



[REDACTED]

20 July 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2023/00431

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 6 July in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I submitted two FOI requests in 2022 which I am now using in correspondence with my MP (Nick Gibb) who has returned a letter to me from Baroness Barran which has now led me to request some simple data.

- 1. Total number of applicants in 2022 for studentships competing for funding.*
- 2. Number of applicants over 60*
- 3. Of the number of successful applicants how many were over 60.*

Our response

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

In relation to parts 1 and 2 of your request UKRI does not hold data on applicants for studentships. Studentship applications are managed by our training grant holders and since applications can be made to multiple training grant holders there will be lots of duplication. Additionally, some universities are unable to distinguish applicants to UKRI studentships from applicants to other studentships they offer. Consequently, information on the total number of applicants for studentships in 2022 and the number of applicants over 60 is therefore not held by UKRI.

Information in relation to part 3 of your request is available as part of UKRI's diversity data and can be found [here](#)¹. This includes information on 'studentship starts' where you can filter by year and characteristic and has information from 2014/15 to 2020/21.

The information you have requested for part 3 of your request, for 2022 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 studentship funding is in the public interest. However, the data is still being collated and we are of the view that releasing the information as it currently stands would be inaccurate, incomplete and misleading and thus not in the public interest. We consider that releasing information outside of our existing publication schedules would put undue pressure on UKRI's resources and 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. Figures for 2021/2022 will be published on our website in due course.

¹ <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/uk.research.and.innovation.ukri/viz/EDIFundingdata2022forpublication/Awardratebyvalue>
UK Research and Innovation, Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon SN2 1FL

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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UK Research and Innovation
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