



[REDACTED]

03 August 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2026/00685

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 6 August in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I am writing to make a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 concerning the 2026 Innovate UK AI Champions: Frontier AI Phase 1 competition for which applications closed on 29 April 2026.

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information regarding this competition:

- 1. A list of the projects and lead organisations that were notified as successful / approved for funding, following the communication of funding decisions to applicants on or around 3 June 2026.*
- 2. A list of the projects and lead organisations that entered into a funding agreement and/or commenced under this competition (projects being required to start by 1 August 2026).*
- 3. If the two lists above differ, please identify the projects or organisations that were approved for funding at the decision stage but did not commence or proceed to a funded project.*

Our response

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

Questions 1 and 3

We have interpreted 'projects or organisations that were approved for funding at the decision stage but did not commence or proceed to a funded project' to mean applicants that were successful at the decision stage but ultimately did not receive funding.

The information requested comprises details of organisations whose applications were assessed and approved for funding but which subsequently did not proceed to a funded award. Whilst UKRI hold information relevant to your request, we believe the information you have requested falls under the scope of Section 43(2) of the FOIA. This exemption is used where disclosure would likely result in a person's (an individual, a company the public authority itself or any other legal entities) commercial interests being prejudiced.

This is a qualified exemption, and a test was carried out to determine whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs public interest in disclosure.

Public interest in favour of disclosure

- Promotes transparency and openness in UKRI's activities and decision-making.
- Enhances accountability for the management of public funds.
- Increases public understanding of UKRI's funding processes.
- Enables scrutiny of projects approved for funding that did not subsequently proceed.
- Supports public confidence in the administration of research and innovation funding.

Public interest in favour of withholding the information

- Innovate UK's competitive funding process relies on applicants having confidence that information submitted during the application process will be treated confidentially. Innovate UK makes clear that only information relating to successful funded projects will be published. Disclosing information beyond these established expectations could undermine the integrity of the funding process, damage trust in UKRI and Innovate UK, and risk breaching obligations of confidentiality owed to applicants.
- Disclosure could reveal commercially sensitive information about an organisation's business strategy, financial position, partnerships, research priorities or project viability.
- Disclosure may prejudice an organisation's ability to secure future contracts, investment, collaborations or funding.
- Releasing information relating to projects that did not proceed could damage an organisation's reputation and competitive position.
- Disclosure may undermine trust between UKRI and external organisations, reducing willingness to share information openly with UKRI.
- UKRI may be perceived as a confidentiality risk, which could adversely affect its ability to build relationships, negotiate effectively and manage current and future investments.
- Protecting commercially sensitive information supports UKRI's ability to operate funding schemes effectively and maintain stakeholder confidence.
- Maintaining the exemption helps preserve trust in UKRI's funding processes and encourages continued participation in funding opportunities.

Whilst there is a recognised public interest in transparency regarding funding decisions, UKRI considers that, in this case, the public interest is outweighed by the stronger public interest in protecting the commercial interests of the organisations concerned. Disclosure would be likely to cause commercial harm without materially advancing public understanding of how UKRI makes funding decisions. The public interest therefore favours maintaining the section 43(2) exemption.

You may also find the Innovate UK competition guidance which references confidentiality as part of the process useful: [What happens after you have submitted your application – UKRI](#).¹

Question 2

Please see the information provided below this response in **FOI2026/00685 Annex 1**.

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.

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk/guidance-for-applicants/general-guidance/what-happens-after-you-have-submitted-your-application/#contents-list>

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](#).²

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

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

² <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>

Table 1: A list of the projects and lead organisations that entered into a funding agreement and/or commenced under this competition (projects being required to start by 1 August 2026).

Application Number	Organisation Name
10198107	NOVOMORPHIC LIMITED
10198221	CBX TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED
10198689	OBON LIFE LTD
10199159	ERGODIC LIMITED
10199677	NEUPHONIC LIMITED
10200869	INTELLEGENS LIMITED
10200988	Sentinal4D
10201397	TIMETRACE LABS LTD
10201404	IQANOVA LTD
10201497	LANTHAGEN BIO LTD
10201605	AIOS AI LTD
10201741	AUYAN LTD
10201743	PROSPECTRAL LTD
10201814	MATER-AI LIMITED
10201873	POLYCHORD LIMITED
10201935	LATOM LIMITED
10201945	RINICOM LIMITED