



[REDACTED]

22 June 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2026/00459

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 24 May in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I am requesting access to the following financial and statistical information held by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) / Research England regarding funding allocations to the University of Westminster:

- 1. The total annual Quality-Related (QR) block grant funding allocated and paid by Research England to the University of Westminster for each financial year from 2021/22 to the present, specifically under Unit of Assessment 11 (Computer Science and Informatics).*
- 2. The standard funding models, metrics, or calculation frameworks used by Research England to determine the specific annual monetary value generated by a single 3* or 4* Impact Case Study within Unit of Assessment 11 during the REF 2021 funding cycle.*
- 3. Any recorded financial metrics, funding audit notes, or allocation data held by Research England concerning the specific University of Westminster REF 2021 Impact Case Study titled: "Optimisation of Image Quality in the Security and Smart Phone Sectors" (submitted under Unit of Assessment 11).*

Our response

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

- 1. The total annual Quality-Related (QR) block grant funding allocated and paid by Research England to the University of Westminster for each financial year from 2021/22 to the present, specifically under Unit of Assessment 11 (Computer Science and Informatics).*

Under Section 21 of the FOIA, information already reasonably accessible, the following information regarding Quality-Related (QR) funding is already available in the public domain:

- [Explainer: QR funding and the REF – UKRI](#)¹
- [What Research England has funded – UKRI](#)²

Section 21 is an absolute exemption which means that there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/publications/explainer-gr-research-funding-and-the-ref/explainer-quality-related-research-funding-and-the-ref/>

² <https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/what-we-have-funded/research-england/>

2. The standard funding models, metrics, or calculation frameworks used by Research England to determine the specific annual monetary value generated by a single 3* or 4* Impact Case Study within Unit of Assessment 11 during the REF 2021 funding cycle.

Under Section 21 of the FOIA, information already reasonably accessible, the following information regarding Research England funding formula is already available in the public domain:

- [How we fund higher education providers – UKRI](#)³
- [Results and submissions : REF 2021](#)⁴

Section 21 is an absolute exemption which means that there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

3. Any recorded financial metrics, funding audit notes, or allocation data held by Research England concerning the specific University of Westminster REF 2021 Impact Case Study titled: "Optimisation of Image Quality in the Security and Smart Phone Sectors" (submitted under Unit of Assessment 11).

No information is held by Research England that is within the scope of this part of your request.

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.

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](#).⁵

Yours sincerely,


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

³ <https://www.ukri.org/publications/research-england-how-we-fund-higher-education-providers/how-we-fund-higher-education-providers/#section-recurrent-funding-for-research>

⁴ <https://results2021.ref.ac.uk/>

⁵ <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/>