

The Senate, 11 December 2024

President & Vice-Chancellor's Report – Main 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. The report now comprises two parts, the main report and a supplementary report with additional information and updates, available in the Reading Room.

1. EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT

1.1 Government plans significant reform of higher education sector, with spending plans for rest of term due in Spring 2025 to possibly include further tax rises and spending cuts

- On 30 October, the Chancellor set out Departmental budgets for 2025-26, and made changes to this year's spending plans (2024/25), as well setting out overall government spending levels for the rest of the Parliament. Departmental allocations for the 3 years from 2026 will be made in spring 2025, with the University working together with the sector to influence these (likely to include further taxation or borrowing to increase 'unrealistically low spending plans', [JFS](#)).
- The Budget saw significant increases in taxes, spending and borrowing, as well as a change to the way the government views debt, meaning student loans that are expected to be paid back are seen as an asset. The Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson subsequently [announced](#) an inflation-based increase in the £9,250 undergraduate home fee cap to £9,535 for 2025/26, alongside a statement about the government's intentions for significant reform of the higher education sector, noting that further 'investment can come only with the promise of major reform.' The University is working to ensure our planning in response to income shortfalls is done with an understanding of the government's plans in this area, alongside the implementation of the recommendations of the Behan review of the Office for Students (see the [previous External Environment report to Senate](#) for more detail).
- The 3.1% rise in the tuition fee means this income for the sector is effectively at stand still as the rise is the same amount as the inflation rate. The Employer National Insurance Contribution rise and threshold changes announced in the Budget add further costs for

universities. Student loans will increase in line with inflation for 2025/26 and Phillipson confirmed the ‘classroom based’ Foundation Year fee cut to £5,760 (as announced by the previous government) will apply from 2025/26.

- Phillipson’s statement set out Government’s plans for reform of the higher education sector in five broad areas **where we expect legislation and funding levers to be used to achieve change:**
 - expanding access and improving outcomes for disadvantaged students
 - raising teaching standards
 - increasing universities’ contribution to local economic growth
 - playing a greater civic role in their communities
 - Making efficiencies
- More detail is expected in the coming months, and the University will engage with this policy-development process, alongside sector groups like Universities UK, whose blueprint for change, [Opportunity, growth and partnership](#), was published earlier this year.
- [The Budget](#) saw a slight increase in research and development funding for 2025/26, following [rumours of a cut](#). The University worked with local political stakeholders to raise our concerns with the Chancellor, and whilst our attempts to stop the R&D budget cut were successful for this one-year settlement, we anticipate further scrutiny of research budgets going forward, with a particular emphasis on transparency in the use of this funding and evidence of the return on government's investment.

1.2 Industrial Strategy priority areas expected to drive government policy and spending across multiple sectors

- The Government has published its [Industrial Strategy proposals](#) for consultation in a [Green Paper](#). The aim of the proposed plan is “to ease the investor journey and create long-term, inclusive, secure and sustainable growth”. The Labour government has a mission to become the fastest growing economy in the G7 and the Industrial Strategy will be a central part, but not the entirety, of how the Government looks to achieve this mission. Having an Industrial Strategy is a political choice for the government to, in the words of the proposals, “more actively direct the structure of the economy”. It identifies eight “growth-driving sectors” to be prioritised, based on both existing and emerging strengths: advanced manufacturing; clean energy industries; creative industries; defence; digital and technologies; financial services; life sciences; professional and business services.
- Having an Industrial Strategy could mean a re-prioritisation of research budgets towards its priorities, to the detriment of other research areas, but the size of the overall research budget could be reduced. The University will continue to make the case for the importance of R&D funding to underpin the Industrial Strategy and to increasing economic growth, including suggested changes universities and government could make to this end. The University responded to the consultation and the final Industrial Strategy will be published in spring 2025, alongside the multi-year Spending Review.

1.3 Employers will need to fund Level 7 (Masters) apprenticeships with apprenticeship policy ‘rebalanced’ towards younger learners; limited impact on the University

- One of the few policy headlines from the Labour Party’s annual Conference was the Prime Minister’s announcement that the Growth and Skills Levy replacing the current Apprenticeship Levy will [focus on boosting opportunities for young learners](#). The Growth and Skills Levy was a Labour [manifesto](#) commitment to allow employers to use funds on both apprenticeship and non-apprenticeship training.
- The Growth and Skills Levy will 'rebalance' apprenticeship funding towards younger learners, in line with the Labour manifesto promise of a 'youth guarantee', with employers now required to fund more Level 7 apprenticeships outside of the Levy. Foundation apprenticeships will be introduced, although details on this route are yet to be confirmed. The training that can be accessed under the Levy will be informed by [Skills England’s](#) assessment of priority skills needs. The University has limited Level 7 apprenticeship provision and is engaging with the government about how the announcement will be implemented in practice, as well as engaging in detailed work around the government’s skills agenda and opportunities and risks within it.

1.4 Kemi Badenoch wins Conservative leadership race; policy direction as yet unclear

- Kemi Badenoch MP is the new leader of the Conservative party, beating Robert Jenrick MP in a vote of the party’s membership by 53,806 votes to 41,388. Badenoch chose not to set out detailed policies during her campaign, focusing instead on returning the Conservatives to 'first principles'. Her decision to offer three of her former leadership rivals [senior roles in her shadow cabinet](#) also suggests the policy direction of the party is to be determined, taking into account differing views.
- Laura Trott MP is the new Shadow Education Secretary, with Neil O’Brien MP appointed shadow Education Minister. O’Brien has previously described the Graduate visa as '[a disaster we were warned about](#)'. The Conservatives are therefore anticipated to apply political pressure to the Government in relation to international students. The University will work to influence the direction of Conservative party policy, including together with sector bodies.

2. EDUCATION

2.1 DELIVERY OF THE PORTFOLIO

2.1.1 Registration of New Students (as of 4 November)

- As of 4 November, the University had registered 10,472 new students (FPE) against a target of 12,855. This is 2,383 (-18.5%) students below target across all cohorts in the institution.
- When counting all student registrations (new and continuing students) this totals a student population size of 27,915 FPE in the 2024-25 academic year, compared to 30,233 FPE in 2023-24 (1 Dec 2023 census).
- The total population normally shows little variation between this snapshot and the 1 December census point, although a small number of further registrations and

withdrawals are expected. We will receive further postgraduate research students as the academic year progresses.

- The table below shows that the University has largely met its target for undergraduate and postgraduate home, but has fallen short across all other cohorts, most notably for overseas targets. This has a significant financial implication for the University, for which a range of mitigating actions have been identified and are being implemented.
- Table 1: New Student Registrations Against Targets:

Category	2024 intake target (at 1 December census) (FPE)	2024 registrations (at 4 November 2024) (FPE)	% variance between registrations and target
Undergraduate Home (UGH)	4,728	4,739	+0.2%
Undergraduate Overseas (UGO)	1,383	1,006	-27.3%
Postgraduate Taught Home (PGTH)	1,621	1,552	-4.3%
Postgraduate Taught Overseas (PGTO)	4,426	2,707	-38.8%
Postgraduate Research Home (PGRH)	403	324	-19.6%
Postgraduate Research Overseas (PGRO)	294	144	-51%

- Data source: Reporting Service New Registrations vs Intake Targets.

2.1.2 Redevelopment of strategic objectives for the student population and intake targets

- The international recruitment environment is changing with projected downturns in youth populations and various difficult economic conditions in key overseas markets which are putting pressures on student recruitment. The University has also dropped out of the QS World Top 100, which is a factor in international applicant decision making.
- The outcome is that the University expects to admit smaller international student populations in future years. This is expected to be a long-term position.
- In light of this, UEB have refreshed the strategic objectives which outline our medium-term aims for the student population, encompassing all student and apprentice cohorts at the University of Sheffield. These strategic objectives are designed to support our aspirations for Research, Innovation and Education.
- The key underpinning principles are:
 - We will attract high achieving applicants from all backgrounds
 - We will work to increase the diversity of our student and apprentice body
 - We will help ensure the financial health of the University through generating sustainable income that meets our needs.

- As a result of the refreshed strategic objectives, associated intake targets are being reset in Autumn 2024. This is to ensure that they reflect the changes in the environment and are realistic for internal planning and financial forecasting.

2.1.3 Undergraduate Admissions

- UG Home applications remain positive (+10% excluding Medicine/Dentistry) resulting in 20% more offers and 9% more acceptances compared to this point last year. The UCAS on-time deadline for Medicine and Dentistry courses has now passed and these numbers should remain the same throughout the cycle until we begin issuing offers in February/March 2025 post interview.
- UG Overseas applications are broadly in line with last year (-1%) with an encouraging offer pool (+11%), however, it is important to note that the reduced USIC IFY pipeline is not currently included in the figures and will further shape the expected admissions position pre-UCAS equal consideration date in January 2025.
- In-cycle UCAS data shows that our recovery of overall market share continues with increases in the number of applicant's (+18.1% home/overseas) compared with the sector (+2.2%) and competitor group (+1%). This is underpinned by notable growth in UK applications (+23.7%) compared with the sector (+1.3%) and competitor group (-1.6%).

2.1.4 Postgraduate Taught Admissions

- We continue to see an increase in PGT Home applications (+42%) compared with last year, however, the overall number of applications is still relatively small (258). Offers are increasing at around the same rate and accepts are still significantly higher. As per previous cycles the majority of applicant's engage in admissions activity for PG Home much later.
- PGT Overseas applications remain down (-43%) compared with this point last year, continuing the overall decline from the end of last cycle. The offers (-18%) and accepts (-25%) position represents the actions taken to maximise our applicant pool noting these figures also include a proportion of deferred applicants. As we move through the cycle, the increased ratio of applications receiving an offer will more accurately reflect the impact of changes to decision making criteria for PGT applications.
- With the removal of Staged Admissions in its entirety and with the planned implementation of additional recommendations approved by UEB, the efforts to maximise PGTO recruitment and to focus on applicant/agent needs and a reduction in waste continue apace.
- Northwest University of Political Science and Law (NWUPL):
Global Engagement hosted the Vice President of NWUPL on Wednesday 9 October. The visit was to discuss the existing postgraduate entry agreement with Law, and assess whether this could be extended to include the School of Economics and Management School. The visit was a success and NWUPL commended all those who organised and attended the visit for the robust and thorough agenda. Talks are now taking place for follow-up visits to NWUPL, and to expand the postgraduate entry agreement to include Economics and Management.

2.1.5 Student Recruitment and Marketing

- Pre-application UG open days: 2,716 prospective students attended our October open day and our combined attendance for June-October stands at 11,362 prospective students which is up 1,775 or +19% on 2023. Bookings for our final event on 23 November are currently up 27% on this point last year. Much of this increase in sign ups can be attributed to an improvement in advertising performance of 97% where there was a direct call to action to sign up for open days, which is a result of a new approach with our new supplier.
- Also contributing to this increase in prospective students visiting us, is an increase in leads gathered at our weekly UG and PG online event offer, 'Sheffield Live' has started for the new cycle with numbers up so far by 238, or +126% compared with 2023. These sessions target both home and international audiences.
- A survey of 570 UGH applicants confirmed the need to continue with a printed prospectus for the 2026 cycle. The publication will carry an exciting new creative concept which will stand out in the marketplace and this will be complemented by an online city offer to meet both prospective student needs, and deliver targeted cost savings.
- Our UG -PGT progression is significantly below the sector average of 30% (HESA 2022 data). Therefore our PGTH focus this year will be on improving our progression rate. More information on this will be shared in future updates. UCAS fairs and an increase in numbers of schools engaged with, along with other incremental improvements in direct communications, enquiry handling and our increased reputational presence in the marketing place through our reputation and city campaigns. By improving every touchpoint since the start of the new service in February, we have seen this remarkable increase in students visiting us and this has pulled through to our continuing positive UGH applications picture.

2.1.6 Turing Report 2023-24

- In 2023-24 we funded 203 mobilities using Turing funding. 47% of these mobilities were by students who met Turing Scheme criteria for disadvantage and were therefore highly unlikely to have undertaken those mobilities without the financial support provided by this scheme. We sent students to 129 different university partners. Although we only received less than 50% of the budget allocated in 2022/23, we increased the participation rate of students who met Turing Scheme criteria from 33% to 47%. We also prioritised funding for those who met the University of Sheffield's own WP criteria. This was an additional 49 students, meaning that, overall, 70% of participants met either Turing or University of Sheffield WP criteria.

2.1.7 Revised Approach to Academic Tutoring

- The University Senate approved a [revised approach to academic tutoring](#) in May 2024, to replace what was formerly known as personal and academic tutoring. Academic departments and schools have started to implement the revised policy from Semester 1 2024-25, with the policy to be fully implemented by the end of 2025-26. For this academic year, schools and departments are focusing on:
 - scheduling at least the minimum required number of tutorials for each taught student,
 - raising awareness of the academic tutoring among staff and students,

- ensuring all academic tutors have completed new mandatory training.
- As of 21 October 2024, 19 out of our 25 schools and departments have confirmed that over 80% of academic tutors have completed the mandatory training, with 15 confirming a 90% completion rate.

2.2 EMPLOYABILITY

2.2.1 New Placement System

- The new Student Placement System (InPlace), is now live and will be used to manage all year long placements across the University. This system ensures standardised administration and management of placement year activity; providing a consistent experience for all stakeholders (professional services staff, academic staff, placement providers and students).
- The new Student Placement System reduces the overall risk level of placement year activity placed on the University with standardised, compulsory health and safety checks, and a storage facility for all Non-Disclosure Agreements between the University, the Placement Provider and students.
- Under a One University approach, the new Student Placement System will ensure all information relating to placement year activity across faculties is accessible in one location, and predefined and custom reporting tools will enable staff to quickly report on all relevant details. Several automations within the system will reduce the overall administrative load of managing the required placement year processes; highly beneficial as the University seeks to grow the annual number of students participating in the placement year offer.
- All staff who are responsible for approving placements have received training on the new Student Placement System, and students will now be able to access the system via MUSE and complete all required details of their placements.

2.2.2 Online CV support

- The Careers and Employability Service has introduced a [new online CV checking tool, CareerSet](#) (for students and graduates), which utilises AI to give instant feedback and advice on CVs and cover letters. It is used throughout the sector and comes well recommended. Over 1200 students have already used it since it launched at the end of September and we anticipate many more will benefit over the next few months.

3. RESEARCH

3.1 RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

3.1.1 Research Awards

- See section 6, Finance, below.

3.1.2 Research Development

- As part of our plans to deliver research excellence, we have undertaken a review of our research centres. We have identified [cross faculty Centres of Excellence](#), as well as externally funded and faculty-based centres. We can use this as part of our work to increase our visibility and improve reputation. Colleagues from the Institute for Sustainable Food have successfully secured a [£38M grant](#) with co-leads at the University

of Leeds, looking at sustainable alternatives to animal protein in our diet. This complements our recent spin-out company [Renew Food](#).

3.1.3 PGR Students

- There is pressure in the sector on funding for PhD students. We have recently successfully renewed two of our collaborative Doctoral Training Partnerships funded by UKRI and have secured a third new focal award, also from UKRI. There will be increasing competition for these funds and our success is not guaranteed, so these renewals are significant achievements.

4. INNOVATION

4.1 CITY, CULTURE AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

4.1.1 Regional Innovation

- University social scientists featured in this year's national Festival of Social Science. Funded by the Economic & Social Research Council (ESRC), the family-friendly festival included 17 projects showcased through exhibitions, debates, games, films and workshops around the theme of 'our digital lives'.
- Being Human is a national festival funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) focused on celebrating the humanities. University academics took part in engaging talks and workshops as well as a unique exhibition featuring images from the Peak District's historical archive in partnership with the Peak District National Park.
- A successful Off the Shelf Festival of Words was delivered by the University with 130 events reaching approximately 21,000 people (to date). Ticket sales generated income in excess of £65,000 (net) and other external revenue from Arts Council England and Sheffield Hallam University amounted to more than £85,000. The festival had a strong focus on celebrating diversity with strands curated by Race Equality Officer, Ruth McDonald, highlighting hidden figures from Sheffield's African-Caribbean communities; events focused on black women writers and LGBTQ+ writing/writers and a partnership with Headline publishers focusing on hidden disabilities in publishing. Academic input enhanced many of these events including Dr Yinka Olusoga in conversation with David Olusoga interviewed by Prof Hugo Dobson from East Asian Studies; Dr Nozomi Uematsu (East Asian Studies) in conversation with Asako Yuzuki in a collaboration with the Japan Foundation.

4.1.2 Partnerships and Knowledge Exchange

- The University of Sheffield has launched a new collaboration with John Crane, a global leader in rotating equipment solutions and energy transition technologies and services, to advance high performance sealing technologies that are crucial for the transition to low-carbon and clear energy. The partnership includes the funding of two PhD projects and is designed to be long-term, with plans to fund additional PhDs in subsequent years as well as engage in contract research projects and short projects for master's students.
- [VC North America Visit](#): In October, the Vice-Chancellor led a delegation visit to our strategic partners in North America, including Penn State University (Energy Institute strategic partner), the University of Washington in Seattle and University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada. The purpose of the visit was to meet with senior leadership teams to emphasise our commitment to building a stronger bilateral partnership and to sign

institutional-level memorandums of understanding. The visit was a success on all fronts, leading to renewed senior engagement across all 3 institutions.

4.2 ADVANCED MANUFACTURING GROUP

4.2.1 AMRC

- Our work with Rolls-Royce SMR continues at pace with the potential for a rapid scaling up of need and opportunity in the coming weeks.
- AMRC's long-standing partnership with Boeing won the Royal Academy of Engineering Bhattacharyya Award. A video which provides an overview the entry is available at: <https://raeng.org.uk/programmes-and-prizes/prizes/bhattacharyya-award>
- A team in the AMRC's Integrated Manufacturing Group were runners up at the recent ATI Awards in the category “Innovation Award: for the most exciting emerging technology”. The application was focused on the Automated Visual Inspection for Turbine Blades work that we have been leading for some years now, working with Rolls-Royce. The application in the awards was highly commended by the judges and was only pipped to the winning spot by 1 point. This technology project is a key interest for politicians and policy makers as it is likely to be amongst the first applications of AI in an industrial scale manufacturing production process. And in this case, with Rolls Royce in Rotherham.

4.2.2 AMRC-Training Centre

- We welcomed students from local schools to take part in exciting STEM activities and tours to explore opportunities in manufacturing as part of National Manufacturing Day. During the tour, students visited local businesses like CMD, MagTec, and the UK Atomic Energy Authority's Fusion Technology Facility to see firsthand the exciting work being done in the industry.
- Also as part of National Manufacturing Day, celebrating more than a decade of impact achieved through people, knowledge and collaboration, the AMRC Training Centre brought together apprentices and alumni, hard-working colleagues, key stakeholders and valued businesses to an event which highlighted the significant milestone.
- These short videos show the Training Centre’s impact for our employers:
 - [McLaren Racing](#)
 - [Penny Engineering](#)
 - [Other employers](#)

4.3 INNOVATION IMPACT

4.3.1 Success and Achievement

- Our recent spin-out company, [Exciting Instruments](#) has recently secured approx £4M of investment following successful completion of the (Northern Gritstone) NG Studios accelerator programme. We continue to secure the lion’s share of places on the NG Studios accelerator (as compared to our co-founders in Manchester and Leeds) which is testament to the strength of our [Commercialisation Journey](#). In the academic year 2023/24 our spinout portfolio raised £30.8M private investment which is almost double the investment raised in 2022/23 (£16M).

5. FINANCE

5.1 TUITION FEE INCOME

5.1.1 Undergraduate Home Tuition Fee Cap

- On 4 November 2024, the UK Government announced an increase in the tuition fee cap for home undergraduates students from £9,250 to £9,535 (3.1% increase) to be introduced from 2025-26. Work is underway with UEB to consider the impact of this change.

5.2 RESEARCH AWARDS

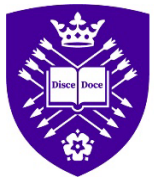
5.2.1 Research Awards

- The total value of new awards for the last 12 months to the end of September 2024 is now £178m, unchanged compared to £178m in September 2023.
- There has been an increase in the total number of awards - for the 12 months to the end of September 2024, the number of new awards opened is 858 compared to 840 as at September 2023. There has been a fall in the number of RCUK awards by 57 whilst the number of Industry awards has decreased by 24 in the 12 months to September 2024 compared with September 2023.
- In contrast the number UK Government awards has increased by 101. This increase is due to the timing of Catapult awards with the number of these awards 122 higher in September 24 compared to September 23.
- The value of new awards for the 12 months to September 2024 is showing the biggest rise in UK Government awards which has increased by £22m to £62m. However, the value of RCUK award has fallen by £12m to £62m and the value of Industry award has fallen by £5m to £6m.
- Excluding Capital Projects, as of September 2024 in addition to the above figures, £61m awards have had notification of being successful, as compared to £62m in September 2023.
- In the 2 months since the last report, there have been 3 new awards for over £1m, the largest of these was for £2.6m awarded by BBSRC to Faculty of Science.
- The value of the Research Net Contribution is £45m for the 12 months to September 2024 compared to £43m for the 12 months to September 2023 a rise of £2m (5%).
- As of September 2024, research grants work in progress (research order book) which excludes capital projects, stands at £352m which is an increase of £9m on the work in progress figure of £343m recorded in September 2023.

6. LEGAL AND REGULATORY MATTERS

6.1 REPORTABLE EVENTS

- Since the previous report to Senate was circulated there have been reportable events notified to the OfS.



The Senate, 11 December 2024

President & Vice-Chancellor's Report – Supplementary Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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1. EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT

- No Supplementary content

2. EDUCATION

2.1 DIGITAL EXPERIENCE

2.1.1 Data Futures and Statutory Returns

- Last year, the primary student data statutory data return (the submission of student data required by our OfS conditions of registration) was changed. The national project to deliver this change - called Data Futures - experienced major implementation challenges and universities across the UK raised many concerns due to over-complexity, bureaucracy, late confirmation of data specification, and changes to the specification and testing systems during delivery. The situation resulted in the whole sector being given multiple extensions beyond the initial deadline.
- It is clear that these issues have not been sufficiently addressed for the second submission of the new return this year. The official deadline for this was 1st November but nearly three quarters of universities have requested and been granted an extension, ourselves included. The number of changes in data quality rules from last year has meant this year's return is more complex and bureaucratic. Colleagues across the University are working very hard to ensure the data return is delivered without any errors but there remains some risk - with this situation being mirrored across the sector. We continue to lobby for an effective lessons learned exercise to be completed on this unsatisfactory project, and an independent review is underway which we hope will improve the position.

3. RESEARCH

- No Supplementary content

4. INNOVATION

4.1 ADVANCED MANUFACTURING GROUP

4.1.1 AMRC-Training Centre

- James Coxen from McLaren Automotive, a 2nd year Composite Technician level 3 apprentice, has been awarded the Apprentice of the Year 2024 from Composites UK.
- 23 apprentices and 8 staff from the AMRC TC marched the London Mayors parade on 9 November alongside members of the Company of Cutlers. The apprentices carried flags for the University AMRC Training Centre as well as their companies.

5. ONE UNIVERSITY

5.1 COLLABORATIVE AND SUPPORTIVE CULTURE

5.1.1 Senior Recruitment

- Senate will be aware that the University has implemented a central vacancy management process as part of its efforts to control costs in light of the financial challenges facing the University.
- Internal Appointments:
 - Head of Group (AMG) - David Stoddart took up the role as Head of Group for the reformed Nuclear AMRC activities on 16 September 2024. David had previously worked as Head of Simulation and Verification Group at the NAMRC, where they have worked since 2011. David will lead the Group through the transition to the AMRC which is due to take place in April 2025.
- External Appointments:
 - Chair in Sustainable Materials - Dr Nicholas Warren took up the role on 16 September 2024. Dr Warren had previously worked as Associate Professor in Polymer Engineering at the University of Leeds since 2016.
 - Associate Director: Property, Strategy & Business Support - Further to the previous update, Ashley Roberts has now commenced in this role as of 23 September 2024. Ashley had previously worked as Head of Campus Services at the University of Nottingham since 2015.
 - Professor of Public Health and Pharmacy - Professor Josie Solomon took up the role on 1 October 2024. Professor Solomon had previously worked as Associate Professor in Empathic Healthcare at the University of Leicester since 2023.
 - Chair of Law and Criminal Justice - Professor Kathryn Hollingsworth took up the role on 1 October 2024. Professor Hollingsworth had previously worked as Professor of Law at the University of Newcastle since 2010.

5.1.2 Nuclear AMRC

- The collective consultation period for Nuclear AMRC ended on 8 October 2024. During the redundancy consultation process over 90 staff engaged in individual consultation meetings, with support also offered to staff for application and interview skills. The

University introduced an additional enhanced voluntary redundancy scheme and 63 individuals left the University through this route. It is expected that there will be 2 roles at risk of compulsory redundancy at this stage. A new structure with 41 posts is now in the process of being implemented.

5.1.3 Corporate Communications

- Following the University being voted 98th in the latest Times Higher Education World University Rankings, we shared a press release, securing media coverage in ITV News, Independent, Time Out, The Scotsman, Capital FM, Heart Yorkshire, Yorkshire Post and Radio Sheffield. The results were also shared on social media, receiving high engagement across all channels. We also worked to amplify the news with key stakeholders, working with communications colleagues across the University. The news was shared via screens across campus; on updated templates and logos.
- The University's internal staff newsletter, This Week In Focus, has been shared with staff throughout the semester to communicate key institutional updates on the University's financial position, as well as information on events and resources, including Christmas closure dates.
- Provided support and comms for the all-staff briefing on 10 October, in which the VC and CFO updated colleagues on the reduction in international student numbers and the impact on our finances; and the Professional Services Forum on 9 October, in which the deputy COO updated colleagues on the PS Framework.
- Research into new failings of the material at the centre of the vaginal mesh scandal was pitched to selected journalists who have previously covered the news story, resulting in extensive coverage. This included: BBC News, The Independent, The i, Daily Mail, The Standard and regional publications. As a direct impact of this media attention, the Altmetric score for the paper - which tracks the paper's engagement - placed the article in the top one per cent of all papers ever tracked, as well as in the top one per cent of papers in the journal.
- Widespread media coverage was achieved following the drafting and pitching of a press release around text reminders being used to improve teenagers' tooth brushing habits. This was covered in national outlets including: The Independent, The Standard, Daily Mail, as well as regional outlets across the country.
- A press release and pitching of research around head and neck cancer cases rising in England resulted in extensive media coverage, including in The Independent, Daily Mail, The Herald and regional newspapers.
- We worked with the Policy Team to arrange meetings with Abtisam Mohamed (Sheffield Central MP) and Tom Hunt (Sheffield City Council leader) to discuss the financial position and the impact of rumoured cuts to the government science budget.
- A press release on new research urging the Government to tackle the pre-school provision crisis amid warnings that hundreds of thousands of children are not 'school ready' gained media coverage in national publications including Independent, Daily Mail and The Mirror.
- Following a press release on Octagon records, the first-of-its-kind record company run by current students, BBC Radio One Newsbeat visited the University to interview students resulting in an extensive package on the radio.

- Publicity was achieved to build reputation around various University of Sheffield achievements, including: ranking top in the Russell Group for student experience in the Daily Mail University Guide; ranking among the top in the UK in the Guardian University Guide; being awarded runner-up for University of the Year 2025 in The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2025, as well as having risen in the rankings to 14th best University in the UK; ranking in the Top 100 of the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025; officially opening the Gene Therapy Innovation and Manufacturing Centre (GTIMC) with a visit from Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal; and the University's Management School being awarded EQUIS re-accreditation for a further five years.

5.2 PHILANTHROPY

5.2.1 Alumni Engagement and Volunteering

Financial Year	Volunteer hours (target)		Total hours to date	Campaign Forecast
	2023/2024	2024/2025		
Volunteer hours**	14,566 (15,000)	147 (13,000)	80,637	108,490
Volunteer hours (students)***	42,027 (20,000)	(20,000)	169,048	209,048
	56,593 (35,000)	13 (33,000)	249,685	317,538

** Figures have been updated to include hours contributed by Alumni and friends. 'Friends' are defined as non-alumni who are not TUoS staff.

*** Data on student volunteer hours covers the period 01.08.18 – 30.06.24. Further data on student volunteer hours will be included in subsequent reports as it becomes available.

- Alumni masterclasses: September saw the return of The Boardroom, a series of exclusive masterclasses for recent graduates and PhD students that aims to build leadership skills and inspire them to aim for the very top. Delivered by globally leading Sheffield alumni, participants heard from a diverse range of top entrepreneurs, finance specialists and leaders in politics, media and strategy, offering insight into a range of sectors and topics.
- Alumni career networking: CAR's online Coach Café programme re-started in October with a spotlight on careers in Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology and Health. Generously funded by the Law Family Ambition programme, these virtual Q&A sessions connect career-experienced alumni with students from disadvantaged and underrepresented backgrounds. 62 students and 16 alumni took part. Next month's event will focus on Careers in Marketing, Media and Communications for students from the Faculties of Arts & Humanities and Social Sciences.
- Alumni e-Mentoring: 182 students have been matched to an equal number of alumni on the autumn eMentoring programme, led by the Careers and Employability Service in collaboration with CAR. Alumni mentors will share their valuable real world insights and experience to help students feel better prepared for success after university.

6. FINANCE

- No Supplementary content

7. LEGAL AND REGULATORY MATTERS

- No Supplementary content