



[REDACTED]

30 March 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2026/00163

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 27 February, and additional request received on the 1 March, in which you requested the following:

Your request:

[Part A] Please provide aggregate data for the most recent five completed competition years (ideally 2021–2025 inclusive) for the MRC Clinician Scientist Fellowship, including applications submitted under the opportunity titled “Clinician scientist fellowship” and/or “Early independence: clinician scientist fellowship” (or any direct successor/renamed listing for the same scheme).

Using existing internal classification fields only (no creation of new data), please identify applications relevant to ophthalmology and vision research, including where available: ophthalmology, vision science, retina, glaucoma, cornea/ocular surface, uveitis/ocular inflammation, ophthalmic imaging, ocular genetics, ocular AI, and regenerative ophthalmology/vision regeneration.

For those ophthalmology/vision-relevant applications, please provide by competition year:

1. *Number of applications submitted*
2. *Number funded*
3. *Median of total cost requested*
4. *Median of total cost awarded*

Please also provide the same items 1–4 for the scheme overall (all subjects) for the same years, to allow comparison.

Additional request:

[Part B] Please provide aggregate data for the MRC Clinician Scientist Fellowship (including any “Early independence: clinician scientist fellowship” listing or direct successor) covering the most recent 12 months of completed funding decisions (i.e., decision dates within the last 12 months).

I am seeking to understand whether recorded collaboration patterns are associated with funding success. Please provide an aggregated contingency table showing, for applications decided in the last 12 months, the number of funded and not funded applications in each of the following categories (excluding the lead applicant):

1. *0 co-applicants / co-investigators*
2. *1 co-applicant / co-investigator*
3. *2 co-applicants / co-investigators*
4. *3+ co-applicants / co-investigators*

For each category, please provide:

- *number of applications funded*

- *number of applications not funded*
- *the resulting success rate (funded / total)*

Our response:

I can confirm that UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) does hold information relevant to your request. Please see the information below and attached in “[FOI2026_00163 - Annex 1](#)”.

Data relevant to Part A of your request is contained in Annex 1. The “application received date” has been used when calculating applications submitted and the median values for the amounts applied for, while the “decision date” has been used to determine the funded applications and awarded amounts. As a result, an application may fall in one year while the corresponding decision or award falls in another. This approach aligns with how UKRI typically publishes information of this nature.

MRC Clinician Scientist Fellowship funding years run from April to March, with three decision meetings per financial year. The last five completed years of the MRC Clinician Scientist Fellowship are 2020/21 to 2024/25. While some data is held for 2025/26, not all decisions have been confirmed and the data for this year is therefore incomplete.

In relation to Part B of your request, there have been 62 applications to the MRC Clinician Scientist Fellowship where decisions have been confirmed in the last 12 months (between 12 March 2025 and 11 March 2026). 10 of these have been funded, a success rate of 16%.

However, all of these applications fall into the category of “0 co-applicants / co-investigators”. This is due to co-leads and co-investigators are not being permitted in fellowship applications; fellowships are fundamentally awards made to a single individual. While applications may include other named roles, such as technicians, these are not “co-applicants” or “co-investigators”.

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