



[REDACTED]

24 September 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2026/00710

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 12 August, we apologise for the delay in responding. In your request you asked for the following:

Your request:

On BridgeAI, as reported in "Bridging the AI divide: Year three in review" (March 2026):

- 1. For the reported figure of 1,700+ AI skills courses completed: the definition of "completed" used, whether the unit counted is a module or a full course, and, if held, how many individual people the figure represents.*
- 2. How the £74.6 million reported as allocated by the end of 2025 breaks down, by part of the programme or by delivery partner, in whatever form you hold it.*
- 3. Any evaluation of BridgeAI, whether internal or commissioned, or the timetable for one if it is planned but not yet complete.*

On the AI Skills Hub, which PwC runs under contract UKRI-3797 (specification disclosed under FOI2026/00071):

- 4. The Hub's performance figures: how many people have used it, and how many individuals and organisations have taken training as a result of it, for each quarter since it launched. PwC is required to report these figures quarterly under the contract (Annex A of the specification), in anonymised form. I am asking for the numbers themselves, not for copies of PwC's quarterly reports, which were withheld under FOI2026/00204.*
- 5. The second white paper on skills and training gaps. The first was disclosed under FOI2026/00458 and states at page 79 that a second was due within six months. Please also provide any KPI breakdown covering periods after the one disclosed with it.*
- 6. Whether the Hub's contract was extended when its initial period ended in March 2026 (the contract provided for a 12-month extension decided at that point), and the service's current contractual status.*

If answering everything would exceed the cost limit, items 4 and 5 matter most, and I would rather have those than a refusal of the whole request.

Our response

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

1. For the reported figure of 1,700+ AI skills courses completed: the definition of "completed" used, whether the unit counted is a module or a full course, and, if held, how many individual people the figure represents.

The figures published in the [Bridging the AI divide - 2025-2026 Report](#),¹ include the completion of approximately 1,700 AI skills courses, these figures relate to activity measured and reported through the Bridging the Divide programme.

UKRI does not hold recorded information regarding the definition of "completed", whether the reported figure relates to modules or full courses, or how many individual people are represented by the figure.

Please note that the FOIA provides a right of access to recorded information held by public authorities. It does not require public authorities to create new information, provide explanations, analyses, interpretations, or answers to questions where the requested information is not held.

2. How the £74.6 million reported as allocated by the end of 2025 breaks down, by part of the programme or by delivery partner, in whatever form you hold it.

The information requested is provided in Table 1 below.

We also note under Section 21 of the FOIA, information already reasonably accessible, that information for each successful and confirmed award is already available in the public domain as it is routinely published as part of [Innovate UK's Transparency Data](#).²

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

Table 1: BridgeAI Allocated Funding

Competition	Allocated Budgets (£)
AI Phase 1 feasibility study - accelerating trustworthy AI	£1,872,704
AI Phase 2 accelerating trustworthy AI	£20,221,803
Feasibility studies for Artificial Intelligence	£4,593,830
MFA1 follow on funding project extensions	£3,023,683
Sector CR&D - A-0490 - Collaborative AI Solutions to improve productivity in key sectors	£5,789,060
Sector CR&D - A-0490 - Collaborative AI Solutions to improve productivity in key sectors - collaborative strand	£24,059,007
Feasibility studies for Artificial Intelligence solutions: MFA Series 2	£4,201,371
BridgeAI AI for upskilling - AI solutions to develop AI competencies in key sectors	£2,000,000
BridgeAI Supply chain Demonstrator	£1,961,309
Investor Partnerships - budget allocation of £7m.	£6,807,883
Total allocated	£74,530,650

3. Any evaluation of BridgeAI, whether internal or commissioned, or the timetable for one if it is planned but not yet complete.

A full evaluation of BridgeAI is to be commissioned by Innovate UK in the next 18 months.

¹ https://iuk-business-connect.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/BridgeAI_Report_050326.pdf

² <https://www.ukri.org/publications/innovate-uk-funded-projects-since-2004/>

4. The Hub's performance figures: how many people have used it, and how many individuals and organisations have taken training as a result of it, for each quarter since it launched.

The AI Skills Hub directs users to third-party training providers and does not monitor activity once users leave the platform. UKRI therefore does not hold information on the number of individuals or organisations that have undertaken training as a result of using the Hub.

The information held on user engagement with the Hub is provided in the table below.

Table 2: User engagement

Period	User registrations	Learning pathways assigned	All Views (Unique views)
Q2 2025 (Apr-Jun)	293	92	Member-only data recorded
Q3 2025 (Jul-Sep)	767	186	Member-only data recorded
Q4 2025 (Oct-Dec)	1,028	569	Member-only data recorded
Q1 2026 (Jan-Mar)	55,704	35,767	1.01 million
Q2 2026 (Apr-Jun)	12,862	7,745	1.02 million
Q3 2026 (Jul-present)	4,333	2,369	934,000
Total	74,987	46,728	2.96 million

User registrations represent completed Hub sign-ups. Learning pathways are structured collections of courses and learning resources assigned to registered users. Prior to January 2026, view data was recorded only for registered members; from January 2026 onwards, view figures include both members and non-members.

The Hub's course catalogue has received over 850,000 member views. In user surveys, 61% of respondents reported enrolling in, starting or completing at least one course, and 78% reported that the Hub was effective in identifying skills gaps and directing them to relevant training opportunities.

Training courses are one component of the Hub's offer. Users also access other resources through the platform, including case studies, research blogs and events.

5. The second white paper on skills and training gaps. The first was disclosed under FOI2026/00458 and states at page 79 that a second was due within six months. Please also provide any KPI breakdown covering periods after the one disclosed with it.

Please see the second white paper in the attached document: FOI2026_00710 Annex 1.

UKRI do not hold any further KPI breakdowns in the scope of this part of your request.

6. Whether the Hub's contract was extended when its initial period ended in March 2026 (the contract provided for a 12-month extension decided at that point), and the service's current contractual status.

The contract for the Hub has been extended for the period of up to 1 year.

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](#)³.

Yours sincerely,

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

³ <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>