



**Biotechnology and
Biological Sciences
Research Council**

Minutes

Meeting:	UKRI-BBSRC TRANSFORMATIVE TECHNOLOGIES STRATEGY ADVISORY PANEL
Date and Time:	28-29 MAY 2025
Venue:	CLAYTON HOTEL, BIRMINGHAM, ALBERT STREET, B5 5JE

Attendance

Panel Members
Professor Emes, Richard (Nottingham Trent University) - Chair Professor Errington, Rachel (Cardiff University) Professor Gorochowski, Tom (University of Bristol) Professor Harris, Sarah (University of Sheffield) Professor Hawes, Pippa (Francis Crick Institute) Dr Holding, Andrew (University of York) Dr McCafferty, James (Wellcome Sanger Institute) Professor Swedlow, Jason (University of Dundee) Dr Wells, Darren (University of Nottingham)
BBSRC Office
Dr McKibbin, Rowan – Associate Director Frontiers and Foundations Dr Lewis, Ian – Head of Transformative Technologies Ms Bignell, Ashleigh Dr Brown, Richard Dr Garrad, Jane Dr Hensen, Daniela Mr Hubbard, Philip Ms Kowalewski, Rose Dr Millyard, Linda Dr Shuttleworth, Tim
Dr Abbasi, Sophia (Item 6 Only) Mr Downes, Joss (Virtual, Item 6 Only)
Other Attendees
Dr Boname, Jess (MRC Associate Director Infrastructure, Virtual, Item 4 only) Dr Wilcox, Ashleigh (MRC Head of Infrastructure, Virtual, Item 4 only)

Agenda

Item	Description	Paper ID	Time
Thursday 28 May 2025			
1	BBSRC Update	Oral	19:00 – 19:30
-	Dinner		-
Friday 29 May 2025			
-	Welcome and Introductions	Oral	09:30 – 10:00
2	Reflections on the BBSRC Update & Matters Arising	Oral	10:00 – 11:00
-	Break		11:00 – 11:15
3	Artificial Intelligence for the Biosciences	TT 01_05_25	11:15 – 12:00
4	UKRI Infrastructure Roadmap Refresh – Biological Sciences, Health and Food chapter	TT 02_05_25	12:00 – 12:45
-	Lunch		12:45 – 13:45
5	Compute for the Biosciences	TT 03_05_25	13:45 – 14:15
6	Research Misuse	TT 04_05_25	14:15 – 14:45
-	Break		14:45 – 15:00
7	Horizon Scanning - reflecting on the last 3 years and looking forward to the next	TT 05_05_25	15:00 – 15:45
8	AOB and Close	Oral	15:45 – 16:00
Items to note			
-	Minutes of November 2024 meeting	-	

Summary

Item	Paper ID.	Summary
1 & 2	Oral	BBSRC update & Matters Arising A range of topics were discussed, including the Spending Review, Government Industrial Strategy, the new BBSRC Forward Look, the impact of financial challenges faced by the higher education sector, and the impact of generative AI on peer review.
3	TT 01_05_25	Artificial Intelligence for the Biosciences In light of significant recent investments in the UK AI ecosystem, the discussion on AI in bioscience focussed on current strengths and barriers in the bioscience community and considered where BBSRC should best focus its efforts.
4	TT 02_05_25	UKRI Infrastructure Roadmap Refresh – Biological Sciences, Health and Food chapter The draft of the UKRI Infrastructure Roadmap Refresh Biological Sciences, Health and Food chapter was discussed, including the impact of existing infrastructure, the potential impact of emerging technologies and the need for a connected infrastructure ecosystem.
5	TT 03_05_25	Compute for the Biosciences The importance of shared, accessible compute infrastructure compatible with bioscience data structures and workflows was raised, including the need for skilled professionals and a supportive research culture.
6	TT 04_05_25	Research Misuse Input was sought on potential policy and regulatory implications that molecular and engineering biology approaches could have in the context of research misuse and accidental harm.
7	TT 05_05_25	Horizon Scanning - reflecting on the last 3 years and looking forward to the next The panel reflected on horizon scanning trends over the last three years and identified a range of new topics to explore.
8	Oral	Any other business The panel explored topics including equitable distribution of research funding, the evolving role of universities and the concept of missions.

Actions

Item	Action
Matters Arising	BBSRC to include a policy section as part of future matters arising, to inform the panel on policy-relevant updates as needed.
TT_01_05_25	BBSRC to integrate panel discussion into forward approach for AI in bioscience. BBSRC to provide updates on strategic AI investments relevant to bioscience at future TT SAP meetings where relevant.
TT_02_05_25	BBSRC and MRC Infrastructure teams to rework draft text in line with comments made and feed wider comments forward to the UKRI Infrastructure team.
TT_04_05_25	BBSRC to integrate panel discussion into further development of the policy and share the statement once finalised.