



[REDACTED]

13 July 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2023/00366**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 19 June 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 2023 Round 1: industry-led R&D*

*(Competitions opened: Wednesday 4th January 2023, Competition closed: Wednesday 1st March 2023).  
<https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1427/overview/08a0b0b3-bd08-4226-836f-57b25f459621>*

*Split into the 2 strands where possible:*

- Project with an overall requested grant up to £500,000*
- Project with an overall requested grant of over £500,000*

**Application Data:**

- 1. Total number of applications.*
- 2. Total number of applications ineligible for assessment.*
- 3. Total number of successful applications.*
- 4. Total number of applications considered a resubmission of a previous application.*
- 5. 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. Total number of separate interview panel days.*
- 15. Was any portfolio / thematic selection performed by the separate interview panels; and the categories/themes 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 theme/category.*
- 17. Total number of funded projects which were presented in the interviews.*
- 18. Both written and interview score of the lowest scoring funded project presented in the interviews.*
- 19. Both written and interview 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. Average (mean) score of funded projects which were presented in the interviews.*

## Our response:

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

The information you have requested on the outcome of the Biomedical Catalyst 2023 Round 1: Industry-led R&D competition 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. All applications selected for interview from strand 1 scored over the quality threshold of 70%, and the Innovation Lead selected the highest scoring projects to give a balanced portfolio of different innovation areas. The written scores were then superseded by the interview panel scores, which were used to determine funded projects based on a top-down approach.

Projects in strand 2 (under £500k) for this round were selected based on a top-down approach until the competition budget was reached. We reserve the right to undertake a portfolio approach for future rounds in strand 2. More information on the portfolio approach can be found in the [Innovate UK General Guidance](#).<sup>1</sup>

**Table 1: Biomedical Catalyst 2023 Round 1: Industry-led R&D**

	<b>Project with an overall requested grant of up to £500k (strand 2)</b>	<b>Project with an overall requested grant of over £500k (strand 1)</b>
1. The total number of applications.	173	119
2. The total number of applications ineligible for assessment.	13*	3
3. The total number of successful applications.	34	10
4. The total number of applications considered a resubmission of a previous application.	53	36
5. The total number of successful applications which were considered a resubmission of a previous application.	12	3
6. The score of the lowest scoring funded project.	80.0%	80.2%
7. The score of the highest scoring funded project.	89.0%	85.2%
8. The score of the highest non-funded project.	83.2%	91.3%
9. The average (mean) score of funded projects.	83.0%	81.9%
10. Average grant fund value of funded projects.	£364,306.82	£1,113,005.30
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
14. The total number of separate interview panel days.		5

<sup>1</sup> [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](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)

15. Was any portfolio / thematic selection performed by the separate interview panels; and the categories which were used if appropriate.	Projects under £500k are not interviewed.	A portfolio approach was used to select the applications for interview, but a top-down approach was used to select the funded applications from those that were interviewed.
16. If there was a portfolio /categorised approach used in the interview process, the number of interviews, and successful applications for each panel.		30 interviews were conducted, 4 were successful from therapeutics, 3 from med tech and 3 from digital health.
17. The total number of funded projects which were presented in the interviews.		10
18. The score of the lowest scoring funded project presented in the interviews.		Lowest written score: 80.2% Lowest interview score: 75.2%
19. The score of the highest scoring funded project presented in the interviews.		Highest written score: 85.2% Highest interview score: 89.2%
20. The score of the highest non-funded project presented in the interviews.		Highest written score: 91.3% Highest interview score: 72.8%
21. The average (mean) score of funded projects which were presented in the interviews.		Mean of interview scores for funded projects: 82.2%

\*One application was found to be ineligible after it was assessed.

**Table 2: Biomedical Catalyst 2023 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.	
	Up to £500k (strand 2)	Under £500k (strand 1)	Up to £500k (strand 2)	Under £500k (strand 1)
Experimental development	27	10	0	0
Industrial research	134	106	34	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>10</b>

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 within the next 40 working days:

Head of Information Governance

Email: [foi@ukri.org](mailto: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](http://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,

Information Governance  
Information Rights Team  
UK Research and Innovation  
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