17 December 2021

Dear ████████,

Freedom of Information request: FOI2021/00494

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 12 November and clarification received on the 30 November in which you requested the following:

Your request:

On the 7th of December 2020, you sent me a response to the above request (FOI2020/00339 [IR2020/00384]). I am now requesting that the number of unsuccessful applications that you provided is broken down by the stage at which applications were rejected (initial sift, peer review, panel review, etc.), dating back to 2011 or whenever your records were digitised, in order to keep retrieval time below the spend threshold for FOI requests.

Additionally, I am also requesting that the total number of applications is broken down by funding mode (Early Career/Standard Grants, etc.) for the same period - either back to 2005, as per my original request, or if retrieval time for manual records would exceed the spend threshold for FOI requests, to whenever these records were digitised.

Your clarification:

With regards to part 1 of my request, I would ideally like the data from 2005. However, I had recently made a request for this data (ref FOI2021/00358), and in your response was advised that since records were digitised in 2011, a manual check of the records from 2005-2011 would exceed the spending threshold under Section 12 of the FOIA. However, as this was only a test case from the AHRC and not from the rest of the funding councils, I thought it best to leave my timeframe more open, should other councils have digitised their records at earlier/later dates.

With regards to part 2 of my request, I was referring to the type of funding offered. I am specifically concerned with whether grants were made for Early Career Researchers vs Standard Grants, and whether funding was offered in accordance with a specific research 'theme' or programme. As per my request, I would like this data ideally back to 2005, but should this require manual retrieval and thus engaging Section 12, then to whenever records were digitised.

Our response:

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

In considering your request we have identified that the data set provided in response to IR2020/00384 was not complete and therefore Table 1 contains an update to these figures, on which the response to this request will be based.

Table 1: Applications received in the area of archaeology and heritage

Year[1] (2005-2020)	Archaeological Theory	Archaeology of Human Origins	Archaeology of Literate Soc.	Industrial Archaeology	Landscape & Environ. Archaeology	Maritime Archaeology	Palaeobiology	Prehistoric Archaeology	Quaternary Science	Science-Based Archaeology	Heritage Management	Total[2]
UKRI Funded												
Total[3]	3	12	17	0	19	1	159	26	5	89	186	542
UKRI Unfunded												
Total[3]	3	38	31	2	65	4	488	36	10	344	972	2038

Notes

[1] Due to a variety of reasons (e.g. change of grant system and method of application) some councils do not have reliable data from 2005. The above data includes only that which is stored electronically and still available for interrogation.

[2] Total does not equal the sum of each subject area as some councils across UKRI are not able to classify some grants to specific types, due to them not being part of their standard classification system. Totals do not represent the total number of grants as some grants fit in two or more subject classifications.

[3] Subject totals do not represent the total number of grants as some grants fit in two or more subject classifications.

- Figures include grants from AHRC, BBSRC, ESRC, Innovate UK, NERC, Research England, MRC, FLF and STFC.

Part 1 – Unsuccessful applications broken down by rejection stage

During the process of gathering the additional data required to respond to this request, we have identified that the sampling method used to provide our time estimate to request FOI2021/00358 was not representative of data that was included in our response to IR2020/00384. We extend our apologies for this oversight, however we are retracting our original application of Section 12 and are now able to respond to the original request made in FOI2021/00358, which was as follows:

On the 7th of December 2020, you sent me a response to the above request [IR2020/00384]. I am now requesting that the number of unsuccessful applications that you provided is broken down by the stage at which applications were rejected (initial sift, peer review, panel review, etc.), according to the same categories that were provided in response to my initial request.

We believe that the data provided in Table 2 below should be sufficient to satisfy both the original request made in FOI2021/00358 and the first part of this current request.

Table 2: Unsuccessful applications in the area of archaeology and heritage by rejection stage

Rejection Stage[1]	Archaeological Theory	Archaeology of Human Origins	Archaeology of Literate Soc.	Industrial Archaeology	Landscape & Environ. Archaeology	Maritime Archaeology	Palaeobiology	Prehistoric Archaeology	Quaternary Science	Science-Based Archaeology	Heritage Management	Total[2]
Fundable, but not Funded	1	8	19	0	18	1	53	20	4	24	319	472
Interview	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Panel Meeting	2	23	6	2	34	3	273	7	3	175	192	735
Office Review	0	3	0	0	5	0	150	2	0	132	1	298
Peer Review	0	3	6	0	8	0	12	7	3	13	456	527
Expression of Interest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total[3]	3	38	31	2	65	4	488	36	10	344	972	2038

Notes

[1] Each Research Council has a different process to review applications, so not all applications included in the data above will have gone through the same selection process.

[2] Total does not equal the sum of each subject area as some councils across UKRI are not able to classify some grants to specific types, due to them not being part of their standard classification system. Totals do not represent the total number of grants as some grants fit in two or more subject classifications.

[3] Subject totals do not represent the total number of grants as some grants fit in two or more subject classifications.

- Figures include grants from AHRC, BBSRC, ESRC, Innovate UK, NERC, Research England, MRC, FLF and STFC.

Part 2 – Total applications broken down by funding type

The total number of applications, (the combined total of funded and unfunded applications in Table 1 above) is 2,580. Due to the range of different councils that these applications are applicable to and considering the types of funding opportunities that are available across a wide range of different themes and programmes, we have split the applications into two categories; "Early Career" vs "Other Grants", as suggested in your clarification.

Table 3: Total applications by funding type

Funding Type	Number of Applications
Early Career	421
Other Grants	2159
Total	2580

Across the various Research Councils, we have included the following funding types in the "Early Career" category: Fellowships, Post Graduate Training, New Investigators, Future Research Leaders, RE grants (all RE funding is done at an institutional level) and Future Leader Fellowships.

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 or 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,

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