



[REDACTED]

26 March 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2021/00122

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 26 February in which you requested the following:

Your request:

RE: UKRI Ideas to address COVID-19: Innovate UK Article 25 Dec 2020

The original submission date for this competition in round 4 was 21st October 2020, the submission date was then moved to the end of November. Innovate UK have stated they were waiting for a request for an increased budget to meet the large number of projects identified as successful in this competition.

Can you please show what the original budget was, what the increased amount was, indicate how much of your requested increase was successful to meet the demand you identified & how much of the total old or new increased budget has been allocated to winners of the competition.

Our response

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

The UKRI budget for the competition 'UKRI Ideas to address COVID-19: Innovate UK Article 25 Dec 2020' was initially £50m for the UKRI call. UKRI submitted a business case for additional budget for cross council projects; an additional £120m was approved. This was for projects across research and innovation.

Innovate UK Round 4 budget confirmation for projects requesting funding below £880,000 was initially £2m which was increased to £5m. Projects which were requesting funding of greater than £800,000 were not included in the £5m allocation to Innovate UK and were funded from the specific UKRI taskforce budget and required the approval of the UKRI Taskforce.

With regard to your question on "how much of the total old or new increased budget has been allocated to winners of the competition", the budget for the whole competition (rounds 1-4) was £44.4m and a total of 104 projects have been supported. Allocations were made from the total budget of £44.4m and we hold no further information on the distinction between old and new budgets.

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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