

FRAP International Advisory Group – Terms of Reference

Introduction

The four UK higher education funding bodies have established an International Advisory Group (the Group) to assist and advise them as they develop and evaluate options for the future approach to national research assessment within the UK.

Purpose of the Group

The purpose of the International Advisory Group is to provide the funding bodies with external perspectives and insight into global experience and expertise in research assessment. The Group will provide a 'sounding board' against which the thinking of the funding can be tested, challenging the assumptions and scope of the review, where appropriate. Specifically, the Group will:

- a. advise on approaches to research assessment used internationally, including their strengths and weaknesses;
- b. support the development of a range of models for research assessment adapted to the UK context to inform consultation and discussion;
- c. comment on the findings from the evaluation of REF 2021;
- d. provide input to and advise on the selection of options for the future approach to research assessment.

The Group's Programme of work

The key activities of the Group include:

- a. a first meeting to explain the context of the programme, agree the terms of reference for the Group, provide input on the parameters and key questions for FRAP and to provide feedback on a range of scenarios/models developed ahead of the sector consultation (May 2021);
- b. comment via correspondence on emerging outcomes from consultation and evaluation activities (ongoing, mid-2021-2022); and
- c. a final meeting to review the outcomes from the consultation and make high-level recommendations to the funding bodies on the most appropriate model(s) for future research assessment exercises in the UK.

Membership of the Group

As far as possible, membership of the group will represent a range of expertise and national contexts to ensure its effectiveness in testing assumptions and advising on future approaches.

Members were sought from the following roles:

- a. senior leaders of research funding organisations globally;
- b. international experts in research evaluation;
- c. non-academic research users.

Advisory Group membership

Name	Job Title & Affiliation
Chair: Sir Peter Gluckman	President-Elect, International Science Council, New Zealand
Dr Lidia Borrell-Damián	Secretary General, Science Europe
Dr Chonnetia Jones	Vice President, Research, Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research
Professor Erika Kraemer-Mbula	Professor of Economics and Chairholder, DST/NRF/Newton Fund Trilateral Chair of Transformative Innovation, the 4 th Industrial Revolution and Sustainable Development, College of Business and Economics, University of Johannesburg
Professor Jane Ohlmeyer	Erasmus Smith's Professor of Modern History (1762), Trinity College Dublin and Chair of the Irish Research Council
Dr David Phipps	Assistant VP Research Strategy & Impact, York University and Director of Research Impact Canada
Dr Kirsty Salmon	VP advanced bio & physical sciences for low carbon energy, bp
Professor Sue Thomas	Chief Executive Officer, Australian Research Council

Conflicts of interest

None to be noted.

Meeting arrangements

The Group will meet via videoconference at least two or three times per year and will also deal with business by correspondence between meetings. It is anticipated that the work of the group will be concluded by late 2022.

The secretariat will be provided by Research England on behalf of the four funding bodies.