



[REDACTED]

16 July 2024

[REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2024/00533

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 14 June in which you requested the following:

Your request:

We wish to understand and request data on Ethnic Minority (Black/African) Businesses that have been supported and or benefited from Innovate UK Business Connect (Innovate UK KTN) and Innovate UK Business Growth (Edge) government funded programmes across North West region in the last 10 yrs to support our current AfBC activities to promote inclusive economic growth and innovation.

Please, also include data on businesses supported to expand and internationalise into the African region.

Our Clarification:

We contacted you on the 17 June to seek clarification on your request (see below).

We have received two requests from you, asking for information across two regions "North West & across the East".

Would you like us to search for this information across anymore areas of the UK so we can incorporate all of these regions within our reply.

Clarification Received: 19 June 2024

Kindly combine all the requests. If you can provide data on black and African businesses that have been supported by and received grant funding from IUK in the last 10 yrs across all the UK regions instead of North West and East Midlands. That would be greatly appreciated.

Our response:

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

Innovate UK holds Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) related information for Black African lead applicants since May 2022. This data does not directly represent business owners or directors. Please note that the lead applicant may be neither a founder nor a director of the company. Please see Table 1 below.

UKRI does not hold relevant information for Innovate UK Business Connect (formerly Innovate UK KTN) and Innovate UK Business Growth (formerly Innovate UK Edge).

Table 1: Grant value and count of Black African lead applicants by region. This table provides information for the period May 2022 to March 2024 on successful applications, broken down by region and the number of successful lead applicants that have identified as Black African. Data on grant value of funding to Black African lead

applicants and the total funding awarded is also provided.

Region	Count of successful lead applicants (rounded)	Total grant value
East Midlands	5	£632,178.50
East of England	-	£74,697.60
London	55	£3,208,570.65
North East	10	£1,668,086.34
North West	10	£953,466.60
Northern Ireland	-	£291,086.00
Scotland	5	£538,620.41
South East	10	£501,654.00
South West	5	£991,698.25
Wales	-	£154,785.70
West Midlands	10	£304,734.50
Yorkshire and The Humber	10	£910,464.22
Region not specified	10	£6,855,966.69
Total		£17,086,009.46

Some information has been withheld from disclosure under section 40(2), the exemption relating to personal information:

- The counts of successful applicants have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 5. This reduces the risk of data being used to identify individuals.
- Any counts of 1 to 4 lead applicants have been denoted with '-'. We consider 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.

Please note, Innovate UK does hold ethnicity information from 2019, however this information is not included within our response, as the data held does not provide a breakdown specifically relating to Black African applicants. We also consider the information held between 2019-2022 to be incomplete, as the historic survey response rates were very low, in some competitions as low as 10%, due to the survey being voluntary.

In relation to the final part of your request, the following initiatives have been highlighted that involve building relationships and tackling problems collaboratively within the African region:

- Energy Catalyst – more information can be found [Energy Catalyst](#)¹.
- Global Alliance Africa – more information can be found [Global Alliance Africa](#)².
- African Innovation Collaborations for Net Zero Places – more information can be found [African Innovation](#)³.
- Agri-tech Catalyst – more information can be found [The Agri-Tech Catalyst](#)⁴.
- Global Explorers – more information can be found [Global Explorers](#)⁵.

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

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/energy-catalyst-what-it-is-and-how-to-apply-for-funding>

² <https://iuk.ktn-uk.org/programme/africa/>

³ <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1748/overview/b3fbf5e9-c249-4768-aec3-159f0c478974>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/international-development-funding/the-agri-tech-catalyst>

⁵ <https://iuk.ktn-uk.org/programme/global-explorers/>


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](#)⁶.

Yours sincerely,


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

⁶ <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>