



[REDACTED]

11 August 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2026/00572

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 10 July in which you requested the following:

Your request:

Funding for Brain Tumour Research

Kindly provide any recorded information that shows:

1. Funding

- committed funding;
- allocated funding;
- awarded funding;
- paid funding;
- expenditure since 2018.

2. Breakdown

- Any existing breakdown indicating funding attributed to:
 - * Medical Research Council;
 - * Other UKRI councils;
 - * Brain tumour research programmes or initiatives.

3. Projects

- Any existing lists, reports, or datasets detailing:
 - * Project title;
 - * Organisation;
 - * Funding awarded;
 - * Project status.

4. Tumour Types

- Any recorded funding breakdown by tumour type.
- If funding is not categorised by subtype, please provide:
 - * The classification categories used;
 - * The coding or taxonomy system employed;
 - * The most detailed breakdown held.

5. Delivery

- Any recorded information linking funding to:
 - * Studies;
 - * Clinical trials;
 - * Patient recruitment;
- Or confirm if no such information is held.

Our response

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

Questions 1-3: Funding, breakdown and projects

Please see the information requested in the attached document: **FOI2026_00572 Annex 1**.

Funding information is provided in the 'Awards' and 'Students' tabs of the attached dataset. MRC does not capture or hold funding information at the level of individual studentships and is therefore unable to provide a funding breakdown for individual studentship awards. Over the period requested, UKRI studentships have an average value of £100,000 to £150,000 over four years.

This dataset provides a breakdown of 'committed' funding and 'spend' for all relevant projects in the requested time period. UKRI does not hold separate 'allocated' and 'awarded' funding information; this information is captured as 'commitment' funding.

With regards to question 2, the attached dataset contains the requested funding breakdown by council. UKRI did not fund any additional, specific brain tumour research programmes or initiatives over the requested period.

UKRI funding mechanisms vary and for some awards there is no upfront commitment of funding, instead it is recorded only through annual disbursements (spend). Commitment and total spend may not always match up, this may be due to the timeframe in the data not representing all the spend (i.e. there may be some spend before or after the specified timeframe), or it may be due to fluctuations over the course of a research project as the planned commitment is not fully spent.

This dataset includes a Grant Number(s) column. You can search UKRI's [Gateway to Research](#)¹ for further details of the projects using the grant number(s).

Question 4: Tumour Types

UKRI does not hold a complete breakdown of awards by tumour type for the time period requested, as funding information is not recorded or categorised by tumour sub-type within the records held.

To identify the relevant awards provided in Annex 1, searches were undertaken using the keywords "brain tumour" and "brain cancer", category searches for "brain cancer" and "neuroblastoma", and cancer type searches for "brain tumour", "neuroblastoma" and "pituitary tumour". The information identified through these searches was then manually reviewed by a Subject Matter Expert to determine its relevance to the request.

Beyond these searches, providing a complete breakdown by tumour type would require a Subject Matter Expert to manually review individual award records and apply a tumour-type classification to each award. This process would involve creating a new dataset through analysis, interpretation and categorisation of information, rather than retrieving information already held in recorded form.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, public authorities are required to provide recorded information that they hold; they are not required to create new information to answer a request. We have therefore provided the information that could be identified and extracted from the recorded information held at the time of your request in Annex 1.

You have asked for any recorded funding breakdown by tumour type held by UKRI, therefore we have also provided an extract of information previously collected within the scope of your request. In September 2024, UKRI returned a list of glioblastoma awards for a Parliamentary Question contribution which we have provided in the attached document: **FOI2026_00572 Annex 2**.

¹ <https://gtr.ukri.org/>

This document was generated through manual review and tagging. This spreadsheet constitutes the most detailed breakdown held for glioblastoma 'commitment' funding data as of September 2024.

Question 5: Delivery

UKRI publishes information on the outputs and outcomes of the awards we fund on the UKRI [Gateway to Research](#)². This can be found in the tabs for 'Publications' and 'Outcomes' for the awards.

To address your questions in a different order than presented, for all awards we interpret 'studies' as meaning, published articles and research outputs. For the awards listed in Annex 1 and Annex 2 this information will be available via the Gateway to Research under the tabs noted above, you can search using the Grant reference numbers provided in the Annexes. Within the time period specified one award reported a clinical trial as an outcome, [Preoperative brain irradiation in glioblastoma \(POBIG\)](#).³

We have assessed that this information is already reasonably accessible and available in the public domain and therefore Section 21 would apply. Section 21 is an absolute exemption which means that there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

We are aware of a temporary issue affecting four grants: MC_UU_12016/3, MR/X013537/1, EP/X025705/1 and EP/Y024281/1. These grants do not currently appear on Gateway to Research, though we expect them to be accessible shortly. In the meantime, if you would like the 'Publications' and 'Outcomes' data for these grants please let us know.

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](#).⁴

Yours sincerely,


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UK Research and Innovation
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² <https://gtr.ukri.org/>

³ <https://gtr.ukri.org/projects?ref=MR%2FX014088%2F1#/tabOverview>

⁴ <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>