

## REF Strategy Group Meeting 2024 – Executive Summary

- Action Log & Leadership: Progress on outstanding actions was noted, with many to be discussed later in the meeting. Work to identify leadership in UOA 2 (Public Health, Health Services and Primary Care) is ongoing.
- External REF Developments:
  - Final REF 2029 guidance is anticipated in 2026.
  - The Science Minister stated that REF 2029 would be completed in 2029, suggesting no further delays or cancellations.
  - The Open Access policy is due in Autumn/Winter 2024, but an interim decision has been made that long-form outputs will not be mandated to be open access in REF 2029.
  - The People, Culture and Environment Pilot is set to begin in November 2024.
- REF Preparation Survey:
  - The proposed survey is intended to be light touch.
  - Rankings will remain in questions to understand ambition, allowing for discussion from respondents.
  - Detail on PGR recruitment can be added to the question on challenges.
  - The relevant REF lead or CDRC should complete the survey after discussing with a wider group.
  - Wording around "longlists" of impact case studies will be amended to ensure manageable lists.
  - A month will be allowed for completion, with analysis prior to the next meeting.
  - Departments will not receive specific feedback, but responses will aid central preparations. The overall timetable and questions were endorsed with amendments.
- Internal Funding for Impact Case Studies: Work is ongoing to identify internal funding to support impact case studies. Funding for "critical friends" should be considered, and a question about their engagement terms will be included in the preparation survey. SMS will meet with HR to discuss the university's policy for engaging critical friends.
- Panel Member Workload: The high workload for panel members was discussed, and a proposal regarding this issue will be brought to the REF 2029 Strategy Group after discussion with Prof Matthias Ruth (MR).