

# Research Excellence Framework (REF) Impact Pilot Exercise Steering Group

## Terms of reference

1. HEFCE is managing the REF impact pilot exercise on behalf of the four UK higher education (HE) funding bodies.
2. The Steering Group's role is to advise HEFCE on the implementation of the REF impact pilot exercise and on the pilot exercise outcomes, to assist in the development of a robust, workable and efficient approach to assessing impact in the REF.
3. In particular, the steering group will provide advice on:
  - the aims and objectives of the pilot
  - the selection of UOAs and HEIs
  - the nature and format of submissions and guidance for HEIs
  - the establishment of pilot exercise panels and how they will operate
  - gathering and reviewing feedback from the pilot exercise institutions and panels, and the role of any consultants appointed to assist with this
  - considering relevant aspects of the consultation outcomes
  - the interface between impact and the 'output' and 'environment' elements of REF (especially the 'user significance' of outputs, and engagement aspects of environment)
  - identifying the key findings and lessons emerging
  - reporting of the pilot outcomes.
4. The Steering Group will meet around four times between September 2009 and August 2010, and may also be asked to comment on items by e-mail.

## Membership

External members:

- Simon Denegri, AMRC
- Janet Finch, Keele University
- Russell Hamilton, Department of Health
- Alison Hodge, QinetiQ
- Roger Kain, University of Exeter
- Ian Leslie, University of Cambridge
- Ashley Malster, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
- John Rea, DEFRA
- John Stageman, Astrazenaca
- Jeremy Watson, ARUP

- Marie Williams, RCUK

HEFCE members:

- David Sweeney (Chair), Director of Research and Innovation
- Graeme Rosenberg, REF Project Manager
- Hannah Chaplin (Secretary), Higher Education Policy Adviser

5. We will report on the progress of the pilot exercise to the other three UK HE funding bodies at the REF Steering Group meetings. The funding bodies will also be invited to comment on the paperwork for the REF impact pilot exercise Steering Group and to attend Steering Group meetings and other pilot exercise events if they wish.