

UK Research and Innovation

Paper: 2019- B85

Approved by UKRI Board: 11th September 2019

Author: UKRI Secretariat

Minutes of the UKRI Board/ExCo Meeting of 2nd July 2019

Board Attendees	
Sir John Kingman (Chair)	Vivienne Parry
Professor Sir Mark Walport	Professor Sir Ian Diamond
Sir Peter Bazalgette	Fiona Driscoll
Professor Julia Black	Professor Sir Harpal Kumar
Lord Willetts	Professor Max Lu
Lord Browne (<i>for items 1-13</i>)	Mustafa Suleyman
Professor Alice Gast	Professor Dame Sally Davies
Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz	
Executive Committee Attendees	
Professor Lynn Gladden	Ian Campbell
Professor Fiona Watt	Professor Melanie Welham
Professor Jennifer Rubin	David Sweeney
Professor Duncan Wingham	Professor Mark Thomson
Professor Andrew Thompson (Items 6-12)	
UKRI Attendees	
Alex Marsh	Anne Dixon (<i>for item 9</i>)
Geoff Robins (<i>for items 4 and 6-16</i>)	Adrian Ferrier (<i>for item 9</i>)
Tony Harper (<i>for item 7</i>)	Bryony Butland (<i>for items 12-13</i>)
Ruth Elliot (<i>for item 8</i>)	
BEIS Attendees	
Sam Lister (BEIS)	
Secretariat	
Chris Chudziak	Tom Goodsir
Amy Smith	
Guests	
Sir Adrian Smith (<i>for item 10</i>)	Graeme Reid (<i>for item 10</i>)
Apologies	
Ian Kenyon	Katrina Nevin-Ridley

Time: 09:00- 16:30

Location: Cambridge Cottage, Kew Gardens, London.

1. Welcome & introductions

1.1 The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

1.2 No conflicts of interest were declared.

2. Minutes of 29th February 2019 Board Meeting and Action Log

2.1 The minutes were **approved**, and members agreed the actions recommended for closure.

3. CEO report

3.1 The Chief Executive reported on activities since the last Board, including discussions on the Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF), and progress on senior appointments. Mark noted that the new interim CFO will be in place for the next Board meeting; and that Geoff Robins will temporarily cover the CPO role while recruitment is underway. Members discussed the approval process for Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF) programmes, and the assurance provided by the Investment Committee.

Action B2019.25: Executive to consider how best to sight members on ISCF challenges.

Action B2019.26: Secretariat to arrange session on Digital Security by Design ISCF challenge with Mustafa Suleyman.

Action B2019.27: Secretariat to circulate the annual report from the Investment Committee to Board Members.

4. Transformation

4.1 Geoff Robins was welcomed to his first Board meeting, updating the Board on UKRI's transformation programme, which looks to structure the operations of the organisation to ensure it is best fit to deliver the aims of UKRI. Members noted the development of the transformation plan and governance structures and discussed plans to develop a single grant funding system. Members stressed the importance of clear communication both internally and externally on transformation.

Action B2019.28: Secretariat to table Transformation as a standing item at future Board meetings.

5. Non-Executives' Session

6. Welcome to ExCo members and introductions

6.1 The Chair welcomed the Executive Chairs to the remainder of the meeting.

7. Faraday Battery Challenge: Deep dive

7.1 Members welcomed Tony Harper, Challenge Director of the Faraday Battery Challenge, one of the Wave 1 ISCF challenges. Tony presented a 'deep dive' into the approach, logic model and risks of the Challenge. Members noted that initial deliverables of the challenge have been met, with funding committed and positive outcomes already beginning to emerge.

7.2 Members noted progress with the portfolio, in particular the breadth of approaches being taken to addressing industrial challenges, engagement with industry, international comparisons, and appetite for private investment.

8. CFO report; UKRI and RCPS Annual Report and Accounts 2018/19; update from June ARAPC meeting

8.1 Ruth Elliot gave the CFO report. Ruth noted the budget allocation this year had been completed, highlighting tax pressures and a potential underspend in the National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF).

8.2 Ruth presented the Annual Report and Accounts (ARAs) for UKRI and the Research Councils' Pension Scheme (RCPS). Fiona Driscoll noted that the accounts had been reviewed by UKRI Audit, Risk, Assurance and Performance Committee (ARAPC) who recommended them for approval.

8.3 Fiona gave a short update on the ARAPC meeting in June, noting a deep dive into NERC's activities and ongoing work the GIAA and NAO on their assurance programmes.

Decision: The Board **approved** the two sets of Annual Report and Accounts being presented to the Accounting Officer for sign-off.

9. Health and Safety Report

9.1 Anne Dixon and Adrian Ferrier joined to present the Health and Safety Annual Report, which ARAPC had previously reviewed. Members commented on the need to benchmark appropriately for UKRI's operations, and to seek assurance where UKRI does not have direct legal responsibility, for example in institutes or Catapults. Members also noted work to improve mental health and wellbeing.

Decision: Members noted the injury and non-injury incident trends, together with priorities for delivery in 2019/20 and **approved** the Health and Safety Annual Report.

10. EU Exit and future frameworks for international collaboration

10.1 Professors Sir Adrian Smith and Graeme Reid joined. Adrian has been commissioned by the Secretary of State to provide advice on future frameworks for international collaboration. Adrian noted the Government's position to was seek association with Horizon Europe after EU Exit, but that the focus of this advice was to develop contingency plans if association is not possible.

10.2 Members discussed the responses to the ongoing consultation, existing arrangements for funding, and the merits of alternative funding arrangements.

10.3 The Chair noted Andrew Thompson's work on operational readiness for EU Exit, and thanked Adrian and Graeme. It was noted that UKRI stands ready to operationalise if required.

11. Open access

11.1 Duncan Wingham and David Sweeney updated members on progress of the open access review. Members were asked to endorse the approach ahead of a consultation on options to be launched in the Autumn.

11.2 Duncan discussed the principles of the approach, which would be to maximise the value and distribution of research through a simple and permissive policy. The draft policy is focused on the outcome of open access, and not on how open access should be achieved. The draft policy should be as permissive as possible. David noted the importance of ensuring any UK approach is aligned with devolved administrations and internationally.

11.3 Members discussed the value for money assessment and stressed the need for a robust evidence base and economic analysis of the impact of different options. There are a number of outstanding details in areas such as monographs which would need to be addressed in the wider consultation.

11.4 Members noted that any decision on open access would be consulted with Ministers, working with BEIS on the advice of UKRI.

Action B2019.29: Duncan Wingham and David Sweeney to work with Julia Black in formulating a balanced consultation for Ministers, reverting to the Board if necessary.

12. Spending Review, Balanced Funding and Place Strategy

12.1 Bryony Butland joined. Alex Marsh presented an update on the spending review, and David Sweeney presented updates on balanced funding and place.

12.2 Members gave feedback on a broad range of initiatives and opportunities that could form a part of UKRI's spending review submission. Executive Committee members will discuss this topic in more detail at their forthcoming away day.

12.3 Members discussed analysis on the balance of public and private funding required to achieve to the Government target of 2.4% of GDP spending on R&D by 2027. This should be stress tested further. For example, four large areas of corporate investment would have a big impact on the success or otherwise of meeting this target – aerospace, automotive, life sciences, and digital – risks in these areas would need to be considered carefully.

12.4 The Board also noted ongoing challenges around the appropriate measurement of R&D levels in the economy – in particular capturing R&D spend fully in all sectors of the economy.

Action B2019.30: Executive to conduct sensitivity analysis on balance of public to private sector investment in reaching 2.4% target.

Action B2019.31: Executive to consider setting up rolling research programme on R&D measurement and report back to the Board.

Action B2019.32: Katrina Nevin-Ridley and Alex Marsh to engage with external stakeholders and advocates on exciting comms opportunities, including considering geographical context.

13. Infrastructure Roadmap Clearance

13.1 Mark Thomson and Bryony Butland presented the Infrastructure Roadmap, seeking approval from the Board for publication. Members noted a change to the publication date, and the team is working towards October. Members gave minor comments on the latest draft and heard detail on the analysis which underpinned the Roadmap.

13.2 Members **approved** the Roadmap for publication, and the Chair thanked the team for their work.

14. Items for discussion by exception

14.1 Members noted an update from Andrew Thompson on international strategy.

15. Forward Look

15.1 A Forward Look of Board items out to March 2020 was presented by the Secretariat. Members requested a discussion of UKRI brand be added.

16. AOB

16.1 No further business.

16.2 Members agreed to hold a short phone call ahead of the next meeting to discuss priorities for UKRI over the summer.

Action: Secretariat to schedule a phone call between Members in early August.

Date of Next Meeting: 11th September 2019