



[REDACTED]

12 November 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2021/00474

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 1 November in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I am writing to request the following information with regard to the below Innovate UK competition to better understand the funding assessment process. For the following competition, please can you kindly provide: SMART May 2021 (Competition closed: Wednesday 25th August 2021).

1. Total number of applications
2. Total number of successful applications
3. Total number of applications ineligible for assessment
4. Total number of applications considered a resubmission of a previous application
5. Total number of successful applications which were considered a resubmission of a previous application
6. The score of the lowest scoring funded project
7. The score of the highest-scoring funded project
8. The average (mean) score of funded projects
9. The average number of Assessors indicating that they recommend a project for funding per application
10. The number of projects against which an assessor marked that they would not recommend the project for funding
11. The number of applications funded per 'Innovation area', split out by Stream 1 and 2

Our response

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

Stream 1: (6-18 month projects)

Stream 2: (19-36 month projects)

1. Total number of applications

1143 applications were submitted for the Innovate UK Smart Grants: May 2021 competition. This is the total number of applications submitted. Applications are not split by stream prior to being checked for eligibility status, therefore only the total is available. The total sent for assessment by stream is 860 for Stream 1 and 152 for Stream 2, total 1012.

2. *Total number of successful applications*

Stream	Number of successful applications
Stream 1	60
Stream 2	11
Total	71

3. *Total number of applications ineligible for assessment*

131 applications were considered ineligible for assessment. As advised in Q1, applications are not split by stream prior to being checked for eligibility status, therefore only the overall total is available.

4. *Total number of applications considered a resubmission of a previous application*

Stream	Number of applications considered a resubmission	Successful resubmissions
Stream 1	281	27
Stream 2	55	5
Total	336	32

Please note that for resubmitted applications, this is self-selected by the applicant and not verified by Innovate UK, other than to check that an applicant has not exceeded the maximum submission limit as part of eligibility checks.

5. *Total number of successful applications which were considered a resubmission of a previous application*

See response to Q4.

6. *The score of the lowest scoring funded project*

Stream	Lowest scoring funded project
Stream 1	84.2%
Stream 2	84.8%

7. *The score of the highest-scoring funded project*

Stream	Highest scoring funded project
Stream 1	91.8%
Stream 2	88.25%

8. *The average (mean) score of funded projects*

Stream	Average score of funded projects
Stream 1	86.4%
Stream 2	86.3%

9. *The average number of Assessors indicating that they recommend a project for funding per application*

Stream	Average number of assessors recommending a project for funding per application
Stream 1	2.72
Stream 2	3.45

As per previous response (FOI2021/00377), this is the average number of assessors who recommended the applications for funding across all applications.

10. *The number of projects against which an assessor marked that they would not recommend the project for funding*

A total of 812 applications (702 in Stream 1 and 110 in Stream 2) had at least one assessor who would not recommend that they received funding. As per previous response (FOI2021/00377), this only impacts upon the funding decision if the majority of assessors would not recommend the project for funding. There were no projects that scored above the funding threshold where more than one assessor marked that they would not recommend that the project received funding.

11. *The number of applications funded per 'Innovation area', split out by Stream 1 and 2*

Stream 1 (6 - 18 month projects)

Innovation Area	Number of applications
Agricultural productivity	3
Assembly / disassembly / joining	1
Biosciences	5
Chemical / bio processes	1
Composite materials	1
Connected transport	2
Creative industries	2
Diagnostics, medical technology and devices	4
Digital health	2
Digital industries	4
Digital manufacturing	1
Digital technology	7
Electronics, sensors and photonics	2
Emerging technology	3
Energy efficiency	1
Low carbon vehicles	2
Marine transport	1
Material recovery and treatment	1
Materials, process and manufacturing design technologies	2
Nanotechnology / nanomaterials	1
Offshore wind	2
Precision medicine	1
Rail transport	1
Resource efficiency	2
Robotics and autonomous systems	2
Surface engineering, coatings and thin films	1
Sustainable materials	2
Not specified	3
Grand Total	60

Stream 2 (19 - 36 month projects)

Innovation Area	Number of applications
Biosciences	1
Creative industries	1
Diagnostics, medical technology and devices	1
Digital industries	1
Energy - other	1
Energy efficiency	1
Low carbon vehicles	1
Material recovery and treatment	1
Resource efficiency	2
Sustainable materials	1
Grand Total	11

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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