



29 March 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2023/00109**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 3 March in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*For Innovate UK's Cancer Therapeutics Programme (<https://www.ukri.org/news/30-million-fund-to-advance-life-changing-cancer-therapeutics/>) please can you release information on the following:*

- 1. Which competitions the programme has 'extended' the funding pot of.*
- 2. The specific competitions/initiatives funded through this programme.*
- 3. The number of applications funded through this programme to date.*
- 4. The number of applications with provisional grant offers (before GOL) funded through this programme.*
- 5. The funds spent to date from the £30mill pot.*

**Our response:**

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

- 1. Which competitions the programme has 'extended' the funding pot of.*
- 2. The specific competitions/initiatives funded through this programme.*

In relation to questions 1 and 2 of your request, this fund is being delivered through several strands to provide targeted support for innovators at important stages of their journey. First is an accelerator programme for academic spin-outs and early-stage SMEs being delivered through Biomedical Catalyst. The second strand is bespoke investor partnership programmes, one such opportunity is currently [open to application for investors](#)<sup>1</sup> and there are regular opportunities for SMEs to apply as [detailed on our website](#)<sup>2</sup>. This strand is being run by the Innovate UK Future Economy Investor Partnership programme. More opportunities will also be published in due course.

We consider that the information on launch dates, further details for these competitions, and any opportunities currently in the planning stage, 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.

UKRI understand that being transparent in regard to competition funding is in the public interest. However, the competitions process is currently being finalised and premature release would negatively affect the Innovate UK 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 competitions process and would put undue pressure on UKRI to publish outside of its scheduled timeframes.

<sup>1</sup> <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1494/overview/3716d281-4226-4e02-9b4d-dd0bd56cc703>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/what-we-offer/browse-our-areas-of-investment-and-support/investor-partnerships-future-economy-programme/>

We have therefore determined that the outcome of this test is that the public interest is insufficient to justify immediate disclosure. Launch dates and further details for these competitions will be published on the competition pages on the UKRI website.

We can however confirm that a pilot programme referred to in Innovate UK's [transparency data](#)<sup>3</sup> as "Blue Zone Biomedical Catalyst 2022 Round 1: Industry-led R&D & Innovate UK Smart Grants: January 2022" has been funded.

*3. The number of applications funded through this programme to date.*

To date Innovate UK has funded a pilot programme of 6 projects which exceeded our quality threshold but were submitted to competitions where the budget cut off point was significantly higher than the quality threshold. This was run as a pilot to demonstrate the diversity of opportunities in this space. Some of the 6 projects have been published on our transparency data, with the remaining projects to be published in due course.

*4. The number of applications with provisional grant offers (before GOL) funded through this programme.*

1 application from the above 6 has a provisional grant offer. The other 5 are now live projects.

*5. The funds spent to date from the £30mill pot.*

£7,005,105 was allocated to these 6 projects.

Currently £89,314.21 of the above figure has been paid out to projects. Please note that as standard, Innovate UK projects submit quarterly claims for projects, therefore at the time of your request not all projects had submitted their first quarter claim.

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  
[foi@ukri.org](mailto:foi@ukri.org) | [dataprotection@ukri.org](mailto:dataprotection@ukri.org)

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/publications/innovate-uk-funded-projects-since-2004/>