Dear [Name],


Thank you for your Freedom of Information request submitted on the 10th April 2018 in which you requested the following:

Your Request:

Hello
Might you be able to send details of how assessors mark Innovate UK applications - esp. Open & E&E?

Kind regards

Our response:

I can confirm that UKRI does hold the information that you have requested. Our response is detailed below:

We would like to inform you that this information is of commercial interest and is exempt from disclosure under Section 43(2) of the FOI Act. Releasing commercially sensitive information is likely to prejudice the commercial interests and activities of UKRI.

Section 43 (2) of the FOIA is a qualified exemption which means that UKRI has to apply the Public Interest Test.

When assessing whether or not it was in the public interest to disclose the information to you we took into account the following factors:
Public Interest test 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.

Public interest test in favour of withholding the information:

- Releasing information of commercial interest is likely to prejudice the commercial interests of UKRI and its activities.
- Releasing information of commercial interest is likely to jeopardize the business relationship between the UKRI and its suppliers.

We believe that releasing the assessor's marking matrix for the Open Round competition would negatively affect the commercial interests of all the applicants who do not have access to this information and give those applicants with access an unfair advantage in future competitions. The scoring matrix you have requested was used not only for the Open Emerging and Enabling competition, but also for future rounds and other competitions that we will run. In our view, we do not consider the release of such information would enable fair competition between organisations that apply.

If released it will also have an impact on the commercial interests of UKRI (Innovate UK) and our reliance on running a fair and transparent competition process. Releasing the assessor’s scoring matrix will hugely impact UKRI (Innovate UK’s) core activities and could further compromise the integrity of Innovate UK as an organisation.

Our competitions team work hard to ensure that all competitions are fair and that grant funding is awarded on the strength of the bid, as such for each competition a comprehensive set of materials is released, as well as our general guidance for applicants, to assist in creating the strongest application possible. For each competition there is a detailed guidance for applicants, which offers advice on how to answer each of the questions. The assessor guidance mirrors the 10 questions that applicants are asked to answer. All applicants are advised in the strongest terms to read these guidance documents, as such, we believe not only it would be unfair but it is unnecessary to disclose the assessor’s marking matrix as detailed information is available in the Guidance for the Applicants.

UKRI has therefore reached the view that, on balance, the public interest is better served by withholding this information under section 43(2) of the FOI Act.

I hope this answers your questions.

If you have any queries about this response please contact me, or if you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to request a review of our decision, please write to:
Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are still not content with the outcome of the 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:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Enquiry/Information Line: Between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745

Further information about the Office of the Information Commissioner can be found at [http://www.ico.gov.uk/](http://www.ico.gov.uk/)

Yours sincerely,

UK Research and Innovation, Information Governance Team

Email: foi@ukri.org