



[REDACTED]

15 February 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2022/00417

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 27 December in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I would like to know whether your funding opportunities are reaching as many applicants as they should. If not, I would like to be of assistance. Before I can proceed, I must determine whether this is a problem for you.

Please could you provide me with the following information?

Split across your 9 organisations and your own funding streams, for your funding applications where the deadline ended in that year, the trend over 5 years:

1. *The top 5 methods you promote your opportunities and their success rate.*
2. *The number of funding opportunities each year.*
3. *% funding opportunities not realised per year.*

For each opportunity:

- a. *The fund price*
- b. *The number of applicants per fund.*
- c. *The number of applicants that reach the final round*
- d. *The number of applicants that have applied to the same funder within 5 years.*

Our response

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

1. The top 5 methods you promote your opportunities and their success rate.

We do not hold this information. To explain further, we do not track our promotional activities in such a way that we can present a top 5, nor do we track success rates for promotional activities. However, below are some of the ways we promote our funding opportunities with some associated metrics; please note they are not in any particular order:

- UKRI funding opportunities are promoted using our [funding finder](https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/)¹, located on the UKRI website. The funding finder had 1.2 million page views in 2022.

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/>

- All funding opportunities are also promoted using email alerts. Users sign up for news, views, events, and funding alerts. There are 193,915 subscribers. As well as the UKRI mailing list, there are also a number of other mailing lists across the councils that alert people when a funding opportunity has been launched.
- UKRI also use social media to promote funding opportunities. The main platform used is Twitter. The UKRI and council Twitter accounts have a combined total of approximately 650,000 followers. The Twitter impression for funding opportunities vary greatly and can range from 2,000 to 40,000 impressions per tweet.
- Councils also promote their opportunities through their community's network during routine activities and through events.

2. The number of funding opportunities each year.

There is no set number of funding opportunities each year. Please find below the number of funding opportunities in the last five financial years:

| Financial Year | Number of funding opportunities |
|-----------------------|--|
| 2017- 18 | 610 |
| 2018 - 19 | 568 |
| 2019 - 20 | 568 |
| 2020 - 21 | 650 |
| 2021 - 22 | 595 |

3. % funding opportunities not realised per year and a. For each opportunity: The fund price

We have understood the term “fund price” to mean the amount of funding assigned to each opportunity and in turn that the funding opportunities “not realised per year” to mean those opportunities that did not meet the fund price.

We estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate statutory limit as specified within Section 12 of the FOIA which for UKRI is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of 18 hours of staff resource on locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

To explain further, we do not record fund price in such a way we can easily extract it. To find the information we would need to manually review each of the funding opportunities and locate and extract the relevant information. Our reasonable estimates have determined that to locate this information for just one of the Councils would take approximately 33 hours.

There are also further complications as funding budget is not always managed per opportunity. For example, the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), the Medical Research Council (MRC), and Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) manages its research and innovation funding budget across a financial year via funding streams like Discovery Science, Strategic Research and Innovation, Fellowships etc. It does not routinely allocate static budgets to a specific funding opportunity beyond a guideline of what NERC, MRC and EPSRC expects the demand in a particular opportunity to be.

You may find some information for the last year on the [funding finder](#). Each opportunity published on the funding finder states the proposed budget, which we offer as a guide to prospective applicants.

3b. The number of applicants per fund

To answer this question, we have understood ‘applicants’ to mean individuals, and therefore data from Innovate UK and Research England has not been included, as they fund organisations.

Please find the number of applicants per funding opportunity in the attached excel document, “FOI2022_00417 3b Data.”

3c. The number of applicants that reach the final round.

UKRI runs many opportunities that have a number of different formats. Some have different types of rounds, for example, interview rounds or panels. However, for many other funding opportunities the process requires just a proposal or application that gets peer reviewed and is either successful or not successful. As that is the case, it would be helpful if you could clarify which information you require so can provide this to you.

Information on success rates can be found on UKRI's website under [what we have funded](https://www.ukri.org/what-we-offer/what-we-have-funded/)². If you explore this page and the [Tableau system](https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/uk_research.and.innovation.ukri/viz/UKRICompetitiveFundingDecisions2020-21/CompetitiveFundingDecisions)³, this will give you information on who we have funded and further statistics. You can also find information on who UKRI have funded on [Gateway to Research](https://gtr.ukri.org/)⁴,

3d. The number of applicants that have applied to the same funder within 5 years.

To answer this question, we have understood 'applicants' to mean individuals, and therefore data from Innovate UK and Research England has not been included, as they fund organisations.

11,405 applicants have applied to the same funder in the past 5 years.

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

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

² <https://www.ukri.org/what-we-offer/what-we-have-funded/>

³ https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/uk_research.and.innovation.ukri/viz/UKRICompetitiveFundingDecisions2020-21/CompetitiveFundingDecisions

⁴ <https://gtr.ukri.org/>