

APPENDIX 1

Please find below a copy of the survey given to PIs, please also note that due to different responses at indicated junctions each individual may have taken a different route through the survey. For example, upon reaching question 7 (and the next several questions) PIs must respond in one of two ways and this will determine their route through the survey.

A very similar survey was provided for PhDs with the removal of several questions regarding grant application details which they would likely not have been privy to. Instead PhDs were only asked about their own opinions and activities regarding public engagement and science communication only. The major difference occurs at question 6 where PIs continue with the next several questions, but PhDs skip straight onto question 10.

Please note that again at this point the survey diverged for the PI group where a 'no' answer here skips onto question **9 while those responding 'yes' skip ahead to question **10**.*

Please note that again at this point the survey diverged for all groups where a 'no' answer here skips onto question **11 A while those responding 'yes' skip ahead to question **11 B**.*



BBSRC Public Engagement and Science Communication Survey

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey. The survey consists of up to 11 questions, you may answer less than this number depending on your answers. The information you submit in this survey will be treated in confidence. It will be reviewed by BBSRC staff at the External Relations Unit, but will not be passed on to others without your permission. Your progress with the survey can be saved for completion at a later date on a different computer. You must press the 'Next' button at the bottom of the page to ensure that your response to a particular question is saved.

BBSRC is committed to public engagement and science communication. Accordingly BBSRC grant holders or an individual in their immediate research team are required to commit a minimum of two days per year, per grant to public engagement or science communication. The objectives of this survey are to assess opinions of BBSRC funded staff on public engagement and science communication. There is no intent to make judgements on the performance of individual award holders. Please check your details below before continuing, and note that this survey will assess specifically the grant listed here (although some questions are intended more generally and will be cited as such).

Please check your details below

Salutation

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First Name

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Last Name

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E-mail address

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Institution

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Sample Grant Title

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Sample Grant Reference

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A) Your opinions on public engagement and science communication.

1) Please respond in general terms

BBSRC considers public engagement to involve dialogue, interaction and participation, drawing in researchers and non-academics while science communication is primarily a one way communication process although there may be some, limited, opportunities for discussion. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Matrix: part 1 of 2

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Agree
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

BBSRC considers public engagement to involve dialogue, interaction and participation, drawing in researchers and non-academics while science communication is primarily a one way communication process although there may be some, limited, opportunities for discussion. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Matrix: part 2 of 2

	Strongly agree	Don't know
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please highlight what you agree or disagree with below.

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Please complete all subsequent survey questions based on the above broad definition of public engagement and science communication from BBSRC.

2) Please respond in general terms

Please rate the importance of the following statements as reasons why you might participate in public engagement and/or science communication.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
To increase the impact of my research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To raise awareness of my own research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To raise awareness of bioscience generally	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To ensure the public is better informed about bioscience and technology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It benefits my career	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It benefits my research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To be accountable for use of public funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To meet BBSRC grant minimum requirement for public engagement and science communication activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Legend for rank grid table: Please rate the importance of the following statements as reasons why you might participate in public engagement and/or science communication.

Columns:

- A - Very important
- B - Important
- C - Neither important or unimportant
- D - Unimportant
- E - Very unimportant
- F - Don't know

Please provide any other comments here.

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B) Your awareness of public engagement and science communication activities.

3) Please respond in general terms

Please tick to indicate how easy or difficult you have found (or imagine) the public engagement and science communication activities below to be. Please feel free to voice your opinion on every activity and do not limit yourself only to rating activities you have previously participated in.

Matrix: part 1 of 2

	Very easy	Easy	Neither easy or difficult	Difficult
Working with journalists (e.g. press, popular science, own press office)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Using social media (e.g. Twitter, Facebook)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attending public dialogues/debates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Judging awards/exhibitions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activities for Secondary/Primary schools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Developing educational resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attending science centres/museums	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please tick to indicate how easy or difficult you have found (or imagine) the public engagement and science communication activities below to be. Please feel free to voice your opinion on every activity and do not limit yourself only to rating activities you have previously participated in.

Matrix: part 2 of 2

	Very difficult	Don't know
Working with journalists (e.g. press, popular science, own press office)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Using social media (e.g. Twitter, Facebook)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attending public dialogues/debates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Judging awards/exhibitions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activities for Secondary/Primary schools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Developing educational resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attending science centres/museums	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide any other comments here.

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4) Please respond in general terms

For each of the activities below please tick to indicate whether you feel it is worthwhile for yourself, worthwhile for your audience, worthwhile for both groups, or worthwhile for neither. Please feel free to voice your opinion on every activity and do not limit yourself only to rating activities you have previously participated in.

Matrix: part 1 of 2

	Worthwhile for me	Worthwhile for my audience	Worthwhile for both	Worthwhile for neither
Working with journalists (e.g. press, popular science, own press office)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Using social media (e.g. Twitter, Facebook)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attending public dialogues/debates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Judging awards/exhibitions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activities for Secondary or Primary schools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Developing educational resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attending science centres /museums	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

For each of the activities below please tick to indicate whether you feel it is worthwhile for yourself, worthwhile for your audience, worthwhile for both groups, or worthwhile for neither. Please feel free to voice your opinion on every activity and do not limit yourself only to rating activities you have previously participated in.

Matrix: part 2 of 2

	Don't know
Working with journalists (e.g. press, popular science, own press office)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Using social media (e.g. Twitter, Facebook)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attending public dialogues/debates	<input type="checkbox"/>
Judging awards/exhibitions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activities for Secondary or Primary schools	<input type="checkbox"/>
Developing educational resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attending science centres /museums	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide any other comments here.

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5) Please respond in general terms

Please tick to indicate whether you were aware of any of the following prior to starting this survey, hover over statements for more information.

- ☐ BBSRC's media training
- ☐ BBSRC's public engagement training
- ☐ BBSRC School Regional Champions (SRC)
- ☐ Research Councils UK School-University Partnerships Initiative
- ☐ That a BBSRC grant application requires an Impact Statement and a Pathways to Impact proposal
- ☐ That BBSRC grant holders must spend at least 2 days per year, per grant on public engagement or science communication
- ☐ That the Research Excellence Framework (REF) has a 20% weighting for 'impact' which can include public engagement and science communication
- ☐ The National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE)
- ☐ The Manifesto for Public Engagement
- ☐ The Concordat for Engaging the Public with Research
- ☐ The Beacons project
- ☐ The Catalysts project

Please provide any other comments here.

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6) Please respond in general terms

What, if anything, can BBSRC do to foster more public engagement and science communication?

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C) Your public engagement and science communication activities.

7) Please respond in regard to your grant specified at the start of the survey

Now thinking more specifically about your aforementioned BBSRC funded grant, did you include public engagement or science communication plans in either the Impact Statement or Pathways to Impact sections?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

8) Please respond in regard to your grant specified at the start of the survey

Please tick any reasons for not mentioning public engagement or science communication.

- ☐ I did not anticipate having enough time for engagement activities
☐ I did not have any public engagement or science communication plans related to the grant at the time of application
☐ I did not believe it contributed something worthwhile to the grant application
☐ I anticipated joining pre-arranged activities rather than planning my own
☐ I did not realise that this could be included in a grant application

Other

8) Please respond in regard to your grant specified at the start of the survey

Did you apply for funding from BBSRC for public engagement and science communication to support your Pathways to Impact?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

9) Please respond in regard to your grant specified at the start of the survey

Please tick any reasons for not applying for funding that apply below.

- ☐ I was concerned that it would affect a decision to grant the award
☐ I did not consider applying for engagement funding to be a worthwhile part of the grant
☐ I believed I could get necessary funds for public engagement or science engagement plans elsewhere
☐ I did not know that I was eligible/did not realise this part of application existed

Other

10) Please respond in regard to your grant specified at the start of the survey

Did you or a member of your immediate research group go on to take part in any public engagement and science communication activities - regardless of whether you had mentioned plans in your grant application or not? Talks at conferences and articles in refereed journals do not apply.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

11) Please respond in regard to your grant specified at the start of the survey

Please complete the questions below with a general overview of all activities you (and your team) participated in over the course of your grant.

Did you (or your team) evaluate your activities?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Please detail, if there is any reason, why or why you did not evaluate your activities.

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Please detail, if anything, how you used the evaluation information.

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Please estimate the percentage of the activities that were directly related to your own research performed as part of your grant specified at the start of this survey.

Matrix: part 1 of 2

	0 - 20%	21 - 40%	41 - 60%	61 - 80%
Percentage of own research contribution?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please estimate the percentage of the activities that were directly related to your own research performed as part of your grant specified at the start of this survey.

Matrix: part 2 of 2

	81 - 100%	Don't know
Percentage of own research contribution?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Did you (or your team) feel supported in the activities you performed over the course of this grant?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please detail, if anything, how you did or did not feel supported during your activities.

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11) Please respond in regard to your grant specified at the start of the survey

What were the reasons for not participating in activities, please tick all that apply.

☐ Lack of time/opportunity

☐ Lack of resources (e.g. funding, equipment)

☐ Lack of relevant training or information on how to undertake activities

☐ Lack of support from your institution/department

☐ Concerns regarding health and safety (e.g. GM, etc.)

☐ Concerns over contentious nature of research (e.g. Use of animals, etc.)

☐ Concerns regarding competence or confidence of self or other staff on grant

☐ Concerned other scientists think negatively of your time spent engaging

☐ Had not planned any activities

☐ Planned activities were cancelled

☐ No reason/Don't know

Please provide any other comments here.

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Thank you for completing this survey, please press submit to finish. If you would like to receive a report of this survey please leave your e-mail address here, this will be treated confidentially.

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If you would like to learn more about some of the organisations, opportunities, and resources for public engagement and science communication please use the hyperlinks below. [BBSRC public engagement strategy and funding](#) [National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement](#) [Research Councils UK Public Engagement](#)