

Annex 12 – NERC Confidentiality Policy

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

MODERATING PANELS: CONFIDENTIALITY OF RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATIONS

Research grant applications are submitted to NERC in confidence and may contain confidential information and personal data belonging to the applicant. NERC undertakes to the applicants to keep applications confidential and not to use or disclose them except as required for the peer review/funding decision process or as is required under the Data Protection Act 1998 or the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (or any other law or regulation to which NERC is or may become subject).

Committee members may not disclose the fact that any of the enclosed grant applications have been submitted to NERC or any of the information contained in any of the applications to any person outside the Committee or otherwise involved in the peer review/funding decision process nor disclose or use the information in the grant applications for any purpose other than as part of NERC peer review/funding decision process. Committee members should destroy these papers as soon as possible after the meeting at which they will be discussed.

The Committee's comments on and grading of these applications will be recorded by NERC staff at the meeting at which they will be discussed. NERC will not use these minutes or gradings nor disclose them to any person or body except:

- as is necessary to record the decisions of the Committee and to inform any other person or body within the NERC or any other body that may be co-funding the applications as part of the funding decision process;
- to the applicant as part of NERC feedback to successful and unsuccessful applicants; or
- as may be required under the Data Protection Act 1998 or the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (or any other law or regulation to which NERC is or may become subject).

NERC will not attribute any comments that are disclosed under the Data Protection Act 1998 or the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to any individual Committee member, but the fact that you are a member of the one of the Moderating Panels is publicly available information.