



24 May 2022

Dear [Redacted],

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2022/00162**

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

**Your request:**

*For the Innovate UK Smart Competitions in May 2021, October 2021 and January 2022, and where the relevant statistics are available, could you provide.*

- *Total number of applications*
- *Total number of winning applications*
- *Threshold for funding*
- *Total complaints about proposal assessment by companies*
- *Total complaints about proposal assessment by companies that were upheld*

**Our response:**

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

The applications received for the January 2022 competition have not yet been assessed and therefore data for this competition is not yet available. As is indicated in the [‘Dates’ section of the competition overview<sup>1</sup>](#), applicants will be notified of outcomes on 24 June 2022. This is the earliest date that results and statistics will be available for this competition.

The requested information for the May 2021 and October 2021 competitions is included below.

Please note that:

**Stream 1:** Projects 18 months or less in duration, with total project cost of £500k or less

**Stream 2:** Projects either over 18 months in duration and/or £500k project costs

Competition	Number of applications	Number of funded projects	Funding threshold (Stream 1)	Funding threshold (Stream 2)	Number of complaints	Number of complaints upheld
May 2021	1143	72	84.2%	84.8%	12	2
October 2021	1266	71	83.5%	87%	2	0

Innovate UK adopt a policy whereby funding decisions are final and not subject to appeal. The assessment process that Innovate UK employ uses a panel of independent experts to ensure that all decisions are objective and technically informed.

<sup>1</sup> <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1087/overview#dates>

As Innovate UK operates a rigorous approach to assessment, discussions are not entered into relating to scientific or technical decisions concerning an application for a grant or innovation loan. Complaints are investigated to assess adherence to established procedures and ensure decision-making has not been impacted.

There is a complaint process available if there are any issues relating to the conduct of Innovate UK, which includes any issues surrounding grant awards. Details of what will and will not be accepted as a complaint can be found in the [Innovate UK complaints procedure](#)<sup>2</sup>, along with further details on [decisions for grant or innovation loan applications](#)<sup>3</sup>.

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) or [infogovernance@ukri.org](mailto:infogovernance@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>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/innovate-uk/about/complaints-procedure>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/innovate-uk/about/complaints-procedure#technical-decisions>