

[REDACTED]

25 August 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2023/00587

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 2 August in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I recently applied for the call for Feasibility Studies for Artificial Intelligence Solutions. I am writing to kindly request information on the threshold for a successful application, as well as the companies that were awarded funding.

Our response

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

We can confirm that 73.8% was the lowest scoring successful application.

Regarding the companies that were awarded funding, we can confirm that due to the timescales for these competitions the information on successful applicants for the Feasibility Studies for Artificial Intelligence Solutions competition is not yet available on the funded projects [transparency data](#)¹ for this month, but should be available in due course. Taking this into consideration, we have determined that this information is exempt from disclosure under Section 22(1) of the FOIA as it is intended for future publication.

Section 22 is a qualified exemption meaning that it is subject to the public interest test.

Public interest in favour of disclosure

- There is a general public interest in favour of the disclosure of this information to ensure transparency and openness of these grants.
- There is also a public interest in transparency in order to ensure the accountability of public organisations and how they spend public funding.

Public interest in favour of withholding the information

- UKRI understand that being transparent in regard to grant funding is in the public interest. However, the information requested is still incomplete and we are of the view that releasing the information as it currently stands would be inaccurate, incomplete and misleading and thus not in the public interest.
- It would not be in the public interest to disclose the names of companies that were awarded funding before finalising grant funding agreements and completing due diligence.

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/publications/innovate-uk-funded-projects-since-2004/>

- We consider that premature release would give a misleading impression of the grant funding outcomes and would put undue pressure on Innovate UK to publish outside of its scheduled timeframes which would lead to a disproportionate burden on the Institution. This would not be in the public interest.
- A full list of organisations, funds distributed and amounts under the Feasibility Studies for Artificial Intelligence Solutions competition will be published in accordance with our transparency duties once this data has been collected. As stated above, we expect this to be released in due course and the transparency page will be updated accordingly.

The balance of the public interest therefore lies in withholding this information, as the public interest does not justify release of this information outside of the scheduled timeframes.

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

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.

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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