



John Clarke  
Sent by email: request-729101-42bc4eda@whatdotheyknow.com

19 March 2021

Dear John Clarke,

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2021/00097**

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

**Your request:**

*I accept that it will be a breach of confidentiality so would like to re-phrase my request.*

*Can you please provide the total number of applicants & the number who were successful, no names or private information just numbers.*

*Please provide this ASAP.*

**Our response**

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

With regard to the competition “*UKRI Ideas to address COVID-19: Innovate UK Article 25 Dec 2020*” we cannot provide the requested information due to the fact that we are yet to notify all the applicants. We are notifying applicants of the outcome of their applications and once all the notifications have been sent out the information on the total number of applicants and the number who were successful will be available. We cannot however confirm the date at this stage.

We have therefore determined that this information is exempt from disclosure under Section 22(1) of the FOIA as it is intended for future publication. Section 22 is a qualified exemption meaning that it is subject to the public interest test.

**Public interest in favour of disclosure**

- UKRI understand that transparency and openness with regard to grant funding applications and awards is in the public interest.
- There is also a public interest in ensuring the accountability of public organisations and how they spend public funding.

**Public interest in favour of withholding the information**

- The data is currently being collated and reviewed. We are of the view that releasing the information as it currently stands would be inaccurate, incomplete and misleading and thus not in the public interest.
- We consider that premature release would give a misleading impression of the awards process and would put undue pressure on UKRI to publish outside of its scheduled timeframes.

- It would not be reasonable/fair to release this information prior to all applicants being notified of the outcome of their application.

We have therefore determined that the public interest is insufficient to justify immediate disclosure. UKRI aims to publish the data in due course and this information will be available on the [Transparency data](#)<sup>1</sup> website.

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:

Head of Information Governance

Email: [foi@ukri.org](mailto:foi@ukri.org) or [infogovernance@ukri.org](mailto:infogovernance@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: <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,

Information Governance

Information Rights Team

UK Research and Innovation

[foi@ukri.org](mailto:foi@ukri.org) | [dataprotection@ukri.org](mailto:dataprotection@ukri.org)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/innovate-uk-funding-competition-winners-2020>