

Summary of the NERC Management Board Meeting, 18 May 2017

The eighth meeting of the NERC Management Board (NMB) took place on Thursday 18 May 2017 at MRC, 1 Kemble Street, London.

Attendees were:

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

Topical issues discussed were:

Corporate responsibility report

1. NMB welcomed the first full-year report in this area, noting the approach to review and proposals for new commitments to be included. NMB asked for a summary report in future, to give a sense of progress and areas which require further work and development. NMB noted that, on the whole, the corporate responsibility approach had assisted provide focus and to develop approaches in key areas as well as recognise existing good practice. It was agreed that the report would be reviewed by Operations Group (OG) before being presented to NMB, who would also follow up on any red and amber areas of the dashboard.
2. The Board suggested some changes to the paper before its presentation to Council.

Environmental management

3. NMB received a presentation on environmental management, one of the four areas of the corporate responsibility being reviewed. The Board discussed this item and made comments on the slides to provide clarity. NMB support the approach developed, and agreed it was in a good state to engage Council and seek their approval to further develop this approach.

Evidence and [Evaluation of NC-National and public good](#): report and management response

4. The Board approved the revised governance framework for evidence and evaluation within Head Office and was advised that updated programmes would be presented to NMB on a 6 monthly basis for comment following audit recommendations.
5. NMB considered the report and made some amendments to the proposed management response. It was also agreed to consider options for undertaking more thematic evaluations to inform future NERC investments.

Health & Safety Annual Report

6. The annual report was presented to NMB. It was noted that the corporate health and safety function had been transferred to the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) in

January 2017. The Board requested some amendments to the report but commented on the improvement on the thoroughness of the report compared to previous years, and approved it for submission to the NERC Audit & Risk Committee.

Governance, Responsibility and Ownership (GRO) update

7. NMB received an update on Governance, Responsibility and Ownership (GRO) latest position and noted activities planned for after purdah.

EU figures for NERC staff and students

8. NMB was presented with figures as at March 2017. The Board noted that the figures remained stable. Updated figures would be presented to NMB on a quarterly basis.

Reputational management

9. NMB reviewed reports setting out areas where initiatives in BAS and BGS might raise questions for certain audiences. NMB welcomed the thinking and preparation behind the reports, and noted the proposed approaches for each Centre to include broader engagement in their delivery of these initiatives.

Official Development Assistance (ODA) reporting update

10. NMB were provided with information on the programmes against the [Global Challenges Research Fund](#) (GCRF) and Core ODA allocation, the process for ODA calls and the process to ensure ODA compliance. The Board requested further information to be presented at its next meeting.

Data service commissioning

11. A presentation was made to NMB on National Capability Commissioning (Data), Data Innovation Portal and National Capability Commissioning (Science).
12. NMB raised concern over some activities and made some suggestions to address them.

Edinburgh Showcase event

13. NMB agreed of the objectives for this event, which build on the experience of delivering the previous showcase events in 2015 and 2017. NMB welcomed the work to develop specific audiences and themes for the science aspects of the showcase, and noted the collaboration with Dynamic Earth, the Edinburgh Science Museum. It was agreed that this item would be presented to NMB when there were significant updates.

14. Standing items discussed were:

- Chief Executive's update: issues covered were the Science media Centre and the BEIS 6 monthly meeting.
- Monthly finance update, including capital: NMB noted the figures presented.
- 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 June NMB meeting.
- There were no Communications issues raised during the meeting.

The next NMB meeting will be on Thursday 22 June at MRC, 1 Kemble Street, London.