

13 July 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2023/00365

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 19 June in which you requested the following:

Your request:

If you have the information available, please could I request - for the Biomedical Catalyst 2023 Round 1: Industry-led R&D competition, for both the <£500k and >£500k projects:

1. The number of applications
2. The number of successful applications
3. The success rate
4. The minimum successful score
5. The maximum successful score
6. Maximum score of failed applications
7. Average grant fund value per project
8. Total funds allocated
9. The score distributions of the applications (e.g. % and number of applications which scored 0 - 70, 70.1 - 75, 75.1 - 80, 80.1 - 85, 85.1 - 100)
10. The cut off /minimum score required for invite to interview (>£500k projects)
11. The number of unsuccessful applications which scored above the minimum funded score

Our response

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

Table 1: Questions 1-8 and 11

Question	Project Cost of >£500k	Project Cost of <£500k	Total
1. The number of applications	119	173	292
2. The number of successful applications	10	34	44
3. The success rate	9%	21%	16%
4. The minimum successful score ¹	80.2	80	n/a
5. The maximum successful score ¹	85.2	89	n/a
6. Maximum score of failed applications ¹	91.3	83.2	n/a
7. Average grant fund value per project ²	£1,113,005	£364,307	£534,466
8. Total funds allocated ³	£11,130,053	£12,386,432	£23,516,485
11. The number of unsuccessful applications which scored above the minimum funded score.	21	1	22

Table 2: Question 9. The score distributions of the applications (e.g. % (or number) of applications which scored <70, 70.1-75, 75.1-80, 80.1-85, 85.1-90, 90.1-95, 95.1-100).

Score ¹ Range	Number			Percentage	
	>£500K	<£500K	Total	>£500K	<£500K
<=70	25	62	87	29%	71%
70.1-75	24	30	54	44%	56%
75.1-80	36	36	72	50%	50%
80.1-85	23	27	50	46%	54%
85.1-90	7	6	13	54%	46%
90.1-95	1	0	1	100%	0%
95.1-100	0	0	0	0%	0%

¹All scores are the written assessment scores and are given as percentages

²Average value of funding sought for 'successful' applications at the assessment stage

³Sum of the funding sought for 'successful' applications at the assessment stage; 'successful' applications are still subject to due diligence process and may not be funded

On question 10, there is no 'cut off /minimum score required for invite to interview (>£500k projects)', as a portfolio approach was taken to the projects invited to ensure a balance of projects across the innovation areas were interviewed. The lowest scored application invited to interview for each panel was:

Panel 1 – 81.0

Panel 2 – 81.2

Panel 3 – 78.0

Projects considered under strand 1 (over £500k) had a two-stage assessment. The first was a written assessment and projects were then selected for interview on both the assessor score and the portfolio review criteria. All applications selected for interview from strand 1 scored over the quality threshold of 70%, and the Innovation Lead selected the highest scoring projects to give a balanced portfolio of different innovation areas. The written scores were then superseded by the interview panel scores, which were used to determine funded projects based on a top-down approach.

Projects in strand 2 (under £500k) for this round were selected based on a top-down approach until the competition budget was reached. We reserve the right to undertake a portfolio approach for future rounds in strand 2. More information on the portfolio approach can be found in the [Innovate UK General Guidance](#).¹

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

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: <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/complaints-policy/>

¹ https://www.ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk/guidance-for-applicants/general-guidance/what-happens-after-you-have-submitted-your-application/?_ga=2.70744656.1770083017.1663756381-2126497687.1663161362#contents-list

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

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