



REF Issues

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REF Consultation

- **Two HEFCE consultations**
 - UKCRC REF Panel replied to both
 - Most recently in December 2009
- **HEFCE Response to 2nd consultation**
 - Issued March 2010
 - REF impact pilot currently underway.
- **I will focus on Impact issues**
 - Comparing our recommendations to HEFCE response

Diversity of Impacts

- **UKCRC: broader societal and policy impacts should be included**
- **HEFCE:**
 - “We embrace a wide definition of impact, including benefits to the economy, society, culture, public policy and services, health, the environment, international development and quality of life”
 - NB – impact on 'knowledge' not included

Incubation Periods

- **UKCRC: Impact can take 10-15 years**
 - may span multiple assessment periods
 - 100-word 'collaboration' case studies
- **HEFCE:**
 - “The REF will assess impacts that have already occurred, ... over a sufficiently long timeframe to allow the impacts to become evident”
 - Pilot allows impact from 1993
 - Submission of different phases to different REFs
 - General impact statement in pilot.

Intermediate Academic Work

- **UKCRC: credit intermediate academic and scientific case studies**
- **HEFCE:**
 - “the REF will provide full recognition where curiosity-driven research has benefitted the economy or society”
 - 'knowledge' impact “covered by the 'outputs' and 'environment' elements”
 - 'interim' impacts, may be included.

Work Exploited Elsewhere

- UKCRC: credit work exploited elsewhere
- HEFCE:
 - “Recognition that multiple units can contribute to an impact”

Diversity of Transfer Routes

- **UKCRC: allow diverse knowledge transfer strategies**
- **HEFCE:**
 - “demonstrate impacts according to criteria and indicators that are appropriate to research in each discipline-group”
 - Pilot illustrates different 'pathways'
 - NB – no CS&I impact pilot

Weighting of Impact

- **UKCRC: equal weighting of impact and environment**
 - To avoid bias to short-term transfer
 - Include all funding under environment
 - Lower weighting for 'collaboration' case studies
- **HEFCE:**
 - “Output quality will be the dominant element, with a significant weighting for each of impact and environment”

Conclusion

- **Our issues addressed**
 - But often in a vague or ambiguous way
 - Controversial issues unresolved
- **So need for vigilance and continued advocacy**