



Sent by email: [REDACTED]

25 September 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2024/00757**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 28 August in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*This request relates to the Women in Innovation Awards for the last five competitions (2024, 2022 and 2021, 2020, 2019) and the Unlocking Potential Award 2023.*

**Request Part 1**

*Can you please provide the following information for each year of applications - Women in Innovation Awards 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2024*

- 1. The total number of applications submitted and the number of those that qualified to be assessed*
- 2. The distribution of scores for all assessed applications*
- 3. The distribution of scores for winning applications*
- 4. The distribution of scores for all assessed applications within each innovation area*
- 5. The distribution of scores for winning applications within each innovation area*
- 6. The distribution of scores for winning applications within each location (the portfolio approach description of 'location' is very vague, a regional breakdown will be fine or the locations as defined by Innovate UK)*
- 7. The distribution of scores for winning applications within each location*
- 8. The score threshold for funding*

**Request Part 2 - Women in Innovation Award 2024**

*In 2024, the government website competition stated that up to £4 million was available for up to 50 grants. All of the supporting information provided by UKRI business connect in their workshops stated there would be 50 grants available (the words 'up to' do not appear in their documentation). The award outcome email sent to applicants (28/8/24) stated that only 25 awards will be given.*

*Can you please provide information regarding the decision making process that led to awarding half as much funding than was initially allocated and stated in the briefings. I am not sure how this decision was reached, but assume there will be minutes of meetings, emails, or potentially a directive to decrease the funding that could be provided. I am requesting you to provide any information that led to the decision to only award £1.875 million and 25 grants instead of the initially stated £4 million and 50.*

**Request Part 3 - Innovate UK Unlocking Potential Award 2023:Build**

*Can you please provide the following information for the Innovate UK Unlocking Potential Award 2023:Build*

- 1. The total number of applications submitted and the number of those that qualified to be assessed*
- 2. The distribution of scores for all assessed applications*
- 3. The distribution of scores for winning applications*
- 4. The distribution of scores for all assessed applications within each innovation area*
- 5. The distribution of scores for winning applications within each innovation area*
- 6. The distribution of scores for winning applications within each location (the portfolio approach description of 'location' is very vague, a regional breakdown will be great)*

7. The distribution of scores for winning applications within each location

8. The score threshold for funding

## Our response

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

### Part 2

As you are already aware, we are progressing your request for information under Part 2 as a separate request under reference FOI2024/00817, and a response will be issued to you in due course.

### Parts 1 and 3:

Please see FOI2024/00757 Appendix 1 to review the answers to part one and three of your request. This includes data requested for:

- The last five Women in Innovation Awards:
  - Women in Innovation Award 2018
  - Women in Innovation Award 2020/21
  - Women in Innovation Award 2021/22
  - Women in Innovation Award 2022/23
  - Women in Innovation Award 2024/25
- The Innovate UK Unlocking Potential Award 2023: Build

Please note the following points of consideration when reviewing the data:

#### 1. Portfolio approach

Innovate UK reserves the right to apply a 'portfolio' approach in certain competitions. The 'portfolio approach' is used to fit the spend profile of the competition. The Innovation Lead or manager responsible for the competition will make sure that funds are allocated across the strategic areas identified in the scope of the competition. This may mean that proposals that scores less than others are successful. Please see the [General Guidance](#) for more information.

- For the Women in Innovation Award 2018, no portfolio approach was applied.
- For Women in Innovation Awards 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2024/25, a 'location' portfolio approach was applied, enabling funding of a variety of projects across different locations in the UK.
- For Innovate UK Unlocking Potential Award 2023: Build, a 'location' portfolio approach was applied, as well as a 'strand' portfolio, to adjust the funding allocations between the two competition strands ('Begin' and 'Build').

#### 2. Funding decisions

The [assessment process](#) can vary for different competitions. For Innovate UK Unlocking Potential Award 2023: Build, assessments were conducted with 3 independent assessors, while the Women in Innovation Awards had 5 independent assessors.

For the other Women in Innovation awards subject to this FOI we also conducted panel sessions for assessors to review the applicants at an interview, as a second stage for selected applicants.

The standard Innovate UK quality threshold is 70%, however this can vary depending on the competition. It is important to note that not all applications that score above this threshold will be funded, as this will depend on all the factors involved, including the volume of applications compared to the budget available.

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 within the next 40 working days:

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 policy](#)<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)

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