



20 July 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2026/00545

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 25 June in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I would like to request the following information regarding Phase 1 of the Innovate UK Frontier AI Discovery Competition which closed on June 10th this year:

1. Total number of Phase 1 applications; and
2. Total number of Phase 1 applications that were deemed ineligible and not sent for assessment; and
3. Of those ineligible Phase 1 applications please provide a statistical breakdown of the criteria used to reject the application.

Our response

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

Question 1:

The total number of Phase 1 applications were 687.

Question 2:

The total number of Phase 1 applications that were deemed ineligible and not sent for assessment were 317.

Question 3:

Please see the information provided in the table below.

Table 1: Ineligible Phase 1 applications broken down by reason for rejection

Reason	Number of Applications
Applicant Withdrew	1
Costs less than £25k	8
Costs less than £25k - Subcontracting costs over 30%	1
Costs over £50k	69
Costs over £50k - Subcontracting costs over 30%	16
Out of scope	168
Subcontracting costs over 30%	54
Grand Total	317

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>