

Consultation questions

Overarching issues

Question 1: If it were necessary, what would be the implications of delaying implementation of REF 2021 results and changes to REG until AY 2023-24?

Question 2: Should SFC seek to limit downward changes in REG experienced by individual universities post REF2021 and, if so, what should be the scope of any adjustments made?

Question 3: You are invited to comment in your answers throughout the document on opportunities for and barriers to advancing equality and achieving inclusion. Overarching comments related to the aims of the public sector duty in the context of this review should be made here.

Question 4: How important (or otherwise) is it that the Scottish approach to underpinning research funding is in step with the rest of the UK? What elements of consistency (or distinctiveness) in SFC's approach influence Scottish HEIs' research competitiveness?

Question 5: In the changing research landscape, is the balance of funding between SFC's underpinning support for research and underpinning support for PGR training & environment optimal?

Research Excellence Grant

Question 6: Views are sought on the principles proposed for REG and on whether the proposals within this paper are consistent with the principles.

Question 7: What are your views on whether the current quality weightings for 3* and 4* REF scores are fit for purpose?

Question 8: What are your views on aligning the proportions of REGa allocated and the proportions of REF score elements?

Question 9: We would welcome your views on the balance between the elements of the REG formula. Within the income-driven elements, we welcome your views on whether we have included the correct income sources.

Research Postgraduate Grant

Question 10: Are the proposed principles for RPG appropriate and consistent with the purpose of the grant and the changing PGR landscape?

Question 11: We are seeking views on:

- The purpose of RPG and its future role in supporting Scottish institutions to respond – individually and collaboratively – to the changing landscape.
- Taking forward increased accountability for RPG, for example by linking to shared objectives or outcomes, and how SFC and the sector could work in partnership to achieve this.

Question 12: We are seeking views on:

- How the RPG could play an increased role in improving participation of underrepresented groups within Scotland's PGR community, particularly within specific research areas where under-representation is most extreme.
- How SFC's focus on widening access and participation could be supported by RPG in the postgraduate research student context.

Other comments

Question 13: Please make any other comments relevant to this consultation.