



[REDACTED]

30 November 2020

[REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2020/00378

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 4 November in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I am making this request under the Freedom of Information Act.

Relating to the [Fast Start Competition](#)¹ and the UK Innovate to increase the grant available to [£40million](#)².

Given the key project requirements were to begin by June 2020, last up to 6 months, and have products and services available to the public towards the end of this year. Please can Innovate UK provide details of the extent to which each of the potential 800 plus successful recipients have met these requirements.

Please can Innovate UK also provide the base data on projects, grant size allocated and successful delivery of outcomes to be available for the public.

Our response:

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

The majority of the projects funded in the competition “*Business-led innovation in response to global disruption (de minimis)*”, which is the competition being referenced in your first link, have had a time extension granted to the 6 month project duration as a result of delays at the project setup stage.

Information as to whether the projects have met the goals set out in their applications will not be available until all projects have completed. The ongoing projects, however, are constantly being reviewed by the Monitoring Officers and Competition Programme Managers.

The information you have requested on successful projects for this competition, including grant size allocated, is exempt from disclosure under Section 22(1) of the FOIA as it is intended for future publication. Section 22 is a qualified exemption meaning that it is subject to the public interest test.

UKRI understand that being transparent in regard to data on successfully funded projects is in the public interest. However, as many of the projects are ongoing, the data is still incomplete and we are of the view that releasing the information as it currently stands would be inaccurate, incomplete and misleading and thus not in the public interest.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/20-million-for-ambitious-technologies-to-build-uk-resilience-following-coronavirus-outbreak>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/40m-boost-for-cutting-edge-start-ups>

We have therefore determined that the outcome of this test is that the public interest is insufficient to justify immediate disclosure. The expectation for when this data will be available, based upon the extensions that have been granted, is likely to be by March 2021.

Once completed, information on these projects will be made available as part of the [Innovate Transparency Data](#)³. This data is updated on a monthly basis, as and when each competition has been completed and the data is ready for publication.

It is also worth noting that having “products and services available to the public towards the end of the year” was not a requirement of the funding. The full scope, which highlights the requirements for funding, can be found [here](#)⁴.

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

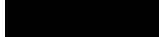
Email: foi@ukri.org or infogovernance@ukri.org

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,


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

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/innovate-uk-funded-projects>

⁴ <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/583/overview#scope>