



[REDACTED]

31 August 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2023/00597

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 4 August in which you requested the following:

Your request:

Please could you release the following information for all Innovate UK competitions with application deadlines in 2021, 2022 and 2023. A [table similar to similar FOI request UKRI 2019/0032 IUK](#) (for a longer period of time) would suffice:

- 1. The number of applications*
- 2. The number of successful applications*
- 3. The minimum successful score (%)*
- 4. Average grant value of successful projects*

Our response:

I can confirm that UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) hold information relevant to your request.

Please find attached "FOI2023_00597 Annex 1" which contains the data relevant to your request from 1 January 2021 until 21 July 2023.

Please note:

1. The "Min of Average Assessor Score" (column D) is the actual score reported on the system, without weighting or calculating as a percentage. To determine the score as a percentage for all competitions would exceed the appropriate statutory limit as specified within Section 12 of the FOIA. Please see below for more details.
2. Some competitions are not scored and have had their "Min of Average Assessor Score" left blank. These are direct awards or follow-on competitions where an independent assessment was not required.
3. The competition "Farming Innovation Programme - Research Starter Pilot - EoI" from 2021 was for expression of interests only, therefore no funds were awarded. Successful applicants were invited to the full stage competition.

As noted above, we estimate that the cost of determining the score as a percentage for all competitions within scope of your request would exceed the appropriate statutory limit as specified within Section 12 of the FOIA which for UKRI is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of 18 hours of staff resource on locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

To explain further, not all competitions are scored out of 100, with the scores recorded on the system being the actual score given by the assessors during assessment. In order to determine if a competition was scored out of 100 it would be necessary to manually check each competition brief. There are 339 competitions in this data set that were scored, and at an estimated time of 5 minutes per competition, it would take in excess of 28 hours to review them all.

Consequently, UKRI is not obliged under Section 12 of the FOIA to process this section of your request further/respond to your request.

The quality threshold for Innovation UK competitions is typically 70%. Therefore, we can advise minimum successful scores under 70 will indicate a competition was weighted with some questions having more points available, had less questions than typical, or was otherwise not scored out of 100.

We are also exempting some data under Section 40(2) of the FOIA, where the information relates to a single successful application for a competition. The specific score awarded has been suppressed with only the score range provided. We consider that to disclose this information would lead to the individual applicant score being identifiable which 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.

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,


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