



Summary of the NERC Management Board Meeting, 16 November 2016

The second meeting of the NERC Management Board (NMB) took place on Wednesday 16 November 2016 at MRC, 1 Kemble Street, London.

Attendees were:

- Duncan Wingham, NERC Chief Executive (Chair)
- Paul Fox, NERC Chief Operating Officer
- Richard Gledhill, NERC Non-Executive Director
- Paul Hayden, NERC Non-Executive Director
- Phil Heads, Associate Director, Strategy and Evidence
- Sue Morrell, NMB Secretary
- Alison Robinson, NERC Director, Corporate Affairs
- Claire Turner, NERC Finance Director
- Tim Wheeler, NERC Director, Science and Innovation
- Michelle Wickenden, NMB Secretarial Support

Topical issues discussed were:

Changes impacting NERC

1. The discussion included:
 - Progress with the Oracle replacement (HR/Finance System) and the new grants system
 - Risks associated with Brexit

Funding issues regarding [official development assistance \(ODA\)](#)

2. There was a group discussion around the definition of ODA and some amendments were suggested to improve the clarity of the definition.

Capital business case plan

3. NMB was asked to agree the level of funding from the Capital baseline NERC could commit if funding was not received through the Autumn Statement. It was agreed to wait until the Autumn Statement and convene a meeting to discuss capital if necessary.

Newton Fund update

4. NMB was advised that 12 new [Newton](#) projects had been approved and announcements were due to be made.

NERC environmental targets: ships and planes

5. NMB was provided with information of the NERC [Carbon Footprint](#) for 2013-2016 and proposals for performance metrics for NERC ships and planes. It was agreed that instead of annual targets for specific elements of ships and planes, a narrative should be developed about NERC's strategy to reduce carbon. This will be included in the Annual Report and Corporate Responsibility Report. NMB agreed to report to December Council.

Health & Safety (H&S) benchmarking figures

6. The National Centre for Oceanography (NOC) updated NMB on developing benchmarks for H&S performance on NERC's research ships. It was agreed a progress report would be submitted to the December NMB.

JASMIN high performance computing and data facility renewal

7. This item provided context for the NERC approval of the [JASMIN](#) science case in terms of project gateways, particularly formal approval to meet Gateway Stage 0: Strategic Assessment. NMB agreed the need for the JASMIN science case.

Marine National Capability (NC) changes

8. NMB considered the need to revise internal management and governance arrangements in relation to Marine National Capability (NC) to ensure these remain fit-for-purpose for NERC as a commissioner of research and to ensure ongoing support for UK marine national capability, including the development of a more integrated approach.

National Capability (NC) funding system

The paper for this item was withdrawn as it required more work. It was agreed that the paper would be developed with Corporate Directors and Associate Directors and presented at the December NMB meeting.

Governance, Responsibility and Ownership and Hadley Centre update

9. NMB received an update on the Governance, Responsibility and Ownership (GRO) programme of work. GRO is the NERC programme to consider the future ownership and governance of NERC's research centres. NMB noted ongoing talks to progress this activity with officials at BEIS, with work progressing on Ministerial briefings and business cases. Reports will continue to be presented to future meetings as this programme of work progresses.
10. NMB also noted an update about ongoing discussion with the Met Office about the interface and support for science between NERC and the Hadley Centre, and that this was happening with a good deal of cooperation, and a shared commitment to the importance of the science of the Hadley Centre.

October BAS Centre Assurance Board

11. NMB noted the minutes from the 1st British Antarctic Survey (BAS) Centre Assurance Board meeting (CAB) meeting. The issues discussed were summarised. Further information on the CABs is available on the NERC website.

12. Standing items discussed were:

- Chief Executive's update: issues covered were business flights and a complaint letter.
- Monthly finance update, including capital: NMB noted the actual outturn for October 2016

- Risk register review: NMB reviewed the top risks and identified updates
- Actions update and forward planner: Members noted progress against actions and identified issues for the December NMB meeting.
- Communications issues: Into the Blue event and communication around new Newton projects.

The next NMB meeting is on Tuesday 13 December at the BEIS Conference Centre, 1 Victoria Street, London.