



[REDACTED]

9 November 2020

[REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2020/00353**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 21 October in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request how much money has been lent to date under the sustainable innovation fund, and which companies have been given money since the start of the scheme to date. I would ideally like to see the amounts in an excel spreadsheet.*

*These requests do not fall under the official secrets act. While there will be a degree of commercial confidentiality, we believe the nature of state aid finance in question should mean that the names of the companies that have received money from the government should at least be readily available under public interest.*

**Our response**

I can confirm UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) does not hold the information relevant to your request.

Innovate UK does not lend money under the Sustainable Innovation Fund and therefore this amount would be zero, as no companies have been given money since the start of the scheme under a loan application.

Information regarding grants awarded under the Sustainable Innovation Fund has not yet been published on our [Transparency Page](#)<sup>1</sup> as the projects went live from 1<sup>st</sup> October and will be published in November's report. Taking this into consideration, we have determined that this information is exempt from disclosure under Section 22(1) of the FOIA as it is intended for future publication.

Section 22 is a qualified exemption meaning that it is subject to the public interest test.

**Public interest in favour of disclosure**

- There is a general public interest in favour of the disclosure of this information to ensure transparency and openness of these grants.
- There is also a public interest in transparency in order to ensure the accountability of public organisations and how they spend public funding.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/innovate-uk-funded-projects>

## Public interest in favour of withholding the information

- UKRI understand that being transparent in regard to grant funding is in the public interest. However, the data requested is still incomplete and we are of the view that releasing the information as it currently stands would be inaccurate, incomplete and misleading and thus not in the public interest.
- We consider that premature release would give a misleading impression of the grant funding outcomes and would put undue pressure on Innovate UK to publish outside of its scheduled timeframes which would lead to a disproportionate burden on the Institution. This would not be in the public interest.
- A full list of organisations, funds distributed and amounts under the Sustainable Innovation Fund will be published in accordance with our transparency duties once this data has been collected. As stated above, we expect this to be released in November and the transparency page will be updated accordingly.

The balance of the public interest therefore lies in withholding this information, as the public interest does not justify release of this information outside of the scheduled timeframes.

We anticipate that the data will be published on 15 November 2020.

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:

Head of Information Governance


Email: [foi@ukri.org](mailto:foi@ukri.org) or [infogovernance@ukri.org](mailto:infogovernance@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: <http://www.ico.gov.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](mailto:foi@ukri.org) | [dataprotection@ukri.org](mailto:dataprotection@ukri.org)