



**Note of the 12th Meeting of the Physical Sciences & Engineering Advisory Panel  
held on 2 May 2024**

- The Chair gave an update on panel activities over the last year which included the reviewing of the Compact Light Sources-Grid proposal at a meeting of Science Board (F&L). RUEDI had been funded and the Government had also announced equipment funding as well as funding for mass spectroscopy equipment and the formation of a national consortium.
- Philip Amison, Associate Director Strategy, Procurement and Communication presented the recent changes in STFC Governance around Science Board that had resulted in the Advisory Panel now reporting to Science Board (Facilities & Laboratories). Science Board (F&L) had agreed that the Advisory Panel Terms of Reference should be updated to reflect the management changes to Science Board and to agree how the Panels fitted into the STFC advisory structure. A working group had been set up to look at this and should report its findings by the end of the year. Further updates were given on strategy, funding and the Infrastructure Fund.
- Helen Beadman, Associate Director, International User Facilities gave an update on the Neutron Review which would look at what the shutdown of the ILL reactor meant for the UK neutron community and what needed to be done to plan for the closure. The review would focus on ISIS, ILL and ESS and report by the end of the year.
- Alan Partridge, STFC Executive Director, Large Scale Facilities shared an update on the status and future plans of STFC's large scale facilities. The Panel was advised that the dark period at Diamond in preparation for Diamond II would be from December 2027 – April 2029. Communication was underway to inform users and to ensure that other facilities were aware of the potential for an increased number of applications during that time.
- John Collier, Director, Central Laser Facility shared a UK XFEL update with the panel. The Free-Electron Laser (FEL) had been one of the recommendations from the 2016 STFC FEL Strategic Review. The Advisory Panel commented on the positive user engagement for the project that included surveys, town halls etc.
- Rachel Reynolds, Head of International User Facilities gave an update on ESRF, European XFEL, ILL, ESS and EMBL and spoke about the current statuses together with key risks.
- Paul Vernon, Executive Director for the Business & Innovation Directorate (BID) shared an insight into the remit of the Innovation & Business Board where he is the STFC representative.
- Roger Eccleston, Director ISIS Pulsed Neutron & Muon Source shared an overview of the facility that also covered ISIS II and Endeavour. It was confirmed that the plans for the ISIS II upgrade had taken into consideration that ESS would be coming online in a few years and that ILL would cease operations. ISIS II would be seen as complementary to ESS and would provide additional capacity and capability.
- The Panel Chair would report to the June 2024 meeting of Science Board (F&L).