



Sent by email: [REDACTED]

2 October 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2024/00777**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 1 September in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*Request 1:*

*For Women in Innovation Award 2024/25, please could you release the following information:*

- 1. The of applications.*
- 2. The number of assessed applications.*
- 3. The number of successful applications.*
- 4. The success rate.*
- 5. The minimum successful score.*
- 6. The maximum successful score.*
- 7. Maximum score of failed applications.*
- 8. Mean average grant fund value per project.*
- 9. Mean average score of funded projects. number*
- 10. The score distributions of the applications (e.g. % (or number) of applications which scored <70, 70.1-75, 75.1-80, 80.1-85, 85.1-90, 90.1-95, 95.1-100).*
- 11. The count of assessed applications by innovation area.*
- 12. The count of successful projects by innovation area for each strand.*
- 13. The count of assessed applications by research category (feasibility studies, industrial research, experimental development).*
- 14. The count of successful projects by research category.*
- 15. The number of unsuccessful applications, if any, which scored above the minimum funded score.*

*Request 2:*

*For Women in Innovation Award 2024/25:*

*4 million £ has been made available for the Women in Innovation Award 2024/25 Therefore:*

- 1. Could you please provide an itemised breakdown of how this money has been/will be spent including individuals/organisations/businesses where appropriate?*
- 2. Could you also please include how much was spent on assessor fees?*
- 3. Where any contracts/payments have been awarded, please confirm the relevant procurement arrangements?*

*Request 3:*

*I would like to make a request information on the demographics of the assessors.*

*Specifically, the age and gender identity of the assessors, who were involved in scoring:*

- Innovate UK Smart grant competitions.*
- The Women in Innovation awards.*

(Specifically in the four years from October 2020 to November 2024).

## **Our response**

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

### **Request 1:**

Responses to the first part of your request can be found at “*Appendix 1 – Request 1*” for

Please be aware that the information provided was documented at the funders panel stage of the competition and is subject to minor changes.

Innovate UK reserves the right to apply a ‘portfolio’ approach in certain competitions. For the Women in Innovation Awards 2024/25, a ‘location’ portfolio approach was applied, enabling funding of a variety of projects across different locations in the UK.

The ‘portfolio approach’ is used to fit the spend profile of the competition. The Innovation Lead or manager responsible for the competition will make sure that funds are allocated across the strategic areas identified in the scope of the competition. This may mean that a proposal that scores less than others are successful. The [General Guidance](#) for applications to Innovate UK provides more information on the assessment process and portfolio approach.

### **Request 2:**

1. *Could you please provide an itemised breakdown of how this money has been/will be spent including individuals/organisations/businesses where appropriate?*

This information is not held. The spend profiles are yet to be finalised, all spend information at this stage is speculative.

2. *Could you also please include how much was spent on assessor fees?*

The assessor costs for Women in Innovation 2024/25 were £762,600. This covers five independent expert assessors for each application, to provide constructive feedback and insights for applicants, regardless of the funding decision outcomes.

3. *Where any contracts/payments have been awarded, please confirm the relevant procurement arrangements?*

As noted in response to question 1, this information is not held. The spend profiles are yet to be finalised.

### **Request 3:**

The breakdowns requested can be found at “*Appendix 2 – Request 3*” for.

Please note that Innovate UK conducted a one-off survey for assessors in March 2022. This survey was optional, and a high proportion of assessors either did not complete the survey or selected “*prefer not to say*”. Where no data is held for assessors, this is presented in “*Appendix 2 – Request 3*” as “*no data*”. Please also note that given the time that has passed since the survey was completed, the demographics of assessors is likely to have changed.

In preparing this response we have considered the risks of identifying individuals from small numbers. Therefore, in line with standard statistical reporting practice, data has been suppressed within Appendix 2 to mitigate against the disclosure of personal data, and the risk of individuals being identified.

We consider that under Section 40(2) of the FOIA, this data would exempt where it relates to fewer than five individuals. We believe that to disclose information relating to small numbers of individuals would contravene the first Data Protection Principle as defined under Section 86 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and Article 5 of UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) of lawfulness, fairness and transparency.

Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and does not require 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 within the next 40 working days:

Head of Information Governance

Email: [foi@ukri.org](mailto: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](http://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 policy](#)<sup>1</sup>.

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)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>