The MRC has been collecting outputs via researchfish® for many years and have been provided with a lot of interesting and valuable information from our Researchers. We greatly value the input from our Researchers on all outputs that allow us to assess the long-term impact of funding from the production of outputs. As such we felt that inputting a response code of 5 for awards that are a number of years past the end date would restrict the aims of our data collection. We would ask that researchers that have received funding from the MRC report their outcomes on researchfish® up to the point by which they believe there will be no further outputs reported against the award.

When assessing response code change requests for awards that are a number of years past the end date we will take several factors into account. Firstly, we will check all funding awards that the Researcher has to report in researchfish® for the MRC. If a Researcher has awards that are either active or have an end date less than five years before the submission period then all awards will remain open for submission. In researchfish®, all awards for a single funder are submitted at the same time and therefore if there are no outputs to be added to an award there is very little extra work required to submit alongside the more recent awards. It also keeps the option for any outputs that the Researcher is currently producing for their ‘Active’ award to be attributed against the older award, should the Researcher think that it is relevant to the work produced from the older award. This is a ‘Just in Case’ measure rather than an expectation that there will be further outputs produced on the older award.

Secondly, we check the output data against the award. If the output data on researchfish® appears to show the Researcher being active in producing outputs that are attributed to their award on researchfish® since the last submission then we will keep the award open for submission. Any outputs added to researchfish® that are not submitted can’t be used for reporting purposes and may not appear on Gateway to Research. The main area that we look at for this assessment is the Publications as we can easily determine whether there are publications published in the last year. We will also look at the Collaborations and Further Funding sections to determine if partnerships are still active. The data provided by Researchers across the MRC includes many instances where a collaboration or instance of funding is listed as ‘Still Active’. It is important that Researchers regularly update their outputs to highlight when outputs have ended. It may be the case that some collaborations are still active, in which case there may be some future outputs to be reported, but if these partnerships have ended then we would ask that Researchers amend the data in researchfish® to reflect this.

Lastly, we will look at the length and value of the award for the Researcher. There are a large number of awards from the MRC that are active for more than five years and with a large amount of funding provided. For these awards we hope that a larger number of outputs will be produced that may become realised over a longer period of time and therefore may keep the award open for reporting longer after the award has ended.