UK Research and Innovation

[redacted]

6 October 2026

Dear [redacted]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2026/00810

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 7 September in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I am conducting academic research on long-term funding mechanisms for research talent in the United Kingdom and would like to request aggregate data on the renewal stage of the UKRI Future Leaders Fellowships (FLF) scheme.

For each completed FLF Renewal Meeting, from the first renewal meeting up to and including Renewal Meeting 15, could you please provide the following aggregate figures:

1. *The number of renewal applications submitted;*
2. *The number of renewal applications awarded/successful;*
3. *The number of renewal applications assessed but unsuccessful/not awarded;*
4. *The number of renewal applications withdrawn before a final funding decision;*
5. *The number of applications rejected or excluded on eligibility, compliance, or other administrative grounds, if applicable.*

If the data are not available by individual renewal meeting, I would be grateful for the corresponding aggregate figures by calendar year or financial year.
If UKRI uses terminology different from "successful" and "unsuccessful" for FLF renewal decisions, please provide the equivalent categories used in your administrative records.
I am requesting aggregate statistical information only and do not require any personal information about individual Fellows.
If any of the requested information is already publicly available, I would be grateful if you could direct me to the relevant dataset or publication.
Electronic provision of the data, preferably in Excel, CSV, or a simple table, would be greatly appreciated.

Our response

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

<u>Section 40 - Personal information</u>

In preparing this response we have considered the risks of identifying individuals from small numbers, therefore, in line with standard statistical reporting practice, data has been suppressed to mitigate against the disclosure of personal data.

We consider that under Section 40(2) of the FOIA, this data would be exempt where it relates to fewer than five individuals. We believe that to disclose information relating to small numbers of individuals 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.

Applicants in some categories have been rounded to the nearest value of five as noted by a '*'. As mentioned above, categories consisting of between one and four individuals have been suppressed as personal information under section 40(2) of the FOIA and are indicated by '< 5'. Where there are no members within a category, a count of zero is recorded.

Numbers for successful applicants have not been suppressed as these are routinely published.

Table 1:

UKRI FLF Renewal Meeting	**Total Renewal Applications received**	**Application Withdrawn**	**Rejected - Out of remit**	**Rejected - Panel decision**	**Successful Applicants**
Renewal meeting 01	3	0	0	0	3
Renewal meeting 02	12	0	0	0	12
Renewal meeting 03	10	0	0	0	10
Renewal meeting 04	25	0	0	0	25
Renewal meeting 05	21	0	0	0	21
Renewal meeting 06	16	0	0	0	16
Renewal meeting 07	24	0	0	0	24
Renewal meeting 08	55*	<5	0	<5	55
Renewal meeting 09	45*	<5	0	0	46
Renewal meeting 10	25	0	0	0	25
Renewal meeting 11	50*	0	<5	0	47
Renewal meeting 12	41	0	0	0	41
Renewal meeting 13	32	0	0	0	32
Renewal meeting 14	40	0	0	0	40
Renewal meeting 15	14	0	0	0	14
Total	**415**	**<5**	**<5**	**<5**	**411**

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,

[redacted]
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