



3 February 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2022/00013**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 13 January in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*I was wondering if Innovate UK could provide us with the information below. (as Innovate UK did to IGL)*

*Project name:*

[Innovation vouchers for all smaller businesses program](#)<sup>1</sup>

*Information needed:*

- Program Information (Summary, Eligibility, Scope, Dates, How to apply, etc.)
- Application form (form file or item list included in the form)
- A list of companies (applied the program)
- A list of companies (received the fund)
- Follow up survey, if any (form file)

*IGL Working Paper 2020*

[IGL Working Paper 20.4.pdf](#)<sup>2</sup> ([innovationgrowthlab.org](http://www.innovationgrowthlab.org))

*IGL Quote:*

**4. Data Methodology**

*In order to evaluate the voucher's effectiveness, we collected data from several sources. First, Innovate UK provided us with information on the firms that applied for the innovation voucher program, covering all details from the application form. They also informed us on the allocation of firms into the treatment and the control group in the respective rounds, including information on whether firms passed the eligibility checks.*

**Our response:**

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

The Innovation Vouchers programme was run from 2012 to 2016, before the Innovation Funding Service (IFS) was operational and consisted of 14 rounds in total.

Under Section 21 of the FOIA, Information already reasonably accessible, the following information you have requested is already available in the public domain:

- Programme information on the Innovations Vouchers programme is available from [The National Archives](#)<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/innovation-vouchers-for-all>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.innovationgrowthlab.org/sites/default/files/IGL%20Working%20Paper%2020.4.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://web.archive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20130102160226/http://www.innovateuk.org/deliveringinnovation/innovation-vouchers.ashx>

- Details of the application form for the programme is available through the above link, the last link on the left-hand side titled '[Innovation Vouchers - Guidance for Applicants](#)<sup>4</sup>' will open up a PDF file containing further program information and application form details.
- A list of companies that received funding from the programme is available through [Innovate UK's Transparency Data](#)<sup>5</sup>. Funded companies can be identified by filtering 'Innovate UK Product Type' (column J) by 'Vouchers'.
- A copy of the follow up survey, commissioned by IUK through BMG and the Max-Planck Institute in partnership with Nesta's Innovation Growth Lab (IGL), for rounds 11 to 13 of the programme is available in Appendix X.1 (pages 47-56) of the [IGL Working Paper 20.4](#)<sup>6</sup> that was referenced in your request.

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

We have determined that information on companies that applied for the Innovation Vouchers programme, but were unsuccessful in securing funding, falls under Section 41 of the FOIA, information provided in confidence.

To explain further, Innovate UK's application guidance states that if an application is successful that some of their information will be published and made publicly available. It is therefore implied that all organisations can confidently apply to Innovate UK and information relating to their specific application will be kept confidential unless they are successful. If the information was released, we believe it would result in an actionable breach of confidentiality.

As this exemption is absolute there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

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](mailto:foi@ukri.org) or [infogovernance@ukri.org](mailto: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,

  
Information Governance  
Information Rights Team  
UK Research and Innovation  
[foi@ukri.org](mailto:foi@ukri.org) | [dataprotection@ukri.org](mailto:dataprotection@ukri.org)

<sup>4</sup> [https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20130102171903mp/http://www.innovateuk.org/assets/0511/GFA\\_IVs.pdf](https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20130102171903mp/http://www.innovateuk.org/assets/0511/GFA_IVs.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/publications/innovate-uk-funded-projects-since-2004/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.innovationgrowthlab.org/sites/default/files/IGL%20Working%20Paper%2020.4.pdf>