



**Council Meeting
Thursday, 28 April 2022
MEETING SUMMARY**

Welcome and Introductions	
1.	The Chair welcomed Professor Chakravarthi Ram-Prasad, newly appointed to RE Council; Susan Lapworth, interim Chief Executive for the Office for Students (OfS); and Professor Jo Fox, Dean of the School of Advanced Studies (SAS). RE Council bid farewell to Dr Stuart Fancey, the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) representative on Council.
SAS Update	
2.	Professor Fox provided a short update on the work of SAS, including an overview of the new SAS strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SAS is establishing itself as a national centre for research support and facilitation in the humanities and as a hub for wider collaboration, connecting humanities researchers nationally and globally.• Interdisciplinarity is central to addressing global challenges: this requires national coordination, infrastructure and networks; SAS has the expertise to progress this agenda.• SAS is building a map of arts and humanities research infrastructure, which will enable stakeholders to have a clearer understanding of capability and spread.• Publication of the REF results will facilitate showcasing of the best results.
3.	RE funding contributes to increasing the impact of humanities research by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Helping to ready the humanities to contribute to the Government target for R&D spending of 2.4% of GDP by 2027.• Helping to convene national thinking on humanities in the wider landscape and to address government priorities.• Enabling partnership working with research councils to determine how the humanities can contribute to the research agenda.• Enabling a better understanding and repositioning of the humanities.
REF Results	
4.	The REF Director provided an overview of REF2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The exercise has been delivered in three stages (preparation, submission, and assessment stage) via a thorough and robust process.• Overall quality has been determined by outputs, impact, and environment data.• There are significant differences between REF2014 and REF2021, which make it difficult to make a direct comparison between the two exercises.• A much broader view of activity has been captured in REF2021 showing excellence widely distributed across the UK and across many and diverse institutions.• The assessment framework has enabled the diversity of research units to be recognised and evidence of wider benefits to economy and society to be gathered.
UKRI Strategy Update (including Allocations Update)	



5.	<p>The UKRI Director of Investment Strategy and System Insight provided an update on the UKRI Strategy and on allocations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UKRI has formally launched its first five-year strategy, which outlines how the organisation will support the UK’s world class research and innovation system, fuel an innovation-led economy and society, and drive up prosperity across the UK (https://www.ukri.org/news/ukri-strategy-will-keep-uk-at-forefront-of-research-and-innovation/). • The multi-year settlement announced for UKRI will enable strategic decision making. • Formal announcement of allocations is expected in May 2022. • The government remains committed to Horizon Europe: UKRI is working with key stakeholders to enable support for the sector in the event of non-association.
Terms & Conditions of RE Funding	
6.	<p>The Director of Insight & Engagement provided an overview of updates to the T&Cs of RE funding to reflect new national legislation and UKRI policy changes to ensure continued accountability for RE Funding beyond 31 July. Proposed revisions include incorporation of a reference to national security legislation, and inclusion of Trusted Research and Innovation principles in RE competitive grant T&Cs.</p>
Executive Chair’s Report	
7.	<p>The Executive Chair highlighted a few aspects of his report to include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UKRI’s three-year budget was confirmed by government on 14 March. • UKRI has submitted allocations advice to the Secretary of State and has started to engage with BEIS on the Funding and Priorities letter. • Work to progress RE’s strategic delivery plan continues.
Budget and 2022/23 Grant Allocations	
8.	<p>An extra-ordinary RE Council meeting will be held on 28 June to address the RE budget and 2022/23 allocations. The discussion will be based on the Funding and Priorities letter from BEIS, which outlines RE’s budget and provides a steer on government priorities.</p>
Quality-related Research (QR) Policy Principles	
9.	<p>The Director of Research provided Council with an overview of the development of RE’s post-REF2021 QR funding policy principles.</p>
Risk, Assurance and Governance Report	
10.	<p>The Council SIM provided feedback on his meeting with the new Chair of the UKRI Audit, Risk, Assurance and Performance Committee (ARAPC). Council also received updates on: RE’s strategic risks; actions arising from the GIAA audit of RE’s governance framework; RE-specific risk sitting on the UKRI Corporate Risk Register; and RE assurance programme.</p>

Date of next Meeting: Thursday, 7 July 2022