



[REDACTED]

29 June 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2023/00341

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 7 June in which you requested the following:

Your request:

Could you please provide a breakdown of the Maximum Award amounts for each research funding call across UKRI over the past five years (covering calls announced/run between 01/01/2018 - 01/06/2023)?

It would be helpful to see what the average Maximum Award amounts were across the different research funding calls run by UKRI over that period to see how the Maximum Award totals have changed.

This would not need to detail the values of the projects awarded, just the Maximum Award amounts for the calls themselves (for example the current UKRI cross research council responsive mode pilot scheme: round 1<<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/ukri-cross-research-council-responsive-mode-pilot-scheme/>> has a Maximum Award amount of £1,200,000 and the BBSRC standard research grant<<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/bbsrc-standard-research-grant/>> has a Maximum Award amount of £2,000).

Please let me know if you have any queries around this request.

Our response

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

The information you have requested for maximum award amounts for each research funding call is available on UKRI's [Funding Finder](#)¹ webpage for the period 2020-2023, where you can filter by Council, funding type and opportunity status to access the information from the published funding calls. Where the opportunity has an application limit that limit will be recorded there, and if no limit is specified it indicates that there was no maximum award amount.

Under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act - Information already reasonably accessible, as the information you have requested is already available in the public domain, we have provided the link above. Section 21 is an absolute exemption which means that there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

For the period 2018-September 2020 we estimate that the cost of complying with this part of your request and providing the maximum award amount for each research funding call, would exceed the appropriate statutory limit as specified within Section 12 of the FOIA which for UKRI is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of 18 hours of staff resource on locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

We do not have a ready means of providing the data requested as there is currently no central repository of this information, rather each Research Council would have to manually carry out searches across each of UKRI's

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/>

funding competitions in the period specified and manually access and extract the information from each funding call. In the case of one council we estimate it would take up to an hour per call to find the data and with 55 calls per year on average, for a period spanning almost 3 years, it could take 165 hours to collate this information. If this was to be extrapolated across all councils due to the volume of funding calls involved (number of calls per year varies across councils) it would make the collection of this information too onerous and this would exceed the appropriate limit. It would therefore not be possible to scope a Council-wide request and collate meaningful results within the costs limit.

Consequently, UKRI is not obliged under Section 12 of the FOIA to process this section of your request further. We have tried to identify a way in which you could refine your request to bring it under the appropriate cost limit which would enable us to comply with this request, however due to the volume of work required this has not been possible.

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

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

Yours sincerely,


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