



22 May 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2026/00255**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 25 March and subsequent clarification and narrowing of scope, received on the 23 April, in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*For the financial years 2018/19 to 2024/25, please provide the following information for UKRI funded brain cancer and brain tumour research (including MRC):*

1. *Awards by year\ A table showing, by financial year:*
  - *number of awards starting, and*
  - *total value (£).*
2. *Payment timing\ For each award, or the nearest recorded summary if award level detail would exceed the cost limit:*
  - *approval or decision date.*
  - *date of first payment, or confirmation that payment has not yet been made.*
3. *Approval roles\ The role titles responsible for approving awards and authorising first payments.*

*Please state "not held" where information is not held.*

**Your clarification:**

*This letter constitutes my final refinement of FOI2026/00255. It is expressly drafted to fall within the section 12 cost limit and to require disclosure under sections 1 and 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.*

**1. ABSOLUTE SCOPE (NON-NEGOTIABLE)**

*Research Council: Searches must be limited exclusively to the Medical Research Council (MRC).*

*Time Period: Financial years 2015/16 to 2024/25 inclusive.*

*Subject Identification: Awards already recorded as relating to brain cancer or brain tumours, determined solely by existing fields such as titles, abstracts, keywords, or classification codes. No manual review is requested.*

*Funding Types: Researcher-led or investigator-led grants and strategic funding programmes only. Fellowships, studentships, training, and infrastructure awards are explicitly excluded.*

**2. INFORMATION REQUIRED (AGGREGATED ONLY)**

*For each financial year: total number of awards and total aggregate value (£). Where already held, a breakdown by funding scheme or call and approval/decision year.*

**3. EXPLICIT EXCLUSIONS**

*No first payment dates, payment authorisation data, staff names or roles, or any award-level manual review. Data not readily extractable should be disregarded and not relied upon to engage section 12.*

#### 4. PARTIAL DISCLOSURE

*If any discrete element exceeds the cost limit, all information that can be provided within the limit must still be disclosed, with remaining information supplied in aggregated or summary form where possible.*

#### 5. SECTION 16 DUTY TO ASSIST

*Any claim that further refinement is required must specify exactly which element exceeds the cost limit, provide a separate cost estimate, and confirm what information will be disclosed regardless.*

#### 6. SEARCH CERTIFICATION

*Please confirm that systematic searches were conducted across all relevant MRC central grant and award management systems using objective criteria aligned with this request.*

#### **Our response:**

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

The number and total value of research-led and investigator-led grants relating to brain cancer or brain tumours, awarded by the Medical Research Council (MRC) for the financial years 2015/16 to 2025/26, are shown below in **Table 1**.

**Table 1: MRC-funded brain cancer research awards**

<b>Financial Year (FY)</b>	<b>Number of Awards Starting in this Financial Year</b>	<b>Total Commitment to Awards Starting in this Financial Year (£)</b>
2015/16	3	1,586,403
2016/17	1	518,065
2017/18	1	506,715
2018/19	2	880,354
2019/20	3	1,725,778
2020/21	2	3,612,840
2021/22	2	377,142
2022/23	4	2,947,263
2023/24	7	10,736,139
2024/25	7	3,009,079
2025/26	2	1,629,117
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>27,528,895</b>

A breakdown of these awards by funding scheme or call and approval/decision year is included on the following page in **Table 2**.

**Table 2: Breakdown of awards by Decision Year and Call**

Please note, the decision to make an award may be taken in the Financial Year prior to an award starting. The decision to make awards which started in 2015/16 may therefore have been taken in 2014/15.

<b>Decision Year</b>	<b>Call</b>	<b>Number of Awards by Call</b>	<b>Commitment by Call (£)</b>	<b>Total Decision Year Commitment (£)</b>
2014/15	Research Boards Sep/Oct 2014	1	408,115	408,115
2015/16	Research Boards Jan/Feb 2015	2	1,178,288	1,178,288
2016/17	BMC:DPFS Full Nov 2015	1	518,065	518,065
2017/18	Research Boards May 2017	1	506,715	506,715
2018/19	Cancer Global Health 2018	1	151,653	1,517,051
2018/19	NIRG Res Boards May 2018	1	636,697	1,517,051
2018/19	Research Boards Sep/Oct 2017	1	728,701	1,517,051
2019/20	Research Boards Jan 2019	1	307,569	1,755,636
2019/20	Research Boards May 2019	1	781,512	1,755,636
2019/20	Research Boards Sep/Oct 2019	1	666,555	1,755,636
2020/21	BMC: DPFS Full Mar 2020	1	2,946,285	2,946,285
2021/22	CARP R3 Oct 2020	2	377,142	377,142
2022/23	DPFS Full July 2022	1	724,956	4,273,074
2022/23	Equipment Panel July 2022	1	673,345	4,273,074
2022/23	Research Boards Jan 2022	1	751,738	4,273,074
2022/23	Research Boards Sep 2021	1	797,224	4,273,074
2022/23	Research Boards Sep 2022	1	1,325,811	4,273,074
2023/24	DPFS Full Nov 2022	1	4,264,322	10,762,476
2023/24	Link Post Pre Mortem Full 2022	1	3,285,852	10,762,476
2023/24	MRC: Developmental Pathway Funding Scheme Stage two: Nov 2023	1	977,289	10,762,476
2023/24	MRC: Funding for early stage development of new healthcare interventions Nov 2023	2	374,859	10,762,476
2023/24	Rare Disease Platform Full2023	1	854,804	10,762,476
2023/24	Tech Challenges Cancer 2023	3	1,005,350	10,762,476
2024/25	MRC: Clinical academic research partnerships Nov 2023	1	496,255	2,539,379
2024/25	MRC: Jul 2024: funding for early stage development of new healthcare interventions	2	467,956	2,539,379
2024/25	MRC: Jul 2024: stage two: developmental pathway funding scheme	1	882,448	2,539,379
2024/25	Research Boards May 2023	1	692,720	2,539,379
2025/26	MRC: Jan 2025: research: neurosciences and mental health: responsive mode	1	746,669	746,669
<b>Total</b>		<b>34</b>		<b>27,528,895</b>

Regarding point 6 of your clarification, I can confirm that searches were conducted across all relevant MRC awards, utilising the information provided in your request to identify all information held within scope. The identified awards were then manually reviewed for accuracy by a subject matter expert.

## 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>