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Circular letter

Addendum to HEIF policies and priorities: submission of knowledge exchange data to JISC-HESA

To	Heads of English higher education providers
Reference	RE-CL-2024-05
Publication date	18 July 2024
Enquiries to	General queries to KEpolicy@re.ukri.org

Dear Vice-Chancellor or Principal

1. This circular letter sets out future arrangements for collection of knowledge exchange (KE) data, including the Higher Education Business and Community Interaction (HE-BCI) survey, in England. This is also set in the context of our implementation of the spinouts review, which includes spinout data collection.
2. This communication is relevant to all higher education providers eligible for Research England KE funding, including Higher Education Innovation Funding (HEIF). It forms an Addendum to “HEIF policies and priorities: accountability statements” ([RE-P-2020-03](#)).
3. It follows [RE-CL-2024-02](#), which set out our plan to implement the actions falling to Research England from the Government response to the Independent Review of University Spinouts.
4. Our implementation plan included collaboration between Research England and JISC-HESA to produce better data on spinouts, forming part of our wider national knowledge exchange metrics development programme. This is most effectively done, where feasible, through addition or amendment to the established Higher Education Business and Community Interaction survey or through linked data collections or surveys. This work is supported by our National KE metrics adviser, Tomas Ulrichsen, and his team at the University Commercialisation and Innovation (UCI) policy evidence unit. We also work closely on data with all the UK funding bodies, to enable where



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feasible consistent data definitions and collection methods across the UK to enable inter-operability of data for various purposes (for example, enabling analysis of HESA data with UK Research and Innovation data or for UK-wide exercises such as the Research Excellence Framework).

5. The Office for Students (OfS) plays a key role in higher education information management in England. OfS has communicated (letter from 11 July 2024 “Deadlines and requirements for 2024-25 data returns”, available [on the OfS website](#)) that the HE-BCI survey, and wider KE data, will now not be part of its data requirements. Research England uses KE data to allocate HEIF and for use in the Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF) and therefore instead we expect higher education providers eligible for Research England KE funding for a given year to submit KE data for that year, including HE-BCI, as requested by HESA. For higher education providers in receipt of Research England KE funding for a given year, the submission of KE data for that year, including HE-BCI, will be required under paragraph 26 of the [Terms and Conditions of Research England grant](#). This will include the request for data in the Spinout Census that has been the subject of [recent JISC-HESA consultation](#), the annual HE-BCI survey, and potentially further developments from our KE metrics development programme.

Next steps

6. We aim to embed data requirements in this Addendum in the next iteration of HEIF policies and priorities in 2025. More widely, this will also include other consequentials from the spinout review implementation such as changes to HEIF accountability related to adoption of best practice policies on spinouts (see [RE-CL-2024-02](#)).

Further information

7. Please contact the Research England Knowledge Exchange team at KEpolicy@re.ukri.org for queries regarding information in this communication, or the Liaison team at HESA/JISC at liaison@hesa.ac.uk for queries regarding the future submission of knowledge exchange data.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jessica Corner'.

Professor Dame Jessica Corner FMedSci, MAE, RN

Executive Chair, Research England