

6 April 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2022/00106

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 21 March in which you requested the following:

Your request:

Can you kindly let me know the KPI metrics to be reported associated with your Grant Funding agreement with Digital Catapult please.

Our response:

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

The below is a list of the KPI titles that are part of the Grant Funding Agreement between Innovate UK (IUK) and Digital Catapult (DC):

Working with industry	
KPI 1	Number of businesses that DC has partnered with or has been contracted by in the year
KPI 2	£ invested by UK businesses in the year as match funding to CR&D projects with the Digital Catapult, large and SMEs
	- of which specifically associated as match by SMEs
	- of which specifically associated as match by large companies
KPI 3	Number of projects active in the quarter driving towards commercialisation – to PoC/Test (A), to Trial (B), to Scaling (C)
Provide business access to unique capabilities	
KPI 4	Commercial earned revenue in the year
KPI 5	Number of active projects with a business in the quarter
	- of which with SMEs
Work collaboratively as part of network	
KPI 6	CR&D earned revenue in the year
KPI 7	Number of collaborative 'R&D focused' projects completed in the year
KPI 8	% of CR&D projects in the quarter with academic and industrial partners

We have determined that information relating to the targets of the above metrics falls under Section 41 of the FOIA, information provided in confidence. To explain further, the KPI metrics and their agreed targets form part of the confidential Grant Funding Agreement between IUK and Digital Catapult. 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.

We also believe this information falls under the scope of Section 43(2) of the FOIA. This exemption is used where disclosure would likely result in a person's (an individual, a company, the public authority itself or any other legal entities) commercial interests being prejudiced.

This is a qualified exemption, meaning that a test was carried out to determine whether the public interest outweighs the requirement for commercial confidentiality.

Public interest in favour of disclosure

- There is a general public interest in the disclosure of this information to ensure transparency and openness of a public organisation.
- There is also a public interest in transparency in order to ensure the accountability of public organisations and how they spend public funding.
- It would be in the public interest to view the KPI metrics and associated targets, as public monies are used to fund this activity. As this is the case it is important that the programme has a positive impact and is beneficial to all parties involved. Seeing copies of these KPIs and the agreed targets enables the public to independently assess the impact of the Grant Funding Agreement between IUK and Digital Catapult.

Public interest in favour of withholding the information

- Releasing information provided in confidence to UKRI is likely to damage the possibility of ongoing relationships with other organisations. Relationships may become untenable if third parties cannot be certain that their commercial information will remain confidential when held by UKRI.
- Breaching the commercial interest may also adversely affect future negotiation opportunities for UKRI. UKRI may be seen as a 'confidentiality' risk if it routinely releases information relating to business arrangements into the public domain, particularly where this is third party information.
- Digital Catapult would not anticipate UKRI releasing information regarding agreed KPI targets into the public domain as it forms part of the confidential Grant Funding Agreement between them and IUK.
- We follow the government guidance on [managing public money](#)¹. Standards expected of all public services include integrity, reliability, spending money in the public interest and achieving value for money. Our current thorough process ensures that only the best projects receive public monies. Releasing this information could jeopardize the fair and transparent competition process and undermine our function to fund the best projects. In turn, undermining this process would go against our responsibilities to manage our use of public funds.
- We also considered the impact on UKRI if commercially sensitive information of companies we and engage and work closely with were disclosed. We believe it would damage the trust in UKRI and likely impact our ability to carry out our role and manage our current and future investments.

Taking the above arguments into consideration, we reached the decision that the need for commercial confidentiality outweighs the public interest in disclosure; therefore the information is exempt from disclosure.

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/>

¹ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1060284/MPM_Spring_21_with_annexes_040322.pdf

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,


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