

## Specific guidance to UKRI, from DSIT, regarding the operation of Research England for 2024-2025

Funding allocations to Research England for research, knowledge exchange (KE) and research capital for the financial year 2024-25 are set out in the table at the end of this annex. This allocation ensures that the balance of dual support will remain at a similar ratio to recent years.

### 1. Research England priorities for 24-25

- Strategic Institutional Research Funding (SIRF) review: This review will provide a robust assessment of the value of flexible formula funding for the first time in a decade and inform future funding.
- Financial sustainability of university research: Research England should continue working with the Office for Students (OfS), Devolved Administrations and across UKRI on areas of shared strategic interest including, but not limited to, financial sustainability. This work should pay particular attention to sustaining disciplinary breadth in areas of strategic importance to the UK.
- Local and regional economic growth: Research England should progress delivery and monitoring and evaluation of programmes that support local and regional economic growth including Expanding Excellence in England, Strength in Places Fund and the Regional Innovation Fund.
- Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2029: REF 2029 should encourage high quality research, with positive economic and social impacts. You should continue to engage with the sector on the forthcoming exercise. Clear accountability for public funding must be maintained with bureaucracy kept to the necessary minimum. We look forward to seeing the outcomes of the pilot People, Culture and Environment assessment in 2025.
- Capital Funding for Research: You should continue work to assess the condition of the research estate to develop evidence on future research capital funding need.
- The UK Research Partnership Investment Fund (UKRPIF): We welcome the announcement of the projects funded in the seventh round of UKRPIF bringing the total invested in this programme to over £1Bn. You should continue to monitor effective delivery and leverage of all non-public co-investment for current and any future project
- Funding for Specialist Institutions: We endorse Research England's consideration of future funding for specialist institutions as part of the SIRF review. The intention to provide interim support while this is ongoing is welcomed.
- Funding for museums and galleries: We welcome the new funding for HE museums, galleries and collections in recognition of their contribution to research and scholarship. This funding should continue to support these institutions in making resources available to researchers and students from across the sector.

### 2. Knowledge Exchange

- Higher Education Innovation Funding (HEIF): HEIF funded activity should support the government priority of kickstarting economic growth. Activities should support increased business engagement and commercialisation, boost local economic growth and encourage entrepreneurship. Research England should continue to work with the OfS on programme management including evaluation and review.

- HEIF Evaluation: This evaluation provides an opportunity to shape this important programme and ensure it is aligned more closely with government's ambitions for economic growth.
- Review of KE: The Review has provided useful insights and we look forward to seeing the progress on implementing the actions set out in the review.
- Research England Development (RED) fund and the Connecting Capability (CCF) Fund: We look forward to the outcomes of the RED 'Ecosystems' call, to support university-centred commercialisation ecosystems and the sharing of good practice in commercialisation. This supports Government's ambitions for economic growth to benefit all places across England.
- Spin-outs and commercialisation: We note the focus on embedding best practice in commercialisation. This includes further development by TenU of the software version of the University Spin-out Investment Terms (USIT) guide, and Research England's work with the University Commercialisation and Innovation Policy Evidence Unit (UCI) at Cambridge on data and evidence.
- The National Centre for Universities and Business (NCUB): Support remains vital, bringing together university and business leaders to contribute to policy agendas.
- Evidence and data to support KE: The partnership with JISC-HESA and UCI on KE metrics will support HEIF reform, improving commercialisation and local economic growth. This should also strengthen the Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF) by capturing the breadth of KE activity. This is consistent with Research England's work with Jisc-HESA to bring together opportunities from your national KE metrics programme with further development of the Higher Education Business and Community Interaction (HE-BCI) survey, including working with other UK higher education funding bodies on UK wide options.

### **3. Efficiency & Effectiveness**

We must continue to ensure the HE sector uses research and KE funding efficiently and effectively, and any unnecessary bureaucratic burden is avoided. We welcome your continued contribution to implementation of the Government response to the independent Review of Research Bureaucracy.

- Working with Jisc, Cybersecurity and Trusted Research: As a major funder of Jisc, Research England should continue to ensure that it delivers positive impact and value for money for the research community. We encourage you to support Jisc in enhancing the resilience of the Janet Network. This is essential for research and innovation, connecting research institutions to the rest of the digital research world.
- You should also work closely with OfS and Jisc/ Higher Education Statistical Agency (HESA), to ensure that we achieve the optimum data landscape to meet all government priorities whilst minimising burden on the HE sector.
- Research England should work with stakeholders on the Trusted Research agenda. Jisc has a crucial role in supporting effective cybersecurity within and across universities and research establishments in the context of this agenda through awareness raising, effective governance, capacity and resilience building.
- In addition to pursuing the Government's objective of open access, you should work with Jisc to deliver the benefits of open and trusted research, supporting research management and reducing research bureaucracy.

#### 4. Table – Research England Budget Allocations

The table below shows allocations for Research and Knowledge Exchange for 2023-25

<b>Research England Allocations (£m)</b>	<b>Final 2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Recurrent grant for Research inc. contribution to core HEIF	2157.60	1998.44
Strategic Programmes funding (previously National Productivity Investment Fund) inc. HEIF uplift	243.00	170.00
Specialist Institutions	20.00	25.00
<b>Total Programme ESA10 CDEL</b>	<b>2420.60</b>	<b>2193.44</b>
HEI Research Capital England	118.12	124.95
HE Research Capital (HERC) England	106.88	113.05
UK-RPIF	7.30	77.10
<b>Total Capital CDEL</b>	<b>232.30</b>	<b>315.10</b>
<b>DfE contribution</b>		
Recurrent Teaching contribution to HEIF – attrib. to OfS	48.20	48.20

*The table reflects Financial Years (April to March). The 2023-24 figures reflect any rephasing of payments across the academic year, which do not affect the overall academic year allocations.*

In addition to the above, as delegated by UKRI, Research England will also be responsible for administering the budget for the Strength in Places Fund.