



[REDACTED]

19 March 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2026/00133

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 18 February in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I would like to make a freedom of information request about the costs of the AI training program that has been announced in the news today, specifically this announcement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/free-ai-training-for-all-as-government-and-industry-programme-expands-to-provide-10-million-workers-with-key-ai-skills-by-2030>

I understand that the cost to end users will for the most part be zero. I would like to know the cost to the taxpayer.

Please could you tell me how much the government has spent on setting up this scheme, and what the budget is for annual running costs.

I note that the scheme is delivered in partnership with tech companies such as Microsoft and Google. If they have provided contributions to the program at less than a fair market rate, then please tell me what those contributions were, how much they actually charged for them, how much a fair market rate would have been, and what they have been given or promised in return for delivering their services below a market rate.

Please could you also tell me what cost-effectiveness analysis, if any, was done regarding the likely benefits of these costs, and what the results of that cost-effectiveness analysis was.

Our response:

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

We have interpreted your request to be for information about the AI training courses available from the [AI Skills Boost](#)¹ section of the [AI Skills Hub](#)².

The AI Skills Hub is a free, national digital platform connecting employers, individuals and training providers with curated, practical AI learning resources. It was commissioned by UKRI and delivered by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) and focuses on building job relevant AI capability to support responsible adoption across priority UK sectors. This was a £4.1M procurement, further details of the procurement are available [here](#)³.

¹ <https://aiskillshub.org.uk/aiskillsboost/>

² <https://aiskillshub.org.uk/>

³ <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/001337-2025>

In January 2026, the Hub was enhanced to support the AI Skills Boost, a DSIT and industry led initiative expanding free, industry developed AI courses. The programme aims to upskill 10 million UK workers in essential AI skills by 2030 and award a government backed AI Foundations badge. More details are available [here](#)⁴.

As the contractor delivering the Hub, PwC incurred additional costs of £158,000 + VAT to build the additional pages and functionality for the AI Skills Boost. The AI Skills Hub was a competitively procured tender for a fixed price, which includes the running costs for the length of the contract.

As noted above, the AI Skills Boost is a Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) scheme, and DSIT owns the relationship with the technology partners involved. Therefore, UKRI does not hold any information regarding the projected budget for future running costs, the charges or contributions made by technology partners, the arrangements in place with those partners, or any assessments of fair market value or cost-effectiveness.

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](#)⁵.

Yours sincerely,


Information Governance
Information Rights Team
UK Research and Innovation
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⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/free-ai-training-for-all-as-government-and-industry-programme-expands-to-provide-10-million-workers-with-key-ai-skills-by-2030>

⁵ <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>