



25 June 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2021/00293**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 16 June in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*I would like to request some information on the number and cost of the assessing applications submitted to Innovate UK.*

*Please would you provide me with the following covering the last 5 fiscal years:*

- *Total number of independent assessment per fiscal year*
- *Total number of applications assessed per fiscal*
- *Number of application whose assessment score was below the funding call minimum quality threshold alluded to here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/innovation-apply-for-a-funding-award>*
- *Total spend on independent assessment per fiscal year*
- *Spend on assessing applications whose assessment score was below the funding call minimum quality threshold*

**Our response:**

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

The spend figures below are rounded using a figure of £115 per assessment, as assessment fees vary from competition to competition. The majority are £120 per assessment, with most exceptions being a slightly lower value.

Assessor costs for business-led competitions have not been included as the assessments are voluntary and only a nominal fee of £1 per assessor is made.

Fiscal Year	Number of Assessments	Number of Applications Assessed	Number of Applications Below Threshold	Total Assessor Spend	Assessor Spend on Applications Below Threshold	Assessor Spend on all Unsuccessful Applications
2016/17	18505	4319	2504	£2,128,075	£1,201,290	£1,485,800
2017/18	21185	6381	3346	£2,436,275	£1,263,850	£1,766,515
2018/19	35234	7921	4215	£4,051,910	£2,035,385	£3,140,305
2019/20	33516	7296	3483	£3,854,340	£1,840,000	£3,110,290
2020/21	84268	24580	13485	£6,935,995	£3,496,690	£5,581,870
<b>Total</b>	<b>192708</b>	<b>50497</b>	<b>27033</b>	<b>£19,406,595</b>	<b>£9,837,215</b>	<b>£15,084,780</b>

For additional context we have also included the assessor spend on all applications that were ultimately unsuccessful, whether they scored above or below the minimum quality threshold.

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  
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