



21 August 2026

Freedom of Information request: FOI2026/00614

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 21 July in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I request information on allocations of compute time on the AI Research Resource (AIRR) supercomputers Isambard-AI and Dawn, across all access routes including the Gateway Route, Rapid Access Route, Innovator Route, AI Open Access, and any pilot or precursor schemes.

For each completed allocation round under each route, please provide, ideally as a single spreadsheet or table:

1. *Lead organisation name*
2. *Project title*
3. *Principal investigator/project lead (where not exempt under s.40; if withheld, please still confirm the number of distinct individuals per organisation)*
4. *Sector of lead organisation (academic, industry, charity, public sector)*
5. *Access route and machine (Isambard-AI or Dawn)*
6. *Compute awarded (GPU hours or equivalent metric)*
7. *Award date and allocation duration*

For each route and round, please also provide the totals: applications received, applications successful, compute requested, compute awarded.

Please also provide any spreadsheets, dashboards, registers or reports UKRI holds that list or summarise AIRR allocations, whether or not published.

Where any part of this is exempt, please disclose what remains and specify the exemption(s) relied on for withheld items. As final allocation decisions on AIRR routes are made jointly by UKRI and the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), if any part of this information is held by DSIT rather than UKRI, please transfer this request accordingly or advise me who holds it.

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_00614 Annex 1**, which contains details of AIRR allocations made through the various UKRI-managed access routes.

AIRR Access Routes

AI Research Resource (AIRR) awards regarding compute time have been made under the following access routes:

1. Early Access Projects, awarded between 28 February 2025 and 1 October 2025.

- The list of awards made through this route, aggregated by lead organisation, is provided in Table 1 of Annex 1.
- Details of the allocation rounds are provided in Table 2 of Annex 1.
- Round 6 awarded compute to high quality unmet demand from the previous five rounds, due to Phase 2 of Isambard-AI being then available.

2. Gateway Awards, awarded since 4 August 2025.

- The list of awards made through this route, aggregated by lead organisation, is provided in Table 3 of Annex 1.
- There were no allocation rounds for this opportunity prior to 1 April 2026. Details of the subsequent allocation rounds are provided in Table 4 of Annex 1.

3. Rapid Access Awards, awarded since 4 August 2025.

- The list of awards made through this route, aggregated by lead organisation, is provided in Table 5 of Annex 1.
- There were no allocation rounds for this opportunity.
- All applicants who applied for this award were successful, requesting 2,214,000 GPUh.

4. SovAI Launch Opportunity, awarded since August 2025.

- The list of awards made through this route, aggregated by lead organisation, is provided in Table 6 of Annex 1.
- There were 294 applications for this opportunity, requesting 27,765,495 GPUh.

5. Innovator Opportunity, awarded since March 2026

- The list of awards made through this route, aggregated by lead organisation, is provided in Table 7 of Annex 1.
- There were 61 applications for this opportunity, requesting 5,068,800 GPUh.

6. AI for Science Opportunity, awarded since December 2026.

- The list of awards made through this route, aggregated by lead organisation, is provided in Table 8 of Annex 1.
- There were 72 applications for this opportunity, requesting 35,795,592 GPUh.

7. Fundamental AI Labs Opportunity, awarded since March 2026.

- The list of awards made through this route, aggregated by lead organisation, is provided in Table 9 of Annex 1.
- There were 14 applications for this opportunity, requesting 42,000,000 GPUh.

AI Open Access Route

No awards have yet been made through the AI Open Access route, as applications for this route are still undergoing peer review. UKRI therefore does not hold complete allocation information for this route at the time of writing this response.

Section 40 – Personal Data

We are exempting the names of principal investigators/project leads and the number of distinct individuals per organisation under section 40(2) of the FOIA. Disclosing this information would contravene the first Data Protection Principle as defined under Section 86 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and Article 5 of UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).

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

Section 43 - Commercial interests

We believe the information you have requested, namely project titles, is exempt from disclosure under Section 43(2) of the FOIA. This exemption is used where disclosure would likely result in a person's (an individual, a company the public authority itself or any other legal entities) commercial interests being prejudiced.

As these projects are jointly awarded under the AIRR managed programme in partnership with the Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade (BIST). Following consultation, BIST advised that the project titles are considered commercially sensitive. Several projects have progressed to conduct commercially sensitive experimental development work and disclosure of the project titles could reveal information about organisations' research priorities, technological developments, or business strategies. As Section 43(2) is a qualified exemption, we have considered the public interest test.

Public interest in favour of disclosure

- There is a public interest in transparency, accountability, and understanding how public funds are spent.
- Disclosure would provide greater visibility of projects supported through the AIRR programme.

Public interest in favour of withholding the information

- Disclosure would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the organisations concerned by revealing information that competitors could use to gain insight into their research and development activities. This could undermine their competitive position and future commercial opportunities.
- There is also a strong public interest in preserving trust between UKRI and its partners. Organisations must be confident that commercially sensitive information provided during the funding process will be appropriately protected. Disclosure could damage these relationships and affect UKRI's ability to work effectively with stakeholders and deliver future programmes.
- Releasing information provided in confidence to UKRI is likely to damage the possibility of ongoing relationships with other organisations. Relationships may become untenable if third parties cannot be certain that their commercial information will remain confidential when held by UKRI.
- Breaching the commercial interest may also adversely affect future negotiation opportunities for UKRI. UKRI may be seen as a 'confidentiality' risk if it routinely releases information relating to business arrangements into the public domain, particularly where this is third party information.
- We follow the government guidance on [managing public money](#).¹ Standards expected of all public services include integrity, reliability, spending money in the public interest and achieving value for money. Our current thorough process ensures that only the best projects receive public monies. Releasing this information could jeopardize the fair and transparent competition process and undermine our function to fund the best projects. In turn, undermining this process would go against our responsibilities to manage our use of public funds.

Taking the above arguments into consideration, we reached the decision that the need for commercial confidentiality outweighs the public interest in disclosure; therefore, the information is exempt from disclosure.

¹ [Managing Public Money - April 2026.pdf](#)

Government-Directed Allocations

Some projects have been awarded AIRR resource directly by the UK Government, with onboarding support provided by UKRI. These allocations do not constitute allocation rounds and therefore fall outside the scope of your request. Furthermore, disclosure of such information could engage section 43(2) (commercial interests) and raise national security considerations.

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

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