



[REDACTED]

15 July 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2021/00294

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 16 June in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I would like to request some information on the spend on temporary resource at Innovate UK.

Please would you provide me with the following covering the last 5 fiscal years:

- *Total number of contractors per fiscal year*
- *Spend on contractors per fiscal year*
- *Total number of other temporary staff per fiscal year*
- *Spend on other temporary staff per fiscal year*

Our response

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

Please note that staff numbers and spend are not categorised in the manner requested and spend on agency staff and contractors are not separated in the system.

The spend on agency staff and contractors per fiscal year is available in Table 1 below. The significant increase in spend between 2019/20 and 2020/21 is due to a rise in temporary resource brought in to support business operations across several business areas, including delivering the COVID-19 response package.

The amount that Innovate UK spent on contractors has been higher as Innovate UK has focused on reducing spend on consultancy. As part of wider government reviews, Innovate UK has looked at how money is spent, looking to bring control of decision making alongside delivery risk in-house. During the Covid response, this enabled Innovate UK to build a significant increase in capacity across teams and systems, with the agility we needed to be responsive to changes, that would not have been possible through normal procurement routes. In general, the resources Innovate UK hired were significantly more experienced for a lower cost per person in role.

It would therefore be unfair to directly compare the effort over the previous financial years, as Innovate UK gave out significantly more funds and were running several transformation programmes to support the new volumes. Innovate UK anticipates these numbers will drop over the next year as they right-size the staff/contractor/consulting mix to deliver effective services.

Table 1: Spend on contractors and agency staff

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
	£	£	£	£	£
Agency Staff & Contractors	544,601	550,248	1,348,974	2,009,667	12,854,537

The number of contractors and agency staff per fiscal year is available in Table 2. Prior to 2020 contractors were not tracked on Innovate UK's HR reporting system therefore numbers appear to have increased while there may have been figures that are not reflected in the system in previous years. There were 44 agency and interim staff in 2016/17 and numbers for 2016/17 are not held in the manner depicted for other periods in the below table.

Table 2: Number of contractors and agency staff

	2017/2018		2018/2019		2019/2020		2020/2021	
	Number Employed	Number Leaving	Number Employed	Number Leaving	Number Employed	Number Leaving	Number Employed	Number Leaving
Agency staff	5	-	78	24	75	116	84	54
Contractors	2	-	2	2	16	3	69	16

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/>

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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