

Science Foundation Ireland

COVID-19 Rapid Response Funding Call (Phase 2)

Version: 01 July 2020

KEY DATES

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|------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Phase 2 Call Open | 30 June 2020 |
| • Application Deadline | 26 August 2020 |
| • Funding Decision | October 2020 |

Terms of Reference

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and reliability of this document, it is provided for information purposes only and as a guide to expected developments. It is not intended, and should not be relied upon, as any form of warranty, representation, undertaking, contractual, or other commitment binding in law upon Science Foundation Ireland, the Government of Ireland, or any of their respective servants or agents. Science Foundation Ireland Terms and Conditions of Research Grants shall govern the administration of SFI grants and awards to the exclusion of this and any other oral, written, or recorded statement.

All responses to this Call for Submission of Proposals will be treated in confidence and no information contained therein will be communicated to any third party without the written permission of the applicant except insofar as is specifically required for the consideration and evaluation of the proposal or as may be required under law, including the Industrial Development (Science Foundation Ireland) Act, 2003, the Industrial Development (Science Foundation Ireland) (Amendment) Act 2013 and the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 and 2003.

1 Introduction

In March 2020, the Irish Government launched a National Action Plan in response to COVID-19¹ focused on minimising risk of illness for all, minimising risk of exposure of vulnerable groups and minimising social and economic disruption. As a key action in this plan, a coordinated RD&I funding opportunity was launched to enable the research and innovation community to respond to the immediate and pressing needs of society arising from the pandemic. This call involved SFI, EI, IDA, the HRB and the IRC.

The first phase of the SFI, EI and IDA stream of the COVID-19 Rapid Response Call sought applications for the development of innovative solutions based on new or alternative approaches to address the immediate needs arising from the crisis. Awards made in Phase 1 are listed on the SFI website in areas including, but not limited to, PPE manufacture, testing, contact tracing, sanitisation, viral surveillance, epidemiological modelling and host immune response. This list will continue to be updated in the coming weeks. In parallel, the HRB and IRC awarded proposals within their respective remits of health and social sciences².

Applications to this deadline call will be accepted from applicants in SFI Eligible Research Bodies only. Collaboration with industry is permitted and encouraged, where appropriate. Companies interested in potentially applying for R&D funding in areas outlined in the call or related topics should speak in the first instance to their normal agency contacts at Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland. An agency representative will advise whether your project idea is suitable for consideration and assist with how an application can proceed.

It is noted that this will be the final call under SFI's COVID-19 Rapid Response funding. However, funding may be sought for COVID-19-related projects under other SFI programmes, such as the SFI Frontiers for the Future Call or SFI Strategic Partnerships. Potential applicants are advised to consider the suitability of their proposal and to consider the most appropriate mechanism.

2 Overview of COVID-19 Rapid Response Call (Phase 2)

As Ireland looks beyond the initial response to the pandemic and to economic and societal recovery, significant research is required to better understand, mitigate and recover from COVID-19, and to enhance our readiness and resilience for future resurgences of the virus or other public health emergencies. This call aims to contribute by supporting research in a number of thematic areas focused on advancing our knowledge of the virus and its impact on our health, and developing solutions that contribute to economic and societal recovery.

In selecting thematic areas for this call, we have taken into account changes in research priorities since the outbreak commenced, the awards funded to date under the All of Government COVID-19 Rapid Response Call, and the inputs of key stakeholders, including the Research Expert Advisory Group which advises the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE) on research priorities. Applicants should also consult the WHO Global Research Roadmap³ and, in particular, the highlighted research priorities and knowledge gaps and regular updates (as they pertain to the themes of this call).

¹ <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/47b727-government-publishes-national-action-plan-on-covid-19/>

² <https://www.hrb.ie/news/covid-19-coronavirus/>

³ <https://www.who.int/blueprint/priority-diseases/key-action/Roadmap-version-FINAL-for-WEB.pdf?ua=1>

The purpose of Phase 2 is to fund short projects of up to 14 months in duration (to the end of 2021) that build scientific knowledge and/or develop novel solutions that have the potential to impact society and the economy in the short to medium term in a number of thematic areas. Applicants will be required to demonstrate to international peer reviewers why their research should be funded now and how it is directly linked to COVID-19 and its impacts. Justification for the need for the proposed research in an Irish context (including all-Ireland, where applicable) will be important, as will consideration of ongoing international research efforts. It is expected that applications will include appropriate collaboration and engagement with relevant clinical partners, health system and policy stakeholders where relevant.

The specific objectives are:

- To support rapid social and economic recovery and to enhance our preparedness for future emergencies;
- To build research capacity and expertise relevant to the COVID-19 pandemic and other infectious diseases;
- To support coordinated research efforts and collaboration across the research ecosystem in Ireland and internationally;
- To enable all-Ireland collaborative research initiatives.

To support all-Ireland collaborative research initiatives, SFI has entered into partnership with the Department for the Economy, Northern Ireland. Under this partnership, researchers in Northern Ireland can seek funding as part of joint proposals to this call. Please see the additional guidance for details on this opportunity.

Wider international collaboration is strongly encouraged under this call, where appropriate. Funding from SFI may only be sought by researchers based in eligible research bodies in Ireland, but similar schemes to support research relevant to COVID-19 may be available to collaborating researchers in other countries.

Scope of the Call

Only Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM)-led applications are eligible to be submitted under this call, i.e., applications in which the primary innovation is in an area of STEM. While the involvement of applicants from the behavioural/social/economic sciences is strongly encouraged, particularly in informing the adoption and impact of novel interventions, it is expected that the applicants leading the proposal will have demonstrable track records in the relevant STEM area.

Given the scope and thematic areas of this call as well as the duration and scale of awards, applicants are encouraged to consider the suitability of their proposal for this call. In this context, it is noted that the SFI Frontiers for the Future 2020 call will open for applications in the coming months for projects and awards of longer duration. Please see the SFI website for more information.

Thematic Areas

Applications may be submitted to this call that align with the following thematic areas, which are described in detail below:

- **Infection Prevention & Control**
- **Understanding the Virus & Host Response**
- **STEM-led Solutions for Stimulating and Sustaining Rapid Economic Recovery**

All applications must demonstrate a direct relevance to the SARS-CoV-2 virus and/or the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Applications that fail to do this may be deemed ineligible. It is recognised that there may be overlap between aspects of these thematic areas, but for the purpose of review, applicants will be required to select the area of primary alignment.

INFECTION PREVENTION & CONTROL

For the purposes of this call, infection prevention and control is considered in its broadest context including not only healthcare settings but the whole of society. Applications aligned with this thematic area will seek to (i) conduct novel studies that provide insights into infection/transmission risks and/or (ii) develop innovative solutions that mitigate these risks. It is expected that the outcomes of funded projects will contribute to making key aspects of our society including places of work, public amenities and facilities, education and travel safer and more resilient. Applicants are encouraged to include appropriate stakeholders from these areas.

It is expected that applications under this theme will be in areas *including*:

- **Modes and Duration of Transmission**
- **Environmental Stability of the Virus**
- **Influence of Environmental Factors**
- **Novel Technology Solutions for Infection Prevention & Control**
- **Efficacy of Current Infection Prevention & Control Measures**

UNDERSTANDING THE VIRUS & HOST RESPONSE

Applications aligned with this thematic area will seek to characterise the SARS-CoV-2 virus and to understand its genetic variation (in particular in an Irish context), epidemiological characteristics, modes of transmission, incubation period and other characteristics that can help inform appropriate public health control measures in Ireland.

Applications may also seek to characterise the pathogenesis of COVID-19 and the host response to the virus. This research is critical in the context of SARS-CoV-2 but may also impact on our preparedness for other infectious diseases such as seasonal influenza.

It is expected that applications under this theme will be in areas *including*:

- **Biology of the Virus and Mechanism of Infection**
- **Origin and Evolution of the Virus**
- **Viral Transmission Dynamics**
- **Viral Variant Characterisation**
- **Risk Factors, Susceptibility and Severity of Disease for Populations of Interest**
- **Host Genetic Susceptibility Markers**
- **Understanding Longer Term Sequelae of Covid-19 Disease**
- **Risk / Role of Co-Infection (e.g. with influenza)**

STEM-LED SOLUTIONS FOR STIMULATING AND SUSTAINING RAPID ECONOMIC RECOVERY

In addition to the thematic areas above, SFI will accept applications in other relevant areas, where applicants can demonstrate a **compelling need for STEM-led academic research** that can contribute to rapid economic recovery, enterprise competitiveness and future resilience following the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is expected that applications under this theme will be in areas *including*:

- **sustainable and carbon neutral processes;**
- **digital transformation;**
- **supply chain and automation.**

It is emphasised that applications will not be accepted in areas deemed out of scope, as listed in this call document. It is expected that applications under this thematic area will demonstrate strong engagement with enterprise partners.

Areas not within scope of call

The areas listed below have been deemed to be out of the scope of the call and will not be eligible to be reviewed. These areas have been determined based on the scale and duration of the awards available under this call, the scope and thematic areas selected for this call, and significant numbers of applications received in these areas to Phase 1 of the COVID-19 call (of which some may have been funded or not). It is recognised that further research in these areas may be important but is not strongly aligned with the scope and objectives of this call.

- *Vaccine Development*
- *Diagnostic and Serological Assay Development*
- *Telehealth / Remote Patient Monitoring*
- *Development of an app as the primary output of a study (this may, however, be included as part of an overall novel technology solution)*
- *Studies whose primary purpose is to develop or update guidelines on best practice (this may, however, be a secondary outcome of a study)*
- *Feasibility studies of existing products or technologies*
- *Manufacturing of personal protective equipment (novel materials/design for PPE is in scope)*
- *Contact tracing*

Overlap with funded awards

SFI has published a list of all awards funded *to date* under Phase 1 of the SFI Rapid Response Call. This list will be updated as final awards are made. As noted above, awards were also made under the HRB/IRC strand of the Rapid Response call. It is not envisaged that awards will be made where they significantly overlap with awards already made under either of these calls, so applicants are advised to review this information carefully. However, applications that complement, build on or partner with funded studies may be appropriate.

3 Application Overview

Applications to this call will be submitted via SFI’s Grants Management System, Sesame. Applicants will be required to complete all fields as well as uploading a number of documents including the application form, CV for the applicants and Letters of Support. Templates for the application form and CV are available to be downloaded from the call website and must be used. Frequently Asked Questions will also be published on the call website and applicants are advised to consult these in advance of submitting an application.

The application form is short and succinct and given the purpose of the COVID-19 Rapid Response Call, it is intended to emphasise:

- (i) the **nature of problem** to be addressed and why it is important now;
- (ii) the potential impact and feasibility of the **proposed study or solution**;
- (iii) the appropriateness of the **team**, its experience and resources to deliver the proposed project in the timeframe indicated (including any partnerships and environment);
- (iv) appropriateness of the **milestones, deliverables and timelines**

The deadline for applications to this call is 13:00 (local time, Dublin, Ireland), 26 August 2020. Applications received by SFI after this deadline will not be accepted and will not be sent for review.

For all-Island applications involving partnerships with researchers in Northern Ireland, applicants should refer to the guidance documentation available on the [call website](#), which contains detailed information on eligibility, additional documentation and steps that must be completed in advance of submitting an application.

4 Application Details

Resubmissions	Applicants must declare whether their submission relates to a previously submitted application to Phase 1 of the COVID-19 Rapid Response Call. For applications that were reviewed but not funded, applicants should clearly state how they have responded to the comments provided by the previous review panel. For applications that were deemed ineligible in the Phase 1 call, applicants should clearly state how the current application aligns with the remit and thematic areas of this call.
Eligibility	<p>Under this call, applications must be led by a researcher from an SFI Eligible Research Body. Applicants must be capable of demonstrating the required technical skills, resources and network to complete the proposed project and to deliver impact in the short timeframe of the award.</p> <p>In addition, one co-applicant may be included to co-lead the research team or consortium. Further academic and non-academic members of the team should be included as collaborators. Only academic collaborators based at an eligible Research Body may request funding.</p> <p>Lead and co-applicants are permitted to be named as applicants on one application only. They may be included on further applications as collaborators, subject to their capacity to contribute to multiple projects.</p> <p>Applicants must be members of the academic staff of an eligible Research Body (permanent or with a contract that covers the period of the grant), or, a contract</p>

	<p>researcher with a contract that covers the period of the grant, who is recognised by the Research Body as an independent investigator. Research Bodies will be required to confirm in their Letter of Support that applicants will have appropriate access to facilities and contractual arrangements for the duration of the award. Postdoctoral researchers are not permitted to apply to this call.</p> <p>The formation of interdisciplinary teams and partnerships is encouraged. Teams should consider where they can build upon ongoing research activities. Given the global research response to COVID-19, applications involving international collaborators are encouraged. However, only funding for eligible organisations based in Ireland may be requested under this call. Partnership with researchers in Northern Ireland is described in the associated guidance document available on the call website.</p> <p>The involvement of relevant non-technical stakeholders (clinicians, end-users, policymakers, industry partners etc.) in the development of applications and the delivery of solutions is strongly encouraged and may be considered as essential for certain projects.</p>
<p>Award Duration</p>	<p>Awards may be up to a maximum of 14 months in duration and may extend to the end of 2021. Award notifications will be issued in October and awards may commence immediately after that.</p> <p>Progress of projects against agreed milestones/deliverables will be assessed throughout the project lifetime.</p>
<p>Budget Requests</p>	<p>The minimum budget request permitted under this call is €200k in direct costs. Higher budget requests, particularly in the case of the formation of larger consortia, are permitted. Award sizes will vary depending on justification of need provided in applications. All funding requests must be detailed and strongly justified.</p> <p>Applicants should refer to the SFI Grant Budget Policy for details on eligible costs. Whilst equipment may be permitted, large requests are not expected given the scale and duration of awards. Costs for PhD stipends and fees may not be requested under this call due to the short duration of the awards.</p>
<p>How To Apply</p>	<p>Applications will be submitted via SFI's Grants Management System, Sesame. Potential applicants who do not have access to Sesame should contact their Research Office before beginning to prepare an application to be registered on the system.</p> <p>To apply, applicants must complete and upload to Sesame the official application form available on the call website. A Letter of Support from the Research Body of the lead applicant must be included as part of all applications to this call.</p> <p>Please note that your Research Office is responsible for final submission of all applications to SFI, so it is advised that applications are completed and submitted to your Research Office well in advance of the deadline. Only applications received by SFI in advance of the deadline will be accepted. Applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed.</p>

Letters of Support	<p>A Letter of Support from the host research bodies of the lead and co-applicant (if at different institutions) must be uploaded to Sesame as part of an application to this call. The letter must confirm the contractual status of the applicant for the duration of the award, and that they will have access to all appropriate infrastructure and services, specifically in light of reduced access due to restrictions associated with COVID-19. The letter should also outline the institutional policy for dealing with conflicts of interest. (max. 2 pages)</p> <p>Additional Letters of Support from industry and academic collaborators should be included outlining their role in the proposed project and any cash or in-kind contribution they may be making (max. 1 page per letter).</p>
CVs	<p>A CV for the lead and co-applicants only should be uploaded as part of the application. Applicants must use the template available on the call website. No further CVs should be included as part of the application.</p>

5 Review Process

SFI is a signatory to the [San Francisco Declaration of Research Assessment](#) (DORA)⁴ and, as such, is in the process of aligning its review and evaluation processes with DORA principles. To this end, all types of research output are recognised and SFI is committed to assessing the quality and impact of research through means other than journal impact factors. In the spirit of supporting open research and as a signatory of Plan S,⁵ SFI will also consider a commitment to making data and other types of research, open and accessible.

The submission of an application to SFI shall be construed as consent by the applicants to participate in the peer review process. SFI reserves the right to return applications without review where they do not meet the eligibility criteria.

Applications to this call will be assessed through a one-stage review process. The review will be conducted by international experts with relevant experience in the thematic areas of the call. Reviewers will be selected separately for each thematic area and applications will be considered under one area only.

Expert panel members engaged by SFI are required to abide by the SFI Reviewer Code of Conduct.⁶ The identity of experts who serve as reviewers shall remain confidential and shall not be disclosed to the applicants. Decisions resulting from the evaluation will be provided to the applicants, including relevant review comments, following the conclusion of the SFI review process. SFI shall not be liable for the release of information concerning proposals to third parties by those individuals involved in the merit review process.

Should circumstances arise, SFI reserves the right to modify the review process. Applicants will be notified of any relevant modification to the review procedure. The final funding decisions are at the sole and exclusive discretion of SFI.

⁴ <https://sfdora.org/read/>

⁵ <https://www.coalition-s.org/>

⁶ <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/review/>

5.1 Review Criteria

Reviewers will be asked to consider the following criteria in their assessment of each application:

- **Team** – Does this team have the experience and resources to deliver the proposed project in the timeframe indicated?
- **Problem/Solution** – Is the problem significant in the context of COVID-19? Can the proposed solution have a positive impact (make a difference) on the identified problem?
- **Execution** – Is the overall proposed plan feasible and are the associated budget/deliverables/milestones appropriate/achievable?

6 Award Terms and Conditions

In addition to complying with SFI's Grant General Terms & Conditions, applicants are expected to be familiar and consult with SFI policies/positions and with all relevant national policies when preparing their application to any SFI programme. The following is a non-exclusive list of relevant policies; it should be noted that these are reviewed and updated from time to time:

Rapid data sharing is the basis for public health action. Data produced as a result of this funding must be shared in line with the principles set out in the Joint statement on sharing research data and findings relevant to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak⁷ and with the FAIR principles to make research data **FAIR** (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Re-usable) in order to benefit science by increasing the re-use of data and by promoting transparency and accountability.

Clinical Trials – Research programmes that include clinical trials as part of the study (see Section 5.4) must adhere to the **SFI Clinical Trial and Clinical Investigation Policy**⁸, as well as with the requirements set out by the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA).⁹

Animal Usage – Applicants intending to use animals in their research projects are obliged to comply with the **SFI Use of Animals in Research Policy**,¹⁰ and should also ensure that their studies are in line with the HPA's position on the use of animals in research.

Research Integrity – SFI places paramount importance on ensuring the highest standards of research integrity underpin all aspects of the research that it supports. To this end, SFI endorses the **National Policy Statement on Ensuring Research Integrity in Ireland**,¹¹ that is, all institutions and SFI award holders are expected to abide by this policy statement and the **European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity**.¹²

Doctoral Education – For postgraduate students funded by SFI, the host Research Body is expected to adopt the principles, standards and good practice for doctoral education as described in the **National Framework for Doctoral Education (2015)**,¹³ which SFI has endorsed.

Intellectual Property Management – Intellectual Property (IP) should be managed according to the policies set out in the Government publication: **Inspiring Partnership – the National IP Protocol 2019**¹⁴

⁷ <https://wellcome.ac.uk/press-release/sharing-research-data-and-findings-relevant-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

⁸ <http://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/ethical-and-scientific-issues/>

⁹ <https://www.hpra.ie/>

¹⁰ http://www.sfi.ie/resources/SFI-Policy-on-the-Use-of-Animals-in-Research_June_2016.pdf

¹¹ https://www.iua.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/IUA_Research_Integrity_in_Ireland_Report_2019.pdf

¹² http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/hi/h2020-ethics_code-of-conduct_en.pdf

¹³ http://hea.ie/assets/uploads/2017/04/national_framework_for_doctoral_education_0.pdf

¹⁴ <https://www.knowledgetransferireland.com/Reports-Publications/Ireland-s-National-IP-Protocol-2019-.pdf>

In cases where additional guidelines are specified by SFI they must also be followed. The IP arrangements are the responsibility of the Research Body and shall reflect the collaborative nature of the project, the level of cash and in-kind commitment made by the Industry Partner and compliance with State aid Regulations.

Gender Strategy – Research should fully consider potential biological sex and socio-cultural gender dimensions as key analytical and explanatory variables. As articulated in the **SFI Gender Strategy (Strand 3: Integrating Gender in Research and Innovation)**¹⁵ applicants are required to demonstrate that they have considered any potential sex/gender aspects in their proposed research programme.

The strategy also sets out a target for 30% of SFI's portfolio of award holders to be female and for research teams to be composed of at least 40% of each gender by the end of 2020. As such, applicants should consider how these targets can be achieved at all levels of the research team.

Maternity Supplement – SFI is committed to removing and mitigating any existing or perceived factors that may limit the participation of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) careers. SFI invites its award holders to apply for a supplemental discretionary allowance to support their SFI-funded award when either an SFI awardee or a team member, including PhD students funded on an SFI award takes a period of maternity or adoptive leave.¹⁶

Appeals Process – This policy establishes procedures and responsibilities for the appeal of the declination of a proposal by SFI.¹⁷

State aid – All SFI funding granted under this call will be subject to, and must be compliant with, State aid law. As such, proposals must be designed to ensure that any funding received from SFI does not, directly or indirectly, give rise to the granting of State aid. Potential applicants are referred to the guidance provided by the European Commission in Section 2 of its **2014 Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (2014/C 198/01)**¹⁸ and that which has been developed by Knowledge Transfer Ireland.¹⁹ If in any doubt as to the interpretation or application of this guidance, potential applicants are advised to seek independent legal advice.

Child Protection – Where relevant, applicants and Research Bodies are required to comply with the provisions of the **Children First Act 2015**,²⁰ and the **National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017**.²¹ It is the responsibility of the Research Body to ensure that they are compliant with all applicable law.

Data Protection Policy – **The General Data Protection Regulation** is a legal framework that sets out guidelines for the collection and processing of personal information of individuals within the European Union.²² Applicants are advised that they must be compliant with this regulation if they collect or process personal data.

¹⁵ <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/gender/>

¹⁶ https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/gender/SFI-Maternity_Adoptive-Policy-V2.3-Sept-2019.pdf

¹⁷ <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/review/>

¹⁸ [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52014XC0627\(01\)&from=EN](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52014XC0627(01)&from=EN)

¹⁹ <https://www.knowledgetransferireland.com/Model-Agreements/Practical-Guides/Practical-Guide-to-State-Aid-Considerations-in-Research-Development-and-Innovation-for-RPOs-and-Industry.pdf>

²⁰ <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2015/act/36/enacted/en/pdf>

²¹ http://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf

²² <https://gdpr-info.eu/>

SFI may collect, use and disclose personal data provided in the application and/or otherwise obtained under, or in connection with, the application for processing the submission, for the performance of its statutory powers and functions, and for the general activities of SFI. Further details regarding SFI's collection, use and disclosure of personal data, and the rights of individuals with respect to any personal data held by SFI, are available in the **SFI Privacy Statement**.²³

During peer-review procedures, information may be sent to external experts in countries outside of the European Economic Area, including countries that are not recognised by the European Commission as having adequate data protection laws. By submitting an application to SFI, the Research Body and members of the Research Team are agreeing that they consent to the processing and transfer of personal information in this way.

During the application process or at any time thereafter, SFI may contact the Research Body, the Principal Investigator, or any member of the Research Team with regard to funding opportunities, activities or events organised by SFI or other relevant bodies, or for the purposes of monitoring and evaluation (including, but not limited to, the collection of scientific data or data relating to the application process). SFI may choose to authorise a third party to contact the Research Body, the Principal Investigator or any member of the Research Team on its behalf.

Conflict of Interest – SFI recognises that applicants may have a prior relationship with an industry partner engaged in an application for funding to SFI (e.g., industry consultancy role, founder of an academic spin-out company), which may be perceived as a conflict of interest. Where a potential conflict of interest exists, SFI requires that it is disclosed by the applicant to SFI and their Research Body and that any such situations are managed by the Research Body in accordance with the principles and mandates laid out in the **National Intellectual Property Guidelines**¹⁴. Potential conflicts of interest with respect to Industry Partners named in the application should be directly declared within the applicant CV. Furthermore, the Host Research Body Letter of Support (see Section 5.11) should contain a description of the institutional policy regarding management of such conflicts.

Open access – In line with the principles espoused by Plan S²⁴ and those of the National Framework on the Transition to an Open Research Environment²⁵ Science Foundation Ireland is committed to ensuring that all publicly funded research articles are openly available. Where a research publication arises in whole or in part from SFI funded research (i.e. where one or other of the researchers concerned receives SFI funds in support of their endeavours), **SFI's Open Access policy**²⁶ should be adhered to. SFI monitors compliance with this policy through scientific and financial reporting, financial audits and its Annual Stocktake of Research Outputs.

Data Management – Good data governance and stewardship are key components of good research practice. Science Foundation Ireland is part of an initiative for the voluntary international alignment of research data management policies.²⁷ Applicants may find it helpful to consult with this and Science Europe's framework for discipline-specific research data management if preparing a data management plan as part of their application for funding to SFI.²⁸ Applicants should review individual

²³ <http://www.sfi.ie/privacy/>

²⁴ <https://www.coalition-s.org/principles-and-implementation/>

²⁵ <http://norf-ireland.net/>

²⁶ <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/open-research/SFIs-Open-Access-Policy-2019.pdf>

²⁷ <https://www.scienceeurope.org/our-resources/practical-guide-to-the-international-alignment-of-research-data-management/>

²⁸ <https://www.scienceeurope.org/our-resources/guidance-document-presenting-a-framework-for-discipline-specific-research-data-management/>

programme funding call requirements regarding data management plans and timelines as to when they are required to be submitted.

Current SFI policies and positions will be reviewed on a regular basis; applicants are advised to consult the policy information in advance of submission of a proposal.

7 Award Management

In cases where synergistic opportunities exist between funded awards, SFI may contact awardees and encourage them to consolidate applications or to engage in international efforts.

The State makes a significant investment via SFI into scientific research and, as such, it is the responsibility of SFI to monitor the progress and outcomes of all the funding it administers. All SFI award holders are required to report on emerging outputs and impacts for the duration of their awards and for up to five years beyond. The progress reporting requirements for awards made under the SFI COVID-19 Rapid Response Call are inclusive of Final Reports, completion of the annual stocktake of SFI Research Outputs and the completion of a Researcher Snapshot. Specific reporting requirements for this call will be provided to awardees during the course of the award.

The reporting requirements for awards made under the SFI COVID-19 Rapid Response Call must be adhered to. Individuals who hold the primary responsibility for reporting and who fail to comply with reporting requirements, run the risk of having their grant payments suspended and their eligibility to apply for funding in forthcoming SFI calls affected.

8 Further Information

All information on the COVID-19 Rapid Response Call is available on the SFI website:

<https://www.sfi.ie/funding/funding-calls/covid19-rapid-response/>

For any other queries, please direct them to covid19@sfi.ie