



[REDACTED]

15 July 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2026/00499

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 9 June in which you requested the following:

Your request:

For each financial year from 2020-21 to the most recent available data, please provide the number of spinout companies formed, broken down by the originating higher education institution as recorded in UKRI's monitoring system.

For each financial year from 2020-21 to the most recent available data, please provide the number of spinout companies formed, broken down by the UKRI research council or funding programme associated with the parent research project, for example EPSRC, BBSRC, MRC, AHRC, ESRC, Innovate UK, or Research England.

For each financial year from 2020-21 to the most recent available data, please provide the total value of UKRI grant funding awarded to the parent research projects from which spinout companies were subsequently formed, broken down by research council or funding programme.

If the funding value associated with a parent research project is not recorded as a discrete field within the spinout monitoring system, please provide instead the number of spinout companies for which a parent grant reference is recorded, broken down by research council, and confirm that the funding value is not centrally held in the spinout monitoring system.

I am requesting aggregate figures only and no information identifying any individual company, researcher, or grant recipient. Please treat each numbered question as severable and provide whatever information can be disclosed in relation to each question independently.

Our response

I can confirm that UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) does hold information relevant to your request.

Please see the information requested in the attached document: **FOI2026/00499 Annex 1**.

Please note that the following caveats apply:

- **Definition:** For this analysis, spin-out companies are defined as firms founded primarily to commercialise the intellectual property (IP), including ideas, information, and knowledge, created by the researchers/research organisation staff, where the IP either belongs to the research organisation under general law or under the terms of the contract of employment, or the member of staff has assigned the IP to the research organisation to enable it to be commercialised, or where significant resources from the research organisation resources (e.g. funding, facilities) were used to generate the IP.
- **Data quality review:** UKRI is currently reviewing its spin-out data for completeness, representativeness and comparability with other published sources. Previously published spin-out data provided in [UKRI](#)

[investment and outputs data](#)¹ may be incomplete and thus not fully representative of the impact of UKRI's funding. As a result, figures are not included in this year's publication and will be revised in the future.

- **Coverage:** Spin-out company records are held centrally and linked to UKRI research council grant awards. Where a registered region is recorded, the company has a registered UK office. The dataset is updated through an annual reporting and curation cycle.
- **Timeliness:** Due to the annual reporting cycle, the dataset may not include the most recent spin-outs or grant awards. Some companies may also be temporarily excluded during internal data curation, although these are tracked separately by individual UKRI research councils.
- **Scope:** This dataset only covers spin-outs created from the academic base as a result of grant funding awarded by UKRI's Research Councils. Therefore spin-outs associated with Research England (RE) and Innovate UK (IUK) are not captured within this dataset. Some companies included may have received support from RE or IUK; however, the dataset does not record or distinguish such funding.
- **Multiple council associations:** A spin-out may be linked to grants from more than one UKRI research council and therefore appear in multiple council-level counts.
- **Lead research organisation:** Lead organisations are inferred from shared grant award links between spin-outs and research organisations. These associations should not be treated as directly observed relationships. A spin-out may be linked to multiple grants and therefore associated with more than one lead research organisation, resulting in inclusion in multiple organisation-level counts.
- **Combined value of UKRI grant funding awards:** Refers to the combined value of grants linked to the included spin-outs. It should not be interpreted as funding provided exclusively to research projects associated with the included spin-outs, or with the sole purpose of spin-out creation. For the individual grant funding awards used to create the combined value amount; the total value of the award has been used. UKRI does not always fund the full award amount. Grants without recorded funding values have been excluded.
- **Time basis:** This data set is reported by calendar year rather than financial year.
- **Exclusions:** Table 2 (included in **Annex 1**) excludes spin-outs where the associated UKRI council is undecided or disputed.

Your rights

If you have any queries regarding our response please do let us know. If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review, explaining which elements of this decision you disagree with and why. Internal review requests should be submitted within 40 working days of the date of our response and should be addressed to:

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 procedure](#).²

Yours sincerely,


Information Governance
Information Rights Team
UK Research and Innovation
foi@ukri.org | dataprotection@ukri.org

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/publications/ukri-investment-and-outputs-data-2015-to-2025/>

² <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>