# Grand Challenges: FAQs

### Q: What is a “Place Based Impact Acceleration Account (PBIAA)”?

In 2022, EPSRC announced this new type of consortia funding to enhance place-based impact activities from existing and emerging clusters, driving regional growth. You can read more about the scheme, including the other funded PBIAAs, on the [EPSRC website](https://www.ukri.org/news/41-million-to-enhance-uk-research-and-innovation-clusters/). The funding is aimed to accelerate the impact of existing research outputs obtained from UKRI research.

### Q: How do I apply for this funding?

A: Complete the application form and email it to [TayHealthTech@hw.ac.uk](mailto:TayHealthTech@hw.ac.uk) by the deadline on 17 February at 13:00 GMT.

### Q: What is the timeline for the application process?

The call launches on **2 December 2024**.  
The deadline is **17 February 2025, 13:00 GMT**.

Information webinars will be held and recorded before and after the winter break. Check the [project website](http://www.tayhealthtech.org.uk) for further details and registration.   
The review team will have two weeks to review the applications before meeting in the first week of March to make final funding decisions. Applicants will be informed by mid-March 2025.

### Q: Who is eligible for Grand Challenge funding from Tay Health Tech?

A: The project lead must be employed at one of the six collaborative partners of Tay Health Tech: Heriot-Watt University, Universities of Dundee, Glasgow and St Andrews, Edinburgh Napier University, and NHS Tayside. As this is a translation and innovation challenge, **this is not a research project**, therefore applicants do not need to be researchers, but would need to specify the proposed team and roles involved in the project.

### Q: How do I contact you?

A: Please email [TayHealthTech@hw.ac.uk](mailto:TayHealthTech@hw.ac.uk) with any questions, and your query will be forwarded to the best person to answer. Allow at least two working days before receiving a reply.

### Q: Can I include a project partner based at an organisation outside the Tay Health Tech collaborators?

A: Yes, but any project partners outside the Tay Health Tech collaborators will have to come with their own funding regarding salary costs of any staff on the project. We strongly encourage you to consider what makes your application stronger and have measurable benefit or engagement in the Tayside region. That may be through the inclusion of academics outside the collaboration, or partners outside academia. Please do talk to your institution’s commercialisation team to agree the approach to be taken on elements such as intellectual property in advance of submitting your application.

### Q: Do I need to have an SME involved in the project?

A: No, it’s not a requirement. Consider what partners would make your application the strongest it can be.

### Q: I am a Co-Investigator on Tay Health Tech, can I be part of a bid?

A: Yes you can! You will need to recuse yourself from the decision-making process and declare any conflicts of interest when the Steering Board is deciding on who will be awarded funds.

### Q: Can I include overhead costs in my bid?

A: No, we are unable to cover overhead or indirect costs such as Estates. We also cannot cover academic time but will cover researcher salaries.

### Q: What costs are eligible?

A: Consumables, computing time, travel, subsistence and hospitality are all eligible and can be covered at 100% FEC. These should be booked and purchased according to your organisation’s policies, to ensure effective use of budget.

Staff costs at 100% FEC are eligible: in university partners we can only cover researchers, not academics; in NHS Tayside we can cover staff costs for sessions dedicated to the project, or backfill. We cannot cover costs of staff time at an organisation outside the members of Tay Health Tech, this includes other NHS Boards, these external staff costs should be in your application as an in-kind contribution.

### Q: I can’t get a costing for NHS staffing before the deadline, what should I do?

We are aware that there are some delays within NHS Tayside for providing staffing costs as they are so busy. If you are unable to get a precise costing for NHS salaries, we will accept an estimate in your application. If you already have a relationship with another NHS Board, you may be able to get an estimate from them. Successful projects will be required to have precise costings from the NHS prior to funds being awarded.

### Q: What are you looking for when the application asks for a Trusted Research plan?

A: ‘Trusted research’ is a research and innovation sector term for protecting the UK’s intellectual property, sensitive research, people and infrastructure from potential theft, manipulation and exploitation, including through interference by hostile actors. You can find out more about Trusted Research on the [UKRI website](https://www.ukri.org/manage-your-award/good-research-resource-hub/trusted-research-and-innovation/), and through the [NPSA guidance for Academia](https://www.npsa.gov.uk/trusted-research-academia).

Your Trusted Research plan should include how your project will meet the relevant UK requirements, identifying areas of possible concern. You are expected to also follow the direction of your institution’s policies relating to Trusted Research and Responsible Research and carry out your own due diligence checks in advance of submitting the application.

### Q: Does my device or technology need to have been initially funded by EPSRC?

A: No. It needs to fit with the remit of EPSRC (Engineering & Physical Sciences), but can have been initially funded from any other source, whether charity, university, Wellcome, other UKRI bodies etc.

### Q: What benefit to the ‘place’ are you looking for?

A: You must be able to demonstrate direct benefit to the ‘place’. This should be beyond the employment of a researcher on the project, and beyond general benefit to the NHS nationwide. It could be through the manufacturing of a device in the region; links with NHS Tayside, NHS Tayside Innovation Hub or the Tayside Innovation MedTech Ecosystem (TIME); application of your technology specifically in the NHS Tayside region; collaboration with an industrial partner within the Tayside region, etc. We strongly recommend you consider options beyond the NHS for benefit to Tayside, not all projects will require an NHS Tayside partner.

### Q: Can I use this funding to pay for my patent application?

A: No, unfortunately we are unable to provide costs for patent applications but we can provide costs for evidencing the market and need for protecting IP. You should approach your organisation in the first instance whenever you require funds for patent applications.

### Q: Will this fund the use of Artificial Intelligence?

A: This will largely depend on what level of AI your proposal refers to. If you are looking at data processing, then no. If the AI is supporting a new diagnostic tool that requires going down the regulatory pathway, then yes. Please contact us to discuss before submitting your proposal so we can confirm your proposal is eligible.

### Q: How will you be evaluating the applications?

A: The Tay Health Tech support team will first check that the application is eligible. If ineligible elements are found, we may contact you and invite you to resubmit, but the resubmission must be before the deadline, so please submit or ask us questions with plenty of time in advance of the deadline. Each application will be allocated an academic introducer, who will review the application and present it at a special meeting of the Steering Board. You can see more information on our Steering Board on our website.

### Q: How many projects will you be funding?

A: We have £995,000 for this funding call and expect to fund a mixture of large and small projects, across all themes. We have no target in terms of number of projects for any particular theme or stream of funding.

### Q: Why are you collecting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion data at the application stage?

A: As UKRI points out: “Research and innovation need diversity. Equality, diversity and inclusion are essential for the creative, collaborative, dynamic research and innovation system needed to improve our understanding of ourselves and the world around us, and to harness that knowledge in the service of society.”  
We collect EDI data to be able to analyse our reach and our diversity. Each application will be given a reference number, and that number will be linked to the EDI data collected so that we can anonymously analyse applications and successes. Please be assured that EDI data collected will NOT be available to reviewers.