



# Demonstrating Research Impact: Insights from the UK's Research Excellence Framework (REF)

Research England, Universities UK International, Japan Association of National Universities

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# RE Mission

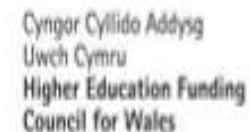
To create and sustain the conditions for a healthy and dynamic research and knowledge exchange system in English Universities

- In England only – as universities are a devolved activity ('Union' issues are currently a significant matter for RE & UKRI)
- To encourage universities to work with partners, including businesses, charities and other research funders
- The Act describes 'Balanced Funding' i.e. complementarity of Research England and Research Council funding
- RE have long-standing collaborations with Innovate, reflecting importance of universities work with business



# RE role in REF

- The REF is the UK's system for assessing the quality of research in UK higher education
- Administer on behalf of all four higher education funding bodies (HEFCW, DfE NI, SFC and RE)
- Each funding body is represented on the REF Steering Group which is chaired by RE Director of Research, Steven Hill
- Steering Group – responsible for matters of policy and the programme of work, agreeing collective recommendations of the high-level framework, and putting these forward to the board of the funding bodies





# Purposes of REF (Stern)

- i. Assessment of the quality of research undertaken at universities
- ii. Provides a rich evidence base to inform strategic decisions about national priorities across science, social science, engineering, medicine and arts and humanities research.
- iii. Essential tool for accountability and information, showing the outcome of public investment in research and making the case for future investment.
- iv. Can create a strong performance incentive for universities and for individual academics.
- v. Can be used by universities and other bodies to inform decisions on resource allocation. Building on success and learning from experience
- vi. Provides a periodically updated reputational benchmark, which is based on rigorous peer judgement by fellow academics.





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# Thank you



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