



[REDACTED]

8 April 2024

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2024/00230

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 8 March in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I was trying to identify the scores from recent competitions and whether any assessors were common across these applications.

I've attached a screenshot of what I received from a previous FOI enquiry. As you can see, they have associated the assessor with their assessment score whilst still keeping things confidential.

I was hoping to get an updated version of this to include a number of other projects so I could not only see the scores for each question but also see if any of the assessors scored us low on multiple different applications or decided to be awkward with their scoring.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I appreciate that it is a lot of work but the full list of applications that I would like to see are as follows:

Faraday Battery Challenge Round 4 Innovation: R&D - Long Life Scalable Battery System for Electric & Hybrid Freight Rail Applications
1184 Faraday Battery Challenge Round 5 Innovation: Feasibility Studies - Robust Sealed For Life Battery Pack For Rail & Road Freight

SBRI Competition: First of a Kind 3: Resilience, freight, noise & environment - Retrofit EURO 6 Diesel Hybrid System For Shunters & Other Freight Applications

Innovate UK Smart Grants: August 2020 - Hybrid Electric Powertrain Conversion for Heavy Duty Mainline Freight Locomotives
Innovate UK Smart Grants: July 2022 - Operate Any Diesel Rail Locomotive With Zero Emissions Using Overhead Electric Cables

SBRI Competition: First of a Kind 2021 - Artificial Intelligence Driven Hydraulic Energy Recovery & Delivery for Rail Wagons
SBRI Competition: First of a Kind 2021 - High Power Mainline Hybrid Electric Conversion For Freight Locomotives

1152 SBRI Competition: First of a Kind 2022: Low emissions and a greener railway - Locomotive Electric Range Extender & Off Board Power Supply

1153 SBRI Competition: First of a Kind 2022: Rail Freight - Self Powered Electric Wagons

SBRI Competition: First of a Kind 2023: Reliable and Maintainable Assets Rail Demonstrations - If you can't measure it, change it until you can, aka Many hands make light work.

Innovation Loans Future Economy Competition – Round 1 - Low Carbon Hybrid Electric Powertrain Replacement for Class 37 Mainline Freight Locomotive

1206 Innovation Loans Future Economy Competition – Round 4 - Upcycled Class 66 Locomotive With Cutting Edge Electric & Hybrid Electric Powertrains

Zero Emission Propulsion CR&D - Operate Any Diesel Rail Locomotive With Zero Emissions Using Overhead Electric Cables

Some of these, the ones with the competition number associated with them are shown on the attached screenshot so these will remain unchanged aside from any of the five assessors who may have appeared assessing other applications.

Clarification received: 15 March 2024

The actual list of projects I would be interested to find out the costing, and identify common scorers for, are as follows:

Hybrid Electric Powertrain Conversion for Heavy Duty Mainline Freight Locomotives

- Application number: [redacted]
- Competition: Innovate UK Smart Grants: January 2020

Semi-Autonomous Freight Rail Connectivity & Associated Damage Reduction Programme

- Application number: [redacted]
- Competition: The Sustainable Innovation Fund: round 2 (de minimis)

Low Carbon Hybrid Electric Powertrain Replacement for Class 37 Mainline Freight Locomotive

- Application number: [redacted]
- Competition: Innovation continuity loans: Strand 2 August 2020 follow-on competition

Low Carbon Hybrid Electric Powertrain Replacement for Class 37 Mainline Freight Locomotive

- Application number: [redacted]
- Competition: Innovation continuity loans: Strand 2 October 2020 follow-on competition

Semi-Autonomous Freight Rail Connectivity & Associated Damage Reduction Programme

- Application number: [redacted]
- Competition: The Sustainable Innovation Fund: round 3 (temporary framework)

Long Life Scalable Battery System for Electric & Hybrid Freight Rail Applications

- Application number: [redacted]
- Competition: Faraday Battery Challenge: Innovation R&D, Round 4

Hybrid Electric Powertrain Conversion for Heavy Duty Mainline Freight Locomotives

- Application number: [redacted]
- Competition: Innovate UK Smart Grants: August 2020

Low Carbon Hybrid Electric Powertrain Replacement for Class 37 Mainline Freight Locomotive

- Application number: [redacted]
- Competition: Innovation Loans Future Economy Competition – Round 1

Self Powered Electric Wagons

- Application number: [redacted]
- Competition: SBRI: FOAK 2022 Rail Freight

Locomotive Electric Range Extender & Off Board Power Supply

- Application number: [redacted]
- Competition: SBRI : FOAK 2022 Low emissions and a greener railway

Upcycled Class 66 Locomotive With Cutting Edge Electric & Hybrid Electric Powertrains

- Application number: [redacted]
- Competition: Innovation Loans Future Economy Competition – Round 4

Robust Sealed For Life Battery Pack For Rail & Road Freight

- Application number: [redacted]
- Competition: Faraday Battery Challenge Round 5 Innovation: Feasibility Studies

Operate Any Diesel Rail Locomotive With Zero Emissions Using Overhead Electric Cables

- Application number: [redacted]
- Competition: Innovate UK Smart Grants: July 2022

Operate Any Diesel Rail Locomotive With Zero Emissions Using Overhead Electric Cables

- Application number: [redacted]
- Competition: Zero Emission Propulsion CR&D

If you can't measure it, change it until you can, aka Many hands make light work.

- Application number: [redacted]
- Competition: SBRI: FOAK 2023 – Reliable and Maintainable Assets Rail Demonstrations

Remote Control Self Levelling Mobile Platform For Rough Terrain

- Application number: [redacted]
- Competition: SBRI: FOAK 2023 High Speed Rail Systems Installation Demonstrations

Clarification received: 18 March 2024

Apologies, it looks like I made a spelling mistake and scoring got autocorrected to costing.

I'm looking for the scoring for each section from each assessor, for each competition.

Our response

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

The scores from each assessor for your applications will be provided to you by Innovate UK's Customer Support Service.

All FOI responses are considered to be information that is being released into the public domain, and not just to the individual who has asked for it. Applicants expect us to maintain confidentiality regarding their scores and that this information will not be disclosed to third parties.

Furthermore, FOI requests are treated as "applicant blind" meaning that our response to an FOI request will be the same irrespective of who is asking for the information. For this reason, we maintain a consistent approach when considering requests for scores or application feedback through FOI requests.

With the above in mind, we consider that your request to 'identify common scorers' falls under the exemptions at section 40(2) personal data and section 41(1) information provided in confidence.

Section 40(2) – Personal Information.

This information has been withheld from disclosure under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the exemption relating to personal information. Data that would lead to the identification of common scorers has not been provided. We consider that to provide these details, individuals in this group could be

identifiable. This would undermine expectations of confidentiality in such circumstances and would be unfair to those concerned.

We consider that to disclose information relating to common scorers would contravene the first Data Protection Principle as defined under Section 86 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and Article 5 of UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) of lawfulness, fairness and transparency. Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test.

Section 41(1) – Information provided in confidence.

This information is also exempt under section 41(1) information provided in confidence. In relation to section 41 the guidance provided to applicants and assessors clearly states that applications are submitted to UKRI in confidence and that the assessor process will be carried out with the same degree of confidence. Under these circumstances assessors would expect the information requested to remain confidential.

As the information is held in a manner that protects the confidentiality of assessors, it is not possible to release data on common scorers in a way that does not risk exposing the identity of individual assessors. However most notably, breaching the duty of confidence already established with assessors would result in an actionable breach of confidence and therefore Section 41(1) has been engaged.

Further, releasing this information would be likely to negatively impact participation in the assessor process and limit UKRI's ability to conduct assessments effectively; UKRI may be viewed as a 'confidentiality' risk if it routinely released information that had previously been acknowledged as being provided in confidence. As this exemption is absolute there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test

As part of our duty to provide advice and assistance further information on the [assessment process](#)¹ stipulates that Innovate UK “preserves the anonymity of the assessors” engaged on projects, which underlines the requirement to ensure information is not disclosed that would lead to the identification of assessors.

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 within the next 40 working days:

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 policy: <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/complaints-policy/>

Yours sincerely,


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

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk/guidance-for-applicants/general-guidance/what-happens-after-you-have-submitted-your-application/#contents-list>