



[REDACTED]

28 April 2026

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2026/00204

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 9 March 2026 in which you requested the following:

Your request:

Please provide copies of all formal written Quarterly Reports submitted to Innovate UK to date under the AI Skills Hub (UKRI-3797) contract, as required under section 5 (Reporting Requirements) of the specification.

Our response

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

We have determined that the “*Formal written Quarterly Reports*” you have requested fall under Section 41 of the FOIA, information provided in confidence, and section 43(2) of the FOIA, commercial interests. Further details on these exemptions are provided below.

Section 41 – information provided in confidence

The quarterly reports were provided to us by PwC in confidence as part of the ongoing project. Disclosure would constitute an actionable breach of confidence, as the information is not publicly available and was supplied under a clear expectation that it would not be disclosed into the public domain.

Section 41 is an absolute exemption and therefore not subject to the public interest test.

Section 43 – commercial interests

We also believe that the information you have requested falls under the scope of Section 43(2) of the FOIA. This exemption is used where disclosure would likely result in a person's (an individual, a company the public authority itself or any other legal entities) commercial interests being prejudiced.

This is a qualified exemption, and a test was carried out to determine whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs public interest in disclosure.

Public interest in favour of disclosure

- There is a general public interest in the disclosure of this information to ensure transparency and openness of a public organisation.

- There is also a public interest in transparency in order to ensure the accountability of public organisations and how they spend public funding.
- It would be in the public interest to view the AI skills hub quarterly reports as public monies are used to fund this activity. As this is the case it is important that the programme has a positive impact and is beneficial to all parties involved. Seeing copies of these reports enables the public to independently assess the impact of the AI Skills Hub Project.

Public interest in favour of withholding the information

- These documents contain sensitive information like project timelines, risks, costs and current progress, and these factors have not been publicly disclosed, and there is a clear expectation of confidence given the commercial sensitivity.
- This industry area is a highly competitive field where any key approach or novelty may offer a key strategic advantage in the market. If we were to share these reports openly, we believe it may compromise a commercial advantage to a competitor and reduce the market position of PWC.
- We also considered the impact on UKRI if commercially sensitive information of companies we engage and work closely with were disclosed. We believe it would damage the trust in UKRI and likely impact our ability to carry out our role and manage our current and future investments.

Taking the above arguments into consideration, we reached the decision that the need for commercial confidentiality outweighs the public interest in disclosure, therefore the information is exempt from disclosure.

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>