

NERC Management Board (NMB) Meeting

Summary of discussions

**16 December 2019 58VE,
London**

Members present:

Professor DJ Wingham, Ms C Bault, Mr R Gledhill, Mr P Hayden, Dr P Heads, Ms A Robinson.

Apologies: Mr N Bird

Other attendees: Mr B Dark (Health & Safety Advisor, item 2) Mrs J Thompson (Head of Engagement, item 3), Ms C Snelling (Deputy Head of Sustainability, items 4 and 5), Mr R Thomas (Associate Director, Discovery Science, Talent & Skills, item 6), Ms S Hodgson (Associate Director National Capability, item 7), Mr A Bidwell (NERC Risk Business Partner, item 8), Mr S Caswell (NERC Finance Business Partner, item 9).

Secretary: Mrs SJ Morrell.

Executive Chair Update

Professor Wingham opened the meeting and welcomed members.

He provided an update on UKRI 2025.

Health and Safety

NMB was presented with the following two documents:

- NERC FY 2019/20 Quarter 2 Health and Safety Report
It was noted that the NERC report would be merged into the overall UKRI H&S report. The Board noted there were some outstanding queries and requested some changes. Once these had been made, the revised report should be submitted to the NMB meeting in April 2020.
- NERC Health and Safety Policy Review.
The Board was informed that NERC was complying with the UKRI H&S Policy. It requested some assurance that the commitments made relating to roles and responsibilities were being implemented.

The documents were approved subject to the agreement of the management systems audit and would be signed upon its receipt.

Public Engagement Evaluation and Management Response

NMB was presented with a summary of the independent evaluation review of the landscape of public engagement in the UK, together with the proposed NERC actions reflecting the recommendations of the review.

The Board agreed the proposed actions.

Animals in Research Concordat

NMB was provided with an update to the paper previously considered in March. NERC had become a signatory of the Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK in November 2019. The first annual renewal would be due in May 2021.

The Board approved the recommended next steps and requested an additional action to feedback on current assurance processes.

NERC Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Implementation Plan

NMB reviewed a proposed new annual Implementation Plan for NERC, noting that it nested within the overall UKRI EDI approach. NMB noted that this initial plan, focusing on ensuring a robust baseline for data, would run until December 2020, with more comprehensive and longer plan to be developed for after 2020.

The Board suggested some amendments and asked that a revised draft Implementation Plan be reviewed at the next NMB meeting.

Evidencing skills gaps in the environmental sciences

NMB considered a refreshed process for collecting evidence of skills gaps and training needs within the environmental sciences.

The Board requested further information on the evidence criteria, the groups to engage with and the expected outcomes. A revised paper would be presented to a future NMB meeting.

Timetable for NC Science Round 2 Commissioning

The Board agreed to a one-year delay to the commissioning round 2 and therefore a one-year extension to existing funding levels. The timetable for commissioning the next tranche of NERC's NC Science was also agreed.

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 26 February 2020. The Board agreed upon bi-monthly meetings from 2020.