

# UK Research and Innovation

**Paper: 2018-57**

Approved by UKRI Board: July 2018

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**Minutes of the first UK Research and Innovation Board meeting held on  
15<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at the Medical Research Council, London.**

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<b>Board attendees</b>	
Sir John Kingman (Chair)	Professor Sir Mark Walport (CEO)
Ian Kenyon	Sir Peter Bazalgette
Professor Julia Black	Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz
Lord Browne	Professor Dame Sally Davies
Professor Sir Ian Diamond	Fiona Driscoll
Professor Alice Gast (items 1-10)	Sir Harpal Kumar (items 7-15)
Professor Max Lu	Mustafa Suleyman
Vivienne Parry	Lord Willetts
<b>BEIS attendees</b>	
Gareth Davies	
<b>UKRI attendees</b>	
Rebecca Endean	Alex Marsh
<b>Guests</b>	
Sam Gyimah MP (items 1-2)	Andrew Kirkman (item 7)
Mausmi Juthani (items 1-2)	Professor Jennifer Rubin (item 9)
Jo Peacock (items 1-2)	Ruth Gibson (item 9)
Professor Mark Thomson (item 7)	David Sweeney (item 10)
Bryony Butland (item 7)	
<b>Secretariat</b>	
Chris Chudziak	Nawaz Shaikh

## 1. Welcome and opening remarks

Sir John Kingman welcomed Sam Gyimah MP (Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation) to the first UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) board meeting, thanking board members for their support in attending the previous night's successful launch of UKRI at the British Library.

## 2. UKRI role in 2.4% roadmap

Alex Marsh set out how UKRI and the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) will work together across analysis, strategy and stakeholder engagement. Jo Peacock presented initial analysis showing how other countries have delivered significant increases in the proportion of GDP invested in R&D.

Minister Gyimah stressed the importance of working together, particularly on communications, and highlighted the following priorities: driving up private sector investment; addressing the productivity challenge; and spreading growth across the UK.

The board noted progress to date, emphasising the following:

- The communications message should make clear that we are building on a UK strength; that Government and business working together will be essential to deliver the 2.4% ambition; and how delivering the ambition will strengthen the UK through the current period of technological revolution, delivering benefits in terms of economic impact, good jobs and quality of life.
- With a significant proportion of business investment coming from multinationals, a paper was requested on the incentives for multinationals to invest in the UK, (especially outside the 'golden triangle'), compared with the incentives applied in other countries.
- The programme of work will need to consider how to support sectors, such as services, utilities and construction, which are not traditionally considered R&D intensive; the role of migration; and regulatory, as well as spending, levers.
- The analysis programme should explore projections for future R&D spend in Europe, and recent experience in Manchester and Scotland, as well as look to leverage external research expertise supported by UKRI.

**ACTION:** UKRI to return to the board with a paper on incentives for multinational investment and international comparisons.

## 3. Minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018 meeting and matters arising

Members approved the minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> February board meeting as an accurate record of the meeting, and the Chair noted that, once agreed by the board, minutes of the current and subsequent board meetings would be published online.

Members congratulated Lord Willetts on being elected an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society.

## 4. Report from the CEO

Professor Sir Mark Walport was invited to present an update on progress since the last meeting and plans going forward, highlighting the following:

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- The final Executive Chair appointments have now been made, with Professor Lynn Gladden appointed as Executive Chair of EPSRC and Ian Campbell as interim Executive Chair of Innovate UK.
- Recruitment of a Director of Communications and Public Engagement was in train.
- There had been good progress with the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF), whose wave three call had received 252 expressions of interest.
- Progress with the Catapult review.

There was then discussion about how the board could support Executive Chairs through the culture change involved in transformation and establishing UKRI.

**ACTION: Secretariat** to put transformation on the agenda for the joint board meeting with executive committee in July, and invite John Arnott.

### 5. Report from the CFO

Ian Kenyon presented an update on progress made across corporate services since the last meeting. UKRI successfully went live on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018, with positive staff feedback. Future updates would keep members informed of the progress of discussions with HMRC over the charitable status of UKRI.

### 6. Health and safety reporting

Ian Kenyon presented a report from the first meeting of the UKRI Health & Safety Committee. Board members agreed the criteria upon which UKRI Executive Committee will escalate issues to the board – with notification of all serious incidents, or those with reputational risk, as part of the Chief Executive's report – in addition to annual trend data. Any incidents reported to the board should include lessons learnt and actions being taken.

There were no recent incidents to report. An update was provided in relation to the Halley VI research station, and the decision to vacate in winter; and the historic case being brought against UKRI by HSE in relation to the British Geological Survey.

**ACTION: Ian Kenyon** to update the board on any impact on UKRI's health and safety responsibilities of novating EU grants to UKRI.

**ACTION: Ian Kenyon** to bring a paper to the board on UKRI's environmental impact.

### 7. Infrastructure roadmap update

The Chair welcomed Bryony Butland (UKRI programme lead), Professor Mark Thomson (SRO and Executive Chair, Science & Technology Facilities Council) and Andrew Kirkman (Director of Government Services, Met Office). Andrew was attending the meeting as a representative of the non-UKRI partner organisations also covered by the roadmap.

Mark and Bryony presented an update on scope, objectives and progress to date. In terms of scale of the exercise, the roadmap was so far collecting details of around 800 pieces of infrastructure of national and international importance, from facilities located within universities to the Large Hadron Collider at CERN. The board highlighted the need to capture key infrastructure funded by National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) as well as Government investments overseas.

There would be a detailed discussion of the roadmap at the October meeting.

**ACTION: Secretariat** to table a detailed discussion of the roadmap with the board in October.

**ACTION: Professor Dame Sally Davies** to speak to Chris Whitty about engagement with NIHR.

## **8. Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF) – Early advice on wave 1 proposals**

Alex Marsh presented an update on the progress of SPF in advance of the deadline for bids into wave one. Members welcomed progress to date, with discussion focusing on the level of cross-Government support, engagement with Innovate UK, the impact on dual support, and how decision making would operate in the fund.

## **9. Administrative Data for Research (ADR) investment**

The Chair welcomed Professor Jennifer Rubin (Executive Chair, Economic & Social Research Council) and Ruth Gibson (UKRI) to the meeting to present the proposed strategy to support administrative data for research, and the proposed new partnership between UKRI and the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Administrative data has the potential to revolutionise many areas of public policy and social science – the challenge would be providing clear accountability and leadership, which the proposals looked to address.

The strategy was endorsed. Discussion focused on the importance of data security and safety, and ensuring good engagement with Government departments – the programme should look to engage with the UK Statistics Authority. Conditions around commercial use will need to be clear.

## **10. Strength in Places call**

The Chair welcomed David Sweeney (Executive Chair, Research England) to provide an update on the Strength in Places Fund ahead of a planned first call for expressions of interest.

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This was a high priority for the board. Discussion focused on the scale of eligible bids, engagement with local communities, alignment with other national-level investments, and engagement with Further Education colleges.

*Note: The executive subsequently reviewed and updated the call documentation in line with the Board's comments.*

**ACTION: UKRI** to invite a member of the board to sit on the Strength in Places Fund assessment panel.

### 11. Transformation plan

Ian Kenyon was invited to provide an update on progress with developing the transformation plan for UKRI. It was agreed this would need the leadership of a dedicated transformation director. The culture change involved in transformation would be critical. There was an opportunity for joint working with the Office for Students (OfS) around simplifying our interactions with universities.

**ACTION: UKRI** to appoint a transformation director.

**ACTION: Ian Kenyon** to work with **Lord Browne** on the transformation plan ahead of an update to the board in September.

**ACTION: John Kingman and Professor Sir Mark Walport** to invite Sir Michael Barber and Nicola Dandridge (Chair and Chief Executive) of the Office for Students to a future board meeting.

### 12. Board forward look

Rebecca Endean outlined the forward look of agenda items for board meetings up to the end of the year, noting that that a discussion of transformation would be added to the agenda for July. There were opportunities to consider the spread of business across the two days in July. Future meeting dates for 2019/20 were shared with the board.

### 13. Any other business

There was no further business.

### 14. Update from the Audit, Risk, Assurance and Performance Committee (ARAPC)

Members noted the minutes from the ARAPC meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

**Date of next meeting: 2nd and 3rd July 2018 in Edinburgh**