

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF NERC COUNCIL 2015



In 2015, NERC commissioned the consultants Technopolis Ltd to undertake an independent review of the effectiveness of [NERC Council](#), in line with [Cabinet Office guidance](#) and the findings of the 2013 [Triennial Review of the Research Councils](#).

Key recommendations from the review are listed below. All are being/have been actioned by NERC Council and the NERC executive.

Key recommendations
<i>In relation to its composition, Council should:</i>
1. & 2. Have a strategic discussion as to the desirable structure and skills mix for its membership, in advance of future rounds of recruitment. Continue to seek a more diverse membership (esp. ethnicity)
<i>In relation to the induction and development of members, Council should:</i>
3. & 4. Improve support and learning opportunities offered to new members during their first year – reflecting the particular needs of the individual
5. Reintroduce a more substantive two-way annual appraisal process
<i>In relation to its roles and responsibilities, Council should:</i>
6. Explore opportunities for more ‘designated roles’ within Council, to give extra focus and maximise use of members’ time
7. Clarify its external engagement remit and appropriately support the ambassadorial and advocacy activities of its members
<i>As regards its relationships, Council should:</i>
8. Receive an update as to the specific roles and responsibilities of subsidiary / advisory bodies, and ensure it is content with oversight arrangements
9. Consider options to improve contact with the boards of other research councils
10. Consider a more formal and structured exchange with the BIS senior team
11. Continue holding the first part of meetings without the Exec present, and consider introducing similar arrangements for BIS
<i>In relation to the conduct and organisation of business, Council should:</i>
12. Consider introducing a more structured system of papers
13. Ask non-members to only attend for relevant items
14. Hold more of its meetings at its research institutes (<i>/ major universities</i>)
<i>In relation to communication, Council should:</i>
15. Increase its web presence and the transparency of its work through publishing minutes with digested highlights, as well as selected discussion documents