



[REDACTED]

11 June 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2026/00415

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 13 May in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I would like to know what percentage of applicants into the AI Champions: Frontier AI Phase 1 competition were marked out of scope and how it compares to the overall IUK average.

Please also state how many applications in total were marked out of scope.

Our response

I can confirm that UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) does hold information relevant to your request.

The table below compares applications submitted to the “AI Champions: Frontier AI Phase 1” competition with all Innovate UK (IUK) competitions. It shows totals for submitted applications, those deemed ineligible for any reason, and those rejected specifically for being out of scope. Percentages are provided to illustrate the proportion of ineligible applications overall, as well as the share of out-of-scope applications both as a percentage of total submissions and of all ineligible applications.

	AI Champions: Frontier AI Phase 1 competition	All IUK competitions (Jan 2010 to May 2026)
Total number of submitted applications	661	139,617
Total number of submitted ineligible applications (ineligible for any reason)	363	19,209
Percentage of total number of submitted applications deemed ineligible	54.9%	13.8%
Total number of submitted ineligible applications deemed to be ‘Out of Scope’	143	2,191
Percentage of total number of submitted applications deemed to be ‘Out of Scope’	21.6%	1.6%
Percentage of total submitted ineligible applications deemed to be ‘Out of Scope’	39.4%	11.4%

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](#)¹.

Yours sincerely,


Information Governance
Information Rights Team
UK Research and Innovation
foi@ukri.org | dataprotection@ukri.org

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