



[REDACTED]

27 January 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2021/00020

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 17 January in which you requested the following:

Your request:

Further to the FOI reports that you have previously provided me with, would you be kind enough to update the Excel spreadsheet to include all competitions up to the present day. For your information, our most recent chain of correspondence, including the details of my initial request are provided below.

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request an update to [the data included in response to] my previous FOI request (Reference: FOI2020/00143) for the following information for every grant funding competition offered or managed by Innovate UK from 1 April 2015 to the present day. For each competition individually, please provide the following information:

- *The name of the competition and the funding round*
- *The competition opening date*
- *The financial year in which the competition was offered*
- *The total number of applications received for the competition*
- *The total number of successful applications for the competition*
- *The number of applications receiving a mark of 70 to 79 inclusive*
- *The number of applications receiving a mark of 70 to 79 that were successful*
- *The number of applications receiving a mark of 80 or above*
- *The number of applications receiving a mark of 80 or above that were successful*
- *And for each competition, the lowest mark achieved for a successful application*

Please provide the information in Excel spreadsheet format.

Our response:

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

Please see the information you have requested attached separately in "FOI2021.00020_Annex A".

In regard to the data in the attached please note that:

- The table sent to you in response to your previous request (FOI2020/00279) has been updated to include the competitions that have completed the assessment and funders panel process since our response of 9 September 2020. These have been added to the bottom of the table and are highlighted.

- The information is for competitions with funding commitments from April 2015 – November 2020 where a funding decision is available.
- Some competitions were not scored out of 100; where possible these scores have been adjusted to give a score out of 100.
- Some competitions were not given an assessment score, in these cases the score related metrics have been left blank.
- For competitions where there is only a single successful applicant, we are exempting the lowest score information under Section 41 of the FOIA, information provided in confidence and Section 43 of the FOIA, prejudice to commercial interests.

Section 41(1) - Information provided in confidence

We have determined that the information you have requested falls under Section 41(1) of the FOIA, information provided in confidence. To explain further, companies apply to Innovate UK in confidence and with the expectation that their bid information, including their application and resulting score, will be kept in confidence. If the information was released, we believe it would result in an actionable breach of confidentiality for the applicant.

As this exemption is absolute there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

Section 43(2) - Commercial interests

We also believe that this information falls under the scope of Section 43(2) of the FOIA. This exemption is used when we believe disclosure would result or likely result in a person's (an individual, a company, the public authority itself or any other legal entities) commercial interests being prejudiced. To explain further, this is a qualified exemption, meaning that a test was carried out to determine whether public interest outweighs the requirement for commercial confidentiality. The outcome of this test was that the need for confidentiality outweighed the public interest.

Public interest in favour of disclosure

- There is a general public interest in the disclosure of this information to ensure transparency and openness of a public organisation.
- 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

- Innovate UK's competitions are highly competitive and composing a successful bid requires expertise and skill in providing quality information as well as understanding the most advantageous content to present in order to succeed. As such disclosing the score an applicant received is likely to reduce the applicant's commercial advantage and thereby harm or have a negative impact on their commercial interests in a highly competitive field. We believe disclosing this information confers an advantage to competitors which, would likely materially disadvantage and harm the interests of the applicant, particularly in their ability to compete for grants and future funding.
- Releasing information provided in confidence to Innovate UK is likely to damage the possibility of ongoing relationships with other organisations. Relationships may become untenable if third parties cannot be certain that their commercial information will remain confidential when held by Innovate UK.
- We also considered the impact on UKRI if commercially sensitive information of companies we engage with were disclosed. We believe it would damage the trust in UKRI and likely impact our ability to carry out our role and manage our current and future investments.

Hence, taking the above arguments into account, we reached the decision that the need for commercial confidentiality outweighed the need of public interest; therefore, the information is exempt from disclosure.

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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