



25 May 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2023/00234**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 25 April in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*Please can you provide the average success rate for strand 1 (over £500k) and strand 2 (under £500k), the number of total applications submitted and the number of eligible applications for the broken down into individual competitions of the biomedical catalyst dating back to 2019.*

*Can you also confirm when the portfolio approach for Strand 1 came into effect.*

**Our response**

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

Please note Innovate UK have only used a two-strand approach since the Biomedical Catalyst 2022 Round 1 competition.

Biomedical Catalyst competition (BMC) 2019 – 2023

Starting Financial Year 2019-2020

Biomedical Catalyst 2019 Round 1: Early and Late Stage Awards

	All
1. The Total number of applications.	238
2. The number of successful (assessed and funded) submissions	10
3. applications submitted but not sent to assessment (ineligible)	102
4. Total number of eligible applications	136
5. Number of unsuccessful (assessed but not funded)	126
6. The success rate.	7%

#### Biomedical Catalyst 2019 Round 1: Feasibility and Primer Awards

	<b>All</b>
1. The Total number of applications.	248
2. The number of successful (assessed and funded) submissions	3
3. applications submitted but not sent to assessment (ineligible)	47
4. Total number of eligible applications	201
5. Number of unsuccessful (assessed but not funded)	198
6. The success rate.	1%

#### Biomedical Catalyst 2020: Round 1, Early and Late Stage Awards

	<b>All</b>
1. The Total number of applications.	456
2. The number of successful (assessed and funded) submissions	18
3. applications submitted but not sent to assessment (ineligible)	83
4. Total number of eligible applications	373
5. Number of unsuccessful (assessed but not funded)	355
6. The success rate.	5%

#### Biomedical Catalyst 2021 Round 2: Feasibility & Primer Awards

	<b>All</b>
1. The Total number of applications.	288
2. The number of successful (assessed and funded) submissions	57
3. applications submitted but not sent to assessment (ineligible)	72
4. Total number of eligible applications	216
5. Number of unsuccessful (assessed but not funded)	159
6. The success rate.	26%

#### Biomedical Catalyst 2021: Early and Late Stage Awards

	<b>All</b>
1. The Total number of applications submitted.	375
2. The number of successful (assessed and funded) submissions	17
3. applications submitted but not sent to assessment (ineligible)	85
4. Total number of eligible applications	290
5. Number of unsuccessful (assessed but not funded)	273
6. The success rate.	6%

## Biomedical Catalyst 2022 Round 1 Industry-led R&D

	<b>Strand 1</b> (Over 500k)	<b>Strand 2</b> (Under £500k)	<b>All</b>
1. The Total number of applications.	149	188	337
2. The number of successful (assessed and funded) submissions	19*	30	46
3. applications submitted but not sent to assessment (ineligible)	7	53	60
4. Total number of eligible applications	142	135	277
5. Number of unsuccessful (assessed but not funded)	123	105	231
6. The success rate.	13%	16%	14%

\*Some of these applications were successful only after more funding was secured. This is referred to in our transparency data as 'Blue Zone Biomedical Catalyst 2022 Round 1: Industry-led R&D & Innovate UK Smart Grants: January 2022'.

## Biomedical Catalyst 2022 Round 2: Industry-led R&D

	<b>Strand 1</b> (Over 500k)	<b>Strand 2</b> (Under £500k)	<b>All</b>
1. The Total number of applications.	118	179	297
2. The number of successful (assessed and funded) submissions	15	26	41
3. applications submitted but not sent to assessment (ineligible)	0	24	24
4. Total number of eligible applications	118	155	273
5. Number of unsuccessful (assessed but not funded)	103	129	232
6. The success rate.	13%	17%	15%

Applicants to the Biomedical Catalyst 2023 Round 1: Industry-led R&D will be notified on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023. This information is therefore currently not available.

A portfolio approach has been applied to the Biomedical Catalyst Programme since before strand 1 was introduced. Innovate UK publishes whether a portfolio approach will be applied on our competition briefs.

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: <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/complaints-policy/>

Yours sincerely,

Information Governance  
Information Rights Team  
UK Research and Innovation  
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