



16 September 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2026/00749

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 18 August in which you requested the following:

Your request:

For the most recent three-month period for which information is available, please provide:

- 1. The total number of Innovation Loans Expressions of Interest received.*
- 2. The number that were permitted or invited to progress to the next stage.*
- 3. The number that were rejected or not invited to progress.*
- 4. The broad sectors, technologies or project categories represented by the Expressions of Interest that were invited to progress.*
- 5. Where information can lawfully be disclosed, the principal reasons or assessment categories under which Expressions of Interest were rejected.*
- 6. The assessment criteria, scoring methodology, internal guidance or other criteria used when determining whether an Expression of Interest should progress to the next stage.*

We are not requesting confidential information belonging to other applicants, and anonymised or aggregated information is acceptable where necessary.

Our response:

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

The following data for the Innovate UK Innovation Loans is correct as of 20 August 2026.

Question	Answer
<i>1. The total number of Innovation Loans Expressions of Interest received.</i>	284
<i>2. The number that were permitted or invited to progress to the next stage.</i>	60
<i>3. The number that were rejected or not invited to progress</i>	224

4. The broad sectors, technologies or project categories represented by the Expressions of Interest that were invited to progress.

Industrial Strategy Sector	EOIs progressed
Digital and Technologies	27
Advanced Manufacturing	13
Life Sciences	11
Clean Energy Industries	6
Creative Industries	1
Defence	2

5. Where information can lawfully be disclosed, the principal reasons or assessment categories under which Expressions of Interest were rejected.

Unsuitable – business too early stage for innovation loan. Your business is currently not at the stage of financial maturity that aligns with an Innovation Loan. Other forms of investment, such as Angel, Pre-Seed, or Seed, may be more suitable for you.

Unsuitable – innovation loan unaffordable or financially unviable. An Innovation Loan would be too much debt for your business at this time. Other forms of investment, such as Angel, Pre-Seed, or Seed, may be more suitable for you.

Unsuitable – not within portfolio appetite (TRL). Your R&D idea does not meet the definition of experimental development, which is required for an Innovation Loan. A grant may be more suitable for you as it covers earlier-stage R&D.

Unsuitable – outside financial risk appetite. Based on your responses and financial position, your application is outside of the risk level that we're willing to take. A grant, or general business loan may be more suitable for you.

Unsuitable – insufficient information provided. We have not received enough information from you to make a satisfactory decision. This may be due to a lack of clarity in your response(s), or lack of information requested as part the question, for example, in the attachments.

Unsuitable – no R&D involved. We cannot see sufficient evidence of R&D being undertaken as part of the application from your responses, which is a requirement of an Innovation Loan. A general business loan may be more suitable for you.

Unsuitable – not within portfolio appetite (Industrial Strategy). Your R&D idea is not in, or does not fit into, one of the Industrial Strategy sectors that we support.

6. The assessment criteria, scoring methodology, internal guidance or other criteria used when determining whether an Expression of Interest should progress to the next stage.

Documents containing assessment criteria, scoring methodology or internal guidance for determining whether an Expression of Interest (EOI) should be progressed are not held.

As part of the assessment process, reviewers consider all information submitted within the EOI alongside independent due diligence using publicly available sources. This may include Companies House filings, director and shareholder searches, corporate structures, and other relevant information. Assessments are undertaken by experienced Innovate UK Loans professionals who apply their expertise and professional judgement when reviewing each application.

Innovate UK's assessment is based primarily on the information provided by the business, and sufficient detail and supporting evidence are therefore essential to enable a fully informed funding decision.

Your rights

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

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](#)¹.

Yours sincerely,


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

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>