



[REDACTED]

8 June 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2026/00398

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 6 May in which you requested the following:

Your request:

information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the MRC panel meeting referenced below:

- *Panel Reference: PAN1408*
- *Panel Name: MRC – Gap Fund – September 2025*
- *Panel Date: 17 September 2025*

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information in aggregated (non-identifiable) form:

1. *The total number of applications submitted to this panel and their (£)value, grouped by applicant institution.*
2. *The number of successful applications and (£)value comparably grouped.*

If possible, I would appreciate (1) and (2) in the format of a table with your calculation of the additional comparative information:

3. *A summary table indicating, for each institution involved in making a submission, the number of applications submitted, the number funded, the value (£) of applications and awards, and the relative success rate (as a %) and relative value of funding awarded relative to the value of funding applied for (as a %).*

I am not requesting any personal data relating to individual applicants, and do not need to know the size (£ value) applied for or awarded for individual applications/projects, though I recognise this will be available for institutions with only one award applied for (or awarded). I am happy for the data to be anonymised or aggregated as necessary to comply with data protection requirements.

Our response

I can confirm that UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) does hold information relevant to your request.

Please see the information attached in **FOI2026_00398 Annex 1**.

Section 40(2) – Personal Data

We have exempted some application statistics where the number of individuals is fewer than five under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Disclosure of such small numbers could lead to the identification of individuals and would therefore contravene the first data protection principle, as set out in section 86 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and Article 5 of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), which requires personal data to be processed lawfully, fairly and transparently.

In preparing this response, we have considered the risk of identifying individuals from small datasets. In line with standard statistical disclosure control practices, figures relating to between one and four individuals have been suppressed and are indicated as '<5'. Where no individuals fall within a category, a value of zero has been provided.

Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test.

Please note: We have not suppressed the statistics for successful awards/applications as these will be published in due course.

Section 41 - Information Provided in Confidence

We have determined that some of the information you have requested falls under Section 41 of the FOIA, information provided in confidence. Specifically, we have assessed that the funding amounts applied for by unsuccessful applicants was provided to UKRI in confidence. If the information was released, we believe it would result in an actionable breach of confidentiality.

It is important to note that organisations and individuals apply for funding with the expectation that their application, will be kept in confidence. These expectations are set out in the 'Confidentiality' section of [Use of Grant Proposal & Training Grant information addendum](#).¹

To explain further, UKRI guidance states that if applications are successful that their information will be published. It is therefore implied that all organisations can confidently apply to UKRI and information relating to their application will be kept confidential unless they are successful.

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

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](#).²

Yours sincerely,


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

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/UKRI-310321-Use-of-grant-proposal-and-training-grant-information-addendum-V2.pdf>

² <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>