UK Research and Innovation

28 October 2022

Dear █████████████

Freedom of Information request: FOI2022/00305

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 23 September in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I am trying to better understand the funding process, and portfolio approach of Innovate UK.

For the following competition could you kindly provide:
Biomedical Catalyst 2022 Round 1: industry-led R&D

(Competitions opened: Monday 28 March 2022, Competition closed: Wednesday 25 May 2022).

Split into the 2 strands where possible:
· Project with an overall requested grant of up to £500,000
· Project with an overall requested grant of over £500,000

Application Data:
1. The total number of applications.
2. The total number of applications ineligible for assessment.
3. The total number of successful applications.
4. The total number of applications considered a resubmission of a previous application.
5. The total number of successful applications which were considered a resubmission of a previous application.
6. The score of the lowest scoring funded project.
7. The score of the highest scoring funded project.
8. The score of the highest non-funded project.
9. The average (mean) score of funded projects.
10. Average grant fund value of funded projects.
11. The number of assessed applications by research category.
12. The number of successful projects by research category.
13. The number of applicants invited to an interview.
14. The total number of separate interview panel days.
15. Was any portfolio / thematic selection performed by the separate interview panels; and the categories which were used if appropriate.
16. If there was a portfolio /categorised approach used in the interview process, the number of interviews, and successful applications for each panel.
17. The total number of funded projects which were presented in the interviews.
18. The score of the lowest scoring funded project presented in the interviews.
19. The score of the highest scoring funded project presented in the interviews.
20. The score of the highest non-funded project presented in the interviews.
21. The average (mean) score of funded projects which were presented in the interviews.

Our response

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

The information you have requested on the outcome of the Biomedical Catalyst 2022 Round 1: Industry-led R&D is provided in the tables below. Projects considered under strand 1 (over £500k) had a two-stage assessment. The first was a written assessment and projects were then selected for interview on both the assessor score and the portfolio review criteria. Each project interviewed received an interview score from the panel and that second score was used to decide which projects to fund.

Innovate UK applied a portfolio approach to this round. All applications selected for interview from Strand 1 scored over the quality threshold of 70%, and the Innovation Lead selected projects to give a balanced portfolio of different innovation areas. The written scores were then superseded by the interview panel scores.

Projects in Strand 2 (under £500k) were selected top down until the competition budget was reached. More information on the portfolio approach can be found in the Innovate UK General Guidance.[1]

Table 1: Biomedical Catalyst 2022 Round 1: Industry-led R&D

	Project with an overall requested grant of up to £500,000 (strand 2)	Project with an overall requested grant of over £500,000 (strand 1)
1. The total number of applications.	135	149
2. The total number of applications ineligible for assessment.	5	5
3. The total number of successful applications.	30	14
4. The total number of applications considered a resubmission of a previous application.	20	65
5. The total number of successful applications which were considered a resubmission of a previous application.	4	12
6. The score of the lowest scoring funded project.	79.6%	70.4%
7. The score of the highest scoring funded project.	90.4%	90.0%
8. The score of the highest non-funded project.	79.4%	83.5%
9. The average (mean) score of funded projects.	83.1%	80.6%
10. Average grant fund value of funded projects.	£356,468	£1,154,356
11.The number of assessed applications by research category	See Table 2	
12. The number of successful projects by research category.	See Table 2	
13. The number of applicants invited to an interview.	Projects under £500k are not interviewed.	30 applications, 61 partners were invited for interview.
14. The total number of separate interview panel days.		5 days in total (2 days with 2 panels, 1 day with 1 panel)
15. Was any portfolio / thematic selection performed by the separate interview		Yes, this selection was used, with 3 themes: Therapeutics, Medical Devices, Digital Health.

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[1] https://www.ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk/guidance-for-applicants/general-guidance/what-happens-after-you-have-submitted-your-application/?_ga=2.70744656.1770083017.1663756381-2126497687.1663161362#contents-list

panels; and the categories which were used if appropriate.		
16. If there was a portfolio /categorised approach used in the interview process, the number of interviews, and successful applications for each panel.	Projects under £500k are not interviewed.	Yes, as above.
17. The total number of funded projects which were presented in the interviews.		14
18. The score of the lowest scoring funded project presented in the interviews.		**Lowest written score interviewed:** 80.8% **Lowest interview score:** 70.4%
19. The score of the highest scoring funded project presented in the interviews.		**Highest written score interviewed:** 89.8% **Highest interview score:** 90.0%
20. The score of the highest non-funded project presented in the interviews.		**Interview score:** 69.6%
21. The average (mean) score of funded projects which were presented in the interviews.		**Mean of interview scores for funded projects:** 80.6%

Table 2: Biomedical Catalyst 2022 Round 1: Industry-led R&D research categories

	11. The number of assessed applications by research category.		12. The number of successful projects by research category.	
	Strand 1 (over £500k)	**Strand 2 (under £500k)**	**Strand 1 (over £500k)**	**Strand 2 (under £500k)**
Advanced therapies	10	9	0	2
Biosciences	0	7	0	0
Diagnostics, medical technology and devices	66	48	9	18
Digital health	21	36	0	4
Independent living and wellbeing	2	6	0	2
Precision medicine	8	7	1	1
Preclinical technologies and drug target discovery	4	12	0	2
Therapeutic and medicine development	38	10	4	1
TOTAL	**149**	**135**	**14**	**30**

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: 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,

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