



9 March 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2021/00073

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 18 February in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I would like to make a freedom of information request please in relation to the Innovation UK Smart Grant Competition: 'Innovate UK Smart Grants: August 2020'.

Please can you let me know the following:

- 1. The number of applications that were submitted to this competition in total and the number that were sent for assessment.*
- 2. The number of applications that were awarded funding in this competition.*
- 3. The average total project costs and total grant value across the funded projects.*

If you need any additional information to facilitate this request, please let me know. I am happy to receive this information electronically. Thank you for your help here.

Our response:

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

- 1. The number of applications that were submitted to this competition in total and the number that were sent for assessment.*

2183 applications were submitted and 1919 were sent for assessment.

- 2. The number of applications that were awarded funding in this competition.*

Stream	Number of applications awarded funding
Stream 1	63
Stream 2	11
Total	74

3. *The average total project costs and total grant value across the funded projects.*

Stream	Average Total Project Cost
Stream 1	£395,115
Stream 2	£1,013,707

As per the information published in the [competition brief](#)¹, the total funding allocated for the Innovate UK Smart Grants: August 2020 competition is up to £25 million.

The exact figure is exempt from disclosure under Section 22(1) of the FOIA as it is intended for future publication. Section 22 is a qualified exemption meaning that it is subject to the public interest test.

UKRI understand that being transparent in regard to the total amount of funding provided is in the public interest. However, the data is still incomplete and we are of the view that releasing the information as it currently stands would be inaccurate, incomplete and misleading and thus not in the public interest.

To explain further, successful projects are required to complete various project set up steps, including providing Innovate UK with documentation, collaboration agreements and exploitation plans, as well as passing financial viability and eligibility checks in order to receive grant funding. Until these steps have been completed accurate total funding amounts cannot be confirmed.

Once these checks have been completed and the projects have moved past the setup phase and are live, their information, including total funding amount, is published in the [Innovate UK Transparency Data](#)².

We have therefore determined that the outcome of this test is that the public interest is insufficient to justify immediate disclosure. The exact date on when this information will be updated is dependent on when the projects complete the setup process.

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 or 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: <http://www.ico.gov.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 | dataprotection@ukri.org

¹ <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/701/overview>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/innovate-uk-funded-projects>