



[REDACTED]

13 April 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2026/00041

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

Your request:

I request information held by UK Research and Innovation relating to research funding, grants, or programme participation involving the following individuals or entities:

- [REDACTED]
- ARBOBIOS Limited (SC681339)
- Milbank Investments Ltd (09325389)
- Barningham Estate Farms Limited (08879834)
- HHSL Limited (SC436677)
- Pennine Forestry Limited (08254075)
- Natural Warmth Renewable Energy Solutions Ltd (07810792)
- Climate Solutions Exchange Limited (12413888)
- HCP High Yield Commercial Property LLP (SO304199)
- Forest Canopy Foundation (12930809)

This includes, but is not limited to:

- *Research and development grants*
- *Innovation or technology funding*
- *Net Zero, climate, energy, or sustainability-related schemes*
- *Correspondence relating to applications, awards, assessments, or payments*

Please include:

- *Grant applications (successful or unsuccessful)*
- *Award letters, funding agreements, and payment records*
- *Emails or internal correspondence referencing the above parties*
- *Participation in collaborative or pilot research programmes*

Timeframe: 1 January 2010 to present.

Our response

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

We have identified the projects below that fall within scope of your request and have provided details of the documents held. We can confirm that no emails or internal correspondence relevant to these projects is held; projects are managed within our internal systems reducing the need for internal correspondence, and decision making is recorded in assessor scoring matrixes.

Project ref: [79327](#)¹

Competition: The Sustainable Innovation Fund: Round 1 (Temporary Framework)

Application name: Climate Solutions Exchange Ltd

Under Section 21 - Information already reasonably accessible, of the FOIA the grant application for this project is available in the public domain, with some redactions applied as noted in the accompanying response letter:

- [FOI2025/00054: Project 79327 application form - Disclosure log](#)²

Section 21 is an absolute exemption which means that there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

Please find attached the grant offer letter for this project, "[FOI2026_00041 - 79327 Grant Offer Letter_redacted](#)"

Project ref: [10031337](#)³

Competition: SBRI – Climate and Environmental Risk Analytics for Resilient Finance: Phase 1

Application name: Integrating digital Earth Observation environmental data into financial services decision making (Climate Solutions Exchange Ltd)

Please find attached:

- "[FOI2026_00041 – 10031337 Application_redacted](#)"
- "[FOI2026_00041 - 10031337_Contract - Signed_redacted](#)"

Project ref: [10062679](#)⁴

Competition: Knowledge transfer partnerships (KTP): 2022 to 2023 Round 5

Application name: Teesside University and Climate Solutions Exchange

Please find attached:

- "[FOI2026_00041 – 10062679 Application_redacted](#)"
- "[FOI2026_00041 - 10062679 Grant Offer Letter_redacted](#)"

Some of the information contained within the application forms, contracts and offer letter provided, as well as supporting application documents, have been withheld from disclosure under the following exemptions of the FOI Act:

- Section 40 - Personal information
- Section 41 - Information provided in confidence
- Section 43 - Commercial interests

Section 40 – Personal information

We are exempting the names and contact details of individuals who have not already been disclosed in relation to this project 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

¹ <https://qtr.ukri.org/projects?ref=79327>

² <https://ukri.disclosurelog.co.uk/disclosures/c4e58f6c-a151-452c-9e30-aa6c6c953664>

³ <https://qtr.ukri.org/projects?ref=10031337>

⁴ <https://qtr.ukri.org/projects?ref=10062679>

Section 41 – Information provided in confidence

We have determined that the information you have requested falls under Section 41 of the FOIA, information provided in confidence.

To explain further, organisations and individuals apply for funding in confidence and with the expectation that their bid information, including their applications, will be kept in confidence. If the information was released, we believe it would result in an actionable breach of confidentiality.

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

Section 43 – Commercial interests

We believe the information you have requested falls under the scope of 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.

This is a qualified exemption, and a test was carried out to determine whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs public interest in disclosure.

Public interest in favour of disclosure

- There is a general public interest in the disclosure of this information to ensure transparency and openness of a public organisation.
- There is also a public interest in transparency in order to ensure the accountability of public organisations and how they spend public funding.

Public interest in favour of withholding the information

- The applications contain commercially sensitive information such as business plans, cost and schedule information, technical project plan and extensive description of the project, which were disclosed to UKRI in confidence. The agreement we have with applicants is that we will not release any confidential information without their permission.
- Releasing the information in scope could be taken advantage of by competitors in planning competing strategies for further business opportunities. Applicants complete the application form knowing that if they achieve success only a brief overview of their successful bid will be publicly available, everything else will remain confidential.
- Innovate UK's competition process is highly competitive and composing a successful bid requires expertise and skill in providing quality information as well as understanding the most advantageous content to present in order to succeed. The applicant must also have the ability to support and justify the strength of their application. The applicant must do this whilst adhering within the strictly enforced scope and eligibility requirements of a particular competition. This knowledge is proprietary to the applicant. In addition, there are companies and consultancy groups that specialise in selling a grant writing service based on their grant writing expertise and knowledge. This exemplifies the commercial advantage and value that such expertise and skills deliver.

As such disclosing the information requested is likely to reduce the applicant's commercial advantage and thereby harm its commercial interests in a highly competitive field. We believe disclosing this information confers an advantage to competitors which would likely materially disadvantage and harm the interests of the applicant, particularly in their ability to compete for grants.

- We follow the [government guidance on managing public money](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/742188/Managing_Public_Money_MPM_2018.pdf)⁵. Standards expected of all public services include integrity, reliability, spending money in the public interest and achieving value for money. Our

⁵ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/742188/Managing_Public_Money_MPM_2018.pdf

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.

- We also considered the impact on UKRI if commercially sensitive information of companies we engage and work closely with were disclosed. We believe it would damage the trust in UKRI and likely impact our ability to carry out our role and manage our current and future investments.

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.

Section 22 - Intended for Future Publication

Under Section 22 of the FOIA, some of the requested information is intended for future publication as it concerns projects that have yet to be finalised; successful and confirmed awards are published into the public domain in [Innovate UK's Transparency Data](#)⁶.

UKRI understand that being transparent in regard to newly funded projects 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.

We also consider that premature release would put undue pressure on UKRI to publish outside of our scheduled timeframes which would lead to a disproportionate burden on the organisation. This would not be in the public interest.

We have therefore determined that the outcome of this test is that the public interest is insufficient to justify immediate disclosure.

Unsuccessful grant applications

I can neither confirm nor deny whether UKRI holds information on any unsuccessful applications under section 41(2) information provided in confidence and section 43(3) commercial prejudice.

Section 41(1) provides that information is exempt from disclosure if such disclosure would constitute an actionable breach of confidence. We believe that is the case regarding this part of your request; applications are made to UKRI in confidence and only information relating to successfully awarded applications is published into the public domain. To disclose information about any organisation's applications to UKRI would be a breach of this confidence.

Section 41(2) provides an exclusion from the duty placed on a public authority such as UKRI to confirm or deny the existence of the information if the act of confirming or denying would itself result in an actionable breach of confidence.

Section 41 is an absolute exemption which means there is no requirement to consider the public interest test in neither confirming nor denying whether or not the information is held.

We also consider that section 43(2) exempts information from disclosure where disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

Section 43(3) allows UKRI to neither confirm nor deny whether or not it holds information relevant to your request where to do so would prejudice the commercial interests of UKRI or a third party.

Section 43 is a qualified exemption subject to the public interest test.

⁶ <https://www.ukri.org/publications/innovate-uk-funded-projects-since-2004/>

Factors in favour of confirming or denying if we hold relevant information

- There is a general public interest in confirming or denying whether information is held to ensure transparency and openness of a public organisation.
- There is also a public interest in confirming or denying in order to ensure the accountability of public organisations and the effective operations of UKRI and Innovate UK.

Factors against confirming or denying if we hold relevant information

- We consider that confirming or denying whether we hold the information requested would cause damage to the commercial interests of companies applying for grant funding from Innovate UK.
- Markets are highly competitive and sensitive to information and confirming or denying that specific organisations have submitted applications that were not successful would be likely to impact the market, influencing public confidence and price movements.
- We also consider that confidence and trust in UKRI would be damaged if we were to confirm or deny that particular companies had made applications for funding and were not successful, and would be likely to impact UKRI's ability to operate effectively in its funding programmes.

We therefore consider that the public interest favours neither confirming nor denying that information is held.

The fact section 41 and section 43 of the FOIA have been cited should not be taken as an indication that the information you requested is or is not held by UKRI.

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](#)⁷.

Yours sincerely,


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

⁷ <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>