

UK Research and Innovation

Paper: 2019-B01

Approved by UKRI Board: 21st November 2018

Author: UKRI Secretariat

Minutes of the UKRI Board Meeting of 21st November 2018.

Board Members	
Sir John Kingman (Chair)	Fiona Driscoll
Professor Sir Mark Walport	Professor Alice Gast
Ian Kenyon	Professor Max Lu
Professor Julia Black	Professor Sir Harpal Kumar
Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz	Mustafa Suleyman
Lord Browne	Lord Willetts
Professor Sir Ian Diamond	Sir Peter Bazalgette
BEIS Attendees	
Jenny Dibden	
UKRI Attendees	
Rebecca Endean	Alex Marsh
Ian Campbell (item 5)	Anne Dixon (item 10)
David Sweeney (item 11)	Bryony Butland (item 12)
Jo Peacock (from item 7)	
Guests	
Stephen Heidari-Robinson, Quartz Associates (item 6)	Tim Stafford, Quartz Associates (item 6)
Secretariat	
Linsey Urquhart	Nawaz Shaikh
Apologies	
Professor Dame Sally Davies	Vivienne Parry
Gareth Davies	Chris Chudziak

Time: 09:00-13:30

Location: British Museum, London.

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks

1.1 The Chair welcomed members to this meeting of the UKRI Board at the British Museum.

2. Minutes of 16th October 2018 Board Meeting & Action Log

2.1 Members approved the minutes of the previous meeting as corrected, and agreed the actions recommended for closure.

3. CEO Report

3.1 Mark Walport provided an overview of UKRI developments including an update on the cross-cutting funds. The first tranche of successful bids for Wave 1 of the Strategic Priorities Fund had been announced, and Wave 3 of the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund was proceeding through the decision-making process.

3.2 Members were informed that the recent National Quantum Technologies showcase which took place at the QE II Centre in London and was organised by EPSRC, had received some excellent public communications. The event aimed to demonstrate the technological progress arising from the national research programme, its relevance to commercial sectors and the collaborative nature of the programme involving academia, industry and government partners.

4. CFO Report

4.1 Ian Kenyon provided an update on progress across corporate services and members were provided with the first quarterly performance pack. It was noted that it would help the Board to see more context around the data provided to enable better decision-making. It would also be useful to be able to compare the performance across all councils. Members were requested to feed back any further comments on this to Ian Kenyon.

4.2 Progress was being made on resourcing and the results of the first UKRI people-survey were being analysed. Health and Safety had now been brought under the central governance team and there were no new incidents to report. Corporate services are working with BEIS on the 19/20 budget submissions and with BEIS and HMT to resolve a tax issue.

5. State Aid

5.1 Ian Campbell, Executive Chair of Innovate UK, updated the Board on measures taken and outlined the next steps in dealing with an historic compliance issue around State Aid. The Chair thanked Ian Campbell for his efforts to resolve this issue. ARAPC were also looking into this issue and would present findings to the Board by email before the end of the year.

6. Transformation Update

6.1 Stephen Heidari-Robinson and Tim Stafford of Quartz Associates updated the Board on the Transformation work that they have been developing with UKRI's Executive Chairs. Their work had focussed on three key elements to UKRI: the people; the governance; and the processes.

6.2 Members discussed the themes and the proposed next steps. They emphasised the importance of being clear which elements of the transformation to prioritise. There would need to be a performance loop in place to monitor the impact of any changes. Quartz would take away and reflect on the comments received.

7. 2.4% UKRI Publication

7.1 Alex Marsh updated the Board on work towards the 2.4% publication and provided a proposed strawman structure and partial draft. Members heard that a number of themed workshops had been held on the 2.4% target and more were planned. Following comments from the last Board meeting, the opening chapter of the planned publication had been revised.

7.2 The Board commented that the document should be clear on the key elements for reaching the 2.4% target, both within UKRI's control and those beyond. It was agreed that an investment in STEM teaching would be critical for this. There should also be more focus on the regulatory and investment conditions that industry needs to be competitive globally.

7.3 This document would have a dual role in engaging the public and businesses in reaching the 2.4% target and would also support discussions between UKRI and ministers.

Action (B.28): Alex Marsh to send round a further draft of the 2.4% publication in advance of a Board discussion in January.

8. Spending Review

8.1 Alex Marsh updated the Board on progress of the Spending Review and the draft advice to BEIS. It was suggested that UKRI may wish to reflect on the outcomes of the Autumn budget when determining how to present advice to ministers.

Action (B.29): Lord Willetts to provide comments on the SR document to Alex Marsh.

9. SPF Wave 2

9.1 The Board were presented with the current set of proposals for Wave 2 of the Strategic Priorities Fund and a list of priority areas as identified by the CSA network. Members agreed that the list was excellent and recognised that difficult choices would have to be made in selecting the successful bids.

9.2 The recommendations for funding from Wave 2 will be brought back to the Board in January for final approval.

10. EU-Exit

10.1 Rebecca Endean provided an update on preparations for leaving the EU, specifically Horizon 2020 contingency planning. This included an overview of the proposed operational delivery of the Horizon 2020 underwrite, and on progress made on domestic alternatives to EU-funded schemes, which UKRI is working on with the Academies.

11. SIPP incl Eols

11.1 David Sweeney, Executive Chair of Research England, updated the board on Wave 1 of the Strength in Places Fund. The Board reviewed the EOIs that have been recommended to progress to full-stage bids and discussed the best approach to Ministerial involvement. It was noted that all the bids were of a very high quality.

12. Infrastructure Roadmap

12.1 Bryony Butland presented the Progress Report and Initial Analysis Report and requested the Board's approval for publication. The Chair noted that this was a first class piece of work that was exemplified the reasons for the creation of UKRI.

12.2 There was some discussion around the planned communications for the publication of these reports.

Decision: The Board approved the publication of the Progress Report and Initial Analysis Report.

13. ARAPC Update

13.1 Fiona Driscoll provided an overview of discussions at the recent ARAPC meeting. Items had included the planning around reporting accounts; stewardship reports and the planned series of deep dives on governance issues; Health and Safety and the inclusion of Catapults; risk appetite; the performance pack; finance; and a grants piece in discovery mode. The Chair thanked Fiona Driscoll and the whole of ARAPC for the vast amount of work they are doing.

14. Forward Look

14.1 Members were encouraged to review the proposed January Board agenda.

The next UKRI Board meeting will be held at 58 Victoria Embankment, on Tuesday 22nd January, and will include a joint session with the UKRI Executive Committee.