

MINUTES OF STFC EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

28TH AUGUST 2025

Held by videoconference

Attendees:

Council	Michele Dougherty (Chair) Andy Schofield (SIM & co-chair) Stan Bentvelsen Lucy Edge Patricia Hodgson Jana Kolar Jayne Lawrence Angeli Möller Andrew Pontzen Hitesh Thakrar David Charlton	Attendees	Jacqui Cole, Chair of Science Board (F&L) Keith Grainge, Chair of Science Board (PPAN) Rosanna Greenop, Head of Strategy Eleanor Okamoto, Strategy Manager Chris Wrench, Director of Finance
Secretariat	Maya Riddle & Jade Schneiders	Item 3	
Apologies	JT Janssen Paul Monks, DESNZ CSA		

1. Welcome

- 1.1. Michele Dougherty (MKD) welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 1.2. Apologies were received for JT Janssen and Paul Monks.

2. Exec Chair update

- 2.1. MKD provided a short update since the last meeting.
- 2.2. Council congratulated MKD on her appointment as the first female Astronomer Royal.

3. Update on the spending review allocations process

- 3.1. Rosanna Greenop joined the meeting and provided an update on the spending review allocations process. The new CEO, Ian Chapman had instigated a zero-based review of UKRI activities and set a number of commissions to inform the allocations process.
- 3.2. STFC had mapped its activities against the industrial strategy and the Science Ministers' high-level priorities. Key points STFC wanted to emphasise were:

- The importance of the underpinning capability provided by facilities, labs and campuses
- STFC investments had significant opportunities to deliver against the industrial strategy
- The importance of curiosity driven research

3.3. Council advised that STFC should continue to seek to align with government priorities and evidence impact.

3.4. Several members highlighted the importance of retaining some small projects as these provided a balanced programme and pipeline of highly skilled people for the UK.

4. AOB

- 4.1. KG flagged that there would need to be careful communications regarding STFC's proposal to review astronomy projects via a Statement of Interest process.
- 4.2. Members of council backed the importance of clear communications with STFC's communities.
- 4.3. It was agreed that there would be a substantive item on communications at the next full Council meeting in September.