



[REDACTED]

24 February 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2021/00069**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 17 February in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*Can you please provide a list of applications for this competition: UKRI Ideas to address COVID-19: Innovate UK Article 25 Dec 2020 that closed on the 9th December 2020. It clearly states on your website that applicants will be notified by the 26th Feb 2020 but we have learnt applicants were notified on the 28th Jan 2021 of the outcome without any feedback.*

*Please provide a list of companies that were successful in this competition ASAP, preferably before the 26th Feb feedback date.*

**Our response**

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

The information you have requested at part 1 of your request for “a list of applications for this competition: UKRI Ideas to address COVID-19: Innovate UK Article 25 Dec 2020” falls under the exemption at section 41(1) of the FOIA information provided in confidence. As organisations submit research applications in confidence, we consider the list of grant funding applications is exempt under Section 41 of the FOIA.

To explain further, applicants submit their grant applications in confidence with the understanding that details of their application will remain confidential. If released we believe it would result in an actionable breach of confidence. As this exemption is absolute there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

With regard to part 2 of your request for a “list of companies that were successful in this competition” we have determined that this information 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.

**Public interest in favour of disclosure**

- UKRI understand that transparency and openness with regard to grant funding applications and awards is in the public interest.
- There is also a public interest in ensuring the accountability of public organisations and how they spend public funding.

**Public interest in favour of withholding the information**

- The data is currently being collated and reviewed. 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.
- We consider that premature release would give a misleading impression of the awards process and would put undue pressure on UKRI to publish outside of its scheduled timeframes.

We have therefore determined that the public interest is insufficient to justify immediate disclosure. UKRI aims to publish the data in due course and applicants will be notified of feedback on 26 February 2021. Information on successful applications will be published on the [transparency](#)<sup>1</sup> website.

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)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/innovate-uk-funded-projects>