



Sent by email: [REDACTED]

23 April 2025

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2025/00342

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 25 March in which you requested the following:

Your request:

Dear UK Research and Innovation,

I would be grateful for details of taxpayer funds spent on the bridge AI programme.

<https://iuk-business-connect.org.uk/programme/bridgeai/>

Specifically, on the:

- 1. Direct funds for members of the bridge AI advisory group?*
- 2. Details of the KPIs used to determine the success of the bridge AI advisory group?*
- 3. Details of the basis on which individuals were selected to become members of the bridge AI advisory group, and the process by which they were recruited?*

Our response

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

Question 1: *“Direct funds for members of the bridge AI advisory group?”*

The information you have requested is exempt from disclosure under Section 22(1) of the FOIA as it is intended for future publication.

Section 22 is a qualified exemption meaning that it is subject to the public interest test.

We consider that premature release would put undue pressure on UKRI to publish outside of our scheduled timeframes which would lead to a disproportionate burden on the organisation. This would not be in the public interest.

We have therefore determined that the outcome of this test is that the public interest is insufficient to justify immediate disclosure. This information is likely to be available by the end of August.

Question 2: *“Details of the KPIs used to determine the success of the bridge AI advisory group?”*

The Advisory Group provide guidance, advice and views on industry needs and perspectives of the AI landscape to inform the overall strategic direction of the BridgeAI programme.

The Advisory Group facilitates the following:

- Collaboration – Strategic guidance into the BridgeAI high-level offerings and programme objectives in line with real industry needs.
- Thought Leadership - Representing and evangelising the BridgeAI programme as the UK's national innovation programme for AI adoption to raise awareness and mobilise stakeholders.
- Influence - Provide input and insights to help inform future innovation policy and strategy for AI in the UK, including early sight of priorities.

The Group has an informal and advisory character, with no authority to take binding decisions. Members of the Group act on a voluntary basis and in an honorary and strictly personal capacity.

Question 3: *“Details of the basis on which individuals were selected to become members of the bridge AI advisory group, and the process by which they were recruited?”*

The Group consists of representatives from industry, academia and the investment community. Suggestions for members of the group were collated from the programme's Strategic Delivery Partners and subject matter experts within Innovate UK.

The long list of suggested members was considered against the below criteria:

- Interest in the BridgeAI programme and commitment to its outcomes
- Demonstrated, senior level expertise and experience of the sector and/or technology being represented
- Mix and range of skills and expertise required to cover the areas of focus and key sector stakeholders
- Ability to commit to the time requirements for proactive and responsive participation
- Representation from businesses of all sizes
- Geographical and diversity balance

A short list of proposed Advisory Group members was approved by the Interim Executive Director – Digital and Technologies.

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](#)¹.

Yours sincerely,


Information Governance

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>

Information Rights Team
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