



[REDACTED]

20 March 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2026/00132**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 20 February in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*Please could you provide the date on which the Innovate UK grant applications were submitted for the projects involving the following organisations:*

- *James Mae Water*
- *Aspcold Manufacturing*

*If more than one application exists involving these organisations, I would be grateful if you could provide the application date(s) for each relevant grant, along with the grant title or competition name.*

*I do not require any commercially sensitive information beyond the application submission date.*

**Our response**

We have considered your request carefully under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I can neither confirm nor deny whether UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) holds the information you have requested under section 41(2) information provided in confidence and section 43(3) commercial prejudice.

Section 41(1) provides that information is exempt from disclosure if such disclosure would constitute an actionable breach of confidence.

Section 41(2) provides an exclusion from the duty placed on a public authority such as UKRI to confirm or deny the existence of the information if the act of confirming or denying would itself result in an actionable breach of confidence.

We believe that is the case regarding your request. Section 41 is an absolute exemption which means there is no requirement to consider the public interest test in neither confirming nor denying whether or not the information is held.

Section 43(2) exempts information from disclosure where disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

Section 43(3) allows UKRI to neither confirm nor deny whether or not it holds information relevant to your request where to do so would prejudice the commercial interests of UKRI or a third party.

Section 43 is a qualified exemption subject to the public interest test.

### Factors in favour of confirming or denying if we hold relevant information

- There is a general public interest in confirming or denying whether information is held to ensure transparency and openness of a public organisation.
- There is also a public interest in confirming or denying in order to ensure the accountability of public organisations and the effective operations of UKRI and Innovate UK.

### Factors against confirming or denying if we hold relevant information

- We consider that confirming or denying whether we hold the information requested would cause damage to the commercial interests of companies applying for grant funding from Innovate UK.
- Markets are highly competitive and sensitive to information and confirming or denying whether specific organisations have submitted applications would be likely to impact the market, influencing public confidence and price movements.
- The funding application process is conducted in confidence and we consider that confidence and trust in UKRI would be damaged if we were to confirm or deny that particular companies had made applications for funding, which would be likely to impact UKRI's ability to operate effectively in its funding programmes.

We therefore consider that the public interest favours neither confirming nor denying that information is held.

The fact section 41 and section 43 of the FOIA have been cited should not be taken as an indication that the information you requested is or is not held by UKRI.

### **Your rights**

If you have any queries regarding our response please do let us know. If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review, explaining which elements of this decision you disagree with and why. Internal review requests should be submitted within 40 working days of the date of our response and should be addressed to:

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 procedure](#)<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)

---

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