

NERC Management Board (NMB) Meeting

Summary of discussions

19 March 2019

MRC, London

Members present:

Professor DJ Wingham, Mr PJ Fox, Mr R Gledhill, Mr P Hayden, Dr P Heads, Ms A Robinson,

Apologies: None.

Other attendees: Ms C Snelling (Deputy Head of Sustainability, item 2), Mr I Stanton (Head of Sustainability, items 3 and 4), Ms J Thompson (Head of Comms Campaigns, Item 5), Mr N Cooper (NERC Risk Business Partner, item 9).

Secretary: Mrs SJ Morrell.

Executive Chair Update

Professor Wingham opened the meeting and welcomed members.

He provided updates on the following:

- Industrial Partnerships

Animals in Research

Following the February meeting, NMB was provided with further detail to support the proposal to signing the concordat. It was advised that the NERC Sustainability Team would develop and implement a framework for annual data collection and reporting, working with Research & Innovation team within Head Office, Centres and Comms team to publish information on the website. The Board agreed to sign up to the Concordat on Openness on Animals in Research.

NERC Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan

It was agreed that NERC would align its plan with UKRI's once it had been developed. In the meantime, NERC would continue to work on its plan. NMB reviewed the plan and made some suggestions to develop it. The plan would be brought back to NMB in October.

Responsibility Framework

The Board noted that a NERC Sustainability Steering Group had been set up, which had agreed a new Responsibility Framework to replace the Corporate Responsibility Statement. This had been completed following engagement with the wider NERC community.

NMB suggested some changes to the framework and agreed that it should review the reporting biannually.

Reputational Management: 6 month review

NMB reviewed the issues that had been handled during the previous six months. It agreed the proposed improvements to the process and that it should continue to review the report on a biannual basis.

Governance, Ownership and Responsibility (GRO) update

NMB was advised that the programme was broadly on track. There had been a successful Gateway Review and the case was now with the Permanent Secretary before progressing to the Science Minister and then HMT.

Matters arising from UKRI meetings

The Board was provided with updates from recent meetings.

Standing items

NMB also noted a couple of standing items including the monthly finance update, the risk register review and the rolling programme of business.

Date of next meeting

The next NERC Management Board meeting will be held on 25 April 2019.