



[REDACTED]

26 January 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2022/00415**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 23 December in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*Please supply me with a copy of any assessment criteria or scoring advice supplied to assessors in relation to:*

- 1. The Innovation in Financial Services competition (single applicant)*
- 2. The most recently completed Smart competition.*

*Both of these competitions were run by Innovate UK.*

**Our response**

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

With regard to part 2 of your request, the assessment criteria or scoring advice supplied to assessors for the most recently completed Smart competition is available on UKRI's website. As this information is in the public domain, we consider that Section 21 - Information already reasonably accessible, of the FOIA would apply and relevant links are provided below. Section 21 is an absolute exemption which means that there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

- Smart competition [assessor scoring matrix](#)<sup>1</sup>
- Smart [IFS competition briefs](#)<sup>2</sup>

Regarding part 1 of your request for the assessment criteria or scoring advice supplied to assessors for the Innovation in Financial Services competition (single applicant) this information is intended for future publication. At the present time we consider that Section 22(1)(a) – information intended for future publication - of the FOIA would apply. 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 the disclosure of this information to ensure transparency and openness of a public organisation.
- It would be in the public interest to view the assessment criteria or scoring advice as public monies are used to fund this activity. As this is the case it is important that the information has a positive impact and is

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/publications/smart-assessor-and-scoring-guidance/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1330/overview/314566f0-6e69-4516-a0a2-31c9182c4a36#supporting-information>

beneficial to all parties involved. Seeing copies of the assessment criteria or scoring advice enables the public to independently assess that Innovate UK is consistent and compliant with their own processes.

### **Public interest in favour of withholding the information**

- The assessment criteria or scoring advice relate directly to the assessment process for the Innovation in Financial Services competition (single applicant) and other current and impending Innovate competitions and is in active use at present. As such, we consider it would not be in the public interest to make the assessment criteria or scoring advice publicly available at this time. Premature release would negatively affect the Innovate competitions process hindering fair competition between the organisations that apply, which would affect the integrity of Innovate UK competitions.
- Premature release would give a misleading impression of the assessment process and would put undue pressure on UKRI to publish outside of its scheduled timeframes.
- As the assessment criteria or scoring advice is intended to be used in future competitions, the disadvantage that would be likely to occur from disclosure in this way would undermine Innovate UK's responsibility to conduct a fair and transparent competition process.

We have therefore determined that the public interest is insufficient to justify immediate disclosure. UKRI aims to publish the information once the relevant competition processes are complete, after which time this information will be made available on the UKRI website.

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](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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