



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

Office
Of The
President &
Vice-Chancellor.

The Senate, 12 October 2022

President & Vice-Chancellor's Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Report provides summary information on current and forthcoming developments, both internal and external, for the information of Senate members. The President & Vice-Chancellor will introduce the Report at the meeting and members will have the opportunity to raise questions. This report is structured around the University Vision's four Pillars and their respective priorities, after a section about the external environment. Where information relates to more than one Pillar or Priority it is included under the most relevant theme.

1. EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT

1.1 Implications of the Truss government for the University and the higher education sector

- Liz Truss MP was elected leader of the Conservative Party on 6 September and has assumed office as the UK Prime Minister. A briefing on the implications of the new government for the University was circulated to Council in September. Following the period of official mourning for HM Queen Elizabeth II, the government has now started to take action on immediate issues, including soaring energy prices and pressures on the health service. Other pressing issues include inflation, industrial action, the war in Ukraine, and escalating tensions with Western allies. Coupled with the relatively short time until a General Election must be called (January 2025 at the latest), the Truss government will be focused on the short term. It is unlikely HE policy will be a high priority for this government. The narrower margin of victory than predicted (57% to 43%) and reports that Truss will not seek to bring into her Cabinet MPs who backed Rishi Sunak in the contest mean she could face early challenges to her leadership and difficulty in implementing her policy programme. This was underlined by Conservative opposition to the Chancellor's 'mini budget' on 23 September.
- **Continued focus on rooting out poor quality courses**
The government is expected to continue DfE's focus on moving funding from poor quality degree courses to alternatives including vocational training, and on promoting freedom of speech and tackling anti-Semitism on campuses. Likewise, degree quality and outcomes are likely to remain the focus of the OfS, even if the way that it delivers regulation changes through Truss's campaign commitment to a "bonfire of the quangos". We continue to work with sector colleagues to influence the definition of quality and to make the case for the value of HE to society and the individual, as well as continuing to monitor compliance with the regulatory framework and feed in views on potential changes.
- **Reform to university admissions pledged but difficult to implement** During the leadership contest, Truss pledged to reform university admissions procedures so any applicant with three A*s at A level would automatically get an interview for Oxbridge. This would require a shift to Post Qualification

Admissions (PQA), which DfE ruled out earlier this year. The policy may not be implemented in its proposed form, though it gives an insight into how Truss's views on universities may be informed by her own experience, as an Oxford graduate. Education Secretary Kit Malthouse MP is a Newcastle graduate and may bring a different perspective, as well as a different style from recent post holders, given he is more inclined to work behind the scenes to achieve results and has been an advocate for the sector. We continue our broad programme of activity to improve access and participation in HE and communicate with policy makers about this work, as well as engaging with government on any proposals around PQA to highlight its significant challenges, like starting the first Semester later in the year.

- **Economic policy could mean less investment in universities**

Truss's broader economic policy ambitions to lower taxes to fuel growth and shrink the size of the state are at the forefront of the government's agenda, underlined by the Chancellor's statement of 23 September. These measures will require higher government borrowing, reduced public spending, or a combination of the two. Reduced government spending, coupled with the uncertainty over the UK's association with Horizon Europe, could see reduced investment in research and science, as well as challenges in reaching a sustainable HE funding model. The University will continue to work with the Russell Group and UUK to highlight the benefits of HE investment and press for UK association to Horizon Europe, or in the event of non-association, full commitment of the funding pot to international research collaboration.

1.2 **Office for Students to continue focus on quality, outcomes and attainment raising in university outreach activities**

- Susan Lapworth has been appointed as the Chief Executive of the OfS, following a period as the interim. Her appointment signals that the direction of travel for OfS will not be changing significantly and is expected to remain aligned with government policy, with a continuing focus on low-quality courses, grade inflation, free speech on campus, and student mental health.
- The OfS has also confirmed plans to monitor university courses on numerical outcome thresholds, including the proportion of graduates who go on to "professional" jobs and the number of students completing their courses. In proposals announced in January 2022, for full-time students studying a first degree, the numerical baselines would be 80 per cent of students to continue into the second year of study, 75 per cent to complete their qualification, and 60 per cent of students to go into managerial or professional employment or further study. Although the thresholds have not yet been confirmed, the OfS has said they will not be higher than these values. The revised condition of registration (condition B3) came into effect for all registered providers from 3 October 2022.
- The OfS has [announced](#) that the next phase of its Uni Connect programme will focus on attainment raising in schools. Uni Connect aims to increase the number of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds in England who enter higher education. The University is involved in [HeppSY](#), the Uni Connect partnership for South Yorkshire, whose work includes partnering with schools and colleges to raise attainment. This latest OfS announcement reflects the continued priority attached to universities' involvement in attainment raising by the regulator. Through HeppSY we prioritise collaborative approaches which support a strategic local infrastructure of education providers, strengthening evaluation and sharing of best practices while equipping young and adult learners to make informed choices about their options and minimising the barriers they face.

1.3 Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) to cease being Designated Quality Body (DQB) for England

- The QAA has announced that it will stop monitoring quality and standards in English universities in its role as the OfS' DQB from April 2023 in order to keep working in other countries. At present, the QAA has been temporarily suspended from the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) because the requirements of its DQB role are inconsistent with those for membership of the EQAR. QAA's decision to demit its DQB status will therefore enable it to regain its registration and continue to support members in England and the UK as well as engage with European partners. QAA's resignation as DQB could allow the OfS to extend its significant activity in the area of academic quality and standards, as evidenced by its recent consultations on the 'B' ongoing conditions of registration and its continuing interest in grade inflation.

2. EDUCATION

2.1. DELIVERY OF THE PORTFOLIO

2.1.1 Undergraduate Admissions

- The University expects to finish the 2022 recruitment cycle above our target for both home and international undergraduate students. This has been possible due to the gradual increase in applications, an increase in students accepting offers and attainment grades being above the level we anticipated based on Ofqual advice. As a result, we were able to recruit beyond our targets in some departments with capacity.
- High applicant attainment has also resulted in a couple of large cohorts in some of our most popular departments, with additional support being given to ensure a high quality learning and teaching experience for these students.
- We have also seen increased diversity with higher numbers of home students from underrepresented backgrounds through our contextual admissions policy and an increase in international students from a range of countries.
- UG recruitment has benefitted from a range of measures this year, including our well regarded City campaign in collaboration with Sheffield Hallam University and Sheffield City Council, portfolio enhancements such as establishing the School of Biosciences, measures to build on our excellent open day experience and other on-campus events, and work with schools to support students, teachers and parents. Whilst some of our recruitment this year has been influenced by competitor behaviour, we are also able to celebrate the work of colleagues across the institution in developing our UG offer and moving us towards our own student population aims.
- Confirmation and Clearing ran extremely smoothly this year and teams across IT Services have received thanks for the service that they provided. A multidisciplinary team is working across IT Services to support the start of teaching and Intro Week and ensure that we have a smooth start to the semester.

2.1.2 Postgraduate Taught Admissions

- We expect to finish the 2022 cycle marginally above target for international PGT but below that for home PGT students. International applications this year remained strong, but were below that expected from our home applicants. This home position is replicated across the sector as result of the buoyant graduate jobs market and increased travel opportunities.

- We have also seen greater diversity in our international PGT cohort as well as a desire to attend campus for their teaching and learning, with a return towards pre-Covid levels of application and expected registrations.

2.1.3 Postgraduate Research Admissions

- Postgraduate research applications struggled in the first half of the year with a range of difficulties for both home and international students in finding funding support. Although both home and international applications partially recovered, the expected intake is below target. However, PGR students can start their programme throughout the year and numbers are expected to increase in the coming months.
- Over the summer, the [Sheffield Undergraduate Research Experience \(SURE\)](#) scheme welcomed its largest ever cohort of undergraduate student researchers. 184 students undertook a 6 week research project in June/July, including the largest ever proportion of students from WP groups. This year's scheme was supported by additional funding streams including, the Yorkshire Consortium for Equity in Doctoral Education, Research England, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, and direct funding from departments and faculties.

2.1.4 Registration

- A new [welcome hub](#) was provided for new and returning students

2.1.5 Student recruitment and marketing

- We ran a strong pre-Clearing digital advertising campaign aimed at high achieving students across social media and digital platforms. As a result, advance registrations for Clearing increased by 36% on 2021. Our Clearing UCAS campaign generated a 76% increase in click-throughs to our website from 2021. Overall recruitment through Clearing was strong, with many high achieving applicants choosing to joining us.
- The Schools Liaison Team has recruited four new Recruitment Assistants, who are recent University graduates, as part of our commitment to improving graduate outcomes. The team already has over 250 interactions with target schools booked for 2022-23; 100 higher than the same point last year.
- Sign-ups to our Summer open day from digital advertising increased by 122% and high numbers of prospective students attended the first autumn open day on 10 September. The autumn open days are distributed across three events into November to reflect shifting applicant behaviour. Feedback from "mystery shoppers" at our July open day showed a significant improvement compared to 2021 as well as identifying other opportunities. During September and October we have been evaluating 20 of our key competitors' pre-application open days, with a view to further improving our own events.
- In the run up to A Level results day media coverage was secured in several national outlets.
- The Sheffield City Campaign was launched in partnership with Sheffield City Council and Sheffield Hallam University. The campaign aims to help prospective students discover what makes Sheffield a distinct destination to live and study, with media coverage, social media and an advertising campaign throughout the Midlands and South East.

2.1.6 Annual Planning Cycle

- Action plans have been completed by all departments, faculties and groups for 2022/23 and have informed objective setting in this summer's staff appraisal (SRDS) processes.
- In January an optional mid-year progress review will be undertaken by a pilot group of departments to develop good practice. All departments, faculties and groups will be supported to review progress and write their 2023/24 annual action plan in May / June 2023, for review by UEB in July 2023.
- Work continues to define the student population objectives for specific cohorts at the University. This follows UEB approval of our strategic objectives for all main cohorts. Following a review of our current apprenticeship provision, communications have been sent to staff, students and key partners of the outcome:
 - The University is committed to developing our apprenticeship provision in the AMG (AMRC Training Centre) and Health Sciences (Nursing).
 - To support this focus it has been agreed that smaller provisions in the Management School and in Psychology should be taught out and recruitment of new cohorts stopped.

Work is currently underway to review our online provision, with UEB expected to discuss the in January. Work to review short courses (including CPD) is expected to commence in early 2023, followed by reviews of other remaining cohorts, such as part time

2.1.7 National/International Performance Metrics/League Tables

▪ The Times University League Table

The University of Sheffield is ranked 20th in the UK, an increase of two places compared to 2021. This equates to 14th in the Russell Group, also an improvement of two places. Since 2019, our ranking has improved by 5 places, which, along with York, is the best performance among our competitor group. In the sector, Leeds has fallen by 8 places since last year and 12 since 2019, while Exeter and Surrey have both reversed recent declines.

Subject areas ranked in the top five include Nursing (2nd), General Engineering (3rd), Town Planning & Landscape (3rd), Materials (4th), Architecture (4th) and Communication & Media (4th). Subject areas in the top ten in the sector include Mechanical Engineering, Dentistry, Music and Electrical Engineering.

▪ QS World University Rankings Analysis

The QS World University Rankings is a major influencer for international student recruitment and the University's Reputation KPI includes a target to be in the QS Top 100. The University's place within these rankings has been declining in recent years and it is likely that the University will fall out of the QS Top 100 over the next few years.

The ranking is calculated on the basis of six metrics: Academic Reputation, Citations per Faculty, Faculty/Student Ratio, Employer Reputation, International Faculty Ratio and International Student Ratio.

The University's Reputation Group, chaired by the Vice Chancellor, commissioned and received an analysis into our position and ability to influence/improve our ranking.

The Academic Reputation metric offers the greatest scope to improve our overall rank, followed by the Employer Reputation metric (albeit weighted

lower). The Citations per Faculty score is the main reason for our fall in rank, however the underlying reasons are unclear (due to the data set we receive).

Work is underway to improve the Academic Reputation metric through improved communication and engagement with the recipients of the reputation survey. In addition, work is being undertaken to understand the potential impact of falling out of the QS Top 100.

The Reputation Group has commissioned similar analysis to be undertaken on the Times and Guardian League tables, which will be completed during 2022/23.

2.1.8 Student Support Services

▪ **Reconsidering our Student Mental Health, Counselling & Psychological Therapies provision.**

The experience of delivering services during the pandemic has led many services to reflect on their practice and delivery models. In response to this and a range of other factors including:

- increasing pressures on students (the impact of Covid and cost of living crisis);
- increased demand, particularly for digital delivery;
- increased complexity of issues;
- the impact of pressures on the NHS;
- the introduction of the faculty-based Wellbeing Service (from March 2020 in response to demand for Mental Health support outstripping supply) and how this has impacted on clinical health services,

Student Support Services, led by our Counselling and Student Access to Mental Health Services (SAMHS) teams, have completed a review and redesign of services. A [consultation document](#) sets out:

1. The drivers for change
2. The consultation process that was undertaken to engage all key stakeholders
3. The changes that are beginning to be implemented

This report has endorsement from the Student Support Services Core Leadership Team and Extended Leadership Team and is being considered at the One University Cabinet on 26th September ahead of a full programme of communication to departments and faculties. Subject to discussion by the One University leadership team, over the next few months, a retitled Student Mental, Counselling and Therapies Service will be delivering against the themes outlined, with the new service fully operational by the end of 2022, with further evaluation to be undertaken from January 2023 onwards.

2.1.9 VC Awards

- The [winners](#) of the inaugural [Vice Chancellor's Awards for Learning and Teaching](#) were announced at an Education celebration event at the end of June. These awards have replaced the Senate Awards and the scheme is designed to encourage, promote and celebrate good practice and raise the status of teaching and learning as a scholarly and inspirational activity. There are eight award categories: teaching practice; doctoral supervision; personal tutoring and student welfare; approaches to inclusivity and diversity; employability; digital innovation; leadership; collaborative services.

2.1.10 Global Engagement

- In June 2022, a delegation, including academics from SchARR and Geography, visited the University of Ghana, funded by the Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility programme. The aim was to deepen research collaborations under the theme of global health for academic staff through training and teaching activities, to build capacity in research management and to gain a broader understanding of the University of Ghana research and capacity building priorities. A Wellcome Trust research proposal is now in development. 63 travel mobility awards were made for staff and PhD mobilities between the universities as part of a €236,000 Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility programme.
- In May 2022, the University welcomed a senior delegation from the University of Technology Sydney. UTS joined the Worldwide Universities Network this year, and the aim of the visit was to explore opportunities to work together both within WUN and bilaterally.
- For the final ever round of Erasmus+ staff mobilities, 39 have been offered. Demand was far higher than previously seen with 90 applications rather than the expected 50-60 applications.
- The University was represented at this, the largest international gathering for brokering student exchanges with partner universities. This was our first opportunity to meet partners in person since September 2019. Although the event was smaller in scale, it attracted 6,000 delegates from 90 countries. 42 meetings were held over 3 and a half days to refresh existing relationships, explore new relationships, and explore new opportunities.

2.1.11 Ukraine

- As part of the UUKi national twinning programme, the University has been formally twinned with Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute (KPI) in Ukraine. We have discussed research collaborations and donating laboratory equipment, as well as learning and teaching support around programme accreditation and English language support. We have made considerable progress with connecting the libraries at the respective institutions and sharing our online library resources. We also continue to explore opportunities, including student exchanges, student union and societies support, and areas of academic collaboration. We have also donated £20,000 to help build an air-raid shelter at KPI.

2.2 DIGITAL EXPERIENCE

2.2.1 IT Services

- The new 22/23 delivery of TEF has started in earnest and whilst speed in delivery has been constrained by recruitment issues and prioritisation required across shared areas, progress is good. The CIS work has now transitioned into the Student Roadmap and work is continuing well. The infrastructure work to improve the data centres and to establish the Network Transformation portfolio will deliver in line with expectations.
- A recent audit was successfully completed and the Cyber Essentials+ certification for the Assured Computing service has been renewed for another year.
- A new assessment of Technology capability debt and risk heat map has been developed to better understand challenges and work needs to be targeted across TEF roadmap areas this year.

3. RESEARCH

3.1 RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

3.1.1 Research Awards

- See section 6, Finance, below

3.1.2 Research Development

- We have agreed a definition of research excellence with UEB that will be embedded into existing University mechanisms and processes, such as the ACP, this year. The definition focuses both on the output and impact of our research, but also on the process of undertaking it. The Open Research movement grew out of concerns in some research communities about the reproducibility and replicability of research results. We are members of the UK Reproducibility Network, an academic-led organisation which aims to develop approaches to ensure UK research remains trustworthy, that training is available and good practice is shared. Our Academic Practice Lead, Dr Tom Stafford, works with UKRN and is active across the University in seeking to understand what local support is needed and where good practice exists.
- As a signatory to the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers (which is aimed primarily at fixed-term post-doctoral researchers), we have an excellent track record of practice. We have recently launched an [action plan](#), overseen by the University's Early Career Researcher Committee, on our public website as an advert for the positive work we have done and have planned.
- Research Culture, the human environment in which research takes place, is a shared focus for universities, funders and Government. We have confirmation of £850,000 from Research England as part of our QR allocation for 22/23, ring-fenced to deliver improvements in our research culture. A Steering Board, chaired by the Deputy VP-Research will oversee prioritisation of projects. There is already a focus on WP for PGRs, with the aim of diversifying our home PGR community, and on creating a researcher development programme aimed at mid-career researchers.

3.1.3 Cultural Update

- Now in its tenth year, Festival of the Mind returned to Sheffield for 11 days of free events open to all including activities, talks, performances and exhibitions. The Festival sees University academics collaborating with Sheffield's cultural, creative and digital industries to help bring their research to life in innovative and exciting ways. The first Saturday of the Festival brought more than 2,000 people to the Spiegeltent in Barker's Pool, Futurecade in the Millennium Gallery and Event Central, a refurbished building on Fargate currently under development by Sheffield City Council as part of the Future High Street Funding which the University supported.

4. INNOVATION

4.1 INNOVATION IMPACT

4.1.1 Success and Achievement

- Siemens has selected us to be in its top tier of innovation partners as part of its new global research and innovation ecosystem. We will now be one of seven universities in this tier (with Birmingham, Cambridge, Manchester, Nottingham, Oxford and Newcastle) and recognises our longstanding relationship on a range of innovation and graduate skills projects.

- Boeing has become the founding member of the University of Sheffield's new Energy Innovation Centre to drive the development of sustainable aviation fuels (SAF). The new research partnership will develop new low carbon technologies and offers partners from industry access to two of the University's newest research facilities - the Sustainable Aviation Fuels Innovation Centre (SAF-IC) and the Translational Energy Research Centre- at the University of Sheffield Innovation District. The partnership builds on Boeing's long standing relationship with the University and its presence in South Yorkshire.

4.2 ADVANCED MANUFACTURING GROUP

- An Economic Impact Analysis report from Lichfields has captured the economic benefits attributable to the University's AMRC during its first 20 years of operation. The report found that some of the biggest private sector investments into UK advanced manufacturing over the last 15 years ' would not have happened without the AMRC' and confirmed it to be a 'signature asset' bringing over £260m and 600 jobs to South Yorkshire.

5. ONE UNIVERSITY

5.1 COLLABORATIVE AND SUPPORTIVE CULTURE

5.1.1 Staff Survey

- The University launched a confidential all staff survey on 12 September, run by our partners Hive and open for three weeks, to gather feedback from as wide a staff population as possible on their experience of working here and to inform actions at University and Department level to improve that experience.
- As at 21 September we have had a response rate of 23% of staff and we are continuing to encourage participation via Heads of Department and line managers.
- Results are being shared at University, Faculty and Department levels as well as sharing quantitative data at department level with our trade union colleagues.

5.2 SENIOR STAFF RECRUITMENT AND KEY APPOINTMENTS

- Professor Geraint Jewell has been appointed as the Interim Head of the Advanced Manufacturing Group (AMG) on a fractional basis, from 18 July 22 to 18 January 2023, with a possibility to extend with mutual consent. This appointment followed the departure of Professor Dave Petley who took up the post of Vice-Chancellor at the University of Hull from August 2022.
- Professor Ashley Blom commenced the role of Vice-President and Head of Faculty- Medicine, Dentistry and Health from 1 October. Professor Blom is currently the Head of the Medical School at the University of Bristol. He is a Doctor of Medicine, Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery by training and is an NIHR Senior Investigator and a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences. He currently leads the Orthopaedic workstreams into Surgical Innovation in the University of Bristol Biomedical Research Centre. Professor Blom is past President of the European Orthopaedic Research Society and is member of both the Education and Specialist Societies Committees of the European Federation of National Associations of Orthopaedics and Traumatology. Professor Blom took over from Professor Chris Newman, who will continue as Dean of the Medical School.
- Dr Tony Strike retired from the post of University Secretary on 30 September. We wish him all the best in his retirement.
- Jeannette Strachan took up the role of Interim University Secretary on 1 October 2022. Jeanette was previously a Principal Consultant at SUMS

Management Consultancy, a specialist Higher Education Consultancy firm. She has an impressive track record in senior governance roles at a number of institutions and an excellent reputation in the sector. As a Principal Consultant at SUMS she undertook a range of projects and governance reviews for different HEI institutions, both in the UK and Europe. Prior to joining SUMS, Jeanette was University Secretary and Registrar at the University of Hull and held senior positions at Newcastle University (Academic Registrar/ Director of Student and Academic Services), St George’s University of London (Secretary and Academic Registrar), University College London (Director of Student Financial Support and Welfare) and City University (Head of Academic Services). The recruitment campaign for the substantive role is due to be launched early next year.

- Joanne Chetwynd has been appointed as an Interim Commercial Lawyer/Negotiator in the Department of Finance with effect from 11 July 2022, previously Head of Vendor Management and Service Delivery at Rolls Royce.
- Dr Subhasish Modak Chowdhury has been appointed as a Chair in Economics in the Department of Economics with effect from 1 September 2022, previously a Reader at the University of Bath.
- Professor Thomas Baldwin has been appointed as Head of the School of Languages and Cultures in the Faculty of Arts & Humanities with effect from 1 September 2022, previously a Reader in French at the University of Kent.

5.3 SUSTAINABILITY

5.3.1 Climate Change Conference

- The University successfully won a bid to host Fulbright Students and Scholars, and Gilman Scholars (prestigious US scholarship recipients) for a three-day Climate Change Conference in June 2022, with over 60 US scholars attending. It was attended by the Cultural Attache from the US embassy, and several staff from Fulbright and Gilman, strengthening relations with these important organisations, and laying foundations for future collaborations.

5.4 PHILANTHOPHY

5.4.1 Alumni Engagement and Volunteering

Planning Phase	Actuals/Target by Year			Volunteer hours	Forecast
Financial year	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21		
Volunteering hours (alumni and friends)**	12,500	9,000	12,000 (10,000)	33,500	29,500
Volunteering hours (students)***	8,700	27,700	20,500 (10,000)	56,900	46,500
	21,200	36,700	32,500 (20,000)	90,400	76,000

Private Phase	Actuals/Target by Year			Volunteer hours	Forecast
Financial year	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24		
Volunteering hours (alumni and friends)**	18,400 (12,000)	55 (13,000)	(15,000)	18,455	40,000
Volunteering hours (students)***	33,500 (20,000)	0 (20,000)	(20,000)	33,500	60,000
	51,900 (32,000)	55 (33,000)	(35,000)	51,955	100,000

Overall Campaign totals	Total volunteer hours to date	Campaign target
Volunteering hours (alumni and friends)**	51,955	80,000
Volunteering hours (students)***	90,400	120,000
	142,355	200,000

** 'Friends' are defined as non-alumni who are not TUoS staff.

*** Data on student volunteer hours covers the period 01.08.18 – 30.06.22. Further data on student volunteer hours will be included in subsequent reports as it becomes available.

- The 2022 Boardroom series is underway. Eight leadership workshops are being delivered by 12 globally leading alumni to 30 new University graduates.
- 20 Alumni supported the student recruitment 'Discover' projects over the summer, networking with prospective students from local schools.
- Five inspirational alumni are providing case studies for distribution via social media, as part of activities around Black History Month.
- Northern City Connections is scheduled for November, with three business visits hosted by Arts and Humanities alumni in Sheffield and an alumni networking event scheduled for the evening.

6. FINANCE

6.1 RESEARCH

Research Awards

- The total value of new awards for the 12 months to the end of August 2022 now stand at £144.3m. This is a decrease of £64.1m (30.8%) on the £208.4m in August 2021.
- There has been a fall in the total number of awards opened. For the 12 months to the end of August 2022, the number of new awards opened stood at 831 compared to 1139 as at August 2021. The biggest decrease in numbers of awards is UK Government, down by 159 to 209, and RCUK, down by 112 to 190. The number of Overseas (Non EU Framework) awards has increased by 21.
- The value of new awards for the 12 months to August 2022 has fallen across all funder categories apart from Charities which have increased by £0.7m. The biggest falls are in UK Government, RCUK and EU Framework awards of £28.3m, £18.8m and £11.7m respectively.

- The fall in the numbers and values of awards are explained by several factors: there were 2 RCUK and 2 UK Government awards in excess of £5m each in the August 2021 figures compared to only 1 RCUK award for over £5m in the 12 months to August 2022. In August 2021 there were 75 awards relating to COVID 19 including extra funding and extensions to projects whereas in August 22 there were only 27. There were 108 fewer AMRC Catapult awards with a lower total combined value of £11m in August 2022 compared to August 2021. The number of EU Framework awards opened in the last 12 months is 10 compared to 35 in the 12 months to August 2021 because of continued delays in the receipt of new Horizon Europe funding due to UK and EU contract negotiations. The Government is offering a Horizon Europe guarantee scheme through UKRI whilst these discussions continue- some awards have now been opened with UKRI as the funder.
- Looking ahead, there is a good pipeline of new awards. There are an additional 33 applications and an additional value of £21.5m of notifications of successful applications in August 2022 compared with August 21. This includes €3.9m of successful Horizon Europe applications in August 2022 compared to €0.7m in August 21. There is also a further £4.7m of AMRC Catapult 22/23 award outside this pipeline.
- In the 3 months since the last report, there have been 7 awards for over £1m, the largest being £2.2m from UKRI to the Faculty of Science.
- The value of the Research Net Contribution is £35.5m for the 12 months to August 2022 compared to £52.9m for the 12 months to August 2021 a decrease of £17.4m (32.9%)
- As of August 2022, research grants work in progress (research order book) which excludes capital projects, stands at £336.4m which is a decrease of £28.1m on the work in progress figure of £364.5m recorded in August 2021.

7. LEGAL AND REGULATORY MATTERS

7.1 REPORTABLE EVENTS

- Since the previous report to Senate the OfS has been informed of changes to the membership of the University's Council.