

JRCT Power & Accountability Programme

Advice for applicants 2026

Katharine Knox (Programme Manager) & Charlotte Cooper (Grants Officer)

What we'll cover

- 1: JRCT as a funder
- 2: Power & Accountability programme vision
- 3: What we fund
- 4: What we don't fund
- 5: Key questions before you apply
- 6: Intro to our new Expression of Interest stage
- 7: Tips for submitting a strong EOI
- 8: When to apply
- 9: Next steps
- 10: Your feedback

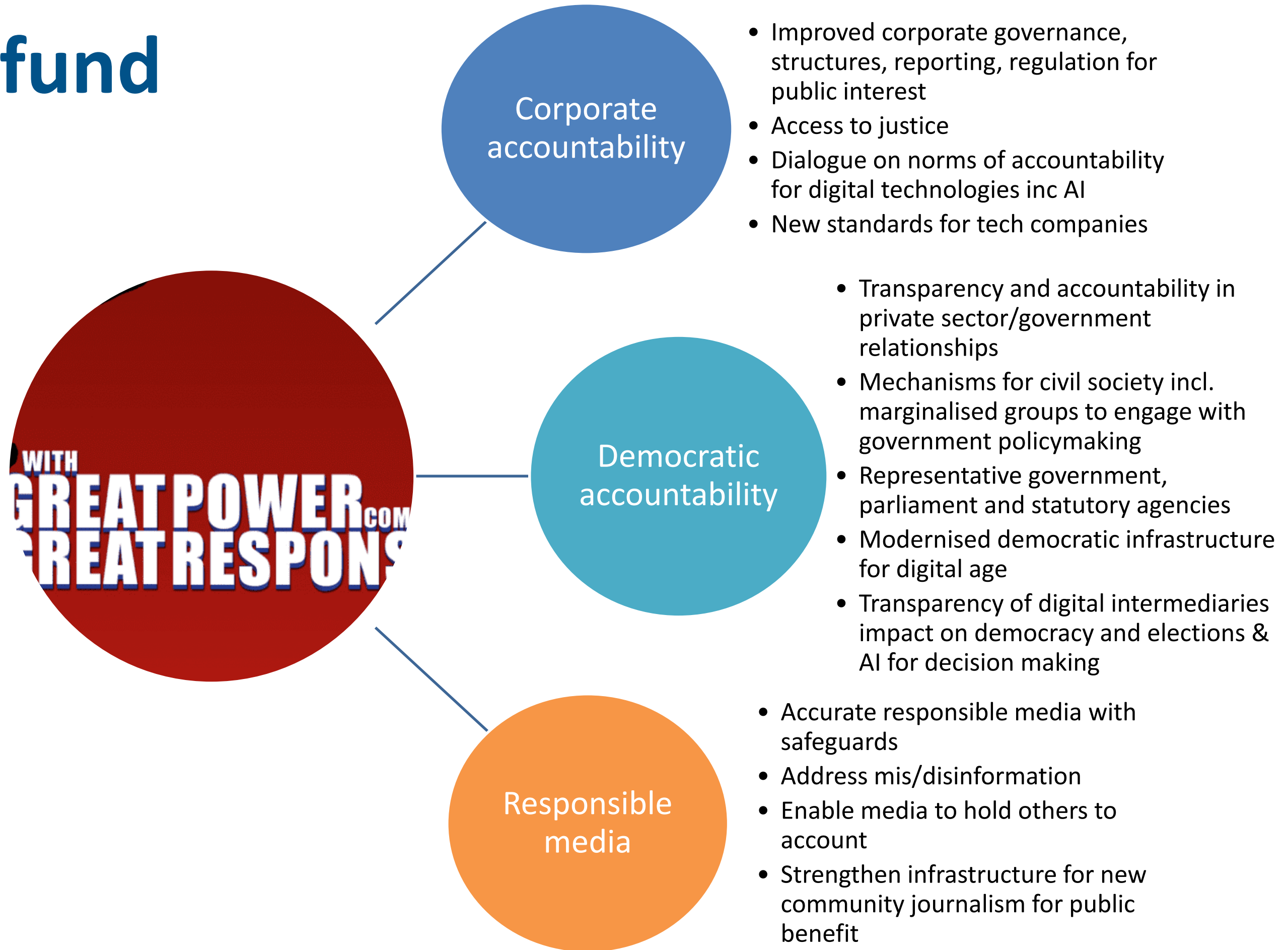
JRCT as a funder

- Responsive funder, strengthening hands of others
- Focus on systems change and tackling root causes of social problems
- Support longer term unrestricted funding where possible
- 5 current programmes: Peace & Security, Northern Ireland, Sustainable Future, Rights & Justice and Power & Accountability
- 2 grant rounds for all programmes in 2026
- P&A budget £2.6m in 2026
- Success rates falling due to increasing demand (11% in last P&A grant round of 2025)

JRCT Power & Accountability programme vision

We want to support people to create a world in which power is more equally shared, and in which powerful institutions are responsive and accountable to wider society and aligned with the long-term public interest

What we fund



What we don't fund

Organisations

- larger, older national charities with established supporters and substantial reserves
- statutory bodies
- for-profit organisations

Projects

- academic research, except if integral part of policy and campaigning central to our interest areas
- service provision, including providing care, support or training services
- the arts, except where a project is specifically concerned with issues of interest to the Trust

Individuals

- educational bursaries, including graduate and post-graduate studies
- personal support of individuals in need

Types of work

- general appeals or campaigns outside our programme priorities
- work we believe should be funded from statutory sources, or which has been recently
- party political or non charitable work

Geographic focus

- local or national work seeking change outside UK (except occasional pan European work)
- work which has no UK benefit/impact

Policy exclusions

- individual journalists or news organisations undertaking investigations or creating content
- democratic participation or user advocacy on service provision, e.g. education and health
- corporate accountability work focused on a single sector, e.g. fashion, tourism
- International development

Key questions before you apply

Am I eligible?

You need to be:

- A registered charity or non-profit entity
- Delivering national systems change work in UK or member nations, (or occasionally pan-European work)
- Addressing charitable objectives for public benefit
- Not affected by our general/ programme exclusions

Is my work a priority?

It's more likely if:

- There is a strong fit with our programme priorities
- Your approach is clear, feasible and timely
- Your team/org have credibility, expertise and capacity to deliver
- There is potential for your work to make impact
- You make a compelling case for financial need
- Our grant is likely to make a difference

**Both
answers
need to be
yes**

Intro to our new Expression of Interest stage

Why:

- Help us to deal with rising demand.
- Help applicants, by reducing time/effort spent on submitting full applications without decent prospects of success.

Process:

- Submit expression of interest form linked on P&A programme webpage by Mon 13 Jul (10am).
- We will review EOI forms and invite eligible applicants who are a strong fit with our priorities to submit a full application in September.
- If you haven't completed the EOI stage, you won't be able to apply.

What we're looking for from an EOI

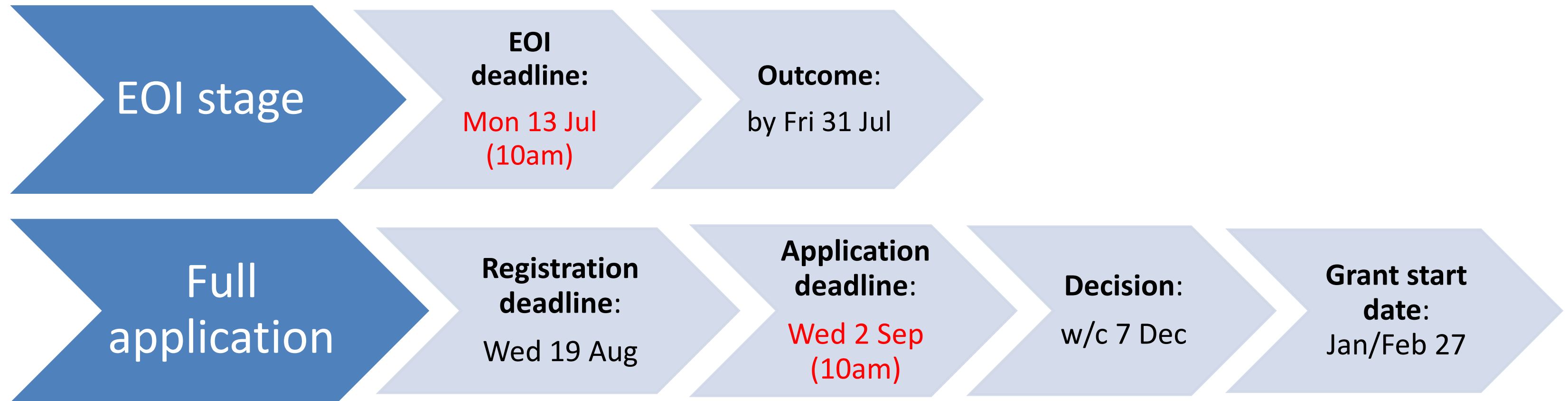
Two substantive questions:

- Who are you and what do you do?
- Tell us about the work you're seeking funding for. *What, why, how, impact.*

What we would like to learn:

- Your experience, expertise and contribution to the field, how you work with others to add value
- What you want to achieve and why this is needed
- How you will go about the work – key activities/ approaches /deliverables
- What opportunities there are for impact
- How your work supports systems change

When to apply



Next steps

What to do next?

- Ensure eligibility and funding fit (check website if needed)

- Email us for additional advice if unclear:

Katharine.Knox@jrct.org.uk

Charlotte.Cooper@jrct.org.uk

- Submit EOI form by 13 July 10 am:

jrct.org.uk/power-and-accountability

Any questions?

Feedback poll