MRC Reference FOIA 2017-046

Thank you for your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request in which you asked for information relating to two-staged funding calls and success rates.

In responding to your request, the MRC has defined a “two-staged proposal evaluation process” as any call that involved an expression of interest or outline proposal before the full proposal.

I have answered your questions in turn.

For the years 2012/13-2015/16, please supply:

a) The number of project calls which offered a two-staged proposal evaluation process, with short proposals, expressions of interest or similar mechanisms used to filter out proposals (a process known as triaging).

There were 71 (out of 161) funding calls made during the period 2012/13 – 2015/16 which included a “two-staged proposal evaluation process”. A full list of the MRC’s funding calls made during the period 2012/13 – 2015/16 is attached ‘MRC FOI2017-046 funding calls 2012_13 to 2015_16 071217’. This includes the assessment of calls which involved either an Outline or Expression of Interest stage. Details of previous calls which do not have a link to an MRC web page can be accessed via our archived pages on The National Archives web archive at http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/*/http://www.mrc.ac.uk/.

b) Whether the statistics published at https://www.mrc.ac.uk/research/funded-research/success-rates/ include all of the submissions made under the above mentioned two-stage proposal processes

No. The success rate statistics published refer only to full applications and does not include Expression of Interest/Outlines.

I hope you are satisfied that this response has been handled appropriately; if not you may appeal using the MRC’s complaints procedure. Details are on the MRC website at: http://www.mrc.ac.uk/about/information-standards/complaints/. You may contact the MRC Complaints Officer at:

The Complaints Officer,
Medical Research Council,
14th Floor, One Kemble Street.
London,
WC2B 4AN.
email: customer.service@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.
Telephone: 0303 123 1113.
Website: www.ico.org.uk

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely,