



[REDACTED]

28 March 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2025/00311

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

Your request:

1) the score-breakdowns for all scored proposals submitted to the most recently completed round of the NERC Independent Research Fellowship scheme.

2) If the scores are weighted in the decision-making process, I would also like the weights to be supplied.

3) For each set of scores I would like an indicator as to whether the project was successfully funded or not.

For the purposes of data protection, the titles and contents of the projects, the applicants and the feedback and reviews by panel and experts should not be included - just the numerical scores and a binary indicator of success. Clearly many proposals do not make it to the stage where they are scored, so I am not interested in data on these.

Our response:

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

Under Section 21 of the FOIA, Information already reasonably accessible, the following information you have requested is already available in the public domain:

- [NERC Independent Research Fellowship Outcomes 2023](#)¹

This document includes details of all scored proposals submitted to the completed [IRF 2023](#)² call, as well as which applications were successful or unsuccessful. The [IRF 2024](#)³ call is still open to applicants until 3 April 2025, with the interviews expected to be held in September 2025.

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

We can also confirm that there is no weighted scoring to the IRF calls.

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:

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/NERC-200225-IndependentResearchFellowshipOutcomes2023.pdf>

² <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/nerc-independent-research-fellowship-2023/>

³ <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/nerc-independent-research-fellowship-2024/>

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](#)⁴.

Yours sincerely,


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

⁴ <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>