Sent by email:

Dear [Name],

**Freedom of Information request: 2018/0185 IUK**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 24th October 2018 in which you requested the following:

**Your Request:**

I would like to make a Freedom of Information request for information relating to round 1 of the open grant funding competition as follows;

- What was the total funding available, how many applications were there, how many were successful, what was the minimum funding provided, what was the maximum funding provided, what was the average (mean) funding provided?

- Please provide a funding breakdown for each successful application- if deemed commercially sensitive this can be pseudo anonymised, for example project 1 received £x in funding for a 12 month project, project 2 received £y in funding for a 24 month project etc.

- Please provide a list of funded companies and provide the ‘public description’ section of their application, if the name of the company is deemed commercially sensitive please just provide the public description and the amount of funding they received and the length of the project. Where the amount received and the amount requested differs please provide both figures alongside the public description and project length

- Please provide the ‘public description’ of a random 20 unsuccessful applications, alongside the requested funding amount, the suggested project length and their application score

- Where possible please provide a breakdown of the industries of successful applicants (e.g. retail, pharmaceutical etc.), alternatively if applications are categorised in another way (by technology for example) please provide this information

**Our response:**

I can confirm UK Research and Innovation hold information relevant to your request.
Please see the information relevant to your request below.

- **What was the total funding available, how many applications were there, how many were successful, what was the minimum funding provided, what was the maximum funding provided, what was the average (mean) funding provided?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strand</th>
<th>Number of Application</th>
<th>Number of successful application</th>
<th>Maximum funding provided</th>
<th>Minimum funding provided</th>
<th>Average funding provided</th>
<th>Total Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6-18 Months</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>£394,629</td>
<td>£30,043</td>
<td>£240,944</td>
<td>£13,010,998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-36 Month</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>£1,120,807</td>
<td>£423,555</td>
<td>£670,862</td>
<td>£3,601,615</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Please provide a funding breakdown for each successful application- if deemed commercially sensitive this can be pseudo anonymised, for example project 1 received £x in funding for a 12 month project, project 2 received £y in funding for a 24 month project etc.**

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- **Where possible please provide a breakdown of the industries of successful applicants (e.g. retail, pharmaceutical etc.), alternatively if applications are categorised in another way (by technology for example) please provide this information**

The information you have requested in your above three statements can be found on Innovate UK’s transparency data.

This information has yet to be published; however, the information is exempted from disclosure as it is intended for future publication. We are not obliged under Section 22 of the FOIA to provide information that is intended for future publication. Innovate UK publish the successful applicants to their competitions. The information, as well as other information, can be found on the transparency data on the below links:

[Innovate UK funding competition winners 2018](#)
[Innovate UK funded projects since 2004](#)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information requested</th>
<th>Column this information is located</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of grant funding offered</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of project</td>
<td>Project start date N; Project end date O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Company name</td>
<td>K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public description</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry/Sector</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Please provide the ‘public description’ of a random 20 unsuccessful applications, alongside the requested funding amount, the suggested project length and their application score

Innovate UK does not release any details of unsuccessful applicants, as such we consider this request to fall under the exemption Section 43 of the FOIA, “Commercial in Confidence” and Section 41 Information Provided in Confidence.

To explain further, we hold the view that details of an unsuccessful application falls within the scope of Section 43 of the FOIA, which relates to information considered to be “commercial in confidence”. This is a qualified exemption, meaning that we have carried out a test to determine whether the public interest outweighs the requirement for commercial confidentiality. The outcome of the test was that the need for confidentiality outweighs the public interest.

The agreement we have with the participant of a project or an applicant to a competitions states that we will not release confidential information without their permission. Releasing the score and details of their application could be taken advantage of by competitors in planning competing strategies for further business opportunities.

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

Hence, taking the above arguments into account, we reached the decision that the need for commercial confidentiality outweighed the need of public interest; therefore, the information is exempt from disclosure.

Under Section 41, Information Provided in Confidence, we are exempting giving details of the unsuccessful applications. Applicants submit their grant proposal in confidence as it contains details which are commercially sensitive; if released we believe it would result in an actionable breach of confidence. As this exemption is absolute there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

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:

**Complaints Officer**

UK Research and Innovation  
Polaris House  
North Star Avenue  
Swindon  
SN2 1FL  
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 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
Yours sincerely,

[Redacted]

UK Research and Innovation, Information Governance Team
Email: foi@ukri.org