluators signed to protect the Intellectual Property of the proposals.*
- 6. Please provide details on how conflict of interest was managed for the applicants who were also evaluators.*
- 7. Please provide copy of the minutes from the panel meetings, showing the attendees at every stage.*

**Our response:**

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

- 1. The total number of evaluators who participated in the evaluation of the cyber local competition proposals*  
  
72 assessors participated in the evaluation of Cyber Local competition proposals, with each application being reviewed by 3 assessors.
- 2. The number of evaluators who were also applicants*  
  
No assessors of the Cyber Local competition were also applicants. It is standard practice that being an applicant is a direct conflict of interest and will exclude an individual from assessing the same competition.
- 3. The success rates of proposals submitted by evaluators and the proposals that did not include evaluators*

As noted above, no proposals were submitted by competition assessors. Of the 114 applications assessed, 31 were funded, a success rate of 27.2%

4. *A breakdown of the above figures per region.*

**Table 1: Total and successful applications to the Cyber Local competition by region**

Region	No of Applications	Successful Applications	Success Rate
East Midlands	3	3	100%
East of England	1	1	100%
London	5	1	20%
North East	18	4	22.2%
North West	25	6	24%
Northern Ireland	8	3	37.5%
South West	29	5	17.2%
West Midlands	7	3	42.9%
Yorkshire and The Humber	18	5	27.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>27.2%</b>

5. *Please provide any details on the training the evaluators received, NDAs and other contractual documentation the evaluators signed to protect the Intellectual Property of the proposals.*

Assessors receive mandatory initial induction training as well as generic all assessor guidance. They are also provided with a competition-specific briefing that covers all relevant information about the competition and an assessor guidance document. The guidance for the Cyber Local competition is published on the competition page, at the bottom of the 'How to apply' tab, [here](#)<sup>1</sup>.

Assessors are required to complete the attached “*IFS Assessors Agreement*” when they create their assessor profile on the Innovation Funding Service. This contains a section on confidential information.

6. *Please provide details on how conflict of interest was managed for the applicants who were also evaluators.*

The competition team runs a conflicts of interest check for all competitions at the stage when it closes for applications. This checks all applications submitted against all assessors who have accepted an invitation to provide assessment services for that competition. This check provides an output showing any direct or indirect conflicts. If there is a direct conflict, the assessor is contacted and they are advised they are not able to assess in the competition.

As per section 3.g) of the “*IFS Assessors Agreement*”, assessors are required to declare any conflicts of interest with an allocation or individual application. Where Innovate UK considers that a conflict of interest exists, an assessor becomes ineligible to provide assessment services for that competition.

7. *Please provide copy of the minutes from the panel meetings, showing the attendees at every stage.*

No minutes are held relating to panel meetings for the Cyber Local competition.

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:

Head of Information Governance  
Email: [foi@ukri.org](mailto:foi@ukri.org)

<sup>1</sup> <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/2037/overview/d949561f-60cd-4e50-8edf-be85c29eaf5#how-to-apply>

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](http://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](#)<sup>2</sup>.

Yours sincerely,

  
Information Governance  
Information Rights Team  
UK Research and Innovation  
[foi@ukri.org](mailto:foi@ukri.org) | [dataprotection@ukri.org](mailto:dataprotection@ukri.org)

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>