**Annex A**

1. We are seeking feedback from a strategic perspective on REF 2021. The areas on which we are seeking feedback are set out in the response template below. Please make use of this template if it is helpful.
2. We have set out in Table 1 some information you may find it helpful to consider when compiling your response. This is intended as an aide memoire; we are not expecting each aspect listed in the table to be addressed in answer to the questions below, unless relevant to your response.
3. Please return feedback as a Word document (max. 4 pages) using the following link: https://www.jisc.ac.uk/future-research-assessment-programme.

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| Name of institution | [Enter institution name] |
| 1. What, in your view, are the most important features of REF 2021 for higher education institutions? Why?
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| 1. In relation to preparing REF submissions, what positive reflections do you have on the process? Why?
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| 1. In relation to preparing REF submissions, which aspects of the process were challenging? Why?
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| 1. Please describe any benefits you identify in participating in the REF for your institution.
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| 1. Please describe any negative implications you identify in participating in the REF for your institution.
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| 1. What positive and negative effects did the key changes since REF 2014 have?
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| 1. How did COVID-19 affect your submissions to REF 2021? To what extent were the mitigations put in place helpful?
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| 1. Are there any further comments you would like to add regarding REF 2021?
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Table 1

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| When compiling a response, you may find it helpful to consider the following: |
| Aspects of the REF | **The different levels within the institution to which comments pertain**  | **The key changes since REF 2014 (relevant to submission process)** |
| Submitted unitsStaff (including staff circumstances)Outputs (including open access)Impact (including the definition of impact)EnvironmentPanel structure and recruitmentInterdisciplinary researchPolicy, guidance and communicationsInformation technology systems. | InstitutionSubmitted unit or departmentIndividual researcher. | Submission of all staff with significant responsibility for researchSubmission of outputs at unit levelSubmission of outputs of previously-employed staffOpen access requirements for in-scope outputsRevised weighting of assessment elementsStrengthened measures to promote equality and diversityInstitutional-level environment statementStrengthened measures to support the submission and assessment of interdisciplinary researchChanges made to the submission and assessment of impact, including broadening guidance, revising template, inclusion of impacts on teaching, submission of continued case studies.Further information on the key changes since REF 2014 is available in the ‘Guidance on submissions’ (REF2019/01) <https://www.ref.ac.uk/publications/guidance-on-submissions-201901/>.  |