



[REDACTED]

16 July 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2021/00309

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 29 June in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I would like to request details on the annual budget for Smart Grants/Open Competition for FY 2021, 2020 and 2019.

Our response:

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

Under Section 21, information already reasonably accessible, of the FOIA the information you have requested for financial years 2020 and 2019 is already available in the public domain.

The [Innovate UK Transparency Data](#)¹ holds information on all funded projects since 2004, which can be filtered by a variety of headings, including competition year (column I) and competition title (column B).

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

As per the information published in the funding section of the online [competition briefs](#)² for previous rounds of Smart Grants, the total funding allocated for each competition has been up to £25 million. However, total committed budget on successful projects is only confirmed and published once they have cleared the project set up stage and been issued with their grant offer letter.

Any funding information on successful projects is subject to change between funders panel decisions and the point of publishing transparency data as project set up includes financial viability and eligibility checks during which costs may be changed to ensure compliance with eligibility criteria. Once these checks have been completed and the projects have moved past the setup phase and are live, their information, including total funding amount, will be published in the Innovate UK Transparency Data.

Therefore, the figure for financial year 2021 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 the total amount of funding provided is in the public interest. However, for the reasons explained above, the data is still incomplete and we are of the view that releasing the information as it currently stands would be inaccurate, incomplete and misleading and thus not in the public interest.

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

² <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/762/overview#eligibility>

We have therefore determined that the outcome of this test is that the public interest is insufficient to justify immediate disclosure. The exact date on when this information will be updated is dependent on when the projects for each competition complete the setup process.

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.

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,


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