
DEVELOPING THE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION EVIDENCE BASE

PURPOSE

1. This paper updates the Committee on ongoing work to develop our research and innovation evidence base following the publication of REF2021 and our review recommendation to develop a new narrative on the value of research. It asks for views on both short-term and longer-term areas of focus, recognising the wider context of changing UK R&D policy and Scottish Government development including the National Strategy for Economic Transformation, the Purpose a& Principles and the emerging Innovation Strategy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Members are invited to:
 - Consider this update of SFC's ongoing analysis and evidence development work;
 - Suggest further areas for exploration or ways in which current work could be deepened or developed; and
 - Offer advice on longer term work, including areas to pursue in building our economic evidence.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3. Some of our more specialized evidence development work is likely to result in external commissioning with associated cost. At this stage we don't envisage that costs would be greater than approximately £100K in total.

RISK ASSESSMENT

4. Evidence gathering, development and analysis activity represent a low risk. However, the risks from not ensuring that our work is sufficiently evidence-based are significant given that SFC's policy making impacts on a significant quantum of public funding.

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

5. Equality and diversity aspects will be considered as part of the analysis of the REF 2021 results, including exploration of the institutional environment statements. Where relevant, Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessments will be undertaken for specific areas of work.

ISLAND COMMUNITIES

6. No direct links to, nor impacts on, island communities have been identified.

CARBON REDUCTION

7. No direct links to the Scottish Government's priorities for carbon reduction and the achievement of 'net-zero' by 2045 have been identified.

PUBLICATION

8. This paper will be withheld from publication as it contains information which is of a sensitive nature including use of REF results.

FURTHER INFORMATION

9. Contact: Dr Cat Ball, email: cball@sfc.ac.uk and Hazel McGraw, email: hmcgraw@sfc.ac.uk

