

[REDACTED]

12 May 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2023/00193**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 12 April in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*If the information is available, I'd like to request information on how many applications in the Smart scheme have gone through the scoring moderation process (outliers identified) and how many have had scores removed. If possible, please can you break this down by competition round for the past year including (Jan '22, Apr '22, Jul '22, Oct '22).*

**Our response**

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

Round	Total Assessed Applications	Total identified after manual review	Outlier justified and therefore not removed	Removed as the outlier was not justified
January 2022	1062	57	32	25
April 2022	783	82	65	17
July 2022	881	94	67	27
October 2022	785	46	33	13

The Smart Grant programme undergoes Innovate UK's standard moderation process as described in our [general guidance](#) as part of the funding decision. We undertake this process for competitions as part of our broader obligations to ensure our use of public monies in grant funding & investment activities is robust and consistent.

Innovate UK run a report which flags potential outliers, which will then be checked manually by the Portfolio Manager. Relevant outliers identified as a result of this manual check will be presented to the panel for extensive discussion and review.

Outliers which are presented for discussion must have both of the following factors:

- Where the lowest or highest assessor's total score is 20% or more from the next assessor
- Where the application is near to or above the funding threshold and therefore the funding decision may be impacted by an outlier

The panel team, consisting of members of the Competitions team & Smart team senior management, will consider thoroughly the assessor's feedback and scores in full, as well as any relevant details from the application itself. The group will then make a collective decision on whether the scores have been justified by the feedback provided by the assessor to the applicant. This is undertaken to ensure high-quality decision making in our review of outliers.

Please note, Innovate UK do not enter any discussions regarding the scientific or technical decision made by the assessors, but will instead review the assessment to ensure it is in line with Innovate UK's agreed assessment process and guidance. Innovate UK will only remove outlier scores in the rare event our process and assessor guidance has not been followed. A difference of opinion in the feedback provided does not mean an outlier will be removed, as this reflects the diversity of experience and expertise our independent assessors have.

For the purposes of transparency all scores and feedback, including outlier scores, are provided to applicants unedited.

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](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  
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