



Sent by email: [REDACTED]

5 November 2025

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2025/00818

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 15 September in which you requested the following:

Your request:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following records relating to the Concentrations of Crime Data Challenge which was announced in August 2025 by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ai-to-help-police-catch-criminals-before-they-strike>

1. *Any challenge specifications, briefing packs, or guidance provided to potential bidders that describe the data sources they may draw upon.*
2. *All documents or slide decks that identify or discuss anticipated data sources, including scoping notes or inventories.*
3. *Any data protection screening or impact assessments prepared to date that reference prospective data sources.*
4. *Copies of any draft data sharing agreement templates prepared in connection with this challenge.*

Our response

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

Questions 1 and 2:

For Questions 1 and 2 we consider that the information held is subject to the following exemptions: Section 31(1)(a) (prejudice the prevention or detection of crime) and Section 41 (information provided in confidence). Therefore, this information is being withheld.

To explain further, UKRI has received briefings from the Home Office which have informed the guidance material developed for this competition. Each applicant has been provided with a problem statement and a Research and Innovation challenge statement (subsequently consolidated into the guidance document for applicants), which outline the scope of the project and the challenges the project aims to overcome, and an overview of the data sources included in this campaign.

Section 41 is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test.

Section 31(1)(a) is a qualified exemption and therefore subject to a public interest test. UKRI applied the Public Interest Test to this request as set out over the next page:

Public interest in favour of disclosure:

- There is a public interest in favour of release of the information, to uphold the principles of transparency and accountability, in disclosing information about government or public authorities use of personal information to highlight and detect criminal activity.

Public interest test in favour of withholding the information:

- The release of this information would detail law enforcement practices and potentially prejudice the prevention or detection of crime, by addressing how data is captured and used to identify and detect criminal activity.
- This project is ongoing and will evolve over time, bringing in new sources of information or linking datasets which were previously isolated and potential data sources are likely to change during this project.

UKRI has therefore reached the conclusion that, on balance, the public interest is better served by withholding this documentation under Section 31(1)(a).

Question 3: *“Any data protection screening or impact assessments prepared to date that reference prospective data sources.”*

UKRI does not hold the information requested.

The “Data First” initiative is led by the Ministry of Justice, and further information relating to the use and collection of information can be found in the [Data First – Privacy and data protection policy](#)¹. Further published information relating to the Data First initiative can be found at the following links:

- [Ministry of Justice: Data First - GOV.UK](#)²
- [Data First: Cross-Justice System - England and Wales - ADR UK](#)³ [Ministry of Justice & Department for Education linked dataset - England - ADR UK](#)⁴
- [Administrative Data Research UK - Data First Phase 2](#)⁵

Question 4: *“Copies of any draft data sharing agreement templates prepared in connection with this challenge.”*

UKRI does not hold the information requested.

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.

¹ <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6099053bd3bf7f2887b642bd/data-first-privacy-statement.pdf>

² <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ministry-of-justice-data-first>

³ <https://www.adruk.org/data-access/flagship-datasets/data-first-cross-justice-system-england-and-wales/>

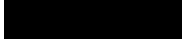
⁴ <https://www.adruk.org/data-access/flagship-datasets/ministry-of-justice-department-for-education-linked-dataset-england/>

⁵ <https://gtr.ukri.org/projects?ref=ES%2FXX00068%2F1>

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](#)⁶.

Yours sincerely,


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

⁶ <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>