

2015 HEPI-Elsevier Research Conference

Reflections on REF2014 – Where next? Research Assessment and Funding from 2014 to 2020 and beyond

**Tuesday 31 March 2015
Royal Society, London SW1**

How will REF2014 affect the UK's research base? Has it delivered on its goals? What does the future hold for research assessment and funding? Should the next research assessment exercise be adjusted, and how? Could metrics better inform judgements about research excellence? Is it possible to design a system of research assessment and funding that works for all disciplines and all institutions? Does the REF hold lessons for other countries – and vice versa?

The HEPI-Elsevier 2015 Research Conference is the first major opportunity for the whole sector to consider the impact of the REF on universities, departments and individuals. It will also look ahead to 2020 and beyond and consider how research evaluation might evolve.

Chaired by the Rt Hon David Willetts MP, speakers include David Sweeney, Director Research, Education and Knowledge Exchange, HEFCE; Professor Cara Aitchison, Vice-Chancellor, University of St Mark & St John (and REF sub-panel chair); Professor Paul Boyle, Vice-Chancellor, University of Leicester; Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow, Vice-Chancellor, University of Kent; Professor Julia Black, Pro Director for Research, LSE; Professor George Marston PVC for research and innovation, Northumbria University; Andy Westwood, Vice President, Public Affairs, University of Manchester; Dr David Docherty, Chief Executive, National Centre for Universities and Business; Professor Graeme Reid, Professor of Science and Research Policy at University College London; Professor James Wilsdon, Chair of the Independent Review of the role of metrics in research assessment; Dr Steven Hill, Head of Research Policy, HEFCE; Dr Nick Fowler, Managing Director, Research Management, Elsevier.

Agenda (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

9.00	Registration
9.30	Welcome and introduction by the conference chair The Rt Hon David Willetts, MP
9.40	Delivering strength across the piece David Sweeney, Director Research, Education and Knowledge Exchange, HEFCE, on the REF2014 outcomes
10.00	Q&A
10.10	The impact of the REF2014 Professor Cara Aitchison, Vice-Chancellor, St Mark & St John University (and REF sub-panel chair) Professor Paul Boyle, Vice-Chancellor, University of Leicester Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow, Vice-Chancellor, University of Kent
10.40	Q&A
10.55	Break for coffee
11.30	Reflections on the REF2014 – looking ahead to 2020 Professor Julia Black, Pro Director for Research, LSE Professor George Marston, Pro Vice Chancellor of Research and Innovation, Northumbria University Andy Westwood, Vice President, Public Affairs, University of Manchester
12.00	Q&A
12.15	The value of the REF to UK plc Dr David Docherty, Chief Executive, National Centre for Universities and Business
12.30	Q&A
12.45	Lunch

Agenda – continued (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

14.00	Introduction to the afternoon programme Bahram Bekhradnia, HEPI President, Afternoon Programme Chair
14.10	The future for research funding – lessons from the 2010 spending review Professor Graeme Reid, Professor of Science and Research Policy, University College London
14.30	Q&A
14.40	The road to 2020 – metrics, peer review & impact Professor James Wilsdon, Chair of the Independent Review of the role of metrics in research assessment: Presentation on emerging findings Dr Steven Hill, Head of Research Policy, HEFCE: Where next for impact? Dr Nick Fowler, Managing Director, Research Management, Elsevier: How can information inform judgements?
15.40	Q&A
15.55	Higher Education, the General Election and the 2015 Spending Review Paul Johnson, Director, Institute for Fiscal Studies
16.15	Q&A
16.30	Conference closes