Nurse Review of Research Councils: Call for Evidence

Response Form

Internal Deadline – 1st April 2015

Completed by:

Faculty:

Please provide evidence and views in relation to the following themes:

1. **Strategic decision-making** For example, views are invited on how funding decisions are made; how society and government can engage with science funding decisions; how good decision-making can be encouraged at different levels; and how Research Councils can make the best decisions to ensure research drives economic growth and promotes health, quality of life and environmental sustainability.

The following questions from the review Terms of Reference may be relevant here:

• How should the Research Councils take account of wider national interests including regional balance and the local and national economic impact of applied research?

• Is the balance between investigator-led and strategically-focused funding appropriate, and do the right mechanisms exist for making strategic choices?

• Within each Research Council is the balance of funding well-judged between support of individual investigators, support of teams and support of equipment and infrastructure?

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1. **Collaborations and partnerships** For example, views are invited on the effectiveness of the Research Councils’ interactions with each other and with external organisations, as well as the Research Councils’ role in supporting collaborations and partnerships between institutions and between disciplines, and the links between Research Council-funded activities and other academic, industrial, European and global R&D activities.

The following questions from the review Terms of Reference may be relevant here:

* How can the RCs catalyse collaboration between institutions?
* How should the work of the research councils integrate most effectively with the work of agencies funding innovation, such as Innovate UK, and with the work funded by Departmental research and development budgets?
* Should the funding of Research Councils be directed almost exclusively to the university sector, with organisations such as the Meteorological Office, the Health and Safety Laboratories and the National Physical Laboratory out of scope?
* Do they adequately support interdisciplinary research?
* Are the right arrangements in place to ensure optimal funding for research that crosses disciplinary boundaries?

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1. **Balance of funding portfolio** For example, views are invited on the Research Councils’ role in delivering an appropriately balanced portfolio of investments in science in the UK, taking into account factors such as government priorities / grand challenges, discovery and applied research, and geographical distribution.

The following questions from the review Terms of Reference may be relevant here:

• Are the divisions of scientific subject areas between the research councils appropriate?

• Is the balance of funding between different Research Councils optimal?

• What are the gaps or holes in the funded portfolios of the research councils?

• How should the Research Councils take account of wider national interests including regional balance and the local and national economic impact of applied research?

• Is the balance between investigator-led and strategically-focused funding appropriate, and do the right mechanisms exist for making strategic choices?

• Within each Research Council is the balance of funding well-judged between support of individual investigators, support of teams and support of equipment and infrastructure?

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1. **Effective ways of working** For example, views are invited on how the Research Councils can operate most effectively within the wider science and innovation system, recognising what works well and identifying opportunities for improvements. You may wish to consider issues such as the strategic leadership provided by the Research Councils, how Research Councils engage with their communities, and the operation of the peer review system.

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**5. Any other comments?**

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The closing date for responses to this call for evidence is **Friday 17 April 2015 at 23:45**.

Please provide your response in Microsoft Word format. In order to be considered, institutional submissions should be no longer than 3000 words.

Information provided in response to this call for evidence, including personal information, may be subject to publication or release to other parties or to disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes.



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