

NERC Management Board (NMB) Meeting

Summary of discussions

**21 October 2019 58VE,
London**

Members present:

Professor DJ Wingham, Ms C Bault, Mr N Bird, Mr R Gledhill, Mr P Hayden, Dr P Heads, Ms A Robinson.

Apologies: None

Other attendees: Mrs H Page (Senior Governance Manager and NERC Council Secretariat, observer), Mrs V McMyn (Programme Director, item 2), Mrs F Goff (Head of Impact and Outcomes, items 3 and 4), Ms E Body (Head of Strategy and Planning, item 5).

Secretary: Mrs SJ Morrell.

Executive Chair Update

Professor Wingham opened the meeting and welcomed members.

He provided an update on the Spending Review.

Review Ownership and Governance of NERC Centres ([GRO](#)) update

NMB was informed of the updates that had occurred since the paper had been circulated. The Executive Chair thanked the team involved for all their work on the project.

Impact and Outcomes Programme

A six monthly progress report and an updated Impact and Outcomes Programme was presented to NMB.

It was noted that both the team and the programme's name had changed from 'Evidence' to 'Impact and Outcomes' and the evaluation part of the programme now resided in the Strategic Partnerships directorate and would report separately to NMB.

The Board agreed the programme and noted the progress made against each activity.

Evaluation Programme

NMB was told that this activity now fell under the Strategic Partnerships directorate, as the new team would manage the delivery of the UKRI run programmes that have been delegated to NERC to lead on and advise on best practice across Head Office.

It was acknowledged that some aspects of the current practice needed to be reformed. The proposed programme was agreed, but noted that a more fundamental review would be taken next time.

Head Office Plan – quarterly exception report

An update was provided on the progress against the milestones identified in the Head Office Plan, following the quarterly review for the period July to September 2019. The Board reviewed the exceptions and provided updates.

Update on UKRI Sustainability Strategy

NMB was advised that NERC is leading on the UKRI Sustainability Strategy. The paper provided an update on the Strategy and the next steps prior to a final proposal being submitted to the UKRI Board for approval in March 2020.

An external advisory board had been set up and met twice to review the strategy. One further meeting was planned to review the governance section.

A suggestion was made to engage employees with the strategy. Further comments from the Board would be sought offline.

Reputational risk management policy and process

The Board was informed that overall the process for reporting issues through to UKRI worked well. A couple of suggestions were made to ensure the processes were reinforced internally, particularly as part of the induction process for new starters and built into the funding gateway processes and decisions.

Approve NC Variant II for the NERC National Capability (NC) Variants to the UKRI T&Cs

The Board approved the revisions to the paperwork.

Annual Research Integrity Statement

NMB was advised that NERC's zero return for 2018/19 would feed into the overall UKRI return. Some parts of the policy were still being developed, therefore the next report would contain further updates.

It was noted that UKRI were in the process of setting up a Research Integrity Committee, which would independently verify whether each organisation had followed the processes to investigate misconduct.

Annual Report from the NERC-BAS Operations & Safety Assurance & Advisory Group ([NBOSAAG](#))

NMB noted the annual report, which had been presented to the NERC Assurance Board ([NAB](#)) the previous week.

Director- level Delegations

The Board noted the revised delegations, which had been updated in light of the UKRI and NERC Head Office re-organisation.

Matters arising from UKRI meetings

The Board was provided with updates from recent meetings.

Standing items

NMB also noted a couple of standing items including the monthly finance update, the risk register review and the rolling programme of business.

Date of next meeting

The next NERC Management Board meeting will be held on 19 November 2019.