

UK Research and Innovation

Paper 2018-83

Approved by UKRI Board: October 2018

Author: UKRI Secretariat

Minute of the UKRI Board Meeting of 19th September 2018

Members	
Sir John Kingman (Chair)	Fiona Driscoll
Professor Sir Mark Walport	Professor Alice Gast
Ian Kenyon	Sir Harpal Kumar
Sir Peter Bazalgette	Professor Max Lu
Professor Julia Black	Vivienne Parry
Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz	Mustafa Suleyman
Lord Browne	Lord Willetts (<i>from item 7</i>)
Professor Sir Ian Diamond	
Attendees	
Gareth Davies (<i>BEIS observer</i>)	Elaine Morley (<i>for item 4</i>)
Rebecca Endean	Jo Peacock (<i>for item 7</i>)
Alex Marsh	Professor Andrew Thompson (<i>for item 8</i>)
Professor Jennifer Rubin (<i>for item 4</i>)	Tom Crawley (<i>for item 8</i>)
Secretariat	
Chris Chudziak	Linsey Urquhart
Apologies	
Professor Dame Sally Davies	

Time: 9:00- 13.30

Location: 1 Kemble Street, London.

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks

1.1 The Chair welcomed members to this UKRI Board Meeting.

2. Minutes of 3rd July 2018 Board meeting and action log

2.1 Members approved the minutes of the previous meeting, noting progress against actions.

3. CEO Report

3.1 Sir Mark Walport provided an overview of UKRI developments, in particular noting the upcoming opening of the London office at 58 Victoria Embankment; the appointment of Quartz Associates to provide consultancy support on transformation; and the appointment of Katrina Nevin-Ridley as Director of External Relations, Communications and Public Engagement. HM Treasury have also approved the salary for the permanent Executive Chair for Innovate UK.

4. Research culture

4.1 The Chair welcomed Jennifer Rubin, ESRC Executive Chair and Executive Champion for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, to provide an update on UKRI's work on Research Culture, including Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI); bullying and harassment, research integrity and GDPR

4.2 The Board were keen that UKRI be seen as a 'lighthouse' for change in the research community through promoting best research culture, noting that:

- UKRI's actions to effect change should be evidence-based and sustainable.
- Key to this is to understand the existing challenges in the research landscape and to understand processes and how cognitive biases drive and influence decision making.
- It is essential to bring a broad range of perspectives into account and the EDI Board membership reflects this.
- UKRI should be proactive in EDI and ensure there are incentives to finding diverse talent and reward positive behaviours.

4.3 In relation to bullying and harassment, members supported transparency and a zero-tolerance approach. As well as zero tolerance within UKRI's own institutes, we should also explore our powers for imposing sanctions on those we fund – and how this can affect change at the institution level, although we also needed to be clear about the inherent limits to our role where we are not the employer. It was agreed that there was a need to act quickly, put out a statement of intent and engage with researchers in a rapid review of what works.

Action (B19): Jennifer Rubin to draft an announcement on bullying and harassment, share with the Board for comment, and seek Board members' support in making the announcement.

5. CFO Report

5.1 Ian Kenyon provided an update on progress across corporate services, including an update on health and safety. Ian Kenyon will provide the Board with a full paper on finances at the next meeting.

Action (B20): Ian Kenyon to provide a full paper on finance in October.

6. Transformation

6.1 The Chair welcomed Stephen Heidari-Robinson and Tim Stafford from Quartz Associates who had been appointed as consultants to the Transformation Programme. Stephen Heidari-Robinson provided an overview of their proposals for the first phase of the process.

6.2 Sir Mark Walport set out an initial vision for what the organisation needs to be able to do in 2021. Members noted the following:

- UKRI need to know what steps should be taken now to ensure the vision for 2021 is realised.
- Transformation should be anchored in the founding purpose of UKRI, and we should be bold in describing the objective of UKRI.
- UKRI as an entity should be flexible and nimble, have foresight and forward thinking, spread a positive message about the future whilst addressing immediate challenges.
- There is a need to anticipate the future in terms of the areas of science and technology that we will be funding tomorrow, how the process of research and innovation will change, and what UKRI need to be doing in a world where the UK is investing 2.4% of GDP in R&D.
- Active engagement with communities in shaping the research landscape will be critical.
- Further clarity should be provided on the different roles of the Research Councils and the Strategic Centre.

6.3 Members were in agreement that in communicating next steps for the transformation process, there should be a focus on anticipating the benefits of change and listening to staff inputs on realising this change.

7. SR Planning

7.1 Alex Marsh and Jo Peacock provided an overview of the emerging plans for the Spending Review. Members supported the work to date and provided comment on how best to frame the proposals and highlighted areas where further evidence would be useful, such as impact on employment and productivity, and on the role UKRI should play in advancing priority technologies and supporting access to venture capital. There should be evidence of success stories so far, with case studies included. A systematic overview showing challenges and opportunities, and linking this to overall proposed allocations would be useful.

8. EU exit

8.1 The Chair welcomed Andrew Thompson, AHRC Executive Chair and Executive Champion for International, who provided an update on EU Exit issues. Members noted the ongoing work on contingency planning, including implementation of the Horizon 2020 underwrite, the extension of the underwrite, and the development of short-term domestic alternatives; and the work underway to develop a business case to fund association to Horizon Europe, including options for longer-term domestic alternatives.

8.2 Members noted the following:

- That the Horizon Europe programme, and the definition of Associated Country status, are still up for discussion. This includes the overall budget and the relative share for individual pillars. It will be important to understand these dynamics, which may mean that like-minded countries are more inclined to want the UK to be involved in the programme.
- The relatively higher shares of EU funding in particular disciplines (including social sciences and arts and humanities) and the importance of reflecting this in any domestic alternatives.
- The need to demonstrate that the UK continues to be open and engage with global partners and through multilateral structures.
- That there is a need to ensure coverage during any lag between exit and either association or any new UKRI schemes, to ensure applications and funding continues.
- That it is critical that the immigration system enables talented researchers and innovators to come to the UK.
- That contingency planning should also focus on Pillar 3 programmes, as this is where access may be most likely to be limited to member states.

Decision: Board endorsed UKRI's approach to contingency planning for EU exit and agreed resource should be prioritised to support this.

9. 2019/20 Budget bids

9.1 Alex Marsh provided an overview of BEIS' approach to the Autumn Budget Bids. Members endorsed the approach and noted the implications for UKRI.

9.2 It was noted that the Strength in Places Fund (SIPF) was considered to have many strong EOIs. Current budgets could support one in 14 of these. Members suggested seeking local stakeholder views of high potential EOIs in their areas.

9.3 The critical importance of tax credits was also discussed.

10. Board Forward Look

10.1 The Board approved the Forward Look.

10.2 The Board agreed that they would like to engage with the learned societies and would invite them to a UKRI dinner in the coming months.

Action: Learned Societies to be invited to join a Board dinner in the near future.

11. AOB

11.1 Fiona Driscoll provided an update from the Audit, Risk, Assurance and Performance Committee, and the Chair provided an update from Nominations and Remuneration Committee.

Date of Next Meeting: 16th October 2018