

20th June 2019

Sent by email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: 2019/0112 – query response and additional information

Following our initial response to your freedom of information request reference 2019/0112, we received a follow up query from you on 7th June 2019 in which you requested the following:

Your request:

My FOI specifically asked for the % of projects going to males/females to be expressed in £, not expressed as % of numbers of projects.

Please can you provide the numbers as requested and not in this curious way that gender split is reported in the public domain. Numbers of projects is potentially a very misleading way of expressing this data.

Please send me the % of £ going to men and women in each of the categories you report in the attached letter. I have asked for % £ and not % projects as you have sent.

Our response

The total amount for research grants and Fellowships funded by the seven research councils was £2.2B in the 2018-19 period. 71% of funds were awarded to projects and Fellowships led by men and 27% of funds are allocated to projects and Fellowships led by women. The rest of the funds were awarded to projects or Fellowships where the gender of the PI or Fellow was undisclosed or not known.

Of the £0.2B awarded as Fellowships, 42% of the funds went to female Fellows, 52% of the funds went to male Fellows and 6% of the funds went to Fellows with undisclosed or unknown gender.

Of the £1.9B awarded as research grants, 73% of the funds were awarded to projects led by male PIs, 25% of the funds were awarded to projects led by female PIs and 2% of the funds were awarded to projects with PIs of undisclosed or unknown gender.

Additional Information relating to Innovate UK

Innovate UK utilises assessors as opposed to reviewers, and at present there is no guidance available for the appointment and vetting of their assessors. This is currently being addressed and documentation will be created in due course, therefore we would recommend submitting an FOI at a later date if you wish to obtain this specific information.

As noted in our original response, Innovate UK does not specifically collect data on the gender of recipients, however Innovate UK has recognised this issue and has been taking action since 2016 to address the under representation of women engaging with and benefitting from our funding and other forms of support.

To date this has involved two rounds of Women in Innovation awards, two targeted global missions for women-led businesses, a series of free events across the UK for women innovators to highlight National and Regional funding opportunities and provide practical advice to ensure benefit from these.

If you have any queries regarding our response or you are unhappy with the outcome of your request and wish to seek a review of the decision, please contact:

Head of Information Governance

UK Research and Innovation

Polaris House

North Star Avenue

Swindon

SN2 1FL

Email: foi@ukri.org or infogovernance@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

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/>

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,

[REDACTED]
UK Research and Innovation, Information Governance Team

Email: foi@ukri.org