



The Economic and Social Research Council's Role is:

To promote and support, by any means, high-quality basic, strategic and applied research and related postgraduate training in the social sciences.

To advance knowledge and provide trained social scientists who meet the needs of users and beneficiaries, thereby contributing to the economic competitiveness of the United Kingdom, the effectiveness of public services and policy, and the quality of life.

To provide advice on, and disseminate knowledge and promote public understanding of, the social sciences.

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR 2007-08

In accordance with Schedule 1 to the Science and Technology Act, 1965, the Economic and Social Research Council submits the following Report on its activities from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008, on Monday 21 July 2008.

Ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on Monday 21 July 2008.



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Statement by Chairman

“With our responsive mode funding we aim to ensure a full and open research agenda, where all proposals of high quality are considered.”

MY YEAR AS CHAIR of the ESRC has been an exciting position at a time when the benefits of social science research to society are increasingly being recognised. Social science has now become an integral part of major research initiatives and projects across the science base. As the primary funder of social science research in the UK, the ESRC is in a key position to support and direct research efforts for optimal benefit to society.

This strategic position enables the ESRC to maintain a large portfolio of activities, over a variety of disciplines- from economics to history, psychology to social anthropology. As chair of the government’s Committee on Climate Change I am particularly pleased with the ESRC’s strong engagement in environmental research. Climate change, one of our big research challenges, has been highlighted as a research priority, and this year a new ESRC research centre for climate change economics and policy has been announced. It is vital that the traditionally technological approach to the challenge of global warming is complemented with an understanding of how people and societies react and adapt to changes.

Global warming is one of several major challenges we face today. Reflecting the current global security concerns and the need for research in this area, the UK Research Councils have initiated the research programme *Global uncertainties* – a major investment where the ESRC is the lead council. The combined challenges of crime,

terrorism, environmental stress and global poverty will require a broad, multi-disciplinary effort to provide the necessary answers to these topical issues.

A concerted effort to tackle poverty remains one of the most important challenges. The ESRC and the Department for International Development’s joint research scheme for poverty alleviation completed a third call for proposals this year. In my capacity as chair of the Overseas Development Institute I am very pleased this scheme has attracted a large number of high quality proposals.

Although strategic priorities reflect an important part of the ESRC’s investments, we are also firmly committed to supporting research outside these areas. With our responsive mode funding we aim to ensure a full and open research agenda, where all proposals of high quality are considered. The impact of social science research will be further enhanced this year with the launch of our new follow-on fund, to help researchers develop and apply their research in partnership with research users.

With the high expectations of social science research and its potential benefits, it is vital that we support the academic community not only with research funding, but also with adequate training and development opportunities. We will continue this commitment next year by developing partnerships with colleagues in areas such



as management and business studies, education and social work to improve the quality of the UK's research base.

We aim to make sure that the UK can develop and use the knowledge and evidence needed for a number of challenges in society, such as improving public services, tackling social and economic problems, and increasing business opportunities. We are now in the process of developing our next *Strategic Plan* for the period 2009-2014. As part of this process we will engage in a broad consultation process with stakeholders to ensure that the correct strategic priorities for the next years are identified. It is essential to channel our resources to the areas where they are most needed.

The many challenges and commitments facing us ahead will require the expertise, engagement and vibrancy of our research community. Judging by my experience as Chair of the ESRC, I am very hopeful for the future.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Adair Turner".

Adair Turner
Chairman, ESRC

30 June 2008

Statement by Chief Executive



THIS HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE YEAR for the ESRC, with a number of new research initiatives, strategic collaborations and partnerships. I am pleased to report that, despite a tight round of allocations in the Government's spending review last year, we have received sufficient resources to broadly maintain our current level of activities. This is an important recognition of the value of social science research and its contribution to society.

However, it is unavoidable that financial restrictions will have an impact on our research funding. We are unfortunately not able to fund all the high quality research and training we would wish to support, and consequently we have to prioritise the very best projects put forward.

The drive for quality and cost-effectiveness extends to all ESRC activities, including the ESRC's administration. The planned RCUK Shared Services Centre which is being phased in will be an important part of this process, as it will gather general administrative services from all Research Councils under one roof and provide a central, streamlined operation.

In this financial context it is crucial to obtain maximum impact from ESRC-funded research. This year we have introduced a dedicated impact strategy mapping out how the ESRC will create and support economic and societal impact through investment in research, training and resources. A targeted knowledge transfer effort is essential to ensure that users are engaged throughout the research process whether in the private, public or third sectors.

The emphasis on impact is continued in our international benchmarking exercise, where we are assessing the international impact of UK social science disciplines in partnership with professional associations. This year the review panel completed the benchmarking of UK politics and international studies, concluding with a very positive assessment of both research quality and impact.

It has also been a year where the international community has been a distinctive part of the ESRC agenda. Two new RCUK offices have opened, in Beijing and Washington with a third due in India later this year. We will be working closely with them to ensure the social science community benefits from these new international points of contact.

In order to streamline funding for bilateral research across borders, the ESRC has also reached an agreement with the national funding bodies in Germany and the Netherlands for a common application process. We have continued our collaboration with the British Academy on a Visiting Fellowships scheme. Meanwhile, our engagement in the International Data Forum, which was convened by the ESRC last June, aims to improve the comparability of national datasets, opening up the potential for further international collaborative research ventures.

Closer to home we have completed the commissioning of five Centres in UK Public Health, on behalf of a consortium of seven major funders. This autumn will also see the launch of the Understanding Society study, the largest and most ambitious longitudinal study of its kind in the world – tracking 40,000 UK households over 20 years.

“A targeted knowledge transfer effort is essential to ensure that users are engaged throughout the research process.”

Communicating and promoting world class research is a vital part of ESRC activities. We are delighted that the second issue of our annual newsstand magazine *Britain in 2008* which has highlighted ESRC research to a rapidly growing number of readers. As a new service to our academic community an ESRC e-newsletter has been launched this spring and we look forward to publishing our new regular magazine for the wider community in summer 2008.

Our commitment to funding the best of social science research and encouraging research users in applying new research is dependent on the support of the ESRC's dedicated staff and board members.

We would like to use this opportunity to particularly thank Mr Glyn Davies, who has just stepped down as the Council's Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Policy and Resources, for his many years of outstanding service to the Council in a number of roles. We also wish to thank retiring council members Professor Alison Richards, Ms Helen Dent and Mr Paul Johnson for their invaluable contributions, and welcome Professor Ann Buchanan, Professor Malcolm Grant and Dave Ramsden as new members of ESRC Council. With our committed team of council and staff members we can confidently look forward to the challenges ahead.



Professor Ian Diamond FBA, AcSS
Chief Executive, ESRC

30 June 2008

Management Commentary

Highlighting Social Science

Supporting World Class Social Science Research

Strengthening the Social Science Research Base: Data and Methods

Maximising our International Presence

Building our Future Capacity: Training

Impacting on Society: Impact, Evaluation and Knowledge Transfer

Communicating and Engaging with Society

Making Headlines



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Highlighting Social Science

Ready to learn

As part of its Festival of Social Science 2008, ESRC sponsored Teachers TV in the largest ever nation wide, on-line experiment of its kind – Ready to Learn. This is a major piece of education research designed to investigate the impact of factors such as diet, sleep and exercise on children's readiness to learn. Over 70,000 students aged from four to 16 took part, exploring how these different factors impact upon their concentration, memory and reaction times. The results of the survey will help reveal whether today's school children are indeed ready to learn.

<http://www.teachers.tv/experiment>



Voucher success

The success of a unique demand-led innovation voucher scheme in the West Midlands has contributed to the Government decision to roll out a similar £3 million scheme nation wide. INEX (Innovation Delivers Expansion) is a groundbreaking scheme inviting small and medium sized enterprises to apply for a voucher worth £3,000 to purchase academic support from one of the 13 Higher Education Institutions in the West Midlands. It is funded jointly by Advantage West Midlands, the Regional Development Agency, the ESRC and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. The project is included in the ESRC's business engagement strategy which was launched in April 2007. The impact of this pilot scheme was recognised in the science and innovation strategy published alongside the budget. The Government's ambition is to increase the provision of vouchers to at least 1,000 vouchers by 2011.

<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/KnowledgeExch/SMEVoucher.aspx>

Learning and life chances

Can we have economic growth alongside social cohesion? That's one of the key questions to be addressed by the new £4 million ESRC Centre for Learning and Life Chances in Knowledge Economies and Societies. Based at London University's Institute of Education, this new centre will investigate the roles of education and skills in promoting economic competitiveness and social cohesion. Centre Director, Professor Andy Green, believes the new centre to be particularly timely: "Issues of equality and income distribution are moving higher up the political agenda," he says. With funding from 2008-2012, researchers based at the partner institutions of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research and Bristol University will explore these issues and develop understanding in three key areas: models of lifelong learning and the knowledge society; learning environments, knowledge transfer and innovative pedagogy; and life chances and learning throughout the lifecycle.

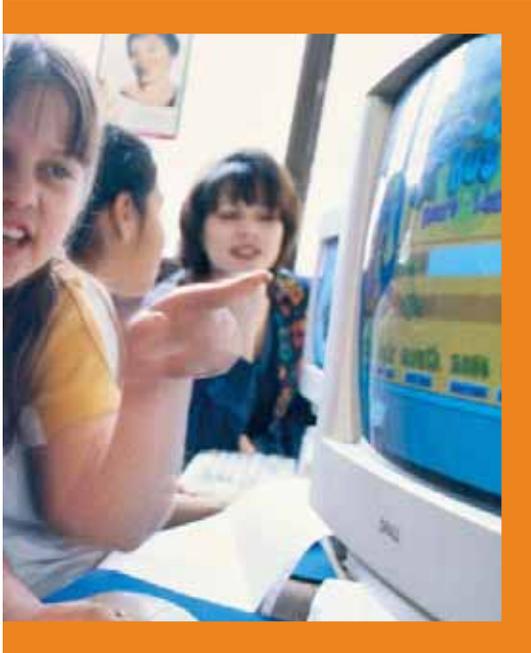
Double award winner

Professor Alan Walker, Director of the cross-council New Dynamics of Ageing programme, received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Social Policy Association.



Receiving the honour, Professor Walker said: "To receive this major award and be nominated by my peers and selected by a panel of the leading academics in the field of British social policy is a great honour." Professor Walker's work was further acknowledged by a new award from The British Society of Gerontology. This award for *Outstanding Contributions to Gerontology* was presented at the British Society of Gerontology Conference in recognition of Professor Walker's major contribution to the subject.

<http://www.newdynamics.group.shef.ac.uk>



Community cohesion

More than 80 community development and cohesion practitioners and research and policy professionals attended a collaborative workshop hosted by the ESRC Identities and Social Action Programme and the Community Development Foundation during the ESRC Festival of Social Science 2008. Community cohesion is a central issue for local authorities and national government and this lively interactive workshop focused on some of the thorniest issues in cohesion practice and policy, drawing on the latest research findings and best practice examples. Participants addressed key questions such as how the 'disrupted' identities of refugees, asylum seekers and new migrants can be helped to develop and integrate with receiving communities. Recommendations from the day were addressed by a policy panel in the final session and will be taken forward to the Department of Communities and Local Government.

<http://www.identities.org.uk>



Bilingualism centre launch

November 2007 saw the launch of the £5 million ESRC Centre for Research on Bilingualism in Theory and Practice. Based at the University of Wales, Bangor, and with funding from the ESRC, the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales and the Welsh Assembly Government, the new centre aims to create greater understanding of

bilingualism across the world. "This is the first research centre in the UK to focus specifically on bilingualism," Professor Margaret Deuchar, Centre Director commented. "Recent years have seen an explosion of research in this area, as a result of which our understanding of the nature of the individual bilingual mind, language use and development of the bilingual community is on the verge of a significant leap forward." Influencing public understanding of the nature of bilingualism and its social and psychological effects both in the UK and abroad will be central to the research. One further exciting aspect of the new centre is its neuroscientific research capacity. The neuroscience group will investigate the mechanisms by which one brain can handle two different languages.

<http://www.bilingualism.bangor.ac.uk/>

**THIS IS THE
FIRST RESEARCH
CENTRE IN THE
UK TO FOCUS
SPECIFICALLY
ON BILINGUALISM**

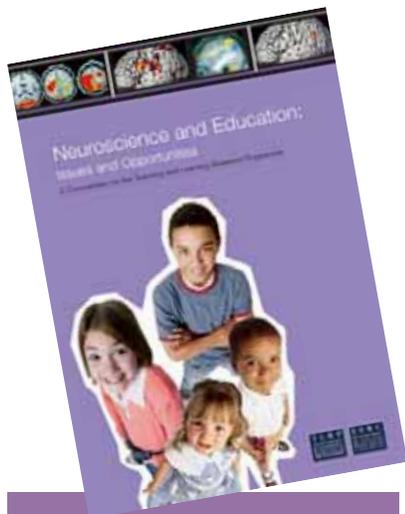
Britain in 2008

The second issue of the ESRC's annual newsstand publication was published in November 2007. The magazine showcases ESRC research and social sciences around topical issues concerning the state of the nation. Available in WH Smiths, Borders, Waitrose's, Sainsbury's and internationally it was read and enjoyed by those with an interest in UK society and social sciences. The issues covered are directly relevant to people lives in Britain today.



2007-08

Highlighting Social Science



Brain science downloads

An ESRC Teaching and Learning Research Programme (TLRP) report highlighting how emerging knowledge of the working of the brain can contribute to better educational outcomes was the subject of record downloads from the programme website. The TLRP commentary, *Neuroscience and Education: Issues and Opportunities*, was downloaded more than 20,000 times in under two weeks following its launch in May 2007 at an influential All Party Group of MPs and Peers led by Baronesses Susan Greenfield and Estelle Morris MP, and Phil Willis MP. The commentary challenges the 'neuro-myths' and 'folk neuroscience' commonplace in contemporary schools.

<http://www.tlrp.org/pub/commentaries.html>



New view on households

A major new household panel study commissioned by the ESRC will be the largest study of its type in the world, following 40,000 UK households over 20 years. Understanding Science – The UK Household Longitudinal Study will provide valuable new evidence about the people of the UK, their lives, experiences, behaviours and beliefs, and will enable an unprecedented understanding of diversity within the population. The study will also increase understanding of the long-term effects of social and economic change, as well as policy interventions designed to improve the general wellbeing of the UK population. Scientific leadership will be by the Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex and survey delivery will be by the National Centre for Social Research.

<http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/ukhls/>

Wellbeing audits in development

International development needs a practical concept of wellbeing if it is to reach and go beyond the Millennium Development Goals to confront the challenges of poverty, conflict and sustainability. This was the argument put forward at a briefing seminar at Westminster organised by the ESRC Wellbeing in Developing Countries Research Group in conjunction with the All Party Group on Overseas Development and the Overseas Development Institute. The key points raised included the need for the integration of wellbeing audits into development practice. These audits are a means of engaging with the realities of the lives of poor people and more effectively promoting the factors that enable people and communities to thrive.

www.welldev.org.uk

Brazil workshop

Sao Paulo, Brazil was the venue for an ESRC-supported workshop on economic restructuring and social equality held in December 2007. UK and Brazilian researchers addressed topics including South-South collaboration, globalisation, political impacts and social equality in the health system. Sponsored jointly with the Brazilian Centre for Analysis and Planning, the Research Institute Rio de Janeiro and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, this was part of a series of events in support of the UK-Brazil Year of Science. The event was successful in building networks with Brazilian colleagues and in discussing topics and activities for future collaboration between Brazilian and UK social scientists.

<http://www.anodaciencia.com.br/economic/>

BUILDING NETWORKS WITH BRAZILIAN COLLEAGUES

Research methods collaboration

The European Science Foundation's EUROQUAL programme which runs until 2010 aims to develop and disseminate high-level expertise in qualitative methods on a European-wide basis. The ESRC is a partner in the programme which, with the participation of 14 member states, is one of the most extensive European networks in the social sciences. In 2007 Cardiff hosted a workshop on digital methods for qualitative research, which brought together senior experts, younger researchers and doctoral students. A second workshop in Berlin examined visual methods. Future EUROQUAL workshops will explore multi-methods research, spatial analysis, archives and oral history, discourse and narrative, and evidence-based policy.

<http://www.cesagen.lanacs.ac.uk>

Influencing energy regulation



The ESRC Electricity Policy Research Group (EPRG) is proving influential in the thinking of energy markets regulator, Ofgem. Alistair Buchanan, Chief Executive of Ofgem, stated that EPRG work was instrumental in prompting a 'RPI at 20' review of the current system of regulating electricity and gas networks. Mr Buchanan pointed to the value of various pieces of the Group's work including the EPRG's new edited book, *Delivering a Low Carbon Electricity System*, which contains detailed suggestions on how the implications of the Stern Review on climate change can be taken forward in the electricity sector. Similarly influential was Professor Stephen Littlechild's work on the use of negotiated settlements in North and South America to determine regulated investments in energy networks.

<http://www.electricitypolicy.org.uk>

2007-08

Highlighting Social Science

Festival success

OVER 90 EVENTS WERE HELD IN 33 DIFFERENT LOCATIONS ACROSS THE UK



Tomorrow's world

The implications of 12 global questions, from poverty to climate change, are explored in *Going Global: Key Questions for the 21st Century*, a new book published following a partnership between the independent charity The Tomorrow Project and the ESRC. Authors Dr Michael Moynagh and Richard Worsley, directors of The Tomorrow Project, offer a forward-looking approach to globalisation, asking whether governments and societies will rise to the challenge of a changing world. This publication marks the conclusion of the first phase of the partnership – a phase which has aimed at building links between the world of policymakers and practitioners. The ESRC has worked in partnership with The Tomorrow Project since 2006 on initiatives of wide stakeholder interest including multi-disciplinary consultations, debates, secondments, events, publications and a database of emerging trends.



http://www.tomorrowproject.net/pub/2_Website/The_Tomorrow_Project/-1247.html

Pro debate

The ESRC supports two debate style events during 2007. First, it sponsored the Central and North West/North Wales regions of the UK Debating Matters competition. This competition offers schools and sixth form pupils the chance to debate current



issues – in a competition format. Debates set schools against schools on a specified argument with topics researched by students and presented in a Question Time format to a panel of experts and the audience. In addition, the ESRC sponsored the extremely popular two-day Battle of Ideas Festival, a high-level, thought-provoking debate organised by the Institute of Ideas and hosted by the Royal College of Art. As part of the 2007 event, ESRC sponsored over 100 young people to attend as ESRC School's Champion. Favourite debates included All tested out: what's the point of exams? and My brain made me do it: biology and freedom.

<http://www.debatingmatters.com>

<http://www.battleofideas.org.uk/>

The sixth year of the ESRC Festival of Social Science celebrated some of the very best British social science research, offering a greater number of events in more locations throughout the UK than ever before. Over 90 events were held in 33 different locations across the UK with 70 per cent taking place outside the London area. Events offered something for all ages – from academic-style presentations to exhibitions, film screenings, public debates, hands-on experimentation and on-line activities in virtual spaces. At this year's events, ESRC researchers offered insight into many key issues affecting Britain today including global uncertainties, energy, poverty, health, education, the economy and the UK's public services. For example, Ian Pearson MP,

the Minister for Science and Innovation, opened the Festival debate on global uncertainties in which he emphasised the importance of social sciences in an uncertain world. Experts and the audience explored the impact of challenges such as terrorism, conflict, competition for the world's resources, health, poverty and environmental degradation, as well as the varied and changing relationships between information security, financial crime and risk regulation.

<http://www.esrcfestival.ac.uk>



Winning ideas for the deaf

Water proof hearing aids and placing sign language learning on the national curriculum were just two ideas put forward by 16-year-old Eilidh McEwan in her prize winning essay on the topic, *It's my Future: Being Deaf in 2018*. The competition was run by the ESRC Deafness, Cognition and Language Research Centre as part of the ESRC Festival of Social Science 2008. Eilidh received her prize from Rosie Cooper MP at the Houses of Parliament. Entrants submitted a short piece on how new ideas and research into deafness might change things by 2018 or even 2028. Collectively the entries highlighted the point that if deaf people are to achieve equality by 2018, society's attitudes towards deafness must change.

<http://www.dcal.ucl.ac.uk>

**ATTITUDES
MUST CHANGE**

Giving research

The new £2.2 million ESRC Centre for Charitable Giving and Philanthropy is the first centre of its kind in the UK. This joint investment by the ESRC, Office of the Third Sector, The Carnegie UK Trust and the Scottish Government will establish the UK's first independent, multi-disciplinary and academically based research initiative on charitable giving and philanthropy issues. Centre Director, Professor Jenny Harrow, said: "The centre will support high quality independent research aimed at influencing policy and practice decisions in the UK as well as developing the necessary evidence base to better understand charitable giving and philanthropy issues. It also aims to help third sector organisations, government and business to better understand why and how individuals and businesses can give, helping to increase and target giving to support the public good."

<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/PO/releases/2007/november/ccgp.aspx>

Newly honoured

In the New Year Honours 2007, Sir Professor Roger Jowell was awarded a knighthood for his services to social science. Professor Jowell is the co-founder and Director of the European Social Survey and the Centre for Comparative Social Surveys at City University. He is also a Director of the ESRC's Centre for Research into Elections and Social Trends. Dame Lynne Brindley, Chief Executive of the British Library and member of the ESRC Communications and Information Committee was awarded Dame of the British Empire for her services to education, and Professor Robert Cassen, a Research Associate at the ESRC Research Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion, received an OBE for services to education.



2007-08

Highlighting Social Science

Local alliance

A new strategic alliance has been set up between local government and the UK's Research Councils. A concordat supported by the Local Authority Research Council Initiative cements the new relationship, giving local government a greater opportunity to influence and access research. In addition to providing support for wider engagement, the concordat will include a commitment to commission research overviews on topical research topics and run senior level stakeholder seminars. The concordat partners include: the Arts and Humanities Research Council, Audit Commission, Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, Communities and Local Government, ESRC, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, Improvement and Development Agency, Local Government Association, Natural Environment Research Council and Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers.

<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/innovation/partnership/larci/default.htm>

World-class studies

Politics and international studies research in the UK has been shown to be world-leading according to a new report by the ESRC, the Political Studies Association and the British International Studies Association. The international benchmarking review compares the quality and impact of UK politics and international studies research against international standards and concludes that the UK is a world leader in many areas of the discipline, in robust health in terms of student numbers, and making an enormous contribution to social, cultural and intellectual capital throughout the wider UK community.

http://www.esrc.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/Images/P_IBR-Final_Report_tcm6-23426.pdf

Top tips for teachers

What makes a good teacher? Professor Mary James, a project director for the ESRC Teaching and Learning Research Programme, offered insight from the programme's ten evidence-informed pedagogic principles at a House of Commons seminar led by Barry Sheerman MP, Chair of the Select Committee on Children, Schools and Families. Drawing on findings from the ten-year programme for her recipe for good teaching, Professor James highlighted the need for teachers to promote the active engagement of the learner. The seminar was commended in a *BBC News* article as a significant move towards an evidence-based view of education policy making.

<http://www.tlrp.org/findings>

PROMOTING THE ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT OF THE LEARNER

A level in anthropology

During the second year of ESRC funding, the Royal Anthropological Institute (RAI) has succeeded in its initial steps on the road to developing an A level in Anthropology. The RAI will work with the AQA Awarding Body on the development of the qualification. Following and subject to accreditation, the RAI and AQA anticipate working together to support delivery and resourcing of the A level, which is expected to become the flagship of the RAI's programme of education in anthropology at pre-university and further education levels.

<http://www.aqa.org.uk>

<http://www.therai.org.uk>



On-line resource for public services

THE CHANCE TO CONNECT WITH THE ESRC THROUGH ITS MANY KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER OPPORTUNITIES



The ESRC Public Services Zone is a new on-line resource for public service managers and policymakers. The zone showcases the work of some of the UK's leading academics representing a wide range of disciplines from economics to social psychology and exploring everything from how performance ratings are calculated to the impact of reforms on public trust. Public services-focused research funded by the ESRC is given a user-friendly summary and organised within four themes: performance management, capability and capacity, choice and voice, and competition and contestability. In addition to research, the zone contains the latest news from public services academics, events and conferences, and the chance to connect with the ESRC through its many knowledge transfer opportunities.

<http://www.esrc.ac.uk/publicservices/>



The Michael Young Prize



Awarded annually to support new social scientists in spreading their research findings more widely, the 2007 Michael Young Prize was awarded to two young researchers working in very different but highly topical fields. In honour of the ESRC's founder, the late Lord Michael Young, this award aims to reward and encourage early career researchers whose work offers genuine new insights and is likely to have an impact beyond academia. Joint prize winner Dr Elizabeth Pellicano's research focuses on the differing development of children with autism. Dr Asi Sharabi's research looked at the barriers confronting Israeli children in understanding the Palestinian perspective of the Israeli Palestinian conflict.

<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/PO/Young/>

The public view of science

The six-year, £5.2 million ESRC Science in Society Programme ended with a one-day conference highlighting some of its findings on public perceptions of science. Programme Director, Professor Steve Rayner, challenged the view that the British public is 'anti-science', suggesting instead that people are selective about embracing or rejecting particular technologies rather than totally turning their backs on all science. "There does however need to be care in the way risk around science is communicated to the public", he emphasised. The conference marked the culmination of the Science in Society Programme which, over a total of 45 projects, considered many aspects of the complex relationship between science and wider society. To help disseminate findings six publications were produced summarising the results of the research. These include: re-modelling science communication; genomics in society; science in governance and the governance of science; science in the economy and the economics of science; and science, technology and globalisation.



<http://www.sci-soc.net>

A healthy partnership

A partnership of funders including the ESRC has come together to establish a new £20 million investment in five Centres of Excellence across the UK to strengthen research into complex public health issues such as obesity, smoking and health inequalities. The centres bring together leading experts from a range of disciplines working in partnership with practitioners, policymakers and wider stakeholders to tackle public health issues likely to have a significant impact on the health of the nation. The five successful centres, which were awarded funding via a competitive process, are based in Newcastle, Cardiff, Belfast, Cambridge and Nottingham. Between them the centres will conduct research across a broad range of public health issues and on topics including diet and nutrition, physical activity, and alcohol, tobacco and drugs. The partners came together under the umbrella of the UK Clinical Research Collaboration to develop this co-ordinated approach to strengthen public health research in the UK.

<http://www.ukcrc.org/>

Highlighting Social Science

Genomics on show

The ESRC Genomics Network showcased its work over the last five years – involving more than 100 researchers ranging across five UK universities – and posed the big new research questions of tomorrow during the two-day conference *Genomics and Society: Today's Answers, Tomorrow's Questions*. The event brought together policymakers, researchers and natural scientists with what is becoming the world's largest concentration of social scientific research in the field of genomics – the Genomics Network. Topics such as embryonic stem cell research, genetic databases and biobanks, and the potential for huge advances in medicine, physical health and psychiatry were featured in lectures, debates, seminars and exhibitions.

<http://www.genomicsforum.ac.uk>

**POTENTIAL
FOR HUGE
ADVANCES**

New Spatial Economics Centre

A new Centre for Spatial Economics is to be established at the London School of Economics. The centre, which has received funding of £2.4 million over an initial three years from a number of partners including the ESRC, will look at why there are disparities in economic growth at regional, city and local levels. Dr Henry Overman, who is based at the LSE, will head the new centre. Researchers from the universities of Newcastle, Glasgow, Oxford and Swansea will join the programme, which has been funded by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Welsh Assembly Government.

<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk>

Boost for innovation

A targeted initiative focusing on innovation research has awarded £2 million to eight research projects. Supported by the Advanced Institute of Management Research (AIM), this initiative aims to promote and support world-class theoretical, empirical, policy and practice-orientated research in innovation. Questions to be addressed include what economic, social and managerial factors enable an economy such as the UK to best capture high value from increasingly global innovation processes? Eight targeted projects have been commissioned alongside the AIM Innovation Fellowships. AIM will provide the infrastructure to ensure an effective interchange between the projects and fellowships, and will also be responsible for the overall dissemination of results.

<http://www.aimresearch.org>

Making an impact

Muslim integration in Britain, offending reduction and developing corporate responsibility were among ten awards to receive funding during the year under the Impacts Grants Scheme. The scheme gives award holders the opportunity to highlight the relevance and impact of their research. Two categories of awards were made: up to £10,000 and up to £50,000. Other awards covered dealing with the impact of new immigration, delivering public services in the mixed economy of welfare and the evolution of business knowledge in small and medium sized enterprises. This Scheme will be taken over by a Follow-on Fund in summer 2008.

<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/KnowledgeExch/ImpactGrants.aspx>



Appointments

Professor Ann Buchanan, Director of the Centre for Research into Parenting and Children, University of Oxford, Professor Malcolm Grant, Provost and President, University College London and Dave Ramsden the Treasury's Chief Macroeconomics has been appointed as new members of the ESRC Council. Professor Patricia Broadfoot CBE, Vice Chancellor of the University of Gloucestershire, has been appointed as Chair of the body that will oversee the governance of the new £15.5 million Understanding Society study (formerly named UKHLS). The Vice Chair of the study will be Professor John Hobcraft, Professor of Demography and Social Policy at the University of York.

Questions of risk and health



Contributions by seven researchers from the ESRC Centre for Analysis of Risk and Regulation feature in a special issue of *Health, Risk and Society*

published in February 2008. The issue focuses on risk and regulation issues with particular reference to NHS infrastructure and service provisions and the risk regulation of critical areas. One strong message is that risk regulation in the

UK is in a state of flux and that learning from crises and routine organisational data and experience are crucial in the resolution of the present difficult web of risk regulation initiatives.

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/CARR>

**FOCUSING
ON RISK AND
REGULATION
ISSUES**

The heart of the matter

Researchers from the ESRC Centre for Genomics in Society (Egenis) made a successful bid for funding to the Department of Health following a pilot study into how family history information can be used to target individuals at high risk of cardiovascular disease. The collaborative pilot study, including researchers from Egenis, Peninsula Medical School, University of Nottingham and University College London, revealed that patients and GPs have different concepts of family history which can lead to miscommunication. The new funding will support a large-scale exploratory trial of family history intervention in 24 GP practices in Devon, Cornwall and Nottingham.

<http://www.genomicsnetwork.ac.uk/egenis/>

Support for data users

The WERS 2004 Information and Advice Service offers a range of support to both existing and potential users of data from the 2004 Workplace Employment Relations Survey, one of the most authoritative sources of information on working life in Britain. In 2007-08 more than 5,000 people received guidance and information about the survey from the WERS website. An on-line research database has also been established to provide an up to date and accessible list of research publications on WERS data. Two open research workshops were organised at the Universities of Warwick and Sheffield where analysts presented work in progress for other users of the survey data.

<http://www.wers2004.info>



2007-08

Highlighting Social Science

The land use debate goes on-line

Land use policies have become increasingly important with concerns over flooding, climate change, and food and energy security. The cross-council Rural Economy and Land Use Programme (RELU) hosted an on-line public discussion about this topic, the Great Land Use Debate, during the ESRC Festival of Social Science. The debate was opened by Hilary Benn, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, who said: "We need a properly informed debate about how to get the best from our land, based on the most up-to-date evidence. I believe that RELU has a key role to play in this." She hoped the debate would make a 'significant contribution' to our thinking on future land use.

<http://www.relu.ac.uk>



Distance learning

Researchers from the ESRC Centre for Social and Economic Research on Innovation in Genomics are providing one quarter of the content for the world's first distance learning course in translational medicine, a programme launched in 2007 in collaboration with the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine and the College of Science and Engineering, University of Edinburgh. The researchers contributed modules on innovation, risk regulation and governance, and intellectual property.

<http://www.innogen.ac.uk>

Religion and consumption

The relationship between religion and consumption, an on-going theme in the work of the ESRC Research Group on Lifestyles, Values and the Environment will benefit from a newly established international partnership (funded by the Templeton Foundation) with Emory University, Atlanta. The Group Director, Professor Tim Jackson, has highlighted the similarities between religion and consumerism in providing a 'meaning function' in people's lives. Findings further suggest that religious people do possess significantly greater pro-environmental (and pro-social) values than non-religious people.

**NEWLY
ESTABLISHED
INTERNATIONAL
PARTNERSHIP**

<http://www.surrey.ac.uk/resolve>

Encouraging green homes

The Green House, a science festival stand developed by the ESRC and Dr Michael Peters, show families how to conserve energy in the home. The stand at the BA Festival of Science 2007 in York was used for speaking to children about their eco-habits, and initiated conversations with parents about their homes and carbon footprint. *The Green House* has also been used successfully at both the Brighton and Wrexham science festivals, reaching over 2,000 people and, in partnership with the Energy Saving Trust, giving away hundreds of free energy efficient bulbs.



Celebrating 50 years

The ESRC Centre for Longitudinal Studies (CLS) celebrated the 50th anniversary of the 1958 British Cohort Study. A birthday card and timeline poster of the past five decades were sent to almost 12,000 people, born in the spring of 1958, who have remained in the study throughout their lives. The remarkable project, also known as the National Child Development Study, is one of three cohort studies managed by CLS, an ESRC resource centre based at the Institute of Education. The 1958 study gathers information on a wide range of topics including health, education, family life, employment, finance and housing. It has made a vital contribution to research and policy making in these areas.

<http://www.cls.ioe.ac.uk>

Public policy under debate

In 2006-07 the ESRC organised 18 public policy seminars to tackle key public policy issues such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, social enterprise and the economy, the impact of teleworking and teleconferencing on transport policy, talent management and the older workforce, volunteering, public participation, community relations and human rights. The seminars took place in towns and cities throughout the UK including Milton Keynes, Manchester, Sheffield, Belfast, London, Edinburgh and Cardiff. These lunchtime events are developed in collaboration with government departments, devolved administrations and national organisations and aim to stimulate a discussion of how policy can be developed, based on the best social science concepts and evidence. Each seminar is accompanied by a supporting publication which collates the existing evidence base for the seminar topic.

<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/policyseminar>

More successful fundraising

Better targeting charitable fundraising is the aim of new research by the ESRC Centre for Economic Learning and Social Evolution (ELSE). In collaboration with the Bavarian State Opera in Munich, one of the world's leading opera houses, ELSE has conducted a large-scale study into the nature of charitable donations and fundraising. Mail outs to potential donors reveals that donor matching (where a donor commits to match every donation that is made to the campaign) substantially reduces giving. On the other hand, the presence of large lead gifts (where a donor publicly donates a large amount to the cause in advance) substantially increases donations. This research aims to offer insight into the most effective fundraising activities.

<http://www.else.econ.ucl.ac.uk>

Food facts



The Chair of the Food Standards Agency, Dame Deirdre Hutton, highlighted the value of research by the Rural Economy and Land Use (RELU) programme in a high profile conference, *Unlocking Change in the Food Chain*, describing the programme as 'far-sighted'. The conference featured presentations from seven RELU projects to an audience of policymakers, academics and private and voluntary sector representatives at Congress House in London. Research findings from across the projects were subsequently fed into the Cabinet Office's Strategy Unit study on 'Food and Food Policy in the UK' and appear as a special journal issue of *Trends in Food Science and Technology*.

<http://www.relu.ac.uk>

2007-08

Supporting World Class Social Science Research

ESRC IS COMMITTED to supporting excellent research. All of our funding opportunities are highly competitive and only those proposals judged by experts in the field to be of the highest scientific quality are supported.

We approach this work in two ways:

- Responsive research schemes. These allow individuals and research teams to put forward research proposals in any area within the Council's remit without requiring that they fit within a particular set of priorities.
- Directive research schemes. These are established by the Council to enable us to support new work within our strategic research priorities by inviting proposals against a specific research brief and topic areas.

Responsive Research Schemes

We are committed to a 'lifecourse' approach through our responsive research schemes. In addition to our standard grants provision, we provide a range of funding opportunities at all stages of the research career from postdoctoral fellowships and first grants through to large grants, professorial fellowships and centre directorships. All of these schemes allow for single and multi-disciplinary projects, including work that goes beyond the social sciences and addresses important questions at the interfaces between the social sciences and the environmental sciences; health and medicine; and the arts and humanities.

A significant amount of this work is innovative in terms of its theoretical or methodological approaches and we are keen to encourage and support more of this research in the future.

Much of our responsive work has significant policy and practical impacts – such impacts are not confined to our directed or strategic research.

First Grants Scheme

Introduced three years ago the First Grant Scheme is exclusively for new researchers so that they do not have to compete for scarce funds with more experienced senior academics. Demand and quality has been high and has increased during the years to over 200 applications in the latest competition. The scheme has successfully filled an

important gap in the range of funding opportunities previously available. Thirty-six new awards were recommended in the 2007 competition.

Negotiating managed consumption: Young people, branding and social identification processes

As a result of receiving his first grant award, Dr Andrew Bengry-Howell, at the University of Bath, is examining the impact of marketing and branding practices on young people's consumption, and especially on their negotiation of social identity processes.



His project began in October 2007 and will conclude in September 2010. Plans for research include selected case studies of two leisure events in which young people's consumption is 'managed' and branded in different ways and to differing extents. The project will provide invaluable input into current debates on the ethical implications of contemporary marketing and branding campaigns for socially responsible marketing and practices.

Large Grants Scheme

Large-scale research projects that require funding for up to five years are supported through the Large Grants Scheme, with funding from £1.5 million to £5 million. Often these are multi-site and multi-team endeavours or entail the development of a significant new resource for use by the wider community. Although the scheme is open with no thematic steer, many of the topics covered have important implications for policy and practice both in the UK and beyond as well as being of outstanding scientific quality.



Three new grants were agreed for funding in the most recent round of the competition:

The Peterborough Adolescent and Young Adult Development Study (PAD+)

A longitudinal study of 716 young people from Peterborough born between 1991 and 1992 looking at how young people's involvement in crime is influenced by exposure to different kinds of social environment. The ESRC supported the first phase of the study and the findings are already assisting policymakers to understand the causes of crime and develop more effective crime prevention, which targets the needs of different kinds of young people operating in different kinds of social environment at different development phases. This further funding will allow the project to explore the crucial transition from adolescence to young adulthood.



Social Interaction: A Cognitive Neuroscience Approach

Through social interactions people make judgements about such things as their partner's social identity, emotional state, whether they are attracted to them, and how trustworthy they are. How do people immediately identify gender or emotion or even trustworthiness on the basis of a facial expression or voice quality? Why do some forms of interaction lead to social affiliation? How can emotions be contagious? This project's findings will have a range of applications and will be important for increasing our understanding of how key social judgements such as trust are made, of autism and assist the security industry in efforts to automatically identify emotions from CCTV footage or voice recordings.

Conflict Cities and the Contested States

This multi-disciplinary project at Cambridge University will analyse how divided cities in Europe and the Middle East have been shaped by ethnic, religious and national conflicts. Conversely it will study how



such cities can absorb, resist and potentially play a role in transforming the territorial conflicts which pervade and surround them. The main case studies will be Belfast and Jerusalem with supplementary work in Nicosia, Mostar, Beirut, Berlin and Kirkuk. The

research will assist governments and NGO's with a role in conflict resolution and also those who have to work in conflict situations.

Professorial Fellowships

Our Professorial Fellowship scheme supports the UK's leading social scientists, providing them with the time and resources to take forward exciting and innovative research agendas and to help develop the next generation of researchers. The scheme began in 2003 and some of the first cohort of fellows have now completed and been evaluated. Already these evaluations indicate that the work supported has been of outstanding quality.

Transformation of Work: New Frontiers and Changing Temporalities

One of the original nine Professorial Fellowships, now completed was awarded to Professor Miriam Glucksman of the University of Essex to investigate the changing nature of work and employment.



Following independent evaluation the project was commended as being of 'outstanding quality'.

The research proposes new ways of thinking about the division of labour and suggests three distinct, but interconnected, dimensions of the division of labour, based on technical tasks, socio-economic distinctions and the location of the work in terms of production, distribution, exchange and consumption. It was agreed that the research provides original and distinct analyses and provides an important new theoretical framework. The research should inform the development of medium to long-term policy in this area.

In the 2007 competition five new fellowships were supported:

- *Brain, Self and Society: The Social and Political Implications of the New Brain*
Professor Nikolas Rose will evaluate the hypothesis that the emerging fields termed 'the new brain sciences' – molecular neuroscience, psychiatric genetics, findings on neurogenesis, brain imaging, psycho pharmaceuticals, novel neurotechnologies – are having a significant social, political and personal impact in the 21st century.
- *Dynamic Models and Policy Evaluation*
Professor Costas Meghir aims to understand better how policies that encourage human capital accumulation and employment operate.
- *The Patterns, Organisation and Governance of Economic Crimes: Enhancing the evidence base*
Professor Michael Levi, will fill a gap in knowledge on the extent, organisation and control of economic crimes.
- *Legitimacy and Hegemony: International Stability and the Social Bases of Contemporary US Primacy*
Professor Ian Clark, aims to enhance conceptual and theoretical understanding of the requirements for legitimate hegemony and to contribute to policy discussion on how to translate this into practice.
- *Everyday Technology in Monsoon Asia 1880-1960*
Professor David John Arnold, will examine the relationship between everyday technology and the socio-economic transformation of late colonial and early post-colonial South and Southeast Asia.



Supporting World Class Social Science Research



Impact of Full Economic Costs

Since the introduction of Full Economic Costs (fEC) the average cost of a research award has increased substantially. These increases have been greater than originally envisaged. Coupled with continuing high demand (a 14 per cent increase in standard grant applications) throughout the year this has led to a significant number of highly rated proposals not being supported. We are looking closely at how this problem can be addressed and await with interest the outcome of the major review of fEC taking place this year.

Directed Research

The ESRC in its current *Strategic Plan* has identified seven key research challenges which address some of the most pressing and difficult scientific and policy challenges facing both the UK and the wider international community. They map closely on to both the Research Councils UK research priorities, all of which have a significant social science component, and the wider public policy agenda identified by both the Treasury and the Cabinet Office in recent reports.

The key research challenges are:

- Succeeding in the global economy
- Population change
- Energy, the environment and climate change
- Education for life
- Understanding individual behaviour
- Religion, ethnicity and society
- International relations and security

Our response to these issues is to invest a significant proportion of the ESRC budget in large-scale activities such as centres, programmes, groups and networks in these priority areas and we currently have over 50 such investments. Most of these are interdisciplinary in nature and a large number are funded jointly with other research councils or other partner organisations.

New Research Centres

Research centres receive long-term investment and are usually located in a single institution. The centres of excellence are committed to the achievement of research outcomes of the highest international standards. This includes making an important contribution to the development of research capacity in the UK and in demonstrating a significant economic and social impact.

We hold annual competitions for the funding of new research centres and renewed funding for existing ones. Funding is substantial and

usually for periods of up to ten years. We seek to achieve an appropriate balance between responsive and directive approaches to the allocation of funding. Therefore, these competitions include an open element where applications are invited in any area of the ESRC's remit and a steered element where applications are encouraged in a specified area(s) within our strategic priorities. Without this approach, there is a risk that exciting leading-edge innovative research in some fields could be missed as it would not have fallen into one of our 'headline' priority areas. Similarly, many of our responsive awards clearly fall within the key challenges but were funded on the basis of their scientific quality.

In 2006-07, the steered element was focused on education for life and the issue of skills in the knowledge economy. The three centres funded started work in April 2007:

- **Centre on Skills, Knowledge and Organisational Performance (SKOPE)**
The centre which received a second tranche of ESRC funding is based at the Universities of Oxford and Cardiff. Directed by Professor Ken Mayhew it aims to explore the impact of education and training on performance and further understand the links between investment, skills and the enhancement of performance.
- **Centre for Learning and Life Chances in Knowledge Economies and Societies (LLAKES)**
Based at the Institute of Education and directed by Professor Andy Green the centre will focus on the dynamic inter-relations between social cohesion and competitiveness and the dual roles that education and training can play in promoting each of these.
- **International Centre for Lifecourse Studies in Society and Health**
Directed by Professor Mel Bartley at the University College London the centre will use longitudinal data across the life-cycle to investigate the relationships between social structures and processes and people's health and wellbeing.

In 2007-08, we highlighted both climate change and population change as areas where we wished to receive applications.

In addition, we funded six climate change leadership fellows to develop and mobilise the UK's expertise in responding rapidly to the challenge of mitigating climate change.



Improving policy making on one of the most critical issues facing the world today.

The centres commissioned in 2007-08 were:

- The **Centre for Population Change** will be directed by Professor Jane Falkingham and based at the Universities of Southampton and St Andrews thus facilitating a strong UK wide focus to its work. It will explore the issues surrounding migration, fertility and ageing including the implications for society of migration both within and beyond national borders.
- The **Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy** will be jointly directed by Professor Judith Rees, at the London School of Economics and Political Science and Professor Andy Gouldson, at the University of Leeds, with Professor Sir Nicholas Stern as chair. The core of the centre's work is to provide both government and business with evidence that will support their decision-making processes and improve policy making on one of the most critical issues facing the world today.
- The **Research Centre on Micro Social Change (MiSoC)**, directed by Professor Stephen Pudney, at the University of Essex was awarded a second tranche of funding. This research focuses on developing an understanding of people's everyday lives and social change, including family and social ties; working lives inequalities and opportunities as well as advances in research methods.

Research Ventures

The Research Ventures fund was introduced in 2004 to facilitate a speedy and flexible response by the Council to opportunities for collaboration with other organisations in important scientific and policy areas. The scheme allows us to support work that would not otherwise have been supported; to engage closely with key stakeholders throughout the research process; and to increase the amount of external funding brought in to support social science research in the UK and beyond.

In 2007-08 we agreed to new ventures in areas such as population and reproductive health; transport policy; spatial economics; and charitable giving and philanthropy. They included:

Collaborative Transport Research Centre

The ESRC working with RCUK partners and the Department for Transport, in collaboration with the Scottish Government and other stakeholders will support the centre for five years with joint funding of over £7.5 million. The centre's research will address the significant transport policy questions facing the UK.



about, with and for the third sector, to include the voluntary and community sector and social enterprise.

Electronic Patient Records and Databases in Research

In partnership with the Wellcome Trust, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and the Medical Research Council, we will stimulate and support the use of electronic databases for health research, taking advantage of the new electronic technologies which are currently under development.

Centre for Charitable Giving and Philanthropy

In November 2007, the ESRC, Office of the Third Sector, The Carnegie UK Trust and the Scottish Government announced the UK's first independent, multi-disciplinary Centre for Charitable Giving and Philanthropy. The centre sees a total joint investment of £2.2 million over five years.



Strengthening the Social Science Research Base: Data and Methods

THE DELIVERY OF leading-edge research must be underpinned by sustained investment in a world-class research infrastructure. Over the last year the ESRC has made significant progress in improving and securing the UK's social science research infrastructure.

We aim to:

- Create a world leading data infrastructure that will allow researchers to address the key social and economic research challenges of the 21st century.
- Maximise easy and effective access to that infrastructure.
- Drive forward the development and uptake of cutting edge methodological tools and techniques to improve the creation, management and analysis of data resources.
- Promote the widespread exploitation of the data infrastructure across and beyond the social science community.
- Develop and promote access to the broader information resources that underpin top-quality social science research.

A World Class Data Infrastructure

How to succeed in the global economy, understanding patterns of demographic change, analysing and combating climate

change are just some of the complex challenges that have to be answered. To meet these challenges the ESRC continues to work towards its aim of creating high quality data resources.



The new Understanding Society – the UK Household Longitudinal Study, will provide opportunities to research and understand some of the most complex problems and issues facing society today.

It will be the largest and most ambitious study of its kind in the world, following 40,000 UK households over 20 years. Over 35 different consultation events have taken place with users to discuss the topic content of the study and the first data collection took place in early 2008 with the launch of the first wave of the Innovation Panel.

Understanding Society will be led by, the Institute for Social and Economic Research at the University of Essex, with the survey fieldwork being undertaken by the National Centre for Social Research.

The ESRC has renewed its funding for the British Election Study, the UK's top political science research study. Based at the University of Essex the Study investigates why people vote, and why they vote the way they do, and has been held for every general election in the UK since it was established in 1964. New questions and experiments will be introduced into the study in order to understand how issues such as terrorism, immigration and media effect elections. For the first time it will investigate local and European Parliamentary elections.

This year also saw the launch of Timescapes the first major qualitative longitudinal study to be funded in the UK. The five year programme based at the University of Leeds which commenced in February 2007 will use qualitative techniques to explore how personal and family relationships between grandparents, siblings, children, partners, friends and lovers develop and change over time.

Maximising Data Access

The true value of top-quality data resources is lost if they cannot be effectively accessed by the research community. Data needs to be preserved and catalogued to leading international standards. Innovative ways need to be found to deliver data to the research community and promote its use.

Access to the vast majority of the major datasets available to the social science community is provided by the Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS). Over the last year the service has seen a significant expansion of its portfolio of longitudinal data resources. In particular, the service has seen the processing and release of a major new study – the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England, also known as Next Steps. Through this addition the ESDS now supports, through web pages, user guides, value-added user resources and an outreach and promotion programme, twice as many studies as originally identified in 2003 when it was established. This was accompanied by further deposits of data from the internationally renowned National Child Development Study, 1970 British Cohort Study, the Millennium Cohort and the new English Longitudinal Study of Ageing.

The ESRC Census of Population Programme provides data and support services to allow users in the UK to access the 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001 UK census. In 2007 the UK geographical coverage of the programme was enhanced with the launch of the Scottish Longitudinal Study Centre. It will provide user support and access to the Scottish Longitudinal Study, a large 5.3 per cent sample of the Scottish population for whom various demographic, socio-economic and health data are linked.

Already 23 projects are being supported by the centre, undertaking analysis on a range of topics such as on health variations and inequalities, migration and neighbourhood change and sectarianism.



During the year the ESRC completed the roll out of the Census Programme 2006-2011 through the commissioning of nine projects under the development programme of the initiative. These projects will bring forward innovative solutions in the areas of census dissemination, census data linkage and understanding the impact of the contemporary change on the census itself. The projects will not only enhance the current programme but will also help to inform decision making both by the ESRC and the census organisations concerning the next Census in 2011.

Outside the UK we continue to take a leading international role in data development. In June 2007 the ESRC, along with a number of sister organisations, sponsored the *Foundation Conference of the International Data Forum*. Over 60 delegates from over 20 countries met in Beijing and agreed to support the permanent establishment of an International Forum with the aim of co-ordinating efforts by national research funding agencies and statistical authorities to make data more widely available for research purposes. We are now supporting the activities of a Foundation Committee to develop a work plan and funding proposals for the permanent establishment of the Forum.

Developing Methodological Tools and Techniques

It is vital that the most advanced tools and techniques are available to the social science community to both collect and effectively analyse increasingly large and complex social science data resources. Such tools and techniques form an integral part of the UK's social science infrastructure and, over the past few years, the ESRC has invested heavily in their development and exploitation.

During 2007-08 the ESRC has sought to maintain the UK's leading international

position in methodological excellence by renewing and expanding the research programme of its National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM). Four nodes were given continued funding and three new ones were supported in the following areas: the development and dissemination of methodology to make best use of administrative data; the advancement and development of simulation methodology; and the development of computational qualitative social science methodology.

We also renewed funding for the NCRM's sister centre, the National Centre for E-Social Science, which investigates how innovative and powerful computer-based infrastructure tools developed under the UK e-Science programme can benefit the social science research community. Seven nodes were funded, a continuation of four existing nodes and three new nodes:

- The obesity e-lab will be developing an e-infrastructure to support interdisciplinary collaborative research into obesity
- LifeGuide will provide researchers with tools to effectively collaborate in the collection and integration of data concerning behavioural interventions
- Data Management through e-Social Science: Case Studies, Provision and Support (DAMES) will exploit technologies and services associated with e-science to support social science data management.

Promoting Data Infrastructure

The ESRC remains committed to balancing investment in the data infrastructure with the provision of resources to promote its use.

The Understanding Population Trends and Processes Initiative (*UPTAP*) promotes the efficient and effective use of large-scale social

science datasets, both qualitative and quantitative and supports the capacity building in secondary analysis throughout the UK. The initiative has been predominantly targeted at those who are at an early stage in their research career and those of mid-career researchers wishing to enhance their skills, experience, knowledge and expertise in secondary analysis. Funding has allowed for three phases of commissioning. The second phase commissioned in July 2007 will improve our understanding of demographic trends and processes which affect the population, society and the economy, with particular emphasis on ethnicity. The 12 projects funded started in early 2008.

The *UPTAP* initiative is also aimed at fostering collaboration and improving communication between academic researchers and non-academic users. The third phase, which was also commissioned this year, was specifically aimed at researchers outside the academic community through User Fellowships. Six fellowships were awarded involving collaborations with a variety of organisations, including government departments, local authorities, national statistical agencies and primary care trusts.

Supporting the Boarder Information Environment

Beyond research datasets, there are a wide range of other information resources that underpin the delivery of high quality research. Over the last year the ESRC has conducted studies with both The National Archives and the British Library to explore the potential of their vast holdings for social science research. Building on the recommendations of the studies we are working with both organisations to help them promote their resources to the social science research community.

Maximising our International Presence

RESEARCH HAS ALWAYS been and must be an international endeavour. Social science research addresses inherently international questions, and in an increasingly globalised world, the nature of these questions has expanded very significantly. International collaboration in research is also essential to provide access to the sharpest ideas and most innovative approaches wherever they develop. When researchers have access to a shared resource of ideas and perspectives, they are more able to generate truly world class social science. We need to ensure that researchers are able to collaborate with the best people in their field, wherever that may be in the world.

Open Funding for Research

The ESRC has led the way in previous years in removing double jeopardy from collaborative international research through a series of bilateral agreements. What of the remaining bureaucratic hurdles, especially where one of the partners has a minor role? To overcome these, the ESRC is pioneering on behalf of all the Research Councils an open scheme – initially via a two year pilot – to allow co-investigators on the vast majority of its grants from any country in the world, including appropriate costs up to 30 per cent of the value of the grant. This allows one simple application to one organisation. It will particularly help leading scholars in developing countries in collaborations with the UK.

With key partners in Germany, the Netherlands and France we have also created a model to ensure that differences in approaches and systems in different countries do not get in the way of the best joint decision making. The International Common Application process is a set of procedures that ensure

common criteria for assessing applications are applied, with integrated processes for peer review. This is a further major step forward in easing the consideration of collaborative applications.

Data without Boundaries

We have taken the lead in establishing an International Data Forum, currently with 12 member countries, to forge a strategy for making data – academic, governmental and private sector – available on a comparative basis at a global level. The first meeting took place in Beijing in June 2007, and a working party led by Professor Peter Elias, the ESRC national data co-ordinator, will deliver strategic recommendations to a forum of international funders during 2008. This is a major development in opening up resources at a global level and ensuring even greater capacity for major innovative work and policy-relevant research.

European Programme on Migration

The ESRC has made a leading contribution during the year to the development of the flagship €22 million New Opportunities for Research Funding Agencies' Co-operation in Europe (NORFACE) joint programme across 13 countries for high level research on migration which will aim to enable a major step forward in theory, methodology and understanding in this area. The programme – the call for which was issued in May 2008 – will be financed from a common pot of funding contributed by all countries, meaning a single competition with no bureaucratic issues between different funders.

ESRC Collaborative Schemes with Middle East, South Asia and the Americas

From South Asia and China to the Middle East and across the Atlantic to North America, the ESRC supports research partners to explore their ideas together, and start to put them into practice. In 2007 the ESRC and the British Academy made 17 awards under our Visiting Fellowships scheme with South Asia and the Middle East, and the Arts and Humanities Research Council were welcomed as an additional partner for the next round. Countries and subjects were involved this year included Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka from South Asia, and Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Turkey, and Yemen from the Middle East. The range of subjects was impressive, from work on general linear



models to secularism and religion. With significant work also on environmental governance, urban design, religion and politics, multi-national enterprises, and financial aspects of reproductive health, the fellowships this year covered a range of important topics central to the international development of the social sciences.

We also awarded 19 fellowships through our Trans-Atlantic scheme with the Social Science Research Council in New York, including collaborations with Mexico, Uruguay Brazil and Argentina.

New RCUK International Offices

In 2007, the ESRC participated in the launch of two new Research Councils UK Offices, in Beijing and Washington. Both offices will focus on enabling relationships between funding agencies and the ESRC is working closely with both to ensure that the social sciences experience a step change in international engagement thanks to their on-the-ground expertise. At the China launch, Professor Yang Yang of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences made a strong case for the rise of the social sciences in China and Professor Philip Lowe, Director of the ESRC and the Natural Environment Research Council Rural Economy and Land Use Programme, spoke about the crucial role

that social science plays in predicting and managing environmental change. The Washington office has already proved extremely valuable in facilitating communication and building relationships agencies in the United States.

We now look forward to the launch of the RCUK India Office in Delhi and the benefits it will bring for fruitful collaboration. We have already agreed and are implementing with the Indian Council for Social Science Research an exchange scholarship scheme for emerging international researchers, plus joint exploratory workshops in the areas of economic restructuring, child development and learning, and environmental change.

A Joint Approach to Tackling Poverty

This year saw the completion of the third call under the joint ESRC and Department for International Development (DFID) research scheme for poverty alleviation. It has proved extremely popular with over 470 applications received and the scheme budget of £13 million has now been allocated to 46 awards over the three calls, representing a success rate of just under ten per cent.

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Maximising our International Presence

A study of the poverty impacts of land reform in southern Africa is one of the latest projects to receive funding. Professor Ben Cousins of the University of the Western Cape, South Africa and research partners in the UK, Zimbabwe and Namibia will highlight the conditions most likely to result in poverty reduction following redistribution of land. These research findings are being fed into high-level discussions on land reform policies and programmes in southern Africa and beyond. Practical input on means to mitigate the impact of disasters on the world's most vulnerable people is a key objective of another recent scheme award. A new project led by Dr Andrew Collins of the Disaster and Development Centre, University of Northumbria in Newcastle, aims to inform disaster and health policies through a study of how improved health security in Bangladesh can protect against disasters.

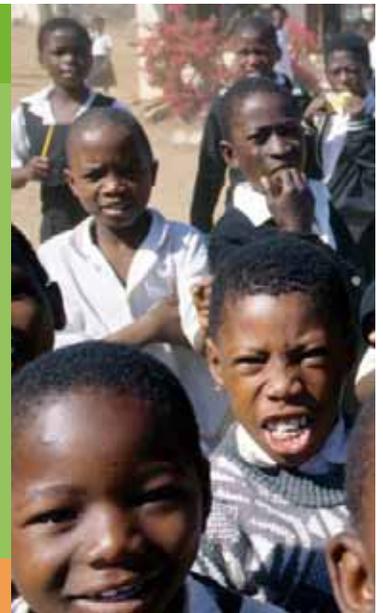
The ESRC-DFID scheme has become well established in the UK and in addition to the self-designated international development centres, over 80 applications in the third call were from UK departments other than development studies. Research studentships can also be attached to awards and five researchers have taken up this opportunity, with one award having two doctoral students. This is another way to help with development of expert capacity in countries where expertise is currently lacking or scarce.

Of the 46 awards, seven are led by overseas institutions based in South Africa, New Zealand, Mexico, the United States and two multi-national institutes of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research based in Indonesia and the United States. The majority of the awards have a developing country partner and a total of 65 developing country institutions or organisations are linked directly to research funded by the scheme. In terms of geographical coverage, Africa features strongly in these awards, closely followed by India, China and the Far East, with a more limited number focussed on South and Central America.

DFID and ESRC are now reviewing the scheme to decide how to move forward in light of the progress to date and the publication of relevant strategy documents by both agencies.

In late 2006 the ESRC and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation in the United States agreed to establish a research scheme exploring the links between economic development and poverty reduction on the one hand, and population dynamics and reproductive health issues on the other hand. With its focus on Africa, this scheme is more targeted than the ESRC/DFID scheme.

Exploring the links between economic development and poverty reduction, and population dynamics and reproductive health issues.



During the past year we have received nine applications and commissioned four awards totalling around £1.6 million. All of these projects involve African partners and one is led from South Africa.

This Hewlett/ESRC initiative has been used as the basis for two further bilaterals between the Hewlett Foundation and organisations in the Netherlands and France, and eventually we hope to work with the Hewlett Foundation and these other agencies to establish a European/US/African network of expertise in this area. The collaboration has been considered successful by both ESRC and the Foundation, and further joint activities are under consideration.

Though ESRC has worked with UK charitable foundations in the past, this is the first such collaboration with a non-UK philanthropic foundation, and we are exploring possible collaborations with other foundations around issues of mutual interest.

Furthering International Development

In addition to a busy commissioning timetable for development research activities, the year also saw important developments on the science policy front. The ESRC played a role in the establishment of the UK Collaborative on Development Sciences (UKCDS) and is now one of the members of that body. Set up to co-ordinate UK science inputs to development by bringing together government, Research Councils and other research funders such as the Wellcome Trust, the UKCDS aims to facilitate cross-agency multi-disciplinary work on major global development issues including climate change and capacity building.

With the advent of the UKCDS and with the development of a new DFID research strategy, ESRC developed a framework for development research which set out our vision and principles in addressing international development issues. It explores a number of research and related research resource priorities and outlines the range of partners with which we are working and wish to work with in the future. This integrated and comprehensive strategy signals areas of interest to potential future partners. We are now working internally with our boards and committees, and externally with a range of stakeholders, to explore what our niche role might be in taking forward the strategy.



Building our Future Capacity: Training

IT IS WIDELY ACKNOWLEDGED that the UK is amongst the global leaders in social and economic research. Sustaining this position requires the maintenance of a vibrant, high quality research community. The ESRC has taken the key strategic lead in seeking to safeguard the long-term health of the UK social science research base by supporting first rate research training and career development across the academic life course.

This continues to be a formidable challenge. The ESRC's own recent review of the demographic profile of the social science community reveals an ageing population. Recruitment and retention of new researchers is being outstripped by the rate of retirement which threatens to undermine the future sustainability of the social science research base. These problems are far from uniform with some disciplines facing particularly acute challenges to their long-term health. Nor are the underlining causes the same, they vary significantly. There is no 'one size fits all solution', what is needed is flexible training and development strategies that reflect the specific needs of individual disciplines.

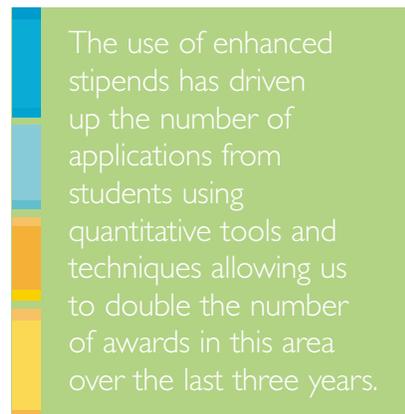
Health of Disciplines

In recent years this has been the key driver behind the ESRC's 'health of disciplines' strategy. The emphasis has been on providing extra support for those disciplines whose longer-term sustainability is most in doubt and ensuring that this support is specifically tailored to the needs of each discipline.

In economics this has involved enhancing student stipends above the standard rate with the aim of combating the loss of high calibre students to more lucrative non academic jobs, often on the completion of

their Master training. This strategy is paying dividends as the retention rate between Masters and doctoral training has risen from a 54 per cent of students in 2004 to 85 per cent in 2007-28, which is close to the average for other disciplines.

This year has also witnessed a further strengthening of postgraduate research capacity in quantitative research methods. This is an area where there has been an enduring skills shortage across the social science research base.



The use of enhanced stipends has driven up the number of applications from students using quantitative tools and techniques allowing us to double the number of awards in this area over the last three years.

Over £7 million of partnership funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales will allow this programme to be radically expanded over the course of the next 12 months.

A further partnership of £22 million with the Arts and Humanities Research Council and Funding Councils has helped to counter acute skills shortages in language based area studies. Five new centres focused on China, Japan, the Arab World and Eastern Europe have been funded with the aim of building a new generation of multi-disciplinary researchers to work on these regions. In addition, 126 studentships and 23 fellowships

are already funded and over the next three years over 250 new researchers will be created.

New opportunities

The ESRC has also extended its government collaborative studentship scheme, which now covers seven departments as well as the Welsh Assembly and the Scottish Government.

Forty studentships are now funded under the scheme. A further 69 studentship awards were also made through the CASE (Collaborative Awards in Science and Engineering) scheme strengthening partnerships with a wide range of public, private and third sector organisations. Longstanding studentship schemes with the Natural Environment Research Council, the Medical Research Council and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, have helped to sustain our commitment to building high quality interdisciplinary research capacity.

We continue to drive forward a more flexible suite of postgraduate training opportunities. Students are now being supported under our Research Grants Scheme and major new research initiatives. For example the new £20 million multi-agency initiative to establish a network of health research centres includes a large capacity building programme which will see 50 studentships funded over the next five years.

The ESRC's overall support for research training has never been greater. Over 750 new PhD students were funded in 2007-08 taking the current stock of studentships to a record high of almost 2,800 awards. With the increasing range of opportunities now offered by new initiatives, this figure is likely to increase in the future.

Meeting the training needs of the social science community extends well beyond the postgraduate level. The ESRC is committed to structured development across all stages of the academic career. Over the course of the last year, these opportunities have been further expanded. In addition to continued support for Postdoctoral Fellowships, we have created a Mid Career Fellowship Scheme to satisfy the development needs of more established academics. This will be launched in June 2008.

We have also further expanded training and development opportunities through our Researcher Development Initiative. Some 40 projects have now been funded offering training for researchers across the academic life course. These range from courses on advanced statistical modelling through to how to write a good research application and research project management. Underpinned by a bursary scheme to meet costs, these courses have proved to be hugely popular, and recorded their 1,000 attendee during 2007.

Future Priorities

Alongside these developments the ESRC continues to look at its current postgraduate policies and procedures. We have now completed reviews of our 1+3 (integrated Masters and PhD funding) training model and quality assurance (Recognition) requirements. The findings support the move towards a more flexible portfolio of training models to reflect discipline specific needs and a lighter touch accreditation process to sustain quality standards. Proposals to revise the structure, organisation and delivery of training will be a key strategic development during the next 12 months and will be discussed in detail with the social science community and other key stakeholders.

During the course of next year, the ESRC will also continue to drive forward its strategy to sustain the long-term health of the social science research community. There will be a particular focus on developing innovate training plans in the 'practice based'

disciplines of management and business studies, education and social work where there is need to improve the overall quality of the long-term research base. These are likely to involve a mix of activities including studentships and fellowships of varying content and duration, which cater for the needs of both young scholars and experienced practitioners who are returning to academia to pursue a research career. As with many current initiatives they will involve partnership with other stakeholders as the ESRC continues to maximise the overall investment in and impact of its training and capacity building activities.

By creating this more flexible suite of training and structured career opportunities, we believe we can build a high quality training regime that will help to ensure that the UK remains at the international forefront of social scientific research.



Some 40 projects have now been funded offering training for researchers across the academic life course.

Impacting on Society: Impact, Evaluation and Knowledge Transfer

THE ESRC AIMS to provide a high quality knowledge and evidence base, to address a range of economic, social and political issues within the UK and globally. Quality, impact and independence are all fundamental to achieving this. The social sciences have impact through direct and often quantifiable economic benefits. They also have wider social impacts that will benefit society more generally such as effects on the environment, public health and quality of life, and impact on government policy, the third sector and professional practice.

Developing Impact

To ensure the highest economic and societal impact of the Council's activities a dedicated impact strategy was introduced in 2007. This strategy was informed by the *Sainsbury Review of Science and Innovation: the race to the top* (October 2007) and the Government's *Innovation Nation White Paper* (March 2008).

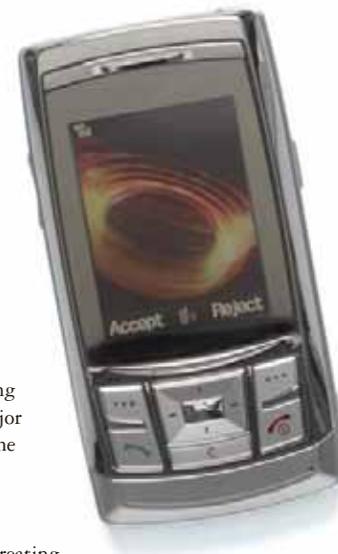
The strategy brings together and explains how the ESRC will create and support economic and societal impact through its investments in research, training and resources, and how this will be supported by knowledge transfer, communication and evaluation activities.

Looking ahead to 2008 the strategy includes new collaborations with the Technology Strategy Board, as well as an increased commitment to fund joint research ventures with external partners and the introduction of a new ESRC follow-on grants scheme to support impact generation.

This scheme builds on the impacts grant scheme which successfully funded ten awards this year.

In 2007-08 the ESRC has engaged intensively with its stakeholders to generate separate engagement strategies with the business and third sectors. The benefits from these consultative processes are already evident as new opportunities to generate impact have been implemented. For example, the Business Engagement Opportunities scheme integrates several activities in the ESRC's priority sectors to encourage businesses and social science researchers to work together and thereby contribute to the UK's international competitiveness.

This year also saw the establishment of a new Impact Management Team within the ESRC office. The team members are responsible for managing the ESRC's interactions with our major investments and work closely with the research directors and co-ordinators. This development has introduced an enhanced focus on promoting and monitoring research impact, and is creating new opportunities to identify and spread best practice.



Evaluation

During the year the ESRC completed a wide-ranging programme of major investment reviews, further benchmarking of the international performance of UK social science, and evaluations of the policy and practice impact of ESRC research.

We have also evaluated the quality and impact of a range of ESRC research and resource investments including the Understanding the Evolving Macro-Economy Programme, the Sustainable Technologies Programme, the Families and Social Capital Research Group, the Qualitative Data Demonstrator Scheme and 395 research projects. The results show a high quality of academic impact, with 30 per cent of the research projects being graded 'Outstanding' – indicating work that has made an exceptional research contribution – through an independent peer review process. Other highlights included important methodological and theoretical contributions from the major investments.

The ESRC is sponsoring a series of reviews in partnership with professional associations to benchmark the international impact of UK social science disciplines. The work began last year with the assessment of UK Social Anthropology; a review of UK politics and international studies was completed this year. The review panel of leading international experts concluded that there is truly outstanding research being conducted in the UK and scholars in this country have been leading contributors to the major international developments in the field. This research is also making an impressive impact on UK and international policymakers and agencies, and the proportion of UK scholars working directly with research users to ensure the impact of their research is unmatched anywhere in the world.

Further work in the benchmarking series is underway with a review of UK economics to be published in 2008, and a review of sociology about to begin.



Impact on Policy and Practice

Important progress is being made in the complex task of evaluating the policy and practice impact of ESRC research. This is a challenging area of evaluation practice and we are pioneering the development of approaches suitable for the social science context through a series of impact case-studies. The series aims to identify impact evidence, to understand the factors underpinning successful engagement and to test and develop evaluation methodologies. During 2007 new studies were completed on ESRC responsive-mode projects in politics and psychology and on three innovation centres supported by the ESRC over a ten-year period. Examples of the evidence uncovered by this work includes the use of research on visual clues to children's comprehension by specialist police officers and social workers when conducting interviews with minors, extensive contributions to government innovation policy and collaborations with major UK companies to improve business processes.

The recent studies have reinforced the value of analytical frameworks based on non-linear concepts of the impact process, and our approach has been validated by national and international experts as being at the forefront of evaluation development. The ESRC has recently completed a scoping study of economic evaluation techniques and is now testing ways in which these approaches might be introduced appropriately into our evaluation portfolio.

Knowledge Transfer Through People

One of the most influential and sustaining knowledge exchange processes is achieved through people being given focused tasks as intermediaries between different communities. The ESRC has made highly innovative use of the Research Council-Regional Development Agency Capacity Building Fund (which was available for two years until 31 March 2008) by forming strategic partnerships with Regional Development Agencies to jointly appoint staff or support consortia to identify business needs and then to draw on the knowledge base to meet those needs.

We have taken an innovative approach to engaging with our stakeholders, illustrated by the life course approach we have adopted for people transfer. Through a range of ESRC initiatives undergraduates to experienced academics now have opportunities to work in business, the public sector and voluntary organisations on projects of mutual benefit and interest. Similarly, staff from these organisations can gain from and contribute to academic units by spending time in that setting.

Placement Fellowship Scheme

This scheme is an opportunity for social scientists to work with partner organisations such as government departments and devolved administrations on projects of policy-relevance and to upgrade the research skills of partner organisation employees. It also enables public sector employees to spend time within academia.

During the year eight government departments hosted Fellows including: the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills; the Department for Work and Pensions; the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; the Government Office for the North West; the National Audit Office; the Scottish Government and the Welsh Assembly Government. Two reverse placements also took place with Fellows from government departments taking up placements at De Montfort University and the University of Edinburgh.

Fifteen fellows started placements during the year including:

- Professor Fergus Lyon, an applied researcher at Middlesex University Business School spent six months in a placement at the very heart of central government thinking. Drawing on his particular experience of researching social and economic inclusion, enterprise, market behaviour and innovation, Professor Lyon contributed to work on public service reform and social justice in the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit – part of the Cabinet Office. His specific focus was assisting the Prime Minister's team to develop health reforms.
 

PhD Placement Scheme

During the year 38 placements were made under this scheme which offers PhD students a three month placement in a host organisation, such as a government department, parliamentary office, or devolved administration where they work as part of a team involved with public policy. For example:

- Jessie Ricketts, who is currently conducting a PhD at the University of Oxford, took up a placement at the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology in October 2007. Her PhD focuses on reading development in typically developing children.



Impacting on Society: Impact, Evaluation and Knowledge Transfer

Collaborative Awards in Science and Engineering

The Collaborative Awards in Science and Engineering (CASE) scheme is the biggest of the collaborative schemes funded as part of the ESRC's commitment to knowledge transfer. These awards encourage greater interaction between academia and organisations by providing opportunities for students based in the UK's academic institutions to carry out research in conjunction with private, public or third/voluntary sector organisations.

During the year, 41 per cent of CASE studentships took place in the public sector, 30 per cent in the third sector/civil society and 29 per cent with the business and social enterprise sectors.

In March 2008 ESRC organised a national CASE Conference where guidance on managing collaborative awards; training workshops on getting research into practice, public engagement and engaging with business was given.

Social Science Workplace Experience Programme

During the year ESRC established the Social Science Workplace Experience Programme (formerly the Enterprising Social Science Programme), through the management of Step Enterprise Ltd, to offer undergraduates and post-graduate social science students the opportunity to undertake an eight-week placement during the summer within a small to medium sized enterprise.

For example:

- Andrew Garnham, a Finance, Accounting and Management student from the University of Nottingham, made a lasting impact on his placement organisation, Caring for Carers at West Suffolk Crossroads. Caring for Carers provides practical support for carers and their families throughout West Suffolk. Andrew developed the organisation marketing activities, raised its profile within the local community and opened up potential streams for further funding.

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) play a key role in the ESRC's investment in knowledge transfer. The projects are carried out by recent graduate or postgraduate in a relationship with a company/organisation and academic partner. The scheme's mission is to strengthen the competitiveness and wealth creation of the UK by enabling research organisations to apply their research knowledge to important business problems.

During the year the ESRC supported 75 KTPs, 30 of which started in 2007-08. Eleven of these new partnerships are with a business organisation, seven in the voluntary sector and 12 in the public sector. The ESRC contribution to the scheme was £1.3 million.

- Farleigh Education Group, now part of mental health and special education services provider the Priory Group, has been working with the University of Bath on a two-year KTP, which aimed to develop and implement a computer-based information and distance learning facility for professionals who work with young people with Asperger's Syndrome. As a result of the collaboration, the Priory Group gained a cost-effective, up-to-date in-house training tool for up to 1,000 members of staff. KTP Associate, Geraldine Jones, developed technical skills in a real-life business context. She is now E-Learning Support officer for the Department for Education.

Engaging with Key Sectors

The ESRC actively engages with business, the public and the third sectors.

As part of the delivery of the ESRC Business Engagement Strategy we commissioned scoping studies in key priority areas to: ask business to outline the key challenges facing business sectors; identify the current knowledge and expertise addressing these challenges; identify appropriate mechanisms to provide access to this resource; and to recognise gaps in knowledge and need for further research.

Eight awards were made under our Business Engagement Opportunities Scheme which aims to encourage engagement with priority sector businesses through a package of activity worth up to £100,000 in funding.

Developing learning facilities for professionals who work with young people with Asperger's Syndrome.



Five two-day engaging with business workshops took place in London, Manchester, Cardiff, Edinburgh and Sheffield. They attracted a mix of social science researchers from across disciplines. The workshops prepare delegates to engage with the business sector and to work collaboratively with business on their research.

In addition, issues for the health technologies, creative industries, the financial services sector in partnership with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants and human resources profession in collaboration with Kings College HRM Learning Board were addressed in a series of business seminars. Two high-level conferences also took place for the creative and cultural industries in collaboration with Kings College London and the London Centre for Arts and Cultural Enterprise.

Our activities with the public sector included 18 public policy seminars at which the UK's leading social scientists presented their latest research and drew out the policy options on topics ranging from reducing greenhouse gas emissions to social enterprise in public services. Through the cross-Council Local Authority Research Council Initiative five seminars and workshops

facilitating closer contact between local government and the Research Councils took place. Also, a high level summit at the Royal Society culminated in the signing of a concordat between these sectors and increased engagement with devolved governments.



Following an extensive consultation the ESRC introduced a new strategy in 2007-08 to engage and interact with the third sector. This initiative will build on ESRC's current activities and maximises the benefits and impact of relevant research investments.

In November 2007, the ESRC, Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office, The Carnegie UK Trust and the Scottish Government announced the UK's first independent, multi-disciplinary Centre for Charitable Giving and Philanthropy. The centre sees a total joint investment of £2.2 million over five years.

A joint initiative between the ESRC and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations provides an opportunity for ESRC PhD award holders in their second or third year to undertake a three-month placement at National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) working on issues of civil renewal and citizen engagement in government policy.

In addition, the ESRC organised three highly successful seminar series. A regional seminar series with the Social Enterprise Coalition covering a range of topics including social enterprise dynamics and the economy; public service delivery; and impact and return of social investment. In collaboration with the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action we ran a seminar series addressing public participation; volunteering and its unintended consequences; and community relations in Northern Ireland. A seminar series addressing civil renewal and engaging citizens, from local to global and human rights, a tool for change took place in partnership with the NCVO.



Communicating and Engaging with Society

THE ESRC RESEARCH makes a vital contribution to the wellbeing of the UK economy, society and the wide global community. An important aspect of the ESRC's mission is to provide advice on, disseminate knowledge and promote understanding and value of its research and the social sciences. We are determined that our research influences and reaches the people who matter – from MPs and policymakers through to members of the public.

During the last year our efforts to constantly improve how we disseminate our research has seen us simplify our portfolio of corporate and research magazines; focus on increasing our engagement with young people; explore different techniques to better exploit our website investment; publish the second edition of our newsstand publication *Britain in 2008* and review the materials we provide to our researchers for guidance and support in their communication and engagement activity.

All Change

In 2007 a review of ESRC's suite of corporate magazines was used as the basis for a bold new approach to our corporate magazine strategy. It was clear from the review that there was some confusion among readers over the differentiation between the *Social Sciences* newsletter – the ESRC's corporate newsletter since 1989 – and *The Edge*, our 10 year old magazine focused on research dissemination to non-academic audiences.

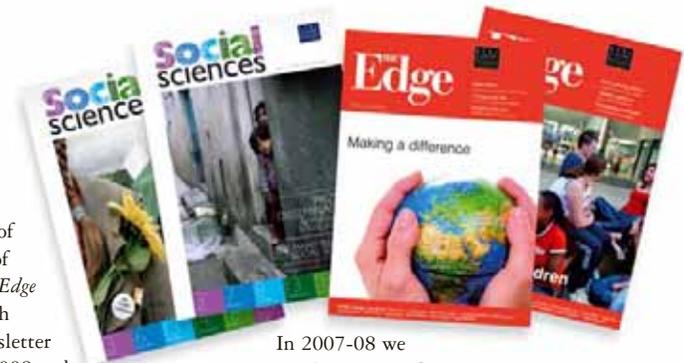
To simplify and enhance the service to our audiences both publications will be replaced by a single published magazine that presents ESRC research in an appealing manner to a broad audience. It will be supported by a regular e-newsletter highlighting funding opportunities and corporate news intended for our academic and social science community audiences.

With some heaviness of heart the final issues of *Social Sciences* and *The Edge* were sent out in March 2008. The first e-newsletter is published in May 2008 and the new magazine, *Society Now*, is launched in July 2008. *Society Now* to be published three times a year will work alongside and compliment our annual newsstand publication *Britain in...*

Getting Young People Involved

Social science has an important contribution to make in enhancing the understanding and engagement between science and the public, including reaching schools and young people.

An area of activity that we have been working on improving over the last two years is our engagement with younger audiences. As part of the Festival of Social Science – our flagship science in society activity – in 2006 and 2007 the ESRC hosted a total of six debates across the UK targeted at school age children.



In 2007-08 we increased the level of this activity through the sponsorship of the Central and NorthWest/North Wales regions of the Debating Matters competition. The national competition encourages young people to debate current issues in a *Question Time* format in front of a panel of experts. The ESRC as part of its sponsorship of the competition provided ESRC researchers to take part in the panel of experts and to provide contemporary research to add to the student briefing packs prior to the debates.

The ESRC was also the Schools Champion for the Battle of Ideas, a two day festival of thought-provoking debates organised by the Institute of Ideas. The ESRC's sponsorship helped to cover the entry costs of 100 school pupils from around the UK who otherwise would not have had the opportunity to listen and participate in debates that featured an eclectic range of speakers from the world of academia, government, the media and the arts.

Website Development

As part of the ongoing development of the ESRC website, www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk, there was a revamp of the site during 2007-08. Following feedback from user surveys the navigation of the site has been re-organised into channels based on user type. The six channels – general public, academic, public sector, third sector, press and media, and business – are used to highlight information or research that may be of particular interest to these broad groups with the aim of providing easy access into the vast breadth of material available on the website and within the awards and outputs database.



During the year we have also included more multimedia on the website with the introduction of on-line press briefings, which use podcast interviews with leading academic experts and text to give background information and specific research examples on topical issues. So far three have been produced on ageing, immigration and ESRC Data Resources and feedback from journalists has been positive.

Supporting our Researchers

The ESRC's support for the delivery of communication and engagement activities by its research investments extends beyond funding and includes the provision of communication guides, an on-line communications toolkit, media training and also practical help from the ESRC Office.

In 2007-08 we added to our media training offering a session specifically for mid-career researchers looking for an introduction to communicating their research to the media. The ESRC now provides training for early

career researchers through to intensive interview skills for professorial level and training days tailored to individual large investments. During the year we ran 17 courses and trained 246 researchers.

To enhance and work alongside our training activities we have produced a new media guide which is distributed to all of our new grant holders. *Working*

with the Media: a best practice guide replaces and updates previous guides on dealing with the press and handling TV and radio. The on-line communications toolkit is also in the process of being updated with the aim of having a new revised version in 2008-09 that will include public engagement and tips on interactive media.

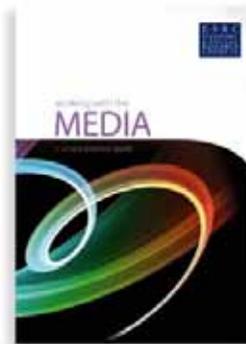
In November 2007 we hosted the third ESRC communications conference. This one-day event, organised around workshops, is an opportunity for the communication specialists and administrators working for ESRC investments to meet up and share best practice and exchange experiences of the communication challenges they face from engaging with stakeholders through to web administration.

Science in Society

The ESRC's Science in Society strategy is one way of ensuring that research is communicated as widely as possible and has the maximum possible influence. In addition, we also fund research projects which aim to enhance our understanding of the complex relationship between modern society and science.

The completion of our six-year ESRC Science in Society Programme was marked with a one-day conference in October 2007 and the creation of a box set of six publications which summarised the results of the research. Over six years, and through a total of 45 projects, the research programme has looked at many aspects of the multifaceted relationship between science and wider society. The publications, written to appeal to a non-academic audience, covered the six themes of the programme: science communication, genomics in society, science in governance and the governance of science, science in the

economy and the economics of science, and science, technology and globalisation.



During 2007-08 we also commissioned three research syntheses examining what existing research can tell us about particular areas of the science in society agenda. A steering group chaired by Professor Frank Burnet with representatives from the Department of Children Schools and Families, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, the Research Councils UK Careers and Diversity and Science in Society units, the Royal Society and the Oxford Trust identified a number of subjects for overview, of what is known from existing research to assist in a better understanding of the subject.

Two syntheses commissioned and completed in 2007-08 considered the following questions: What does the research indicate are good teaching practices to maintain pupil interest in maths and science? What is in the research literature about the impact of the career choices made by UK PhD students? The research syntheses highlight what is known and, importantly, what are the gaps in the literature knowledge.

Looking Forward

Looking forward to 2008-09 the ESRC's communication and dissemination activities will continue to focus on exploiting the website as a more interactive communication channel. We will examine our internal policies, schemes and procedures to ensure that we are effectively supporting our researchers and providing them with the resources and skills needed to maximise the impact of their research. In addition we are developing for the first time a programme of activity aimed at providing social science teachers with contemporary research to use in their lesson planning.



Making Headlines

During 2007-08 the ESRC ran an active media campaign promoting and disseminating ESRC research and social science across a wide range of media outlets.

Coverage ranged across diverse and topical issues, from migration to education through to children safety and binge drinking, within the pages of the broadsheets, the internet, specialist magazines and local press, both national and international.

Telegraph & Argus

Job skills are rising

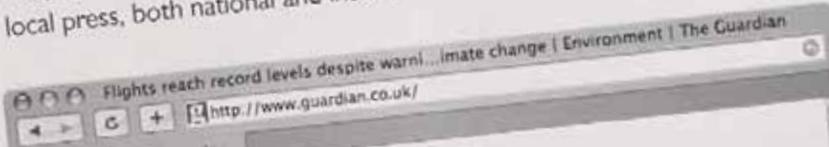
STUDY: Skills being used in British workplaces have been rising for the last two decades, according to a new study.

The ESRC Research Centre on Skills, Knowledge and Organisational Performance report - Skills At Work, 1986 to 2006 - gives the first findings from the 2006 Skills Survey, a nationally representative survey of 4,800 workers in Britain aged between 20 and 65, and similar surveys carried out over the last two decades.

The surveys collected a wealth of information about the skills utilised at work, and about workers' views on training and work.

Key findings include that since 1986, there has been a fall in the proportion of jobs requiring no qualifications for entry. There has also been a fall since 1986 in the proportion of jobs requiring less than one month to learn to do well.

Minister for Science and Innovation, Malcolm Wicks, says: "It's pleasing to see the strong growth in the number of people holding qualifica-



Flights reach record levels despite warnings over climate change

• 2.51m take-offs scheduled worldwide this month
• UK most popular country for international flights

David Adam, environment correspondent
The Guardian, Wednesday May 9 2007
Article history

Less than a week after the world's scientists warned there may be just eight years to act on greenhouse gas pollution to avoid the worst of global warming, the aviation industry has announced that the number of flights will boom in 2007.

Booming demand for air travel is expected to push the number of global take-offs to a record of 2.51 million for the first time. A survey by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) shows more than 114,000 more flights are scheduled for the first three months of the year compared with the same period last year - a 5% increase.

Announcing the figures, IATA's chief executive, Tom Wilson, said: "The aviation analyst firm IATA says that the healthy growth bodes well for the industry. Climate experts and environmentalists, however, warn that the industry's growth is a global warming problem. Kevin Anderson, a global climate change expert at the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, says: "The odds with efforts to tackle the aviation industry are slim."

FT.COM FINANCIAL TIMES

World

FT Home - World - UK

UK risks year of economic struggle

By Chris Giles and Delphine Strauss in London
Published: January 2 2008 02:00 | Last updated: January 2 2008 02:00

Britain's economy may struggle to withstand the effects of the global credit squeeze in 2008 amid the most difficult economic backdrop since the dotcom bubble burst in 2000, according to economists.

The annual Financial Times survey of 55 leading UK economists shows confidence well down on a year ago, with a big majority cautious about prospects or very concerned about the threats to economic stability.

The UK has enjoyed one of the fastest growth rates among developed countries in 2007, but some of the forces propelling growth - such as a strong financial services sector and housing market - could now make it one of the most vulnerable to a downturn.

Compared with 2001-02, the scope for the financial authorities to mitigate any downturn is also far more limited, the economists believe. Almost nine in 10 think public finances are not in good order and so there is no leeway for discretionary tax cuts or increases in public expenditure.

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The Independent

DAD'S FACE: THE KEY TO A WOMAN'S HEART

Scientists have discovered that women who have close relationships with their fathers are drawn to men who resemble them. **By Steve Connor and Jonathan Brown**

The way to a girl's heart

Husbands and boyfriends take a good look in the mirror. Then dig out your partners' family photographs. Do you look like her father? If not, you could be in trouble.

For women who enjoyed strong childhood relationships

in humans just as it is known to occur in many other species. It might seem slightly disturbing to discover that your partner's sex life is dictated by how she got on with her father, but the evidence does indeed suggest that women who had strong paternal bonds were more likely to choose men who looked like him than those who did not.

The researchers interviewed 49 eldest daughters who were asked to select the most attractive face from a set of 15 photographs of men.

Ears, hair, neck, shoulders and clothing were deliberately obscured to ensure they chose purely on the basis of "central" facial characteristics, such as



Peaches Geldof
THE DAUGHTER Peaches Geldof, Pireochais, and daughter of Bob and the late Paula Yates, she presented her own reality television show at the age of 16 and went on to write columns for The Daily Telegraph as well as appearing regularly in



Poor Working Memory Tied to Low School Scores

Monday, March 3, 2008, 12:00 AM

MONDAY, March 3 (HealthDay News) -- Poor working memory, rather than low intelligence, could be the reason why some children are underachievers at school, says a British study.

Working memory is the ability to retain and manipulate information. An example would be doing paper or a calculator. Students need working memory tasks, such as following teachers' instructions or remembering to write down.

Using a new tool that they developed, a team at Durham found that 3,000 children of different ages and found that poor working memory, which seriously impairs their

The study authors also found that poor working memory identified by teachers, who often believe children who have low intelligence.

The Scotsman £3 million study into the social impact of universities

FIONA MACLEOD
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE biggest study into the social and economic impact of universities on local communities will be launched at Strathclyde University in Glasgow tomorrow.

The three-year £3 million investigation will examine if students boost the local economy and how much knowledge filters down from university to local industry.

Researchers from 15 UK institutions will take part to build a national picture of how universities affect life in the country's regions.

It is hoped the findings will help British universities compete with other universities around the world and engage more with their local communities.

Policy makers and the business community will be invited to contribute to the programme over the next three years.

The Guardian

Pride in Britain takes a sharp fall

Pride in Britain has fallen sharply over a generation, with younger people less likely to have their elders' strong attachment to Britain, researchers say today.

The percentage of people declaring themselves "very proud" of Britain has fallen from 55% in 1981 to 45%, according to a study by the National Centre for Social Research, sponsored by the Economic and Social Research Council.

It found the change had been more rapid in Wales and Scotland than in England, suggesting that young people may become potentially more receptive to appeals from nationalist parties.

Researchers from several universities examined attitudes to national identity since Scottish and Welsh devolution in 1999. The study found that Britishness

provided an "inclusive" identity. "Just as members of minority communities define themselves as Black British or Asian British, people from the white majority tend to emphasise their Britishness when they move from their home territory."

"Senses of British identity and pride in Britain were strongest in England," said the researchers, who found also that the proportion of English people who thought of themselves as English had peaked at 44% in 1999, from 31% in 1992. "In Wales, and even more so in Scotland, substantial minorities did not feel British at all."

The study concluded that devolution appeared to have had little impact, but "instead there appears to be a gradual long-term process of declining British identity". **Press Association**

Vital Statistics

Who's Who at the ESRC

Research

Data and Methods

International Work

Training

Knowledge Transfer

ESRC Society Today

Data Protection and Information Security

Expenditure

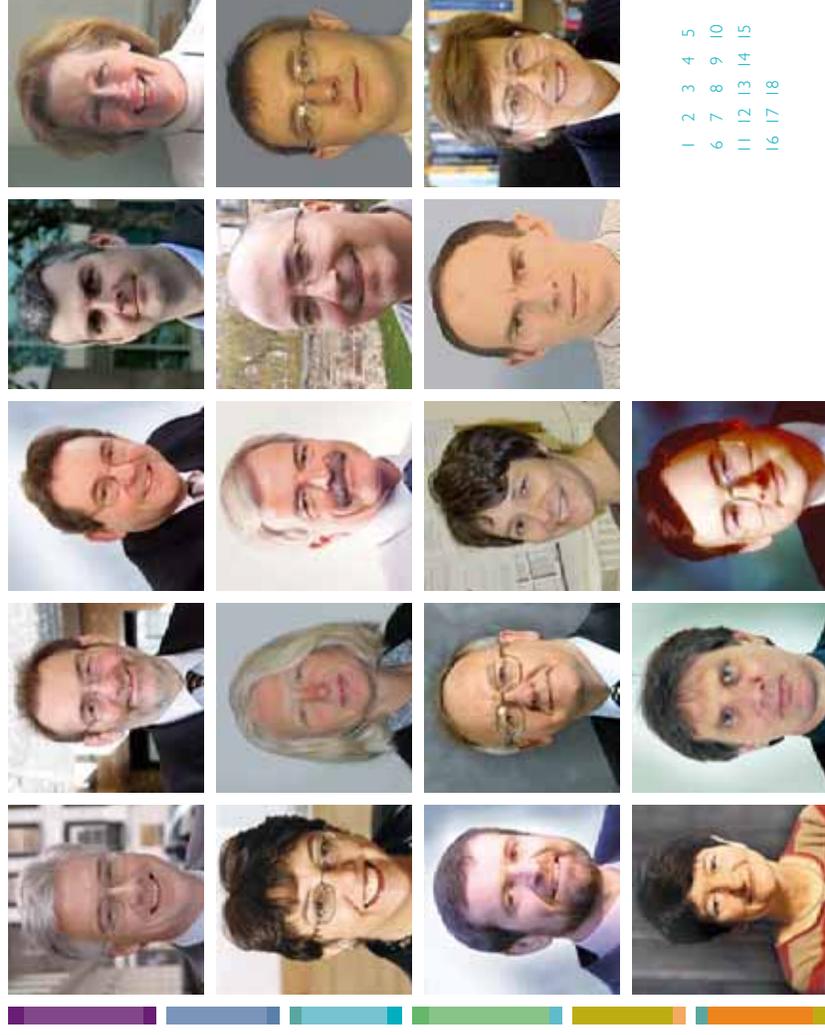


Vital Statistics: Who's Who at the ESRC

Council, Boards, Committees and Staff

Members of Council 2007-08

The following Council Members were appointed by the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills and serve for terms of two to six years, the dates given show their term of appointment.



- 1 2 3 4 5
- 6 7 8 9 10
- 11 12 13 14 15
- 16 17 18

- 1 Lord Adair Turner**
Chair
ESRC
2007-2011
- 2 Professor Ian Diamond**
Chief Executive
ESRC
2003-2010
- 3 Professor Alan Alexander**
Chair
Postwatch Scotland
2003-2009
- 4 Mr Martin Brookes**
Director of Research
New Philanthropy Capital
2007-2010
- 5 Professor Ann Buchanan**
Professor of Social Work
and Director of the Centre
for Research into Parenting
and Children
University of Oxford
2007-2010
- 6 Ms Helen Dent**
Chief Executive
Family Welfare Association
2003-2007
- 7 Professor Fiona Devine**
Professor and Head of
Sociology
University of Manchester
2003-2007
- 8 Professor Malcolm Grant**
Provost and President
University College London
2008-2011
- 9 Professor Charlie Jeffery**
Professor of Politics
University of Edinburgh
2005-2008
- 10 Mr Paul Johnson**
Director
Public Services
HM Treasury
2002-2007
- 11 Professor Michael Lamb**
Professor of Psychology
and Head of Department of
Social and Developmental
Psychology
University of Cambridge
2006-2009
- 12 Professor Andrew Pettigrew**
Dean
School of Management
University of Bath
2004-2008
- 13 Professor Carol Propper**
Professor of Economics
of Public Policy
University of Bristol
2005-2008
- 14 Mr Dave Ramsden**
Chief Macroeconomist
and Director of the
Macroeconomics and
Fiscal Policy Group
HM Treasury
2008-2012
- 15 Professor Judith Rees**
Professor of
Environmental and
Resources Management
London School of
Economics
2004-2010
- 16 Professor Alison Richard**
Vice-Chancellor
University of Cambridge
2004-2007
- 17 Mr David Walker**
Editor
The Guardian's Public
magazine
2007-2009
- 18 Mr John Neilson**
Representative of the
Secretary of State for
Innovation, Universities
and Skills
Department for Innovation,
Universities and Skills

Board and Committee Members 2007-08

| Strategic Research Board | Research Grants Board | Research Resources Board | Training and Development Board | Audit Committee | Communication and Information Committee | Research Evaluation Committee |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| Professor C Jeffery <i>Chair</i> | Professor C Propper <i>Chair</i> | Professor D Reay | Professor J Rees <i>Chair</i> | Mr M Brookes <i>Chair</i> | Mr D Walker <i>Chair</i> | Professor A Petrigrew <i>Chair</i> |
| Professor J Burgess <i>Vice-Chair</i> | Professor C O'Malley <i>Vice-Chair</i> | Professor M Evandrou <i>Vice-Chair</i> | Professor C Phillipson <i>Vice-Chair</i> | Professor A Buchanan | Mr M Beatson | Professor J Beath |
| Professor J Fairhead | Professor A Tickell <i>Vice Chair</i> | Professor D Blackaby | Professor S Bulmer | Professor F Devine | Dr T Brain | Professor C Bellamy |
| Professor C Gipps | Professor P Aggleton | Professor J Brannen | Dr S Campbell | Professor A Goddard | Professor L Brindley | Professor F Berkhout |
| Professor H Margretts | Professor P Allmendinger | Mr M Hughes | Dr S Delamont | Mr B Hooper <i>Secretary</i> | Professor F Burnet | Professor G Gaskell |
| Professor C McInnes | Professor O Artanasio | Ms S Jones | Professor J Field | International Advisory Committee | Mr N Churchill | Professor C Glendinning |
| Ms A Millar | Professor G Boyner | Mr J Nazroo | Professor C Howe | Professor M Lamb | Dr R Cliffe | Mr B Naisbitt |
| Mr F Millen | Professor G Bremner | Mr C Rusbridge | Professor C Huxham | Professor M Lamb <i>Chair</i> | Ms B Doig | Professor I Sanderson |
| Professor C Orme | Professor M David | Ms S Stanley | Professor K Lee | Professor S Bulmer | Mr D May | Mr I Jones <i>Secretary</i> |
| Professor S Owens | Professor B Francis | Professor F Steele | Professor M Martin-Jones | Professor P Elias | Mr G Power | Mr P Sooben <i>Ex Officio</i> |
| Ms C Roberts | Professor P Gatrell | Professor G Wagner | Professor M Overton | Professor J Fairhead | Mr P Reader | |
| Professor S Roper | Professor B Hayes | Mr M Whitbread | Mr C Park | Professor J Falkingham | Ms J Reeve | |
| Professor J Solomos | Professor N MacFarlane | Dr D Zeitlyn | Ms S Witherspoon | Professor T Nicholls | Mr W Rossiter | |
| Professor J Stevenson | Professor S Monsell | Mr M Bright <i>Secretary</i> | Mr J Neathley <i>Secretary</i> | Professor A Tickell | Professor G Stoker | |
| Professor F Williams | Dr N Owen | Professor P Elias <i>Ex Officio</i> | | Professor M Vihman <i>Secretary</i> | Ms S Ward | |
| Dr P Williams | Professor E Page | | | | Drs A Wissenburg <i>Secretary</i> | |
| Mrs F Burstow <i>Secretary</i> | Ms E Ransom | | | | | |

Senior Staff at the ESRC (in post at 31 March 2008)

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| 1 Lord Adair Turner Chair | 4 Mr Iain Jones Deputy Director Communication and Information Directorate (CID) | 7 Mr Phil Sooben Head of Corporate Strategy Policy and Resources Directorate (PRD) |  |  |  |  |
| 2 Professor Ian Diamond Chief Executive | 5 Mr Brian Hooper Director Finance and Awards Management Division (FAM) | 8 Mr Jeremy Neathley Deputy Director Policy and Resources Directorate (PRD) |  |  |  |  |
| 3 Drs Astrid Wissenburg Director Communication and Information Directorate (CID) | 6 Mr Adrian Alsop Director Research Directorate (RD) | |  |  | | |

Vital Statistics: Research

Major Research Investments

Through our **Research Grants and Strategic Research Boards** we provide funding through: research centres and groups, research programmes and networks, research grants and ventures.

Research centres are major investments in one or more of the ESRC's key challenges. They are funded for an initial period of ten years, subject to a satisfactory mid-term review. Selection is based on a competition steered towards one or more of the themes, with peer and merit review processes involved. **Research groups** are selected via the same competition as centres but for an initial period of five years.

Research programmes are groups of related projects, together addressing one or more of ESRC's priority themes. They are typically five years in duration. Selection is based on a competition worked around a specification for the programme, with peer and merit review processes involved. Priority networks are similar to programmes in involving groups of related projects but participation is managed by the researchers themselves and they operate on a smaller scale.

Large grants are large-scale research projects that provide funding for up to five years above the standard research grant of £1.5 million, and up to £5 million. The scheme is a source of support for experienced researchers. It is based on open competition and there are no restrictions on the nature of the social science research to be undertaken.

The **Research Ventures** fund is available for collaborative proposals which lie outside current ESRC funding modes. The ESRC ventures scheme offers the opportunity to collaborate with interested parties willing to co-fund research programmes.

Major Research Investments 2007-08

Below is a list of ESRC-funded investments that were commissioned and current in 2007-08. Those commissioned may not start work until after March 2008. Many of the investments, particularly the research ventures are multi-disciplinary but for the purpose of the report and for ease of use they have been listed by their most appropriate subject area. The research ventures dates are given as financial years, other investments are by month and year.

Economics and Economic Development

| Investment | Type | Date | Current Grant | Co-funder/Partner | Contact |
|--|-----------|-------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Capacity in Economics of Health | Venture | 2008/09 – 2011/12 | £896,000 (ESRC Contribution) £1.8 million (Partners Contribution) | Medical Research Council (MRC) and National Co-ordinating Centre for Research Capacity Development | ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk |
| Centre for Competition Policy (CCP) | Centre | September 2004 – August 2013 | £3.1 million | N/A | Professor C Waddams 0160 359 3715 c.waddams@uea.ac.uk http://www.ccp.uea.ac.uk |
| Centre for Economic Learning and Social Evolution (ELSE) | Centre | October 1995 – September 2010 | £3 million | N/A | Professor M Armstrong 020 7679 4565 mark.armstrong@ucl.ac.uk http://else.econ.ucl.ac.uk |
| Centre for Economic Performance (CEP) | Centre | April 1990 – September 2010 | £5.1 million | N/A | Professor J Van Reenen 020 7955 7049 j.vanreenen@lse.ac.uk http://cep.lse.ac.uk |
| Centre for Market and Public Organisation (CMPO) | Centre | October 2004 – September 2014 | £1.1 million | N/A | Professor S Burgess 0117 928 8436 simon.burgess@bristol.ac.uk http://www.bris.ac.uk/cmipo |
| Centre for the Microeconomic Analysis of Public Policy (CPP) | Centre | April 1991 – September 2011 | £5.3 million | N/A | Professor R Blundell 020 7291 4820 rblundell@ifs.org.uk http://www.ifs.org.uk/esrc |
| Centre for Spatial Economics | Venture | 2008/09 – 2010/11 | £1.2 million (ESRC Contribution) £1.2 million (Partners Contribution) | Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, Department for Communities and Local Government, and Welsh Assembly Government | Dr H Overman 020 7955 6581 h.overman@lse.ac.uk http://www.spatial.economics.ac.uk |
| World Economy and Finance Programme (WEF) | Programme | March 2004 – February 2009 | £5.8 million Phase I – 16 projects Phase II – 10 projects | N/A | Professor J Driffill 020 7631 6417 j.driffill@ems.bbk.ac.uk http://www.world.economyandfinance.org |

Vital Statistics: Research

Major Research Investments

Education, Psychology, Cognition and Linguistics

| Investment | Type | Date | Current Grant | Co-funder/Partner | Contact |
|--|---------|---------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World (CASAW) | Centre | October 2006 – September 2011 | £3.1 million | N/A | Professor E Kendall 0131 651 3777 elisabeth.kendall@ed.ac.uk http://www.casaw.org/ |
| British Inter-University China Centre (BICC) | Centre | September 2006 – September 2011 | £3.7 million | N/A | Dr F Pleke 01865 278200 frank.pleke@chinese.ox.ac.uk http://www.bicc.ox.ac.uk/ |
| Centre for East European Language Based Area Studies (CEELBAS) | Centre | October 2006 – September 2011 | £2.7 million | N/A | Dr R Aizlewood 020 7679 8751 raizlewood@ssees.ac.uk http://www.ceelbas.ac.uk/ |
| Centre for Russian, Central and East European Studies (CRCEES) | Centre | October 2006 – September 2011 | £2.8 million | N/A | Mr R Berry 0141 330 8539 rberry@lbs.gla.ac.uk http://www.gla.ac.uk/crcees/ |
| Deafness, Cognition and Language Centre (DCAL) | Centre | January 2006 – December 2010 | £3.6 million | N/A | Professor B Woll 020 7679 8670 b.woll@ucl.ac.uk http://www.dcalucl.ac.uk |
| Impacts of Higher Education Institutions of Regional Economies | Venture | 2007/08 – 2009/10 | £.3 million (ESRC Contribution) £1.3 million (Partners Contribution) | Scottish Funding Council, Welsh Funding Council, Department for Employment and Learning in Northern Ireland and Higher Education Funding Council in England | Professor P McGregor 0141 548 3848 p.mcgregor@strath.ac.uk U Kelly 0141 548 4206 ukelly@strath.ac.uk http://ewds.strath.ac.uk/Default.aspx?alias=ewds.strath.ac.uk/impact |

| Investment | Type | Date | Current Grant | Co-funder/Partner | Contact |
|---|-----------|------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Learning and Life Chances in Knowledge Economies and Societies (LLAKES) | Centre | January 2008 – December 2013 | £4 million | N/A | Professor A Green 020 7612 6760 andygreen@ioe.ac.uk |
| Research Centre for Bilingualism in Theory and Practice | Venture | 2007/08 – 2011/12 | £2.5 million (ESRC Contribution) £2.5 million (Partners Contribution) | Higher Education Funding Council for Wales and Welsh Assembly Government | Professor M Deuchar 01248 382269 m.deuchar@bangor.ac.uk http://www.bilingualism.bangor.ac.uk/ |
| Teaching and Learning Research Programme (TLRP) | Programme | March 1999 – December 2008 | £3.6 million (ESRC Contribution) Phase I – 4 networks Phase II – 9 projects Phase III – 23 projects Phase IV – 7 projects 8 Thematic Seminar Series Phase V – 7 projects | N/A | Professor A Pollard 020 7911 5581 apollard@ioe.ac.uk http://www.tlrp.org |
| Technology Enhanced Learning Phase I | Venture | 2006/07 – 2011/12 | £3 million (ESRC Contribution) £3 million (Partners Contribution) | Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) | ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk |
| White Rose East Asia Centre (WREAC) | Centre | September 2006 – August 2011 | £2.7 million | N/A | Professor V King 0113 3436749 vt.king@leeds.ac.uk http://www.wreac.org/index.php |

Geography, Environment, Urban/Rural and Transport Studies, Area Studies

| Investment | Type | Date | Current Grant | Co-funder/Partner | Contact |
|---|---------|--|---|--|---|
| 2007 Floods | Venture | 2007/08 – 2009/10 | £102,000 (ESRC Contribution) £114,000 (Partners Contribution) | Environment Agency and EPSRC | Dr W Medd 01524 594735 wmedd@lancs.ac.uk http://www.lec.lancs.ac.uk/csww/cswm_front.php |
| Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy | Centre | October 2008 – September 2013 (Commissioned in the 2007/08 competition) | £5.8 million | N/A | Professor J Rees 020 7955 6228 j.rees@lse.ac.uk Professor A Gouldson 0113 343 6461 a.gouldson@see.leeds.ac.uk |
| Centre for Social and Economic Research on the Global Environment (CSERGE) | Centre | October 2001 – September 2007 | £2.1 million | N/A | Professor K Turner 0160 359 2551 rk.turner@uea.ac.uk http://www.uea.ac.uk/env/cserge |
| Centre for Social, Technological and Environmental Pathways to Sustainability (STEPS) | Centre | October 2006 – September 2011 | £3.8 million | N/A | Professor M Leach 0127 367 8685 m.leach@jds.ac.uk http://www.steps-centre.org |
| Collaborative Transport Research Centre | Venture | 2008/09 – 2013/14 | £2.5 million (ESRC Contribution) £5.25 million (Partners Contribution) | Department for Transport and The Scottish Government | ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk |
| Electricity Policy Research Group (EPRG) | Group | October 2005 – September 2010 | £2.4 million | N/A | Professor D Newbery 0122 3335 246 david.newbery@econ.cam.ac.uk http://www.electricitypolicy.org.uk |

| Investment | Type | Date | Current Grant | Co-funder/Partner | Contact |
|--|----------------|------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Environment and Human Health | Venture | 2007/08 – 2009/10 | £260,000 (ESRC Contribution) £3.6 million (Partners Contribution) | Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), EPSRC, National Environment Research Council (NERC), Environment Agency, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Ministry of Defence, MRC, Wellcome Trust and Health Protection Agency | ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk |
| Global Poverty Research Group | Research Group | August 2002 – July 2007 | £2.6 million | N/A | Dr F Teal 0186 527 1084 francisteal@economics.ox.ac.uk http://www.gprg.org |
| Living With Environmental Change (LWEC) | Programme | 2007 – 2017 | £1 billion across multiple partners – ESRC contribution over the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review period £20 million | NERC, ESRC, EPSRC, BBSRC, MRC, AHRC, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Department for International Development, Department for Communities and Local Government, Department for Transport, Environment Agency, Welsh Assembly Government, Scottish Government, Natural England, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Met Office and Microsoft Research | Dr Sally Read 01793 442565 sallyread@nerc.ac.uk www.nerc.ac.uk |
| Research Group on Lifestyles, Values and Environment (RESOLVE) | Research Group | May 2006 – April 2011 | £2.9 million | N/A | Professor T Jackson 0148 368 9072 t.jackson@surrey.ac.uk http://www.surrey.ac.uk/resolve |
| Rural Economy and Land Use (RELU) | Programme | September 2003 – August 2011 | £5 million (ESRC Contribution) Phase I – 42 projects Phase II – 11 projects Phase III – 10 projects | NERC, BBSRC, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Scottish Government | Professor P Lowe 0191 222 6903 relu@ncl.ac.uk http://www.relu.ac.uk |
| Skills and Knowledge for Sustainable Communities Initiative | Venture | 2007/08 – 2008/09 | £435,000 (ESRC Contribution) £435,000 (Partners Contribution) | Academy for Sustainable Communities | ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk |

continue

Geography, Environment, Urban/Rural and Transport Studies, Area Studies (continued)

| Investment | Type | Date | Current Grant | Co-funder/Partner | Contact |
|--|----------------|-------------------------------|--|-------------------|---|
| Sussex Energy Group | Research Group | April 2005 – March 2010 | £2.8 million | EPSRC and NERC | Professor G MacKerron 0127 367 8166 g.s.mackerron@sussex.ac.uk http://www.sussex.ac.uk/sussexenergygroup |
| The Waste of the World | Large Grant | October 2006 – September 2011 | £2.9 million | N/A | Professor N Gregson 0114 222 7943 n.gregson@sheffield.ac.uk http://www.thewasteoftheworld.org/ |
| Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research | Centre | October 2000 – March 2009 | £800,000 (ESRC Contribution) | NERC | Professor A Watkinson 01603 592267 a.watkinson@uea.ac.uk http://www.tyndall.ac.uk |
| UK Energy Research Centre (UKERC) | Centre | April 2004 – April 2009 | £3.2 million (ESRC Contribution) | EPSRC | Mr J Loughhead Professor J Skea 020 7594 1574 admin@ukerc.ac.uk 020 7594 1574 jimskea@ukerc.ac.uk http://www.ukerc.ac.uk |
| Water Shortage | Venture | 2006/07 – 2007/08 | £63,000 (ESRC Contribution) £63,000 (Partners Contribution) | Water Industry | ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk |
| Wellbeing in Developing Countries Research Group (WeD) | Research Group | October 2002 – September 2007 | £3.3 million | N/A | Dr A McGregor 0122 582 6384 j.a.mcgregor@bath.ac.uk http://www.welldev.org.uk |

Government, Political Science and Law

| Investment | Type | Date | Current Grant | Co-funder/Partner | Contact |
|---|-------------|-------------------------------|--|--|--|
| ARK – A Social and Political Archive for Northern Ireland | Large Grant | October 2006 – September 2011 | £2.6 million | N/A | Dr R Miller 02890 973386 rmiller@qub.ac.uk http://www.ark.ac.uk/ |
| Better Outcomes in Public Policy | Venture | 2006/07 – 2008/09 | £650,000 (ESRC Contribution) £400,000 (Partners Contribution) | Department for Communities and Local Government | ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk |
| Centre for Analysis of Risk and Regulation (CARR) | Centre | October 2000 – September 2010 | £2.8 million | N/A | Professor B Hutter 020 7955 7287 b.m.hutter@lse.ac.uk http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/CARR |
| Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation (CSGR) | Centre | October 1997 – September 2007 | £2.4 million | N/A | Professor R Higgott Professor J Sholte 024 7652 4633 richard.higgott@warwick.ac.uk 024 7657 2939 scholte@warwick.ac.uk http://www.csgr.org |
| Conflict in Cities and the Contested State: Everyday life and the possibilities for transformation in Belfast, Jerusalem and other divided cities | Large Grant | October 2007 – September 2012 | £3.2 million | N/A | Dr W Pullan 01223 332962 wap10@cam.ac.uk www.conflictinities.org |
| Countering Terrorism in Public Places | Venture | 2007/08 – 2010/11 | £500,000 (ESRC Contribution) £1.5 million (Partners Contribution) | Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), ESRC and Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure | ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk |
| Justice by Race and Geography | Venture | 2007/08 – 2009/10 | £150,000 (ESRC Contribution) £80,000 (Partners Contribution) | Commission for Racial Equality | ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk |
| New Security Challenges | Programme | January 2003 – December 2007 | £3.8 million Phase I – 18 projects Phase II – 19 projects | N/A | Professor S Croft 0121 414 6522 s.j.croft@bham.ac.uk http://www.newsecurity.bham.ac.uk |
| New Security Challenges: Radicalisation and Violence – a critical reassessment | Venture | 2007/08 – 2009/10 | £1.7 million (ESRC Contribution) £700,000 (Partners Contribution) | Foreign and Commonwealth Office and AHRC | Professor S Croft 0121 414 6522 s.j.croft@bham.ac.uk http://www.newsecurity.bham.ac.uk |

Management and Business Studies and Innovation

| Investment | Type | Date | Current Grant | Co-funder/Partner | Contact |
|---|-------------|-------------------------------|--|---|--|
| AIM Management Research Initiative | Programme | January 2002 – October 2007 | £21.8 million 40 fellowships | N/A | Professor R Wensley 0870 734 3000 aim@wbs.ac.uk http://www.aimresearch.org |
| Centre for Business Relationships, Accountability, Sustainability and Society (BRASS) | Centre | October 2001 – September 2011 | £4.8 million | N/A | Professor K Peattie 029 2087 6562 peattie@cardiff.ac.uk http://www.brass.cf.ac.uk |
| Centre on Skills, Knowledge and Organisational Performance (SKOPE) | Centre | October 1998 – September 2008 | £3 million | N/A | Professor K Mayhew 0186 527 6434 skope@ox.ac.uk http://www.economics.ox.ac.uk/skope |
| Corporate Governance, Capital Markets and Performance | Large Grant | November 2006 – October 2009 | £1.4 million | N/A | Professor J Franks 020 7262 5050 jfranks@london.edu http://www.london.edu/centreforcorporategovernance.html |
| Corporate Governance Ideas Factory | Venture | 2006/07 – 2007/08 | £100,000 (ESRC Contribution) £200,000 (Partners Contribution) | Department for Trade and Industry and Advanced Institute of Management | ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk |
| Grand Challenges – Advanced Institute of Management (AIM) | Venture | 2006/07 – 2008/09 | £227,000 (ESRC Contribution) £2 million (Partners Contribution) | EPSRC | http://www.aimresearch.org/ |
| Management Education Fellowships | Venture | 2007/08 – 2010/11 | £645,000 (ESRC Contribution) £600,000 (Partners Contribution) | The Foundation for Management Education | ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk |
| Public Services: Quality, Performance and Delivery | Programme | November 2004 – October 2009 | £4.9 million Phase I – 14 projects Phase II – 14 projects Phase III – 14 projects + 7 fellowships | N/A | Professor C Hood 0186 5279 350 christopherhood@all-souls.oxford.ac.uk http://www.publicservices.ac.uk |

Sociology, Social Policy, Social Work and Social Anthropology

| Investment | Type | Date | Current Grant | Co-funder/Partner | Contact |
|--|---------|-------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Behavioural Responses to Pandemic Influenza | Venture | 2007/08 – 2008/09 | £66,000 (ESRC Contribution) £307,000 (Partners Contribution) | Research and Development Office for the Northern Ireland Health and Personal Social Services, Wales Office of Research and Development, Welsh Assembly Government and MRC | ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk |
| Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE) | Centre | October 1997 – December 2007 | £2.7 million | N/A | Professor J Hills 020 7755 7419 j.hills@lse.ac.uk http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/case |
| Centre for Charitable Giving and Philanthropy | Venture | 2008/09 – 2012/13 | £1.1 million (ESRC Contribution) £1.1 million (Partners Contribution) | Office of the Third Sector, Scottish Government and Carnegie UK Trust | Professor J Harrow 020 7040 0136 j.harrow@city.ac.uk http://philanthropy.carnegieuktrust.org.uk |
| Centre for Economic and Social Aspects of Genomics (CESAGen) | Centre | October 2002 – September 2007 | £4.3 million | N/A | Professor R Chadwick 029 2087 4049 chadwickr@cardiff.ac.uk http://www.genomicsnetwork.ac.uk/cesagen |
| Centre for Genomics in Society (Egenis) | Centre | October 2002 – September 2012 | £4.1 million | N/A | Professor J Dupré 0139 2269 127 j.dupre@exeter.ac.uk http://www.genomicsnetwork.ac.uk/egenis |
| Centre for Lifelong Health and Wellbeing | Venture | 2008/09 – 2013/14 | £500,000 (ESRC Contribution) £10.5 million (Partners Contribution) | MRC, BBSRC and EPSRC | ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk |

continue

Sociology, Social Policy, Social Work and Social Anthropology (continued)

| Investment | Type | Date | Current Grant | Co-funder/Partner | Contact |
|---|-----------|-------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change (CRESC) | Centre | October 2004 – September 2014 | £3.7 million | N/A | Professor M Savage Professor T Bennett Professor K Williams 0161 275 8985 cresc@manchester.ac.uk http://www.cresc.man.ac.uk |
| Centre for Social and Economic Research on Innovation in Genomics (Innogen) | Centre | October 2002 – September 2012 | £5.2 million | N/A | Professor D Wield 0131 650 6385 david.wield@ed.ac.uk http://www.genomicsnetwork.ac.uk/innogen |
| Centre for Third Sector Research | Venture | 2008/09 – 2012/13 | £5 million (ESRC Contribution) £5.25 million (Partners Contribution) | Office for the Third Sector and Cadbury Barrow Trust | ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk |
| Cultures of Consumption | Programme | January 2002 – June 2007 | £4 million (ESRC Contribution) Phase I – 16 projects Phase II – 10 projects | AHRC | Professor F Trentmann 020 7079 0603 esrcconsume@bbk.ac.uk http://www.consume.bbk.ac.uk |
| Development and Persistence of Human Capability and Resilience in its Social and Geographical Context | Network | October 2003 – June 2008 | £2 million 6 projects | N/A | Professor M Bartley 020 7679 1707 m.bartley@ucl.ac.uk http://www.ucl.ac.uk/capabilityandresilience |
| Economic Development and Population/Reproductive Health Research Centre | Venture | 2007/08 – 2010/11 | £1 million (ESRC Contribution) £1 million (Partners Contribution) | The Hewlett Foundation | ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk |
| E-Society | Programme | January 2002 – October 2007 | £4.8 million Phase I – 15 projects Phase II – 13 projects | N/A | Professor R Burrows 0190 443 3048 rjb7@york.ac.uk http://www.york.ac.uk/res/e-society |

| Investment | Type | Date | Current Grant | Co-funder/Partner | Contact |
|---|------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Gender Equality Network (GeNet) | Priority Network | October 2004 – September 2009 | £3.2 million | N/A | Professor J Scott 01 22 333 4520 jjs1004@cam.ac.uk http://www.genet.ac.uk |
| Genomics Policy and Research Forum | Centre | August 2004 – July 2009 | £2.9 million | N/A | Professor S Yearley 01 31 651 4740 steve.yearley@ed.ac.uk http://www.genomicsnetwork.ac.uk/forum |
| Homelessness | Venture | 2008/09 – 2011/12 | £300,000 (ESRC Contribution) £380,000 (Partners Contribution) | Joseph Rowntree and Homeless Link Research Forum | ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk |
| Identities and Social Action | Programme | April 2003 – December 2008 | £4.9 million 27 projects | N/A | Professor M Wetherell 01 90 827 4066 m.s.wetherell@open.ac.uk http://www.identities.org.uk |
| International Centre for Life Course Studies in Society and Health Centre | Centre | January 2008 – December 2012 | £2.8 million | N/A | Professor M Bartley m.bartley@ucl.ac.uk 0207 679 1707 |
| National Prevention Research Initiative | Venture | 2006/07 – 2009/10 | £1.25 million (ESRC Contribution) £10.8 million (Partners Contribution) | MRC, British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research UK, Department of Health, Diabetes UK, Food Standards Agency, Research and Development Office for the Northern Ireland Health and Social Services, Chief Scientist Office, Scottish Executive Health Department, The Stroke Association, Wales Office of Research and Development, Welsh Assembly Government and World Cancer Research Fund | ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk |

continue

Vital Statistics: Research

Major Research Investments

Sociology, Social Policy, Social Work and Social Anthropology (continued)

| Investment | Type | Date | Current Grant | Co-funder/Partner | Contact |
|---|-------------|-------------------------------|---|--|--|
| National Cancer Research Institute Supportive and Palliative Care for Lung Cancer | Venture | 2007/08 – 2008/09 | £240,000 (ESRC Contribution) £2 million (Partners Contribution) | Macmillan Cancer Support, Cancer Research UK, Department of Health, MRC, Scottish Government and Northern Ireland R&D Office | ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk |
| New Dynamics of Ageing (NDA) | Programme | April 2005 – December 2012 | £20 million Phase 1 – 2 collaborative research projects, 11 preparatory networks 12 programme grants | AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC and MRC | Professor A Walker 0114 222 6467 a.c.walker@sheffield.ac.uk http://www.newdynamics.group.shef.ac.uk |
| Non-Governmental Public Action (NGPA) | Programme | May 2004 – April 2009 | £5.24 million 32 projects 6 fellowships | N/A | Professor J Howell 020 7955 7360 j.a.howell@lse.ac.uk http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/NGPA |
| Peterborough Adolescent and Young Adult Development Study (PADS+) | Large Grant | November 2007 – November 2012 | £3 million | N/A | Professor P Wikstrom 01223 330033 Pow20@cam.ac.uk http://www.scopic.ac.uk/studies.htm#PADS |
| Religion and Society | Programme | January 2007 – December 2011 | £4.8 million (ESRC Contribution) £7.5 million (Partners Contribution) | AHRC | Professor L Woodhead 0152 4592 416 l.woodhead@lancaster.ac.uk www.religionandsociety.org.uk |
| Research Centre on Micro-social Change (MISOC) | Centre | October 2004 – September 2009 | £3.3 million | N/A | Professor S Pudney 0120 687 3789 spudney@essex.ac.uk http://www.iseressex.ac.uk/misoc |

| Investment | Type | Date | Current Grant | Co-funder/Partner | Contact |
|--|-------------|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--|
| Research into Problem Gambling | Venture | 2005/06 – 2008/09 | £500,000 (ESRC Contribution) £420,000 (Partner Contribution) | Responsibility in Gambling Trust | ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk |
| Science in Society | Programme | January 2002 – December 2007 | £5.2 million 44 projects | N/A | Professor S Rayner 0186 528 8938 steve.rayner@sbs.ox.ac.uk http://www.sci-soc.net |
| Social Contexts and Responses to Risk (SCARR) | Network | October 2003 – September 2008 | £2.7 million 9 projects | N/A | Professor P Taylor-Gooby 0122 782 7514 p.taylor-gooby@kent.ac.uk http://www.kent.ac.uk/scarr |
| Social Interaction: A Cognitive-neurosciences Approach | Large Grant | January 2008 – December 2011 | £4.6 million | N/A | Professor S Garrod 0141 3305033 simon@psygl.a.ac.uk http://www.dcs.gla.ac.uk/~rod/dynamics.html |
| Stem Cells Initiative: Capacity Building and Research II | Programme | October 2006 – September 2008 | £818,000 6 fellowships | N/A | Professor A Webster 0190 443 3041 ajw25@york.ac.uk http://www.york.ac.uk/res/sci |
| Social Contexts of Pathways in Crime (SCOPIIC) | Network | October 2002 – December 2007 | | N/A | Professor P Wikstrom 01223 330033 pow20@cam.ac.uk http://www.scopic.ac.uk/ |

continue

Vital Statistics: Research

Major Research Investments

Sociology, Social Policy, Social Work and Social Anthropology (continued)

| Investment | Type | Date | Current Grant | Co-funder/Partner | Contact |
|---|---------|-------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|
| <p>UKCRC Public Health Research: Centres of Excellence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North East Centre of Excellence for Translational Research in Public Health • Centre for the Development and Evaluation of Complex Interventions for Public Health Improvement • UKCRC Northern Ireland Public Health Research Centre of Excellence • Diet and Physical Activity Public Health Research Centre • The UK Centre for Tobacco Control Studies | Venture | 2008/09 – 2013/14 | £2 million (ESRC contribution) £19 million (Partners Contribution) | British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research UK, Department of Health, MRC, Research and Development Office for the Northern Ireland Health and Personal Social Services, Wales Office of Research and Development, Welsh Assembly Government and Wellcome Trust | ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk |

Statistics, Computing Infrastructure, Demography and Research Methodology

| Investment | Type | Date | Current Grant | Co-funder/Partner | Contact |
|---|---------|--|--|---|---|
| Centre for Population Change: Understanding Population Change in the 21st Century | Centre | October 2008 – September 2013 (Commissioned in the 2007/08 competition) | £5 million | N/A | Professor J Falkingham 023 8059 3192 j.c.falkingham@soton.ac.uk |
| Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS) | Centre | October 2003 – September 2008 | £3.8 million | N/A | Dr N Van Hear 0186 527 4711 nicholas.vanhear@compas.ac.uk http://www.compas.ox.ac.uk |
| Electronic Patient Records and Databases in Research | Venture | 2008/09 – 2013/14 | £200,000 (ESRC Contribution) £1.1 million (Partners Contribution) | Wellcome Trust EPSRC and MRC | ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk |
| Ensuring Privacy and Consent: Delivering Innovative Solutions | Venture | 2008-09 – 2011/12 | £1.5 million (ESRC Contribution) £5.5 million (Partners Contribution) | Technology Strategy Board's Network Security Innovation Platform, Home Office and EPSRC | ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk |
| Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study | Venture | 2007/08 – 2009/10 | £150,000 (ESRC Contribution) £150,000 (Partners Contribution) | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency | ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk |
| Scottish Demography | Venture | 2005/06 – 2007/08 | £150,000 (ESRC Contribution) £150,000 (Partners Contribution) | The Scottish Executive (now Scottish Government) | ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk |
| Skills Survey | Venture | 2005/06 – 2007/08 | £540,000 (ESRC Contribution) £526,000 (Partners Contribution) | The former Department for Education and Skills and Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform | ESRC office comms@esrc.ac.uk |

Note: see also page 67 for further ESRC funded research resources.

Vital Statistics: Research Research Grants

Research grants are used to investigate new and pressing issues as well as provide a stepping stone for new researchers. Ranging from £15,000 to £1.5 million, they give the ESRC the flexibility to respond rapidly to the latest developments in the academic world. Grants are selected for their scientific excellence from proposals made by researchers in any area of the social sciences and at any time of their choice.

Applications Processed in 2007-08

| Type of Grant | Applications | Awards | Success Rate % |
|---------------|--------------|------------|----------------|
| Standard | 558 | 82 | 15 |
| Fellowship | 84 | 22 | 26 |
| Small | 458 | 163 | 36 |
| Total | 1,100 | 267 | 24 |

Responsive Applications and Awards by Institution 2007-08

| Institute | Applications | Awards | Success Rate % | Institute | Applications | Awards | Success Rate % |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------|----------------|--|--------------|--------|----------------|
| Aberdeen | 16 | 7 | 44 | Royal Holloway | 12 | 2 | 17 |
| Aston | 6 | 1 | 17 | School Of African Studies | 8 | 1 | 13 |
| Bath | 14 | 2 | 14 | School of Advanced Studies | 2 | 1 | 50 |
| Birmingham | 25 | 7 | 28 | School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Bolton | 1 | 0 | 0 | St Georges Medical School | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Bournemouth | 1 | 0 | 0 | University College London | 41 | 15 | 37 |
| Brighton | 3 | 0 | 0 | Loughborough | 13 | 3 | 23 |
| Bristol | 30 | 12 | 40 | Manchester inc UMIST | 40 | 9 | 23 |
| Brunel | 7 | 1 | 14 | Middlesex | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Cambridge | 25 | 9 | 36 | Napier (Edinburgh) | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Canterbury Christchurch | 1 | 0 | 0 | Newcastle | 13 | 2 | 15 |
| Central England | 2 | 0 | 0 | National Institute of Economic and Social Research | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Central Lancashire | 7 | 0 | 0 | Northumbria at Newcastle | 3 | 1 | 33 |
| Chester | 1 | 0 | 0 | Nottingham | 19 | 2 | 11 |
| Coventry | 1 | 0 | 0 | Nottingham Trent | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| City | 15 | 2 | 13 | Open | 24 | 9 | 38 |
| Cranfield | 2 | 0 | 0 | Oxford | 35 | 8 | 23 |
| Dartington College | 1 | 0 | 0 | Oxford Brookes | 10 | 3 | 30 |
| Derby | 2 | 1 | 50 | Paisley | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| De Montfort | 6 | 0 | 0 | Plymouth | 10 | 1 | 10 |
| Dundee | 6 | 2 | 33 | Policy Studies Institute | 2 | 1 | 50 |
| Durham | 24 | 5 | 21 | Portsmouth | 4 | 1 | 25 |
| East Anglia | 13 | 3 | 23 | | | | |

| Institute | Applications | Awards | Success Rate % | Institute | Applications | Awards | Success Rate % |
|---|--------------|--------|----------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|------------|----------------|
| East London | 3 | 1 | 33 | Queen Margaret (Edinburgh) | 3 | 2 | 67 |
| Edinburgh | 45 | 11 | 24 | Queens Belfast | 8 | 3 | 38 |
| Edge Hill | 1 | 0 | 0 | Reading | 15 | 4 | 27 |
| Essex | 21 | 9 | 43 | Robert Gordon (Aberdeen) | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Exeter | 24 | 4 | 17 | Rohampton | 3 | 1 | 33 |
| Glasgow | 23 | 8 | 35 | Salford | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Glasgow Caledonian | 3 | 1 | 33 | Sheffield | 19 | 3 | 16 |
| Glasgow School of Art | 1 | 0 | 0 | Sheffield Hallam | 2 | 1 | 50 |
| Greenwich | 2 | 0 | 0 | South Bank | 4 | 1 | 25 |
| Heriot Watt (Edinburgh) | 1 | 1 | 100 | Southampton | 15 | 3 | 20 |
| Herts | 5 | 1 | 20 | St Andrews | 3 | 1 | 33 |
| Hull | 12 | 3 | 25 | St Mary's College (Twickenham) | 1 | 1 | 100 |
| Institute of Fiscal Studies | 4 | 2 | 50 | Staffordshire | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Institute of Development Studies | 1 | 0 | 0 | Stirling | 17 | 3 | 18 |
| Institute for Public Policy | 1 | 0 | 0 | Strathclyde | 7 | 3 | 43 |
| International Institute for Strategic Studies | 1 | 0 | 0 | Sunderland | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Keele | 7 | 2 | 29 | Surrey | 16 | 2 | 13 |
| Kent at Canterbury | 19 | 3 | 16 | Sussex | 24 | 2 | 8 |
| Kingston | 6 | 2 | 33 | Teesside | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Lancaster | 19 | 5 | 26 | Wales: | | | |
| Leeds | 19 | 4 | 21 | Aberystwyth | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Leeds Metropolitan | 1 | 0 | 0 | Bangor | 7 | 3 | 43 |
| Leicester | 9 | 1 | 11 | Cardiff | 32 | 8 | 25 |
| Lifelong Learning Institute | 1 | 0 | 0 | Glamorgan | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Lincoln (Lincs and Humberside) | 3 | 0 | 0 | Swansea | 11 | 2 | 18 |
| Liverpool | 10 | 2 | 20 | Ulster | 7 | 2 | 29 |
| Liverpool John Moores | 4 | 0 | 0 | Warwick | 40 | 14 | 35 |
| Liverpool Hope | 9 | 2 | 22 | West of England | 11 | 1 | 9 |
| London: | | | | Westminster | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Birkbeck | 8 | 2 | 25 | Winchester | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Goldsmiths | 11 | 3 | 27 | Worcester College of Higher Education | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Imperial | 6 | 1 | 17 | York | 16 | 5 | 31 |
| Institute of Education | 15 | 6 | 40 | Total | 1,100 | 267 | 24 |
| Kings | 21 | 5 | 24 | | | | |
| London Business School | 1 | 1 | 100 | | | | |
| London School of Economics | 26 | 9 | 35 | | | | |
| Queen Mary and Westfield | 4 | 1 | 25 | | | | |

Vital Statistics: Research Research Grants

Research Grants by Number

| | Number of Applications Considered | | | Number Graded Alpha | | | Number Recommended for Award | | | % Alpha Rated | | | % Total Applications Funded | | | Value £m |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|------------|---------------------|------------|------------|------------------------------|------------|------------|---------------|-----------|------------|-----------------------------|-----------|--------------|----------|
| | Standard | Small | Fellowship | Standard | Small | Fellowship | Standard | Small | Fellowship | Standard | Small | Fellowship | Standard | Small | Fellowship | |
| 2007-08 | 558 | 458 | 84 | 463 | 426 | 73 | 82 | 163 | 22 | 83 | 93 | 87 | 15 | 36 | 26 | |
| Grand Total | | 1,100 | | | 962 | | | 267 | | | 87 | | | 24 | 41.3* | |
| Total 2006-07 | | 933 | | | 838 | | | 259 | | | 90 | | | 28 | 48.5* | |
| Total 2005-06 | | 1,051 | | | 914 | | | 282 | | | 87 | | | 27 | 26.2 | |
| Total 2004-05 | | 935 | | | 779 | | | 257 | | | 83 | | | 27 | 21.9 | |
| Total 2003-04 | | 831 | | | 664 | | | 283 | | | 80 | | | 34 | 22.9 | |

* At 100% FEC. ESRC currently fund 80 per cent of this figure, which is £38.8 million.

Numbers of Applications and Awards by Territory

| Country | Number of Applications | | | | | | | | Number of Awards | | | | | | | | % Success | | |
|------------------|------------------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|
| | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2003-04 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
| England | 687 | 783 | 876 | 751 | 890 | 233 | 221 | 236 | 208 | 210 | 33 | 28 | 27 | 28 | 24 | | | | |
| Scotland | 87 | 82 | 104 | 115 | 134 | 30 | 20 | 21 | 36 | 39 | 34 | 24 | 20 | 31 | 29 | | | | |
| Wales | 42 | 58 | 62 | 51 | 61 | 18 | 12 | 21 | 11 | 13 | 43 | 21 | 34 | 22 | 21 | | | | |
| Northern Ireland | 11 | 11 | 9 | 16 | 15 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 45 | 36 | 44 | 25 | 33 | | | | |
| Total | 827 | 934 | 1,051 | 933 | 1,100 | 286 | 257 | 282 | 259 | 267 | 286 | 257 | 282 | 259 | 267 | | | | |

Applications and Awards by Discipline Area

| Country | Rank order 2007-08 | Applications | | | | | Awards | | | | | % Success rate | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
| Area Studies | 14 | 6 | 13 | 12 | 41 | 20 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 33 | 31 | 25 | 7 | 10 |
| Demography | 4 | | | 3 | 1 | 7 | | | | 0 | 2 | | | | 0 | 29 |
| Economic and Social History | 2 | 32 | 32 | 41 | 27 | 38 | 12 | 8 | 15 | 12 | 13 | 38 | 25 | 37 | 44 | 34 |
| Economics | 4 | 117 | 77 | 112 | 82 | 83 | 48 | 30 | 34 | 28 | 24 | 41 | 39 | 30 | 34 | 29 |
| Education | 10 | 62 | 83 | 100 | 97 | 97 | 11 | 20 | 20 | 13 | 17 | 18 | 24 | 20 | 13 | 18 |
| Environmental Planning | 13 | 19 | 19 | 17 | 15 | 20 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 26 | 11 | 29 | 13 | 15 |
| Human Geography | 7 | 51 | 56 | 43 | 42 | 57 | 18 | 19 | 6 | 16 | 14 | 35 | 34 | 14 | 38 | 25 |
| Interdisciplinary Studies | 5 | 25 | 46 | 35 | | 22 | 4 | 11 | 5 | | 6 | 16 | 24 | 14 | | 27 |
| Linguistics | 3 | 35 | 30 | 38 | 26 | 56 | 18 | 12 | 15 | 8 | 18 | 51 | 40 | 39 | 31 | 32 |
| Management and Business Studies | 9 | 55 | 63 | 65 | 63 | 70 | 12 | 14 | 12 | 15 | 13 | 22 | 22 | 18 | 24 | 19 |
| Political Science and International Relations | 6 | 70 | 63 | 62 | 67 | 91 | 15 | 12 | 16 | 21 | 24 | 21 | 19 | 26 | 31 | 26 |
| Psychology | 4 | 184 | 240 | 268 | 230 | 247 | 78 | 72 | 91 | 89 | 72 | 42 | 30 | 34 | 39 | 29 |
| Science and Technology Studies | 13 | | | 6 | 19 | 20 | | | 2 | 0 | 3 | | | 33 | | 15 |
| Social Work | 5 | | | 3 | 15 | 11 | | | 1 | 3 | 3 | | | 33 | 20 | 27 |
| Social Anthropology | 1 | 27 | 26 | 35 | 24 | 37 | 9 | 9 | 12 | 6 | 13 | 33 | 35 | 34 | 25 | 35 |
| Social Policy | 12 | 36 | 38 | 64 | 30 | 55 | 11 | 8 | 13 | 9 | 9 | 31 | 21 | 20 | 30 | 16 |
| Socio-Legal Studies | 8 | 11 | 32 | 9 | 28 | 22 | 5 | 6 | | 7 | 5 | 45 | 19 | | 25 | 23 |
| Sociology | 11 | 93 | 97 | 126 | 118 | 136 | 33 | 25 | 30 | 24 | 23 | 35 | 26 | 24 | 20 | 17 |
| Statistics and Computing and Methodologies | 5 | 8 | 20 | 12 | 8 | 11 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 25 | 25 | 17 | 38 | 27 |
| Total | | 831 | 935 | 1,051 | 933 | 1,100 | 283 | 257 | 282 | 259 | 267 | | | | | |

Vital Statistics: Research Evaluation

The backbone of evaluation is peer review and almost all of our evaluation work involves selecting, briefing, supporting and in other ways dealing with peer reviewers.

Evaluation Grades by Research Area

| Research Area | Grade % | | | | | | Total |
|--|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|-------|
| | O | G | P | U | Un | | |
| Economics and Economic Development | 24 | 68 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 100 | |
| Geography, Environment, Urban/Rural Transport Studies and Area Studies | 15 | 74 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 100 | |
| Government, Political Science and Law | 27 | 63 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 100 | |
| Education, Psychology, Cognition and Linguistics | 27 | 68 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 100 | |
| Sociology, Social Policy, Social Work and Social Anthropology | 23 | 68 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 100 | |
| Management, Business Studies and Innovation | 22 | 67 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 100 | |
| Statistics, Computing, Infrastructure, Demography and Research Methodology | 23 | 67 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 100 | |
| Average Performance 1995-07 | 23 | 68 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 100 | |
| Average Performance 2007-08 | 30 | 67 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 100 | |

The table above shows the breakdown of evaluation grades in each research area as a percentage of the total in that particular area. Note that unless otherwise stated, these percentages refer to the cumulative total of all research projects evaluated between 1995 and 2007.

Grade Definitions

Outstanding (O)

High quality research making an important contribution to the development of the subject. An outstanding grade indicates that a project has fully met its objectives and has provided an exceptional research contribution well above average or very high in relation to the level of the award.

Good (G)

Good quality research making a useful contribution to the development of the subject. A good grade indicates a project whose research activities and contribution is fully commensurate with the level of the award, approach and subject area, and which has addressed its major objectives.

Problematic (P)

Acceptable research but with problems or weaknesses in the design, method, analysis or outcomes. A problematic grade indicates a project which has failed to address one or more of its major objectives, has encountered significant difficulties in the execution of the project, has incomplete work, or has achieved substantially less than expected for the level of the award, the approach or the subject area.

Unacceptable (U)

Research poorly conducted with unreliable results, or report with insufficient details on which to base a satisfactory judgement. An unacceptable grade indicates a project which has failed to conduct the work as agreed at the time of the award (and any subsequent agreed changes to the work plan); for example failure to conduct agreed surveys or analyses, or failure to address most of the major objectives.

Vital Statistics: Research Performance Indicators

The chart below shows the ESRC's achievements against the RCUK (PEG) Performance Indicators:

Academic Publications from ESRC Research Investments

| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Research papers | 1,049 | 1,015 | 799 | 968 |
| Books and chapters | 485 | 466 | 319 | 458 |
| Total | 1,534 | 1,481 | 1,118 | 1,426 |

Papers Published in Refereed Journals

| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| No. of refereed papers | 665 | 540 | 524 | 733 |
| Proportion of all papers | 63% | 53% | 66% | 75% |

ESRC Projects Achieving Highest Approval Ratings

| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| No. of projects with highest approval rating | 296 | 333 | 337 | 382 |
| Percentage of total projects | 91% | 95% | 97% | 97% |

Proportion of ESRC Students Submitting PhD Theses within Four Years

| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| No. of theses submitted | 312 | 325 | 210 | 306 |
| Percentage within four years | 80% | 82% | 80% | 79% |

Vital Statistics: Data and Methods

Research Resources

Research resources are the foundations upon which our researchers can undertake work of the highest quality and relevance.

These resources include not only data, but also the expertise in research methods required to utilise this data, and the information technologies to improve access to the ESRC's world class information resources.

Resource centres provide quick and easy access to key research resources such as datasets. **Resource programmes** are a group of projects aimed at developing the tools and techniques which underpin high quality research.

Major Research Resources 2007-08

Below is a list of resources that were commissioned and current in 2007-08

| Investment | Director | Date | Current Grant | Contact |
|--|--------------------------|---|---------------|--|
| British Election Study 2009/10 | Professor P Whiteley | June 2008 – March 2012 (Commissioned in 2007/08) | £1.5 million | http://www.essex.ac.uk/bes/ 01 206 872 641 whiteley@essex.ac.uk |
| Courses in Applied Social Surveys (CASS) | Professor J Micklewright | November 2005 – March 2009 | £348,433 | http://www.s3ri.soton.ac.uk/cass 023 8059 2167 j.Micklewright@soton.ac.uk |
| Centre for Longitudinal Studies (CLS) | Professor H Joshi | October 2004 – March 2010 | £11.7 million | http://www.cls.ioe.ac.uk/ 0207 612 6874 h.joshi@ioe.ac.uk |
| Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS) | Professor K Schürer | January 2003 – September 2012 | £13.2 million | http://www.data-archive.ac.uk 01 20 687 2009 schurer@essex.ac.uk |
| ESRC Census Programme | Professor D Martin | August 2006 – July 2011 | £7.5 million | http://www.census.ac.uk 023 8059 3808 d.j.martin@soton.ac.uk |
| European Social Survey (ESS) – UK | Ms A Park | October 2007 – June 2009 | £42,031 | http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org 020 7549 9573 a.park@natcen.ac.uk |
| International Bibliography of the Social Sciences (IBSS) | Ms J Sykes | April 2005 – March 2009 | £1.2 million | http://www.ibss.ac.uk 020 7955 7455 ibss@se.ac.uk |

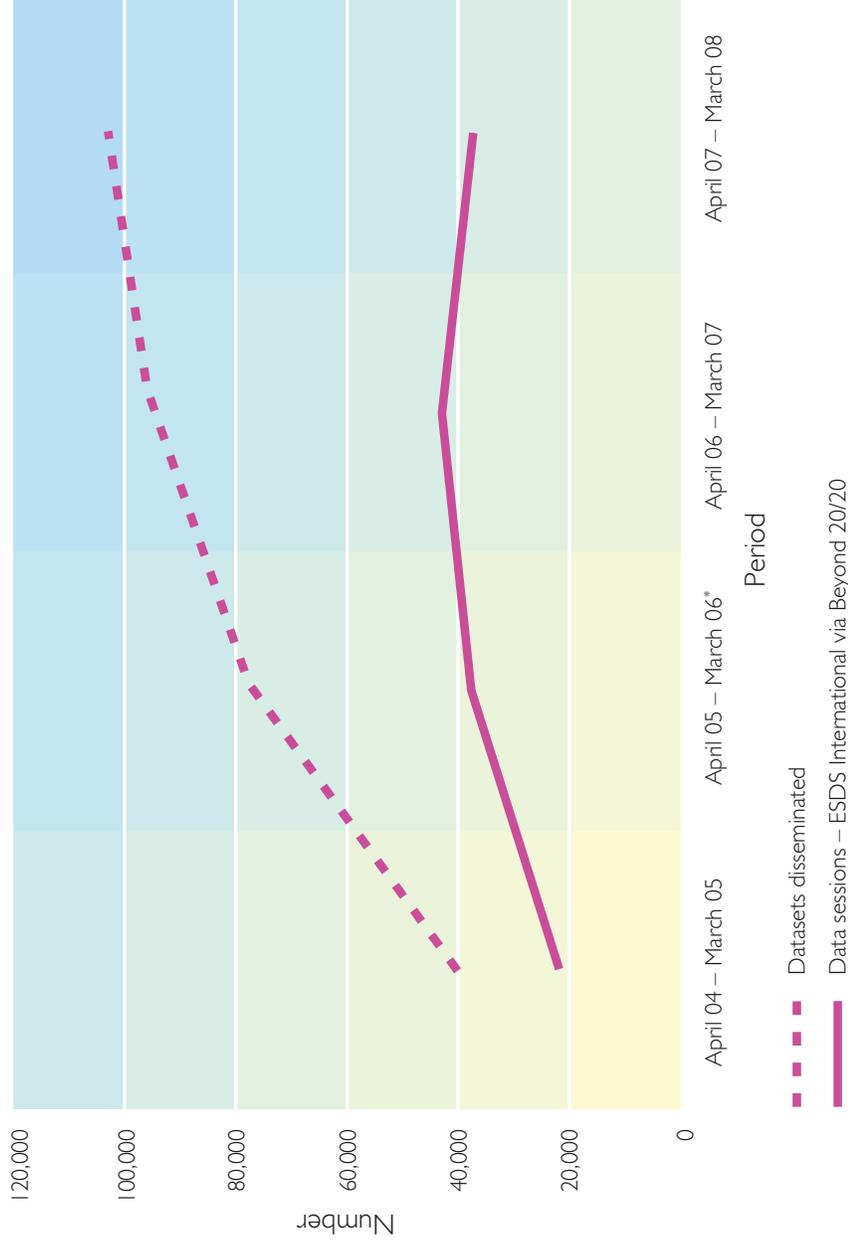
| Investment | Director | Date | Current Grant | Contact |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Intute: Social Sciences | Ms D Hiom | September 2006 – July 2007 | £152,769 | http://www.intute.ac.uk/socialsciences 0117 928 7117 dhiom@bristol.ac.uk |
| Longitudinal Studies Centre – Scotland | Professor P Boyle | July 2005 – June 2009 | £975,562 | http://www.lscs.ac.uk 0133 446 2397 p.boyle@st-andrews.ac.uk |
| National Centre for e-Social Science (NCeSS) | Professor P Halfpenny | January 2004 – March 2012 | £8 million (2007-12) | http://www.ncss.ac.uk 0161 275 2493 peter.halfpenny@ncss.ac.uk |
| National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM) | Professor C Skinner | April 2004 – March 2014 | £12.2 million (2009-14) | http://www.ncrm.ac.uk/ 023 8059 2533 cjs@soton.ac.uk |
| Qualitative Longitudinal Study (Timescapes) | Dr B Neale | February 2007 – January 2012 | £3.9 million | http://www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk 0113 343 4813 b.neale@leeds.ac.uk |
| Research Methods Programme (RMP) | Professor A Dale | October 2002 – March 2008 | £6.4 million | http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/methods/ 0161 275 4876 angela.dale@manchester.ac.uk |
| The Question Bank (Qb) | Professor M Bulmer | November 2005 – October 2008 | £533,039 | http://qbsoc.surrey.ac.uk 0148 368 9456 m.bulmer@surrey.ac.uk |
| UK Longitudinal Studies Centre | Professor N Buck | October 2004 – September 2009 | £13.6 million | http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/ulsc 0120 687 3066 nhb@essex.ac.uk |
| Understanding Population Trends and Processes (UPTAP): A Secondary Data Analysis Initiative | Professor J Stillwell | October 2005 – November 2009 | Phase II - 12 projects 4 user fellows | http://www.uptap.net 0113 343 3315 j.c.h.stillwell@leeds.ac.uk |
| Understanding Society – The UK Household Longitudinal Study | Professor N Buck | April 2007 – March 2012 | £15.5 million | http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/ukhls/ 01206 873 066 nhb@essex.ac.uk |
| Workplace Employment Relations Survey Information and Advice Service | Mr J Forth | December 2005 – October 2007 | £96,068 | http://www.wers2004.info 020 7654 1954 j.forth@niesrac.ac.uk |

Vital Statistics: Data and Methods

Datasets

A dataset is defined by the ESRC datasets policy, as any collection of data generated by, or of particular interest to, the social science community which may be considered for archiving. This may include computer-readable data, audio and visual recordings, hand-written documents such as diaries and fieldwork notes, photographs and artefacts. The Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS) is a national service that provides access and support for an extensive range of key economic and social data, both qualitative and quantitative, spanning a range of disciplines and themes.

Datasets Delivered April 2004 to March 2008¹

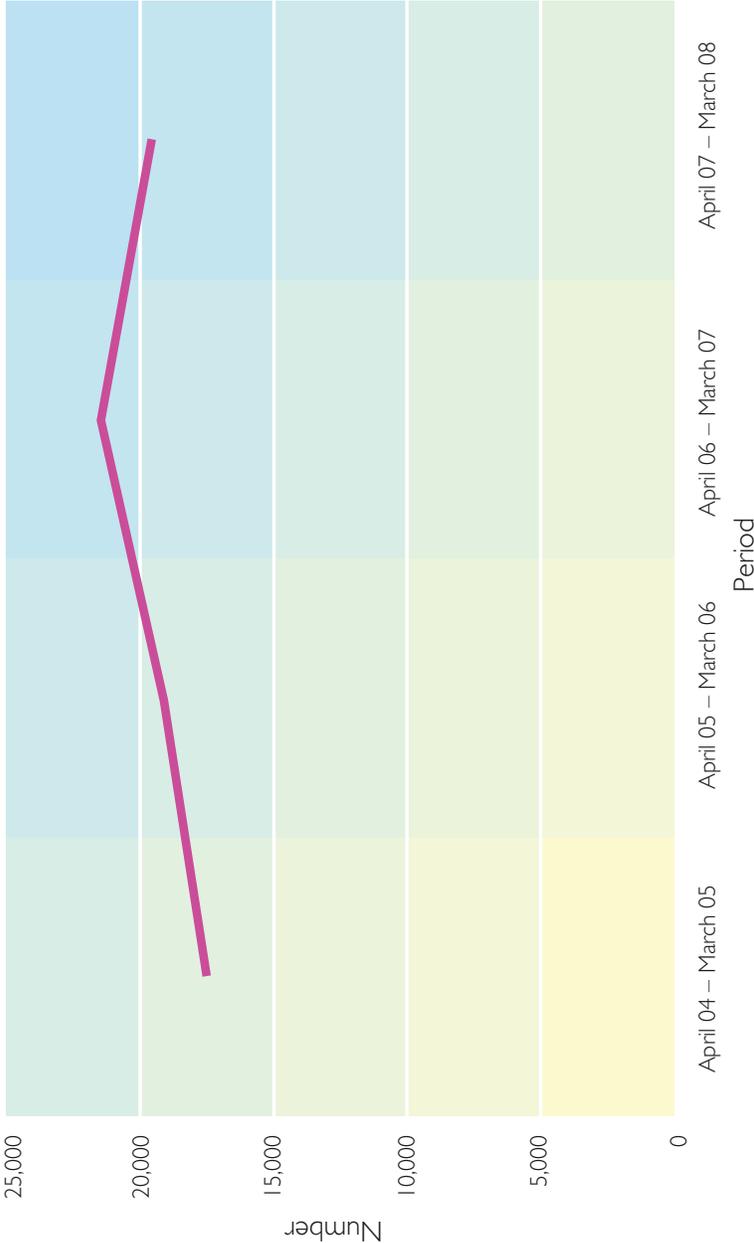


The solid line of the graph represents datasets disseminated by the core, longitudinal, qualidata, and government functions, and the dashed line represents ESDS international macro-datasets. ESDS international macro-datasets are reported separately as these are acquired directly by ESDS International due to special licensing arrangements. They are then processed and loaded onto the Beyond 20/20 data delivery server.

The figure shows a steady pattern of datasets delivered by the Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS), with particular growth in usage of the international macro-datasets over the period.

¹ Actual time period is 1 April 2004 – 18 March 2008

Number of New Registrations to ESDS² April 2001 to March 2008



The graph shows that the numbers of unique users registering to use the ESDS remains high and from 2006 – 2008 the number of new registrations has stabilised at around 20,000 new user registrations per year.

² Figure includes all ESDS services

Vital Statistics: Data and Methods

Datasets

Top Ten Disciplines by Usage³ April 2007 to March 2008

Economics and econometrics is ranked top, followed by sociology in second. This is likely largely due to the type of research being undertaken by economists working in the field of labour markets and employment.

| Disciplines | Rank |
|--|------|
| Economics and Econometrics | 1 |
| Sociology | 2 |
| Business and Management Studies | 3 |
| Politics and International Studies | 4 |
| Statistics and Operational Research | 5 |
| Social Policy and Administration | 6 |
| Geography | 7 |
| Other Studies and Professions Allied to Medicine | 8 |
| Psychology | 9 |
| Library or Data/Information Centre | 10 |

³ Note that these figures exclude usage of international macro data

Top Ten Users of ESDS Datasets by Academic Institution April 2007 to March 2008

Between them, the top two users of ESDS datasets (excluding international macro-data) house four leading centres conducting research on employment and labour markets. These are the Warwick Institute for Employment Research, the Industrial Relations Research Unit (formally the Centre for International Employment Relations Research (CINTER), the ESRC Research Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion and the Centre for Economic Performance (CEP). CINTER and CEP were previously funded by the ESRC.

The top user of international macro data is the London School of Economics and Political Science which houses the ESRC-funded Non-Governmental Public Action Programme. Research conducted under this programme offers a unique opportunity to further understand the impact of non-governmental public action in reducing poverty and exclusion, and in social transformation, from an international comparative and multi-disciplinary perspective. Also within the top ten is the University of Bath which houses the ESRC-funded Wellbeing in Developing Countries Research Group.

| Academic Institution Name – usage of core, longitudinal, qualitative and government datasets | Academic Institution Name – usage of international macro datasets | Rank |
|--|---|------|
| University of Warwick | London School of Economics and Political Science | 1 |
| London School of Economics, University of London | University of Cambridge | 2 |
| University of Manchester | University of Leicester | 3 |
| University of Essex | University of Warwick | 4 |
| University of Oxford | University of Manchester | 5 |
| University of Leicester | University of Oxford | 6 |
| University of Wales, Cardiff | University of Bath | 7 |
| University College London, University of London | University of Edinburgh | 8 |
| University of Leeds | University of Portsmouth | 9 |
| University of Edinburgh | School of Oriental and African Studies | 10 |

Top Twenty Most Used ESDS Datasets
(excluding international macro datasets)
April 2007 to March 2008

| Dataset | Rank |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Labour Force Survey | 1 |
| General Household Survey | 2 |
| British Household Panel Survey | 3 |
| British Social Attitudes Survey | 4 |
| Health Survey for England | 5 |
| National Child Development Study | 6 |
| 1970 British Cohort Study | 7 |
| Family Expenditure Survey | 8 |
| British Election Studies | 9 |
| British Crime Survey | 10 |
| Eurobarometers | 11 |
| Family Resources Survey | 12 |
| Road Accident Data | 13 |
| Expenditure and Food Survey | 14 |
| ONS Omnibus Survey | 15 |
| Workplace Employee Relations Survey | 16 |
| European Working Conditions Survey | 17 |
| Millennium Cohort Study | 18 |
| Citizenship Survey | 19 |
| International Passenger Survey | 20 |

Ranked ESDS International Macro Databases by Use
April 2007 – March 2008⁴

| Dataset | Rank |
|--|------|
| World Bank (Two databanks) | 1 |
| International Monetary Fund (Five databanks) | 2 |
| Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (13 databanks) | 3 |
| Eurostat New Cronos | 4 |
| International Energy Agency (Nine databanks) | 5 |
| United Nations Common Database | 6 |
| National Statistics Time Series Data | 7 |
| United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) (Two databanks) | 8 |
| International Labour Organisation Key Indicators of the Labour Market | 9 |

⁴The exact time period is 1 April 2007 to 18 March 2008

Vital Statistics: International International Work

ESRC is committed to raising awareness of British social science on the international stage. We collaborate in activities in Europe and elsewhere around the world. We have a particular responsibility to maximise international resources and opportunities for the UK social science community. Developments within the European Union, and in particular the Framework Programmes, are a priority and we are committed to increasing the role of social scientists in European research projects.

Major International Investments

| Investment | Number of awards | Total amount |
|--|------------------|-----------------|
| British Academy (BA)/ESRC China | 13 | £30,000 |
| BA/ESRC Visiting Fellowships for South Asia | 5 | £18,500 |
| BA/ESRC Visiting fellowships for the Middle East | 8 | £33,200 |
| Bilateral collaborative research projects* | 14 | £2.38 million** |
| ESF (European Science Foundation) Eurocores including (ECRP) European Collaborative Science Projects | 3 | £594,900 |
| ESF Research Networking Programmes | 3 | £240,700 |
| ESRC – Department for International Development (DFID) scheme | 26 | £6.3 million |
| ESRC/SSRC (Social Science Research Council) Transatlantic collaborative fellowships | 17 | £68,000 |
| NORFACE (New Opportunities for Research Funding Collaboration in Europe) network | 14 | €1.5 million*** |

* Germany – 2, Netherlands – 2, Ireland – 3, Australia – 7. Please note that at time of writing Australian projects are pending formal authorisation.

** Most bilateral collaborative research projects and all Eurocores projects (to a combined value of £2.97m) are funded under RGB (Research Grant Board) responsive-mode schemes; they are therefore also represented in the responsive applications and awards 2007-08 table on page 59

*** ESRC contribution. Total funding from all partners: €5.2 million

Vital Statistics: Training Studentships

Part of the ESRC's mission statement is to support postgraduate training in the social sciences. Well-trained research students are the seedbed for the social science researchers of the future. For this reason, the ESRC has a Training and Development Board to support postgraduate students and meet the training needs of researchers throughout their career.

New Studentships by Scheme and Discipline 2007-08

| Discipline | Quota | Competition | Collaborative (1) | Inter-Disciplinary (2) | Project Linked (3) | Total 2007 |
|---|------------|-------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Area Studies and Development Studies | 8 | 4 | 1 | | 21 | 34 |
| Demography | 11 | 0 | 1 | | | 12 |
| Economic and Social History | 12 | 3 | 0 | | | 15 |
| Economics | 62 | 10 | 3 | | 1 | 76 |
| Education | 37 | 5 | 2 | | 1 | 45 |
| Human Geography | 40 | 8 | 13 | | 3 | 64 |
| Science and Technology Studies | 8 | 0 | 3 | | 4 | 15 |
| Linguistics | 10 | 2 | 0 | | 1 | 13 |
| Management and Business Studies | 56 | 4 | 5 | | | 65 |
| Medical Sciences | | | | 20 | | 20 |
| Environmental Sciences | | | | 21 | | 21 |
| Planning | 10 | | 5 | | | 15 |
| Political Science and International Studies | 42 | 13 | 2 | | | 57 |
| Psychology | 38 | 18 | 13 | | 1 | 70 |
| Social Anthropology | 15 | 3 | 3 | | 2 | 23 |
| Social Policy | 13 | 5 | 14 | | | 32 |
| Social Work | 14 | | 1 | | | 15 |
| Statistics, Methods and Computing | 26 | 0 | 2 | | 1 | 29 |
| Socio-Legal Studies | 20 | 1 | 6 | | 5 | 32 |
| Sociology | 56 | 9 | 5 | | 5 | 75 |
| Multidisciplinary | 11 | | 4 | | | 15 |
| Total: | 489 | 85 | 83 | 41 | 45 | 743 |

(1) Includes CASE and Government Collaborative Schemes

(2) Includes NERC (Natural Environment Research Council) and MRC (Medical Research Council), but excludes EPSRC (Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council) scheme where nominations are pending

(3) Includes PhD Starters under the Language based Area Studies Centres, other ESRC Centres, Research Programmes and Research Grants

Vital Statistics: Training

ESRC Submission Rate Survey

The following table shows the results of the 2007 survey of PhD thesis submission rates: that is the percentage of students submitting their thesis within four years of commencing an ESRC research award.

| Institution | 2003 | | | | 2003 | | | | 2003 | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----------|------------|--------|--|----------|------------|--------|--------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|----------|------------|--------|
| | Starters | Submitters | Rate % | Institution | Starters | Submitters | Rate % | Institution | Starters | Submitters | Rate % | Institution | Starters | Submitters | Rate % |
| Aberdeen | 0 | 0 | 0 | Goldsmith's College | 10 | 6 | 60 | Sheffield | 13 | 10 | 77 | Sheffield Hallam | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Anglia Ruskin | 1 | 1 | 100 | Imperial College of Science and Technology | 2 | 1 | 50 | Southampton | 6 | 6 | 100 | St Andrews | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Aston | 0 | 0 | 0 | Institute of Education | 4 | 3 | 75 | Stirling | 0 | 0 | 0 | Strathclyde | 5 | 5 | 100 |
| Bath | 4 | 4 | 100 | King's College | 4 | 4 | 100 | Surrey | 7 | 7 | 100 | Sussex | 13 | 12 | 92 |
| Birmingham | 7 | 5 | 71 | London Business School | 0 | 0 | 0 | Wales: | | | | Aberystwyth | 4 | 3 | 75 |
| Bradford | 4 | 3 | 75 | Queen Mary and Westfield College | 0 | 0 | 0 | Bangor | 3 | 3 | 100 | Swansea | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bristol | 15 | 11 | 73 | London: Royal Holloway and Bedford New College | 5 | 5 | 100 | Warwick University | 9 | 8 | 89 | University of the West of England | 2 | 2 | 100 |
| Brunel | 2 | 1 | 50 | School of Economics and Political Science | 22 | 18 | 82 | West of England | 8 | 8 | 100 | York University | 8 | 8 | 100 |
| Cambridge | 20 | 13 | 65 | School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine | 2 | 2 | 100 | Total | 385 | 306 | 79 | | | | |
| Cardiff | 17 | 15 | 88 | School of Oriental and African Studies | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| City | 0 | 0 | 0 | University College Loughborough | 5 | 5 | 100 | | | | | | | | |
| Coventry | 0 | 0 | 0 | Manchester | 1 | 1 | 100 | | | | | | | | |
| Cranfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | Manchester Metropolitan | 28 | 23 | 82 | | | | | | | | |
| Dundee | 3 | 3 | 100 | Middlesex | 2 | 2 | 100 | | | | | | | | |
| Durham | 9 | 8 | 89 | Napier | 2 | 1 | 50 | | | | | | | | |
| East Anglia | 4 | 3 | 75 | Newcastle | 7 | 7 | 100 | | | | | | | | |
| Edinburgh | 11 | 10 | 91 | Nottingham | 11 | 7 | 64 | | | | | | | | |
| Essex | 12 | 10 | 83 | Nottingham Trent | 2 | 1 | 50 | | | | | | | | |
| Exeter | 4 | 2 | 50 | Open | 2 | 1 | 50 | | | | | | | | |
| Glasgow | 11 | 9 | 82 | Oxford | 26 | 18 | 69 | | | | | | | | |
| Gloucestershire | 1 | 1 | 100 | Oxford Brookes | 1 | 1 | 100 | | | | | | | | |
| Heriot-Watt | 1 | 1 | 100 | Plymouth | 5 | 3 | 60 | | | | | | | | |
| Hertfordshire | 1 | 1 | 100 | Portsmouth | 3 | 2 | 67 | | | | | | | | |
| Hull | 1 | 1 | 100 | Reading | 9 | 6 | 67 | | | | | | | | |
| Keele | 7 | 5 | 71 | Salford | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| Kent at Canterbury | 4 | 3 | 75 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lancaster | 11 | 7 | 64 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Leeds | 3 | 3 | 100 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Leicester | 2 | 2 | 100 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Liverpool | 6 | 3 | 50 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| London: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Birkbeck College | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Key: **Starters** students starting research awards
Submitters theses submitted within four years
Rate percentage of students submitting theses within four years of starting award

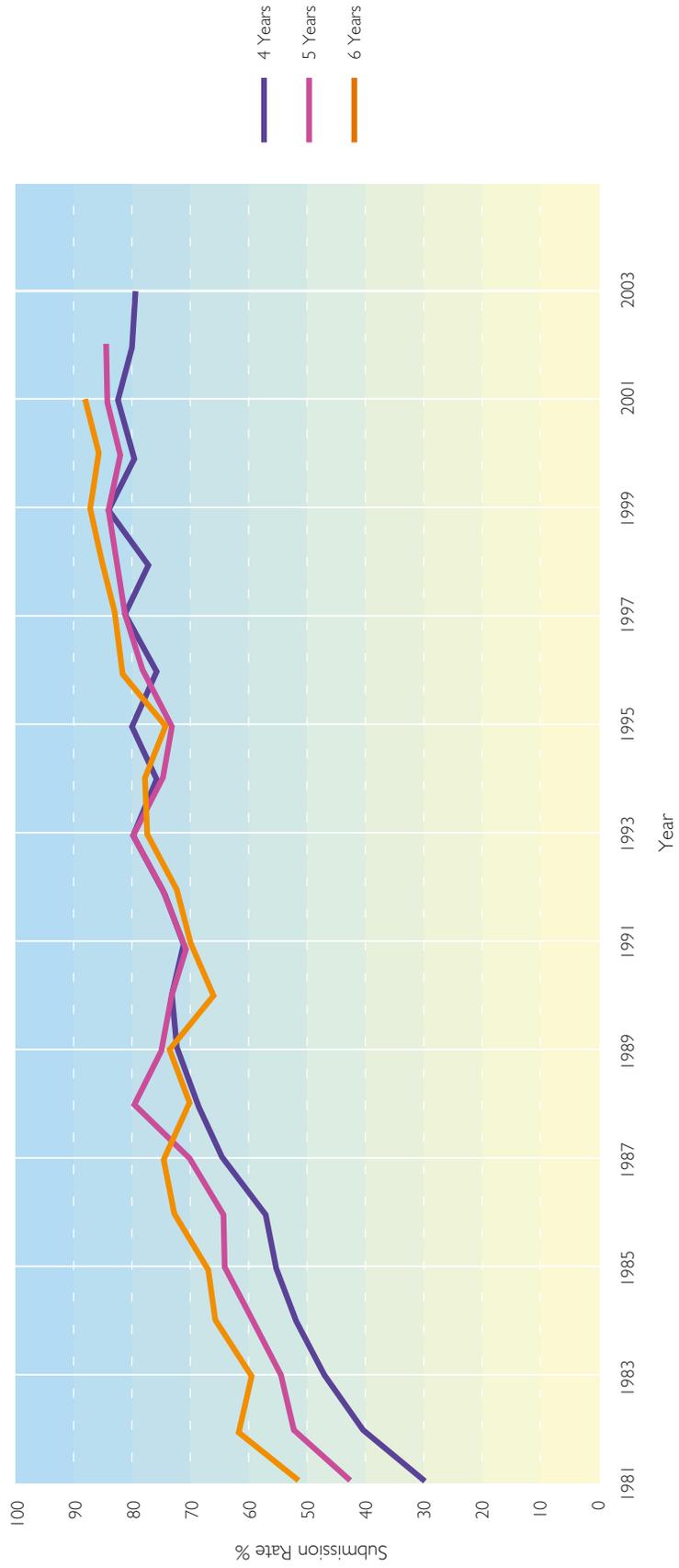
These submission rate figures exclude students who withdrew during their first year and make allowances for supervision/extensions to awards occasioned by illness, accident or the need to obtain fluency in a difficult language.

Note: The Training Board's sanctions policy, which is applied to those institutions returning a rate below 60 per cent, is based on the overall rate for the last three years. The table above only shows the rate for the most recent year.

Overall Submission Figures – Four, Five and Six-year rates

| % of theses submitted within | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
|------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 4 years | 73 | 71 | 75 | 80 | 76 | 80 | 76 | 81 | 77 | 84 | 80 | 82 | 80 | 79 |
| 5 years | 73 | 70 | 75 | 79 | 75 | 73 | 78 | 81 | 83 | 84 | 82 | 84 | 84 | |
| 6 years | 66 | 70 | 73 | 78 | 78 | 74 | 82 | 83 | 85 | 87 | 86 | 88 | | |

Percentage of Theses Submitted



Vital Statistics: Knowledge Transfer Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) is one of the largest of the schemes funded as part of the ESRC's commitment to Knowledge Transfer. The scheme's mission is to strengthen the competitiveness and wealth creation of the UK by enabling research organisations to apply their research knowledge to important business problems. Through these collaborative partnerships, UK businesses and other organisations can benefit from a wide range of expertise available in the UK knowledge-based, public and private sector research institutes and higher education institutions.

The Knowledge Transfer Partnership scheme is financially supported by sponsors, the largest of which is the Technology Strategy Board. KTPs having been transferred to the Technology Strategy Board after the restructuring of the DTI. In addition to the ESRC, other Research Councils are also involved as are the Welsh Assembly Government, the Scottish Government and Invest Northern Ireland. Knowledge Transfer Partnerships are managed by a contracted company, Momena. In addition to the grant, the participating business/organisational partner also contributes to each project. The ESRC contribution to the scheme in 2007/08 was £1,360,675.

The following list gives details of new Knowledge Transfer Partnerships that were funded by the ESRC during the year 2007/08. The duration of the project is usually for two years and there are currently 75 ESRC funded projects, 30 of which started this year. Eleven of these new partnerships were with a business organisation.

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships 2007-08

| Knowledge Partner | Organisation | Region | Co-Sponsor | ESRC Contribution |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Anglia Ruskin University | Sancton Wood School Limited | East of England | Technology Strategy Board | £38,583 |
| Bangor University | Isle of Anglesey County Council | Wales | | £83,805 |
| Bangor University | Vision Enhancement Services | North West of England | Technology Strategy Board | £33,522 |
| Buckinghamshire New University | Softcat Limited | South East of England | Technology Strategy Board | £33,522 |
| Cardiff University | Gambit Corporate Finance | Wales | | £67,044 |
| Coventry University | Shetland Islands Council | Scotland | | £65,808 |
| Cranfield University | NHS Blood and Transplant | London | | £67,435 |
| Glasgow Caledonian University | Integrated Environmental Solutions Limited | Scotland | Scottish Government | £41,476 |
| University of Aberdeen | Grampian Health Board | Scotland | Scottish Government | £29,755 |
| University of Durham | Redcar and Cleveland Primary Care Trust | North East of England | Northern Way | £38,329 |

| Knowledge Partner | Organisation | Region | Co-Sponsor | ESRC Contribution |
|--|--|--------------------------|--|----------------------|
| University of Durham | Esh Holdings Limited | North East of England | Technology Strategy Board | £30,860 |
| University of Durham | Northern Doctors Urgent Care Limited | North East of England | One North East | £35,931 |
| University of Exeter | Pendeen Community Heritage | South West of England | Arts and Humanities Research Council | £33,064 |
| University of Exeter | Hospiscare | South West of England | | £75,576 |
| University of Glamorgan | Mayer Brown Limited | South East of England | Technology Strategy Board | £33,522 |
| University of Leeds | Clydesdale Bank plc | Yorkshire and the Humber | Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council | £29,898 |
| University of Lincoln | Lincolnshire Community Foundation | East Midlands | Arts and Humanities Research Council | £33,786 |
| University of Loughborough | Cheshire County Council | North West of England | | Amount not available |
| University of Newcastle upon Tyne | Northumberland County Council | North East of England | | £56,785 |
| University of Plymouth | Devon County Council | South West of England | | £54,866 |
| University of Plymouth | Cornwall County Council | South West of England | | £56,516 |
| University of Salford | East Lancashire Moneyline (IPS) Limited | North West of England | Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council | £35,969 |
| University of Southampton | Serendipity Educational Services Limited | South East of England | Technology Strategy Board | £36,180 |
| University of Stirling | Fife Council Social Work Service | Scotland | | £55,637 |
| University of Stirling | NHS Lothian | Scotland | Scottish Government | £43,275 |
| University of the Highlands and Islands Millennium Institute | NHS Highland | Scotland | Scottish Government | £34,352 |
| University of the West of England Bristol | Blue Sheep Limited | South West of England | Technology Strategy Board | £37,066 |
| University of the West of England Bristol | Two Rivers Housing | South West of England | Technology Strategy Board | £35,278 |
| University of the West of Scotland | Kibble Education and Care Centre | Scotland | Scottish Government | £26,111 |
| University of Wales Institute Cardiff | Rhondda Cynon Taff Community Arts | Wales | Arts and Humanities Research Council | £34,423 |

Vital Statistics: Knowledge Transfer

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

Knowledge Transfer Partnership Sector Trends

| Sector | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Public | 11 | 8 | 10 | 12 | 12 |
| Private | 12 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 11 |
| Voluntary | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 7 |
| Total | 24 | 16 | 21 | 26 | 30 |

Knowledge Transfer Partnership Sector Trends Regional Trends

| Region | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| South East | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| South West | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 |
| London | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 |
| Wales | 0 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| East | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| East Midlands | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| West Midlands | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| North West | 6 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| North East | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Scotland | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 7 |
| Total | 24 | 16 | 21 | 26 | 30 |

Vital Statistics: ESRC Society Today

Web Trends

ESRC Society Today is the ESRC's corporate website. From its launch in 2005 it has continued to evolve with enhancements to the look and the feel of the site, as well as major functional development to help users get the most out of the service.

Executive Analysis 2006-07 and 2007-08

ESRC site statistics

| | Total 2006-07 | Total 2007-08 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Visitor Summary | | |
| Unique visitors | 1,606,175 | 2,518,595 |
| Visitors who visited once | 1,259,008 | 1,940,830 |
| Visitors who visited more than once | 347,167 | 574,465 |
| Average visits per visitor | 2 | 2 |
| Visit Summary | | |
| Visits | 3,509,577 | 5,487,675 |
| Average per day | 4,794 | 14,878 |
| Average visit length | 00:20:15 | 00:10:47 |
| Median visit length | 00:02:30 | 00:01:12 |
| International visits | 70.07% | 83.78% |
| Visits of unknown origin | 0.44% | 0.49% |
| Visits from UK | 29.5% | 15.73% |
| Page View Summary | | |
| Page views | 69,664,314 | 66,624,852 |
| Average per day | 181,116 | |
| Average page views per visit | 12.70 | |

The table above shows some of the key statistics for the ESRC Society Today website, as with all web statistics, these need to be interpreted carefully (eg number of visits based on IP addresses of computer).

Vital Statistics: Data Protection and Information Security

Personal Data Related Incidents

The ESRC is committed to safeguarding information and personal data.

Incidents, the disclosure of which would in itself create an unacceptable risk of harm, may be excluded in accordance with the exemptions contained in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or may be subject to the limitations of other UK information legislation.

Summary of protected personal data related incidents formally reported to the Information Commissioner's Office in 2007-08

| Date of Incident | Nature of Incident | Nature of data involved | Number of people potentially affected | Notification steps |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

Planned steps for the coming year include:

- audit of controls and procedures for handling information and data;
- completion of a personal data asset register, to include descriptions of security arrangements for all personal data processed by the ESRC;
- regular review of the ESRC risk register to ensure it is appropriate in relation to risks to personal data;
- a rolling programme of information security monitoring and assurance will be developed under the council's risk management and Internal Audit Assurance Strategy;
- written guidance to all staff about recognising and reporting information security incidents (and actions to take);
- data protection training for all new starters;
- freedom of information training for all new starters;
- regular updates and reminders to all staff about information security.

Summary of other protected personal data related incidents in 2007-08

Incidents deemed by the Data Controller not to fall within the criteria for report to the Information Commissioner's Office but recorded centrally within the Department are set out in the table below. Small, localised incidents are not recorded centrally and are not cited in these figures.

| Category | Nature of Incident | Total |
|----------|--|-------|
| I | Loss of inadequately protected electronic equipment, devices or paper documents from secured Government premises | 0 |
| II | Loss of inadequately protected electronic equipment, devices or paper documents | 0 |
| III | Insecure disposal of inadequately protected electronic equipment, devices or paper document from outside secured Government premises | 0 |
| IV | Unauthorised disclosure | 0 |
| V | Other | 0 |

Year-On-Year Total Numbers of Protected Personal Data Related Incidents Prior to 2007-08

Total number of protected personal data related incidents formally reported to the Information Commissioner's Office by category number

| | I | II | III | IV | V | Total |
|---------|---|----|-----|----|---|-------|
| 2006-07 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2005-06 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Total number of other protected personal data related incidents, by category number

| | I | II | III | IV | V | Total |
|---------|---|----|-----|----|---|-------|
| 2006-07 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2005-06 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Vital Statistics: Expenditure

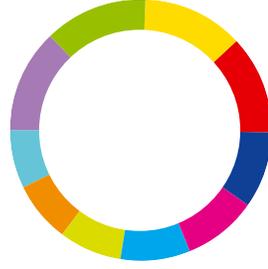
Research and Training Expenditure 2007-08

Regional Spend 2007-08

| Region | Research £000 | Training £000 | Total £000 |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| East Midlands | 1,975 | 2,617 | 4,592 |
| Eastern | 12,689 | 4,394 | 17,083 |
| London | 24,885 | 10,930 | 35,815 |
| North East | 2,677 | 2,641 | 5,318 |
| North West | 8,385 | 5,311 | 13,696 |
| Northern Ireland | 1,293 | 88 | 1,381 |
| Scotland | 9,318 | 6,124 | 15,442 |
| South East | 16,474 | 8,661 | 25,135 |
| South West | 7,726 | 3,425 | 11,151 |
| Wales | 6,689 | 3,200 | 9,889 |
| West Midlands | 5,757 | 3,873 | 9,630 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 6,999 | 5,085 | 12,084 |
| Other | 965 | | 965 |
| Grand Total | 105,832 | 56,349 | 162,181 |

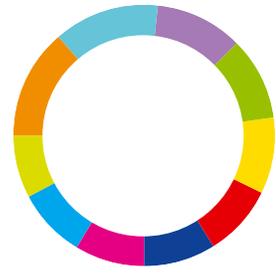
Top Ten Institutions by Training Expenditure 2007-08

| | |
|--|---------------|
| University College London | 3,192 |
| University of Edinburgh | 3,127 |
| University of Manchester | 3,081 |
| University of Oxford | 3,018 |
| University of Cambridge | 2,320 |
| London School of Economics & Political Science | 2,214 |
| University of Sheffield | 2,140 |
| University of Cardiff | 1,897 |
| University of Birmingham | 1,870 |
| University of Nottingham | 1,735 |
| Total | 24,594 |
| % of Overall Total | 44 |



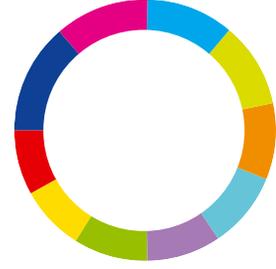
Top Ten Institutions by Research Expenditure 2007-08

| | |
|--|---------------|
| University of Oxford | 6,615 |
| University of Essex | 6,216 |
| University of London: Institute of Education | 5,136 |
| University of Manchester | 4,899 |
| University of Cardiff | 4,529 |
| University College London | 4,259 |
| University of Cambridge | 4,233 |
| University of Warwick | 4,145 |
| London School of Economics & Political Science | 4,122 |
| University of Bristol | 3,643 |
| Total | 47,797 |
| % of Overall Total | 45 |



Top Ten Institutions by Overall Expenditure for Research and Training 2007-08

| | |
|--|---------------|
| University of Oxford | 9,633 |
| University of Manchester | 7,980 |
| University of Essex | 7,537 |
| University College London | 7,451 |
| University of Cambridge | 6,553 |
| University of Edinburgh | 6,464 |
| University of Cardiff | 6,426 |
| London School of Economics & Political Science | 6,336 |
| University of London: Institute of Education | 5,584 |
| University of Warwick | 5,564 |
| Total | 69,528 |
| % of Overall Total | 43 |



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Accounts

Statement of Council's and Chief Executive's Responsibilities

Statement on Internal Control

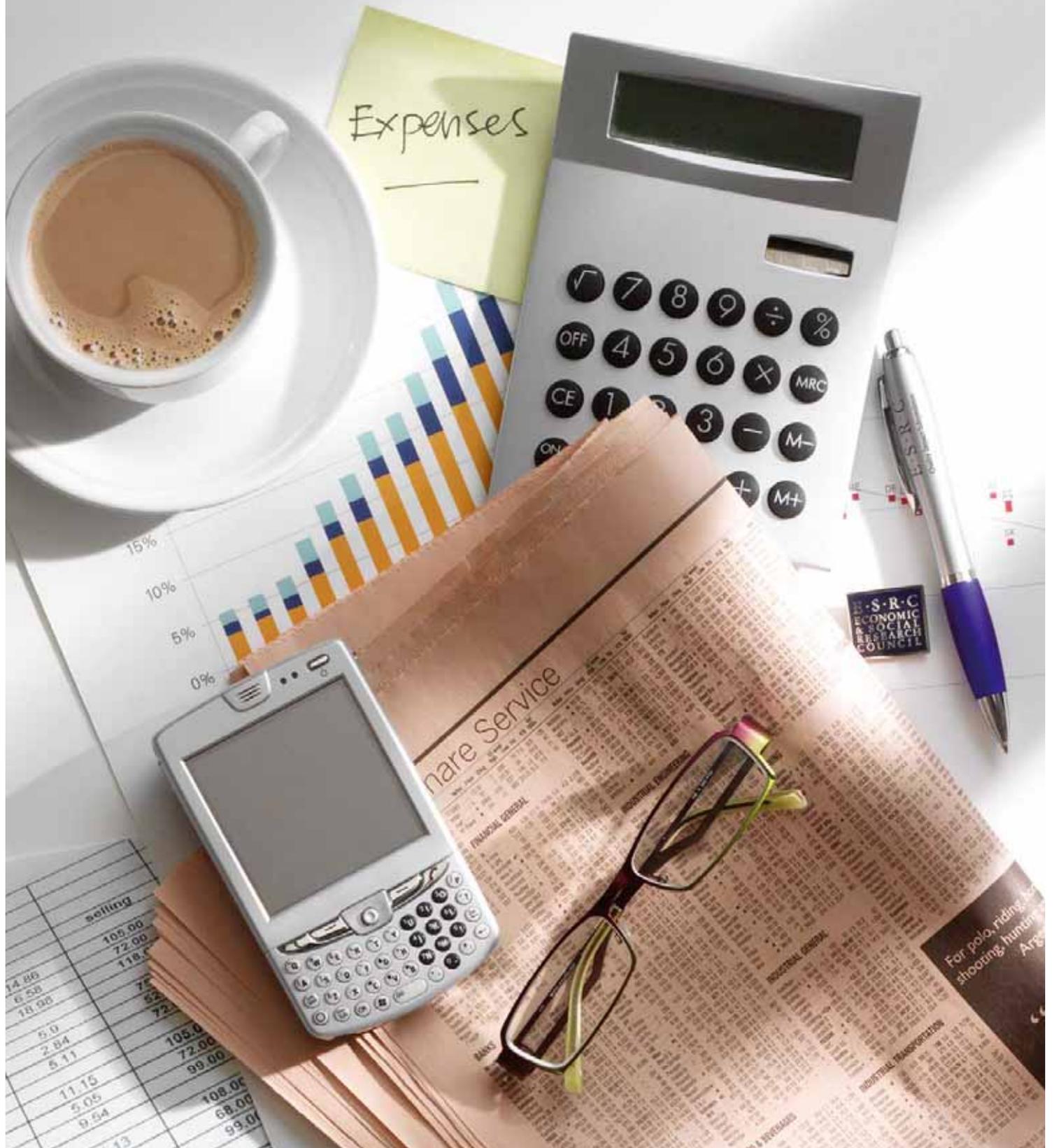
The Certificate and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor
General to the Houses of Parliament

Statement of Net Expenditure

Balance Sheet

Cash Flow Statement

Notes to the Accounts



Financial and Other Information

Financial and other information

- 1 The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) is an independent executive Non-Departmental Public Body established by Royal Charter in 1965 for the promotion of social science research. The Charter was subsequently amended in 1994 in the light of the Science White Paper *Realising Our Potential*.
- 2 The ESRC is funded primarily through grant-in-aid from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS).

Principal objectives

- 3 **The Economic and Social Research Council's mission is to:**
 - Promote and support by any means high-quality basic, strategic and applied research and related postgraduate training in the social sciences
 - Advance knowledge and provide trained social scientists who meet the need of users and beneficiaries, thereby contributing to the economic competitiveness of the United Kingdom, the effectiveness of public services and policy, and the quality of life
 - Provide advice on, and disseminate knowledge and promote public understanding of, the social sciences.
- 4 **ESRC's strategic objectives are:**
 - To maximise new research opportunities by supporting social science of the highest quality
 - To create research opportunities by identifying and pursuing new challenges for social science research
 - To strengthen our future research by training the next generation of social scientists and ensuring the health of social science disciplines
 - To provide the data and methods needed to meet future social science challenges
 - To engage with stakeholders by a full range of knowledge transfer and communication activities
 - To improve our performance on the basis of robust measurement
 - To maximise our participation in International research aimed at answering major social science questions.
- 5 **In order for ESRC to meet these objectives its work is organised in four areas:**
 - **Research:** To fund cutting-edge and excellent research that focuses on pushing back the frontiers of science and on areas of major national importance
 - **Capacity:** To ensure the availability of sufficient first class capacity, including expert researchers, data and methodology, for the UK to undertake top class social science
 - **Engagement:** To communicate research findings as widely as possible, to engage with our key stakeholders and to get research into practice
 - **Performance:** To evaluate the quality and impact of our funded research and perform our work efficiently and effectively.

Risk

- 6 ESRC has adopted a risk management strategy, in line with the recommendations of the *Turnbull Report* and to widen the scope of central government assurance statements. Controls and risk-bearing therefore relate to all aspects of management, not purely financial matters.
- 7 It is ESRC's view that it should demonstrate leadership in the quest for innovation and in the setting of strategies to achieve it. Innovation, and the social science research which supports it, is by its nature involved with uncertainty and hence risky outcomes. In order to seize opportunities to increase the probability of achieving its purpose ESRC has to embrace risk enterprises. ESRC has a responsibility not just to control risk, but to ensure the proper opportunities are created to allow the achievement of unplanned potential. ESRC therefore has a particular concern to ensure that the framework for managing risk involves appropriate measures to promote and safeguard innovation.
- 8 ESRC's capacity to handle risk and its risk and control framework can be found in ESRC's Statement on Internal Control.
- 9 ESRC's main risks are recorded and monitored on the corporate risk register. The key corporate risks relate to the maintenance of social science capacity, achieving excellence in commissioned research, sustaining ESRC's reputation and influence and effectiveness of delivery.
- 10 The future provision of core back office support for ESRC will be provided through the new RCUK Shared Services Centre Ltd facilities which are expected to go live for ESRC Finance and HR operations in 2008/09. This major project sponsored by the RCUK Executive Group is being run under formal project and risks management processes, and is subject to Gateway review. In addition within ESRC the SSC implementation project is classed as a Business Critical project and thereby subject to Audit Committee review arrangements. A risk register is maintained and updated within the project framework.

Financial review of the year

- 11 The Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2008 record a net expenditure of £177,099k compared with a net expenditure of £159,490k in 2006/07. The Government Funds as at 31 March 2008 showed a deficit of £32,995k compared to £11,371k in 2006/07. Total Grant-in-Aid drawn down was £135,018k, of which £470k was deployed on capital expenditure. Capital expenditure was limited to refurbishment costs of the ESRC office, IS developments and Assets in the Course of Construction in respect of the Shared Services Centre.

Research expenditure has increased to £105,832k (£99,824k 2006/07), with Postgraduate Training increasing to £56,349k (£46,853k 2006/07). This reflects an increase to ESRC's budget and subsequent new investments to strengthen the social science research base and strengthen future capacity both of which are covered earlier in the Annual Report.

Research expenditure included the second year's funding of grants costed and funded within the new fEC funding framework. Such funding only relates to new awards issued since April 2006 on fEC terms. Based on estimates of additional projected fEC take up during the year of £8.2m, it is estimated that the value of research which attracted fEC during 07/08, including fEC awards issued in 06/07, amounted to approximately £53m, which would have cost around £37m if it had been funded under the previous basis.

Funding from other bodies has increased to £21,244k (£16,362k 2006/07) reflecting an increase in collaborative funding on research investments.

The Balance Sheet records debtors of £12,682k (£13,097k 2006/07). The decrease in debtors was a result of a reduction in year end debtors in respect of contributions from Central Government Bodies. The Balance Sheet records Creditors of £55,446k compared to £41,361k in 2006/07. This increase was due to a rise in advance receipts and accrued spend covering liabilities on research awards.

Shared Services Centre

- 12 The seven Research Councils have agreed to establish a Shared Services Centre (SSC), to be based in Swindon. The SSC will provide finance, grants, human resources, information systems, procurement and payroll operational services to each of the Councils and their institutes. The Councils are setting up the SSC with the aim of reducing spending on administration and achieving procurement savings through sharing and standardising processes. The SSC has been incorporated during the year as RCUK Shared Services Centre Ltd and is in the process of establishing itself to be ready for the transfer of services. There is a phased implementation plan for transferring the councils services during 2008/09.
- 13 EPSRC is acting as 'host' for the Shared Services Centre project on behalf of all Councils and has contracted for the development and establishment of the Shared Services Centre. The Councils have agreed to share all these costs and ESRC's agreed share is 1.83%. The 2007/08 costs have been accounted for in ESRC's books as £365k expensed (note 7 to the Accounts), £287k as Assets in the Course of Construction (note 8 to the Accounts) and £70k as provisions for redundancy and system termination costs (note 12 to the Accounts).
- 14 The transition to shared services is regarded as a business critical project and is referred to in the Statement of Internal Control.

Going concern

- 15 The Income and Expenditure Reserve at 31 March 2008 shows a deficit of £36,545k. This reflects the inclusion of liabilities falling due in future years which will be met by future grant-in-aid from the ESRC's sponsoring department, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. This is because, under the normal conventions applying to parliamentary control over income and expenditure, such grants may not be issued in advance of need.
- 16 Grant-in-aid for 2008/09, taking into account the amounts required to meet the ESRC's liabilities falling due in that year, has already been included in the department's Estimates for that year, which have been approved by Parliament. Longer term commitments are contained within existing funding allocations arising from Government Spending Review settlement figures which cover up to 2007/08. ESRC financial commitments on research and training grants beyond that period can be met well within the minimum reasonably anticipated income for those years. Such grants issued by ESRC are made under statutory powers within the terms of the Science and Technology Act 1965, applied upon the objects set out in Article 2 of the ESRC Royal Charter. This is confirmed in the ESRC Management Statement issued by the then Department of Trade and Industry, as renewed in August 2005.
- 17 The management of ESRC fully expect the recorded deficit on the Income and Expenditure Reserve to be extinguished over time, having regard to the resource and capital budgets to which ESRC can be expected to have access. FRS18 also states that for non-trading entities the anticipated continuation of the provision for that service is normally sufficient evidence of going concern. It has accordingly been considered appropriate to adopt a going concern basis for the preparation of these financial statements.

Financial and Other Information

Evaluation

18 The Council places great emphasis on the evaluation of its research. The Research Evaluation Committee (REC) works independently from the Funding Boards to evaluate the impact and quality of ESRC research through a comprehensive review programme. The results inform Council's strategic decision making and guide the Boards' investment decisions.

Project evaluations provide accountability for grant expenditure, and provide an early assessment of academic quality and research impact. The REC's analysis of project evaluation results contributes to Council's strategic planning, provides a track-record of project performance to support further funding decisions and feeds into policy evaluation work.

Programme, Network and Centre evaluations assess academic achievements and contributions to fields of study, impact on policymakers and practitioners, and the effectiveness of capacity development and research training. The results feed into the design of new phases of research and contribute to the development of research management practice.

Scheme evaluations assess the impact and effectiveness of different modes of ESRC funding. The results inform Council's strategy for supporting particular activities such as interdisciplinary collaborations, building new research capacity and supporting career development in different sections of the research community.

Impact and policy evaluations are a central feature of the evaluation system. This work includes benchmarking the international impact of UK social science, evaluating the economic and societal impact of ESRC research and reviewing aspects of research funding policy. The results help the Council to demonstrate the wider contribution of UK social science and the national and international impact of its own portfolio.

Statutory basis

19 ESRC's accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Manual (FREM) and the Accounts Direction, issued by the Secretary of State for DIUS pursuant to Section 2(2) of the Science and Technology Act 1965 and as revised in 2001 and 2007. The accounts follow UK GAAP having due regard to the Council's status as a government body.

Payment policy

20 ESRC observes the CBI's Code of Practice. The Council adheres to the principles of the Prompt Payers Code, and makes every effort to ensure compliance with the agreed terms of payment of creditors' invoices. An analysis of the Council's 2007/08 payment performance indicated that 97% (2006/07 95%) of invoices were paid in accordance with agreed contractual conditions or where no conditions existed, within 30 days of the presentation of a valid invoice.

Equal opportunities

21 The ESRC's policy on recruitment and selection is based on the ability of a candidate to perform the job regardless of gender, colour, ethnic or national origin, disability, age, marital status, sexual orientation or religion. Full and fair consideration is given to applications for employment from the disabled where they have the appropriate skills to perform the job. If disablement should occur during employment ESRC would make every effort to maintain employment and to ensure the availability of adequate retraining and career development facilities.

Employee involvement

22 Information is provided to employees through the Staff Handbook, Office Notices, E-mail and the Intranet. Consultation with employees takes place through meetings of senior staff, the Joint Negotiating Consultative Committee, through bilateral, directorate, sectional meetings, and through working groups set up to look at specific organisational issues, and where appropriate through all-staff meetings.

23 ESRC disseminates financial information by issuing reports to Council, to the Senior Management Team and to budget holders. Successful Spending Review bids and budgetary information are detailed in the bi-monthly 'Social Sciences' publication, press notices and the Annual Report, all of which have a wide circulation.

24 All staff are made aware of the Delivery Plan and are then involved in developing and implementing Directorate and Personal objectives which flow from the Plan.

25 ESRC was re-assessed against the new Investors in People standard in February 2008. It achieved 'retained recognition' status and will be subject to a follow up review in November 2008 after which ESRC will seek a full re-assessment.

26 Details of the Research Councils Pension Scheme (RCPS) are set out in note 3 to the Accounts and details of the salary and pensions benefits of senior employees are included in the Remuneration Report.

Health and safety

27 The ESRC policy is to set and maintain high standards of health and safety performance so as to ensure the health and safety of staff as well as that of others who may work in or visit the premises. To achieve this ESRC has a Health and Safety Policy Statement signed by the Chief Executive, the Trade Union Health and Safety representative and the ESRC's Health and Safety Advisor. The policy covers responsibilities, competencies, risks, controls, the provision of advice, performance measurement and staff consultation. The policy is accessible to all staff through ESRC's Intranet along with all health and safety guidance and procedures. ESRC also has a Health and Safety committee whose role is to review the adequacy of safety training and the supply of information, consider accident statistics and safety audit reports and to help the ESRC's Health and Safety Advisor carry out his/her duties.

Environmental policy

28 ESRC is committed to following the joint Research Council Environmental Policy Statement which calls for:

- Compliance with all relevant legislation;
- Minimise the adverse impacts of new buildings, refurbishments;
- Make efficient use of natural resources;
- Operate effective arrangements for waste disposal and recycling;
- Promote effective environmental supply management;
- Work with staff to promote more economic forms of transport;
- Provide appropriate information and training to new staff.

Audit Committee

29 ESRC's Audit Committee is constructed of three members of Council plus two external co-opted members providing academic and professional accountancy expertise. The Chairman of the Committee is a member of Council who is not the chair of any other Board. The Committee meets at least three times a year to review internal and external audit matters, to generally consider Corporate Governance issues including the quality of internal control systems and to review the ESRC's accounts.

Auditors

- 30 The internal auditors of ESRC are the Research Council Internal Audit Service with an audit plan being agreed and undertaken each year.
- 31 The accounts of the ESRC are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General under the terms of paragraph 3(3) of Schedule 1 of the Science and Technology Act 1965. The audit fee covering 2007/08 was £37,000. There was no auditor remuneration for non-audit work.
- 32 So far as the Accounting Officer is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the ESRC's auditors are unaware. The Accounting Officer has taken all the steps that he ought to have taken to make himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that ESRC's auditors are aware of that information.

Post balance sheet events

33 FRS 21 'Events after the balance sheet date' requires the disclosure of the date on which the financial statements were 'authorised for issue' and who gave that authorisation. The financial statements were authorised for issue on the 8 July 2008 by Ian Diamond. There have been no events after the balance sheet date requiring an adjustment to the financial statements.

Financial and Other Information

Remuneration Report 2007/08

Unaudited Information

Remuneration policy

- 34 The remuneration of the Chief Executive of ESRC is decided by a Remuneration Panel chaired by the Director General of the Research Councils and approved by the DIUS Permanent Secretary.
- 35 The performance of Directors is assessed annually by the Chief Executive and the Chair through the Staff Performance Management process. In the light of these assessments, performance related pay is made in accordance with provisions of the pay remit approved by DIUS. There is no separate Remuneration Committee that considers the pay of other senior staff.
- 36 The remuneration of ESRC's Council members and Chairman is reviewed annually by DIUS.

Contractual policy

- 37 The Chief Executive is contracted for the period 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2010 with all Directors being permanent employees of the ESRC. The Chief Executive and all Directors are subject to a notice period of 3 months and any compensation awarded for early termination is subject to the terms and conditions of the Research Council's Joint Superannuation Early Severance Scheme. Council members and Chairman are not employees of the ESRC and receive a letter of appointment from DIUS but are remunerated through the ESRC payroll. The terms of appointment allow for members to resign from office by notice in writing to the Secretary of State. Members may also be removed from office by the Secretary of State on grounds of incapacity or misbehaviour or a failure to observe the terms and conditions of appointment.

Audited Information

Salary and pension entitlements

38 The following section provides details of the remuneration and pension interests of the Chief Executive, Directors and ESRC Council members.

Remuneration and Pensions Interests for Chief Executive and Directors for 2007/08 (comparative figures for 2006/07 shown in brackets)

| Chief Executive and Directors | Chief Executive | Director | Director | Director |
|--|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Name | Professor I Diamond | Mr G Davies* | Mr A Alsop | Drs A Wissenburg |
| Age at 31 March 2008 | 54 | 60 | 51 | 41 |
| Sex | Male | Male | Male | Female |
| Service to 31 March 2008 (years) | 5 | 36 | 19 | 4 |
| Salary paid 2007/08 (£k) | 115-120 (105-110) | 70-75 (70-75) | 60-65 (60-65) | 65-70 (55-60) |
| Benefits in Kind | – (–) | – (–) | – (–) | – (–) |
| Real increase in pension at 60 (£) | 6,507 (2,599) | – (1,862) | 777 (1,603) | 1,155 (1,114) |
| Related lump sum at 31 March 2008 (£) | – (–) | – (93,054) | 67,959 (63,166) | – (–) |
| Total annual accrued pension at 60 at 31 March 2008 (£) | 50,135 (42,586) | – (31,018) | 22,653 (21,055) | 4,749 (3,531) |
| Cash equivalent of transfer values at 31 March 2007 (£) | 695,191 (641,448) | – (670,026) | 372,807 (336,567) | 39,282 (27,415) |
| Cash equivalent of transfer values at 31 March 2008 (£) | 912,881 (705,053) | – (746,518) | 441,923 (372,809) | 61,418 (40,108) |
| Real increase in cash equivalent of transfer values (£) | 114,454 (39,473) | – (43,757) | 14,197 (27,467) | 12,725 (10,528) |
| Pension provider | RCPS | | RCPS | RCPS |

* Retired 28 February 2008. No pension liability as at 31 March 2008.

39 Salary paid in 2007/08 includes gross salary; performance pay or bonuses; overtime; recruitment and retention allowances, responsibility allowances and any other allowance to the extent that it is subject to UK taxation. The average increase of the above senior staff was 6%.

Pensions

40 Details of the Research Councils' Pension Scheme (RCPS) is included in note 3 to the Accounts.

41 The Cash Equivalent Transfer Value (CETV)

A Cash Equivalent Transfer Value (CETV) is the actuarially assessed capitalised value of the pension scheme benefits accrued by a member at a particular point in time. The benefits valued are the member's accrued benefits and any contingent spouse's pension payable from the scheme. A CETV is a payment made by a pension scheme or arrangement when the member leaves a scheme and chooses to transfer the benefits accrued in their former scheme. The pension figures shown relate to the benefits that the individual has accrued as a consequence of their total membership of the pension scheme, not just their service in a senior capacity to which disclosure applies. The CETV figures include the value of any pension benefit in another scheme or arrangement which the individual has transferred to the Research Councils' pension arrangements and for which the CS Vote has received a transfer payment commensurate with the additional pension liabilities being assumed. They also include any additional pension benefit accrued to the member as a result of their purchasing additional years of pension service in the scheme at their own cost.

Financial and Other Information

42 The real increase in the value of the CETV

This reflects the increase in CETV effectively funded by the employer. It takes account of the increase in accrued pension due to inflation, contributions paid by the employee (including the value of any benefits transferred from another pension scheme or arrangement) and uses common market valuation factors for the start and end of the period.

Council members remuneration

43 Council members and Chairman receive an honorarium in recognition of their service to ESRC, together with a refund of their reasonable expenses. The rate of honorarium is set by DIUS. Council members are not employees of ESRC and the appointments are not pensionable. Members of Council who are civil servants are not entitled to receive an honorarium.

44 The following table details the period of appointment covering each Council member who served on the Council during 2007/08 along with the remuneration received for that period.

Remuneration for Council Members for 2007/08 (comparative figures for 2006/07 shown in brackets)

| Name | Period of Appointment | Remuneration £k |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Lord Adair Turner – Chairman | 01-04-07 – 31-03-11 | 15-20 (–) |
| Professor Alan Alexander – Chair, Research Resources Board | 01-08-03 – 31-07-09 | 5-10 (5-10) |
| Mr Martin Brookes – Chair, Audit Committee | 01-08-07 – 31-07-10 | 0-5 (–) |
| Professor Ann Buchanan | 01-08-07 – 31-07-10 | 0-5 (–) |
| Ms Helen Dent | 01-08-03 – 31-07-07 | 0-5 (5-10) |
| Professor Fiona Devine | 31-01-03 – 31-07-07 | 0-5 (5-10) |
| Professor Charlie Jeffery – Chair, Strategic Research Board | 01-08-05 – 31-07-08 | 10-15 (5-10) |
| Professor Malcolm Grant | 08-02-08 – 31-07-11 | – (–) |
| Mr Paul Johnson | 01-08-02 – 31-07-07 | – (–) |
| Professor Michael Lamb – Chair, International Advisory Group | 01-08-06 – 31-07-09 | 5-10 (0-5) |
| Professor Andrew Pettigrew – Chair, Research Evaluation Committee | 21-10-04 – 20-10-08 | 5-10 (5-10) |
| Professor Carol Propper – Chair, Research Grants Board | 01-08-05 – 31-07-08 | 5-10 (5-10) |
| Mr David Ramsden | 05-02-08 – 31-01-12 | – (–) |
| Professor Judith Rees – Chair, Training and Development Board | 01-08-04 – 31-07-10 | 5-10 (5-10) |
| Professor Alison Richard | 01-08-04 – 31-07-07 | 0-5 (5-10) |
| Mr David Walker | 01-02-07 – 31-07-09 | 5-10 (0-5) |

30 June 2008



Ian Diamond
Accounting Officer

Accounts

Statement of Council's and Chief Executive's Responsibilities

Under paragraph 3 of Schedule 1 to the Science and Technology Act 1965 the Council is required to prepare a statement of account for each financial year in the form and on the basis directed by the Secretary of State for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills with the consent of the Treasury. The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and must show a true and fair view of the Council's state of affairs at the year end and of its income, expenditure, recognised gains and losses and cash flows for the financial year.

In preparing the accounts, the Accounting Officer is required to comply with the requirements of the *Government Financial Reporting Manual* and in particular to:

- Observe the accounts direction issued by the Secretary of State for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, including the relevant accounting and disclosure requirements, and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis
- Make judgements and estimates on a reasonable basis
- State whether applicable accounting standards as set out in the *Government Financial Reporting Manual* have been followed and disclose and explain any material departures in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Council will continue in operation.

The Accounting Officer for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills has designated the Chief Executive of the Economic and Social Research Council as the Accounting Officer for the ESRC. The responsibilities of an Accounting Officer, including responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which he is answerable, for the keeping of proper records and for safeguarding the Council's assets, are set out in the 'Non-Departmental Public Bodies' Accounting Officers' Memorandum, issued by HM Treasury and published in 'Managing Public Money' (formerly Government Accounting).

Statement on Internal Control

Scope of responsibility

As Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of ESRC's policies, aims and objectives, as approved by Council, whilst safeguarding the public funds and ESRC assets for which I am personally responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to me in 'Managing Public Money'.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of ESRC's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control, endorsed by Council in June 2002, has been in place in ESRC for the year ended 31 March 2008 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts, and accords with HM Treasury guidance.

Capacity to handle risk

ESRC has a Risk Champion at Director level who co-ordinates and leads on risk issues. Risk champions have also been appointed at Directorate level who have a similar devolved responsibility. It is ESRC's policy to assign responsibilities to staff with appropriate skills to manage risk aspects of their work. ESRC's core business involves the commissioning of research, and research training, and ESRC operates a risk management framework which draws upon engagement of expert advice from leading members of UK and International Researchers, and user communities across the UK. This is applied extensively to underpin ESRC scientific decision making.

Risk and control framework

Under the policy approved by Council, ESRC's framework embeds risk management via:

- Council itself, which approves the risk policy and oversees the framework and high level risks
- Council's Audit Committee, which assesses risk management processes and reports to Council
- The Chief Executive and Directors of the major functions, who are responsible for identifying and managing risks
- Devolved risk management responsibilities held by staff within the Directorates.

Accounts

General risk awareness training has been provided to over 90% of ESRC staff with more detailed training in risk assessment and management being provided to the Directorate 'risk champions' which has extended the skill base across ESRC. This Group meets regularly to share issues and consider ways of continuously developing and enhancing the risk management framework.

There are also regular weekly Directors and monthly Senior Management Team meetings, which include discussion of risk aspects of ongoing and new business developments. Risk reporting routines and review have been enhanced so that monthly Directorate reports on current work to the Senior Management Team are supported by formal risk analyses.

ESRC operates largely within a low risk environment where the bulk of operational expenditure occurs within the Higher Education environment, which largely operates within a control framework subject to public sector oversight. ESRC has established a register of risks and these risks have been evaluated, to include consideration of the desired level of risk appetite having regard to ESRC strategies and priorities; controls have been assessed and responsibilities for management of risks assigned at various levels.

The key corporate risks covered by the Strategy relate to maintenance of social science research capacity, achieving excellence in commissioned research, sustaining ESRC's reputation and influence and effectiveness of delivery.

Principal processes in place for identifying, evaluating, and managing risk are:

- Maintenance of a Corporate Risk Register
- Regular review of risks by the Directors/Senior Management Team
- Establishment of Directorate Risk registers
- Development project proposals incorporate risk evaluations, and implementation plans include risk registers to manage project risks
- Progress reports to the Directors/Senior Management Team on progress against key projects
- Annual stewardship returns and reports from ESRC Directors on their operation of devolved systems and management of risk
- Peer review processes covering the conduct of ESRC core business of commissioning of research
- ESRC Scientific Advisory Board papers include explicit reference to risk assessments
- Annual validation procedures (within the Finance Assurance Programme) conducted on a Cross Council basis to oversee the regularity of Research expenditure at Research Institutions
- Monitoring/reporting arrangements on business critical projects:
 - UK Household Longitudinal Study. This project will establish a major new longitudinal study of the UK population across 40,000 households
 - SSC implementation
- Those relating to Venture funding where new procedures in 2007/08 include the requirement for a risk assessment for all proposals put to Directors
- Corporate project management guidance.

Cross council risk management

During the period the Councils Operations Management Group took responsibility for oversight of risk at a cross council level including oversight of the Full economic Cost funding framework. In addition a Risk Awareness Network Group has been established by RCUK which meets on a 6 monthly basis to support sharing of knowledge and approaches to risk management across the Research Councils (and now the SSC).

RCUK Shared Services Centre development

The SSC implementation project will deliver a single administrative support service for all UK Research Councils. Initially the SSC will provide HR, Finance, Procurement and IS services, however in the longer term it is also planned to add Grants Processing. This project is business critical for ESRC as it fundamentally changes the way back-office services are provided, effectively through outsourcing them to the new SSC organisation. The project operates across all seven Councils and is directed by a Project Board comprised of representatives of each Council, the SSC itself a number of independent members, the Board is chaired by the Chair of the RCUK Executive Group. The principal risks for the Project, and therefore for the seven Councils, are the potential for cost and time overruns and these are a clear focus for the Project Board. In June 2008 there is an exercise in hand to revisit plans for shared services implementation that will result in delays in the previous timetable.

As a stakeholder in the Project ESRC has its own Group who manages its participation and associated risks in the Project. The high level risks and mitigation strategies are regularly scrutinised by ESRC's Directors Group. Governance arrangements are regularly monitored by ESRC's Audit Committee.

Business continuity

ESRC has a Business Continuity Plan and a Business Continuity Team made up of key personnel from across all ESRC's business and support areas.

To facilitate consideration of potential threats to business continuity, and integration with cross-council and IT-specific disaster recovery plans, risks have been grouped into the following categories:

- Disruption of Non-IT infrastructure
- Disruption of IT infrastructure
- Information systems.

A number of different scenarios, under each of these headings, have been identified and analysed. Where applicable, specific contingency arrangements and disaster recovery strategies have been determined for incidents.

The following elements of the plan have been identified as critical and are tested and reviewed on a regular (at least annual) basis:

- Emergency Response
- Disaster Recovery
- Contingency Arrangements.

The Business Continuity Plan has been approved by the Chief Executive's Directors' Group, and has also received the endorsement of ESRC's Audit Committee. It is also subject to independent review, on a regular basis, by the Research Councils' Internal Audit Service.

Review of effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, I also have responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. My review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by:

- Regular reports by ESRC's internal audit including the Head of Internal Audit's independent opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of ESRC systems of internal control
- The executive managers within ESRC who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework, and who provide annual reports on their stewardship and management of risk
- Comments made by the external auditors in their management letter and other reports
- The Audit Committee's review of internal controls and risk management processes
- Research award validation procedures under the Cross Research annual Funding Assurance Programme which provide assurance on the regularity of research project expenditure at Universities and other research bodies
- Measures in place at a cross Research Council level to obtain assurance on the operation of Transparent Approach to Costing at Universities supporting cost data used in Full Economic Costing of funded research proposals.

I have been advised by the Council and the Audit Committee on the implications of the result of my review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control. A plan is in place to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system.

The internal control system provides confidence that the risk is managed to a reasonable level and I can provide assurance that it supports the achievement of the ESRC's policies, aims and objectives.

30 June 2008



Ian Diamond
Accounting Officer

Accounts

The Certificate and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General to the Houses of Parliament

I certify that I have audited the financial statements of the Economic and Social Research Council for the year ended 31 March 2008 under the Science and Technology Act 1965. These comprise the Statement of Net Expenditure, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and Statement of Recognised Gains and Losses and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out within them. I have also audited the information in the Remuneration Report that is described in that report as having been audited.

Respective responsibilities of the Council, Chief Executive and auditor

The Council, and Chief Executive as Accounting Officer, are responsible for preparing the Annual Report, the Remuneration Report and the financial statements in accordance with the Science and Technology Act 1965 and Secretary of State for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills directions made thereunder and for ensuring the regularity of financial transactions. These responsibilities are set out in the Statement of Council and Chief Executive's Responsibilities.

My responsibility is to audit the financial statements and the part of the remuneration report to be audited in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements, and with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

I report to you my opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and whether the financial statements and the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited have been properly prepared in accordance with the Science and Technology Act 1965 and Secretary of State for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills directions made thereunder. I report to you whether, in my opinion, the information, which comprises the management commentary, included in the Annual Report is consistent with the financial statements. I also report whether in all material respects the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

In addition, I report to you if the Economic and Social Research Council has not kept proper accounting records, if I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit, or if information specified by HM Treasury regarding remuneration and other transactions is not disclosed.

I review whether the Statement on Internal control reflects the Economic and Social Research Council's compliance with HM Treasury's guidance, and I report if it does not. I am not required to consider whether this statement covers all risks and controls, or form an opinion on the effectiveness of the Economic and Social Research Council's corporate governance procedures or its risk and control procedures.

I read the other information contained in the Annual Report and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. I consider the implications for my report if I become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements. My responsibilities do not extend to any other information.

Basis of audit opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. My audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts, disclosures and regularity of financial transactions included in the financial statements and the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the Council and Accounting Officer in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are most appropriate to the Economic and Social Research Council's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I planned and performed my audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which I considered necessary in order to provide me with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements and the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error, and that in all material respects the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them. In forming my opinion I also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements and the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited.

Opinions

In my opinion:

- The financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with the Science and Technology Act 1965 and directions made thereunder by the Secretary of State for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, of the state of the Economic and Social Research Council's affairs as at 31 March 2008 and of its net expenditure for the year then ended
- The financial statements and the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited have been properly prepared in accordance with the Science and Technology Act 1965 and the Secretary of State for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills directions made thereunder
- Information, which comprises the management commentary, included within the Annual Report, is consistent with the financial statements.

Opinion on regularity

In my opinion, in all material respects the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Report

I have no observations to make on these financial statements.

8 July 2008

T J Burr
Comptroller and Auditor General
National Audit Office
151 Buckingham Palace Road
Victoria
London
SW1W 9SS

Accounts

Statement of Net Expenditure for the Year Ended 31 March 2008

| | Notes | 2007/08 £000 | 2006/07 £000 |
|--|-------|------------------|------------------|
| Expenditure | | | |
| Staff and Council Members' Costs | 3 | 5,302 | 4,514 |
| Research | 4 | 105,832 | 99,824 |
| Postgraduate Training | 5 | 56,349 | 46,853 |
| Knowledge Transfer | 6 | 4,019 | 2,306 |
| Other Operating Costs | 7 | 6,702 | 6,622 |
| Total Operating Expenditure | | 178,204 | 160,119 |
| Interest receivable | | (36) | (5) |
| Net Operating Expenditure | | 178,168 | 160,114 |
| Notional cost of capital | 13 | (1,069) | (624) |
| Net Expenditure for the Year | | 177,099 | 159,490 |
| Reversal of Notional cost of capital | | 1,069 | 624 |
| Net expenditure for the year after reversal of Notional cost of capital | | 178,168 | 160,114 |
| Income & Expenditure Reserve brought forward | 14 | (14,221) | (10,557) |
| Grant in Aid received | 14 | 135,018 | 140,508 |
| Funding Received from Other Bodies | 2 | 21,244 | 16,362 |
| Transfer to I&E – Depreciation | 14 | 54 | 49 |
| Transfer of Restricted Funds | 14 | (472) | (469) |
| Net Expenditure for the Year | 14 | (177,099) | (159,490) |
| Reversal of Notional Cost of Capital | 14 | (1,069) | (624) |
| I&E Reserve carried forward | 14 | (36,545) | (14,221) |

All activities are continuing.

The notes on pages 100 to 112 form part of these accounts.

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2008

| | Notes | 2008 | | 2007 |
|---|-------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|
| | | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Fixed Assets | | | | |
| Tangible Assets | 8 (a) | | 5,015 | 4,990 |
| Intangible Assets | 8 (b) | | 638 | 849 |
| Investment | 8 (c) | | – | – |
| | | | 5,653 | 5,839 |
| Current Assets | | | | |
| Debtors and Prepayments | 10 | 12,682 | | 13,097 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 16 | 4,254 | | 11,136 |
| | | 16,936 | | 24,233 |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 11 | (55,446) | | (41,361) |
| Net Current Liabilities | | | (38,510) | (17,128) |
| Total Assets less Current Liabilities | | | (32,857) | (11,289) |
| Provision for liabilities | 12 | | (138) | (82) |
| Net Liabilities | | | (32,995) | (11,371) |
| Capital and reserves | | | | |
| Income and Expenditure Reserve | 14 | | (36,545) | (14,221) |
| Restricted Reserve | 14 | | 988 | 516 |
| Revaluation Reserve | 14 | | 2,562 | 2,334 |
| Deficit on Government Funds | 14 | | (32,995) | (11,371) |

The notes on pages 100 to 112 form part of these accounts.

30 June 2008



Ian Diamond
Accounting Officer

Accounts

Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 31 March 2008

| | Notes | 2008 £000 | 2007 £000 |
|--|-------|--------------|--------------|
| Net cash outflow from operating activities | 15 | (162,710) | (147,595) |
| Returns on investments and servicing of finance | | | |
| Interest received | | 36 | 5 |
| Capital expenditure | | | |
| Payments to acquire fixed assets | | (470) | (980) |
| Net cash outflow before financing | | (163,144) | (148,570) |
| Financing | | | |
| Grant-in-aid received | | 135,018 | 140,508 |
| Funding received from other bodies | | 21,244 | 16,362 |
| (Decrease) / Increase in cash in the year | 16 | (6,882) | 8,300 |

Statement of Recognised Gains and Losses for the Year Ended 31 March 2008

| | Notes | 2007/08 £000 | 2006/07 £000 |
|--|-------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Net expenditure | | (178,168) | (160,114) |
| Other recognised gains and losses on revaluation of land and buildings | 14 | 282 | 297 |
| Losses recognised in year | | (177,886) | (159,817) |

The notes on pages 100 to 112 form part of these accounts.

Notes to the Accounts

I Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of land and buildings and other fixed assets where material.

ESRC has received a Direction on the form of its Accounts issued by the Secretary of State for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. The accounts meet the accounting and disclosure requirements of the Companies Act 1985 and the accounting standards issued or adopted by the Accounting Standards Board so far as these requirements are appropriate in accordance with the Financial Reporting (FREM).

The accounts have been prepared on the basis of a Going Concern. Any deficit shown on the Income and Expenditure Reserve would be extinguished over time, having regard to the resource and capital budgets to which ESRC can be expected to have access from the sponsoring department, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (see the Going Concern note in the Management Commentary).

(b) Fixed assets and depreciation/amortisation

Capital expenditure includes the purchase of land, buildings, equipment and intangible assets such as licences to the value of £1,000 or more.

Intangible and tangible fixed assets are included at cost or at valuation. The basis of valuation for land and buildings is open market value for existing use. Land and buildings are professionally valued every five years. In the intervening period relevant indices are used. Any surplus or deficit arising on revaluation is taken to the Revaluation Reserve, except that any permanent diminution in value is charged to the Income and Expenditure Account in the year in which it is recognised. Increased depreciation charges arising from the revaluation are matched by annual transfers from the Revaluation Reserve to the Income and Expenditure Reserve.

In the opinion of the ESRC there is no material difference between the historic and current cost values of the computing and office equipment. Accordingly these assets have not been revalued and this position has been kept under review.

Provision is made for depreciation/amortisation on tangible and intangible fixed assets, except land, at rates calculated to write off the costs or the valuation of each asset to its estimated residual value evenly over its expected useful life, as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Freehold Buildings | 60 years |
| Office and Computing Equipment | 3-10 years |
| Data Licences | 5-10 years |

The useful economic life of assets is reviewed regularly and where a valuation has provided a more accurate assessment this has been used.

Significant fixed asset acquisitions are depreciated from the month of purchase. Other additions are depreciated by a full year in the year of acquisition.

Assets in the course of construction are not depreciated until they are brought into use.

(c) Ownership of equipment or facilities purchased with council grants

Equipment or facilities purchased by an institution with research grant funds supplied by the ESRC belong to the institution and are not included in ESRC's fixed assets. Through the conditions of the grant applied to funded institutions, the ESRC reserves the right to determine how such equipment or facilities shall be disposed of and how any disposal proceeds are to be utilised.

(d) Parliamentary grant-in-aid and other funding

Grant-in-Aid for revenue and general capital purposes are credited to the Income and Expenditure Reserve and grant-in-aid for the purchase of specific assets should be credited to the Income and Expenditure Reserve and released to the Statement of Net Expenditure over the useful life of the asset in amounts equal to the annual depreciation charge. The receipt of funds from other bodies is also treated as detailed above unless goods and services are provided to the entity giving the funding.

(e) Research and development

As a research funding organisation, the ESRC's research and development expenditure is charged to the Statement of Net Expenditure when it is incurred.

The ownership of the intellectual property arising from a research project is made clear from the outset. Normally this rests with the university or institution receiving the ESRC award, unless stated to the contrary. Where there are material returns from intellectual property rights from an ESRC supported award, ESRC reserves the right to reclaim up to one third of the total, up to the value of its original award. Recoveries are credited to the Statement of Net Expenditure when received. Future intellectual property rights arising from the ESRC's research and development have not been included in the accounts as their value in terms of future income is not material and unpredictable.

(f) Operating leases

There were no finance leases. Operating lease rentals are charged to the Statement of net Expenditure on a straight line basis over the period of the lease. An operating lease existed covering ESRC's rental obligations on a London office (see note 12).

Notes to the Accounts

(g) Foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at the rate ruling at the time of the transaction. All gains and losses arising from exchange differences are taken to the Statement of Net Expenditure.

(h) Value added tax

The ESRC is partially exempt for VAT purposes. All expenditure and fixed asset purchases are shown inclusive of VAT where applicable. Residual input tax reclaimable by the application of the partial exemption formula is treated as miscellaneous income.

(i) Research grants

ESRC policy is to accrue for the costs of work undertaken at Higher Education Institutions at Balance Sheet date which remain unpaid by ESRC at that date. Future commitments in respect of costs of work yet to be undertaken within approved cash limits at the Balance Sheet date are disclosed in note 17.

(j) Pensions and early severance costs

Payments are made to the Research Councils' Pension Schemes (RCPS) in respect of superannuation benefits for ESRC staff. RCPS is an unfunded multi-employer defined benefit scheme but ESRC is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities and has therefore taken the exemption available in FRS 17 and account for it as a defined contribution scheme.

(k) Notional cost of capital

The financing structure of ESRC does not include specific interest bearing debt but to ensure that the Statement of Net Expenditure bears an appropriate charge for the use of capital in the business in the year, a notional interest charge is included. In accordance with Treasury guidance, the calculation is based on a 3.5% rate of return on average net assets employed at cost or at valuation, and the capital charge is written back to the Income and Expenditure Reserve.

(l) Provisions

Provisions have been made in accordance with FRS 12 for redundancy costs and system termination fees arising from the transition to the Shared Services Centre. See note 12 for further details.

(m) Derivatives and other financial instruments

Financial Reporting Standard Number 13, Derivatives and other Financial Instruments, requires disclosure of the role which financial instruments have had during the period in creating or changing the risks an entity faces in undertaking its activities. Because of the largely non-trading nature of its activities, and the way in which government bodies are financed, ESRC is not exposed to the degree of financial risk faced by business entities. Moreover, financial instruments play a much more limited role in creating or changing risk that would be typical of the listed companies to which FRS 13 mainly applies. ESRC has very limited powers to borrow or invest surplus funds and except for relatively insignificant forward purchases of foreign currency, financial assets and liabilities are generated by day-to-day operational activities and are not held to change the risks facing ESRC in undertaking its activities.

As permitted by FRS 13 debtors and creditors which mature or become payable within 12 months from the Balance Sheet date have been omitted from the currency profile.

Liquidity Risk – ESRC's net revenue resource requirements are financed by resources voted annually by Parliament, and administered as grant-in-aid through the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, just as its capital expenditure largely is. ESRC is not therefore exposed to significant liquidity risks. As described in note 1 (a) ESRC is dependant on funding from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills to meet liabilities falling due in future years, but there is no reason to believe that this funding will not be forthcoming.

Interest-Rate Risk – All of ESRC's financial assets and liabilities carry nil or fixed rates of interest. ESRC is not therefore exposed to significant interest-rate risk.

Currency Profile – At the Balance Sheet date ESRC held no significant foreign currency assets or liabilities.

Foreign Currency Risk – ESRC's exposure to foreign currency risk is not significant. Foreign currency income is negligible and foreign currency expenditure at less than 1% of total expenditure is not significant.

(n) Restricted reserve

The restricted reserve has 2 components and relates to: (i) funds received by ESRC as beneficiary of a will that can only be used for specified purposes; (ii) deposits received from international bodies for specific future research investment. Any income earned is transferred to the reserve from the general fund.

2 Funding Received from Other Bodies

| | 2007/08 £000 | 2006/07 £000 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| Contributions from government departments | 3,119 | 3,439 |
| Contributions from non-departmental public bodies | 17,344 | 12,275 |
| Contributions from other bodies | 781 | 648 |
| | | |
| | 21,244 | 16,362 |

3 (a) Staff Costs

| | 2007/08 £000 | 2006/07 £000 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Salaries and wages | 4,085 | 3,491 |
| Social security costs | 270 | 209 |
| Superannuation | 753 | 656 |
| Council members' remuneration | 194 | 158 |
| | | |
| | 5,302 | 4,514 |

3 (b) Staff Numbers

The average number of staff employed during the year was 127 full time equivalent.

| | 2007/08 | 2006/07 |
|--|------------|------------|
| Senior Management (Chief Executive and Band H) | 4 | 4 |
| Managerial (Bands C to G) | 93 | 88 |
| Administrative Support (Band B) | 30 | 30 |
| | | |
| | 127 | 122 |

At any one time there were up to 14 temporary agency staff covering complemented vacancies or long term absences. During the year the cost of temporary agency staff was £540k (2006/07 £336k) and is included under salaries and wages in note 3 (a).

Notes to the Accounts

3 (c) Superannuation

The employees of the Council are members of the Research Councils' Pension Schemes (RCPS) which are defined benefit schemes funded from annual grant-in-aid on a pay-as-you-go basis. The benefits are by analogy to the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme, except that while the schemes provide retirement and related benefits based on final emoluments, redundancy and injury benefits are administered and funded by the Council.

The scheme is administered by the Research Councils' Joint Superannuation Services with the associated grant-in-aid managed by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC). The schemes' accounts are prepared by BBSRC, on behalf of the BBSRC Chief Executive as the Accounting Officer for the RCPS. A separate Account is published for the Pension Schemes. Employees' contributions to the scheme are set at 3.5%. The employer's contribution is agreed by the RCPS Board of Management on the recommendation of the Government Actuary's Department and is set at 21.3% of pensionable pay.

The RCPS is an unfunded multi-employer defined benefit scheme but ESRC is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities and has therefore taken the exemption available in FRS 17. A full actuarial valuation was carried out on 31 March 2006 with results expected to be announced in August 2008. The valuation carried out on 31 March 2002 which changed the rate from 10.1% to 21.3% from 1 April 2005 therefore apply to these accounts. Details are available in the accounts of the Research Councils Pension Scheme.

For 2007/2008, employer's contributions of £753,284 were payable to the RCPS (2006/2007 £652,582) at 21.3% of pensionable pay, based on the salary bands. Employer contributions are to be reviewed every three years following a full scheme valuation by the Government Actuary. The contribution rates reflect benefits as they are accrued, not when the costs are actually incurred, and reflect past experience of the scheme.

4 Research

| | 2007/08 £000 | 2006/07 £000 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| Research Programmes | 20,379 | 24,577 |
| Research Centres | 14,150 | 16,685 |
| Research Resources | 2,452 | 5,292 |
| Research Grants | 38,510 | 26,866 |
| Fellowships | 2,439 | 4,441 |
| Research Ventures | 4,917 | 971 |
| DFID | 2,554 | 939 |
| Other Research | 1,182 | 1,147 |
| International Office | 825 | 552 |
| International Subscriptions | 222 | 101 |
| International Awards | – | 96 |
| Teaching and Learning | 4,609 | 4,724 |
| Joint Infrastructure Fund | – | 46 |
| Research Equipment and Facilities (see note 1c) | 13,593 | 13,387 |
| | 105,832 | 99,824 |

5 Postgraduate Training

| | 2007/08 £000 | 2006/07 £000 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Standard Course Studentships | 1,081 | 1,296 |
| Standard Research Studentships | 42,933 | 39,783 |
| Other Studentships | 1,749 | 156 |
| Language Based Area Studies | 3,310 | 1,289 |
| Post Doctoral Fellowships | 7,276 | 4,329 |
| | 56,349 | 46,853 |

6 Knowledge Transfer

| | 2007/08 £000 | 2006-07 £000 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Knowledge Transfer Awards | – | 349 |
| Knowledge Transfer Activities | 2,988 | 810 |
| Knowledge Transfer Partnerships | 1,031 | 1,147 |
| | 4,019 | 2,306 |

7 Other Operating Costs

| | 2007/08 £000 | 2006/07 £000 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Maintenance and IT/IS support | 648 | 667 |
| Office Supplies | 378 | 454 |
| Postage and Telecommunication | 123 | 125 |
| Archive Services | 17 | 16 |
| Management Consultancy and Other Professional Fees | 193 | 445 |
| Research Evaluation and Information Contracts | 392 | 458 |
| Auditors' Remuneration | 37 | 36 |
| Staff Training and Subscriptions | 123 | 87 |
| Publicity and Distribution | 1,895 | 2,362 |
| Travel and Subsistence | 468 | 394 |
| Meetings and Catering | 121 | 138 |
| Conference Costs | 7 | 16 |
| Recruitment | 171 | 65 |
| Staff Relocation | 3 | – |
| VAT/NI Services | 8 | 9 |
| RCPO Costs | 55 | 54 |
| Legal Services/Internal Audit | 62 | 89 |
| RCUK | 573 | 220 |
| SSC Implementation Costs | 365 | – |
| Miscellaneous | 130 | 47 |
| Depreciation and Amortisation | 938 | 948 |
| Provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts | (5) | (8) |
| | 6,702 | 6,622 |

Notes to the Accounts

8 (a) Tangible Fixed Assets

| Cost/Valuation | Freehold land and buildings £000 | Assets in the Course of Construction £000 | IT and office equipment £000 | Total £000 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|---------------|
| At 1 April 2007 | 3,284 | – | 5,928 | 9,212 |
| Additions | – | 287 | 183 | 470 |
| Revaluation | 193 | – | – | 193 |
| Disposals | – | – | (125) | (125) |
| At 31 March 2008 | 3,477 | 287 | 5,986 | 9,750 |
| Depreciation | | | | |
| At 1 April 2007 | – | – | 4,222 | 4,222 |
| Provided in year | 89 | – | 638 | 727 |
| Revaluation | (89) | – | – | (89) |
| Disposals | – | – | (125) | (125) |
| At 31 March 2008 | – | – | 4,735 | 4,735 |
| Net Book Value | | | | |
| 31 March 2008 | 3,477 | 287 | 1,251 | 5,015 |
| 31 March 2007 | 3,284 | – | 1,706 | 4,990 |

The freehold land and buildings net book value relates to the Council's share of Polaris House, Swindon. The land and buildings in totality were professionally valued as at 31 March 2006 by Paul Powis (FRICS) of Powis Hughes Chartered Surveyors in accordance with SAVP and RICS guidance notes on an open market value basis. The figure disclosed represents an agreed apportionment of the total valuation. Between formal professional valuations appropriate indices are used.

The Assets in the Course of Construction represents ESRC's individual share of the Shared Services Centre currently being developed by the seven Research Councils.

8 (b) Intangible Fixed Assets

| | Data Licenses £000 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Cost | |
| At 1 April 2007 | 1,229 |
| Additions | – |
| At 31 March 2008 | 1,229 |
| Amortisation | |
| At 1 April 2007 | 380 |
| Provided in year | 211 |
| At 31 March 2008 | 591 |
| Net Book Value | |
| 31 March 2008 | 638 |
| 31 March 2007 | 849 |

8 (c) Investment

| | 2007/08 £ | 2006/07 £ |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Other Investment | 1 | – |
| | 1 | – |

During the year ESRC acquired one 'A' ordinary share of £1 in RCUK Shared Services Centre Limited (RCUK SSC Ltd). Each of the seven Research Councils acquired one share and are all joint investors in the project. RCUK SSC Ltd was incorporated on 1 August 2007 and has commenced setting up the Shared Services Centre. For the period ended 31 March 2008 the draft financial statements of RCUK SSC Ltd shows revenue of £1,225,593 and administration costs of £1,225,593 with nil profit/(loss) result. The balance sheet totals are £7 from the share capital issued to the Research Councils and £7 cash.

The investment has been classified as 'other investment' as each council's individual share is 14%.

9 Science in Society Unit

The RCUK Science in Society Unit is hosted by ESRC on behalf of the other Research Councils. The Unit's remit covers science in schools as well as raising public awareness and engagement in science and innovation. A key challenge for the new Unit is to promote a more collective approach to science in society activities both between individual Research Councils and in collaboration with Government Departments, Research Council funded academics and other key organisations.

As all expenditure will be matched by income and reflected in the accounts of other Research Councils ESRC will post all income and expenditure against Balance Sheet codes rather than Income and Expenditure codes. A creditor or debtor will then be recorded depending on the year-end position.

In 2007/08 the following income and expenditure were attributed to the unit on Programme expenditure.

| | £000 |
|-------------|--------------|
| Income | 2,178 |
| Expenditure | (2,582) |
| | (404) |

A debtor of £404k has therefore been reflected in ESRC's 2007/08 accounts and recorded in Contributions (note 10).

10 Debtors and Prepayments

| | 31 March 2008 £000 | 31 March 2007 £000 |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Debtors | | |
| Contributions (Central Government bodies) | 1,650 | 2,562 |
| Other debts (Central Government bodies) | 119 | 51 |
| Other debts (Other bodies) | 193 | 401 |
| | 1,962 | 3,014 |
| Less: provision for bad and doubtful debts | (10) | (15) |
| | 1,952 | 2,999 |
| Prepayments | | |
| Prepayments (Central Government bodies) | 25 | – |
| Prepayments (Other bodies) | 10,705 | 10,098 |
| | 12,682 | 13,097 |

Notes to the Accounts

11 Creditors: Amounts Falling Due within One Year

| | 31 March 2008 £000 | 31 March 2007 £000 |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Research Accrual (Other bodies) | 42,114 | 32,155 |
| Advance Receipts (Central Government bodies) | 10,161 | 6,894 |
| Advance Receipts (Other bodies) | – | 457 |
| Other (Central Government bodies) | 3,171 | 439 |
| Other (Other bodies) | – | 1,416 |
| | 55,446 | 41,361 |

12 Provisions for Liabilities

| | Rental Obligations £000 | SSC Implementation £000 | 2008 Total £000 | 2007 Total £000 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| As at 1 April 2007 | 82 | – | 82 | 155 |
| Additional Provisions made in year | – | 70 | 70 | – |
| Provisions utilised | (14) | – | (14) | (73) |
| As at 31 March 2008 | 68 | 70 | 138 | 82 |

Provision is being made for outstanding rental obligations on a London office leasehold held jointly by the Research Councils. Negotiation of a sub-lease to a third party has left a residual lease obligation of £85,000 pa over the next 7 years. ESRC's provision allows for its share along with other minor residual liabilities.

The Research Councils and RCUK SSC Ltd are in the process of developing a Shared Services Centre to carry out the central functions of HR, Finance and IT across the Councils. As a result some Research Councils will incur redundancy costs, particularly where existing staff live a distance away from Swindon where the Centre will be situated.

The Research Councils have collectively agreed that they will be jointly liable for necessary redundancies. The Councils have calculated their likely redundancy liabilities in order to make a 2007/08 provision. A funding allocation model was developed and agreed by all the Research Councils and this identified the proportion of SSC project spend and liability that each individual Council would incur. The total provision for redundancies has been apportioned using this model.

The table below shows, for each council the amount that they need to provide for redundancies of their own staff in accordance with FRS 12 as determined at 31 March 2008. Some councils will incur a cost of terminating their existing systems, and these costs are being shared between the councils. The provision for all seven councils are then split and shared in accordance with an agreed predetermined ratio as detailed in the table below. Each council takes their agreed share of their own liability and then contributes or receives contributions from the other research councils to reach the provision which is recorded in their own balance sheet.

| | AHRC £000 | BSRC £000 | ESRC £000 | EPSRC £000 | MRC £000 | NERC £000 | STFC £000 | Total £000 |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Provision required for the council's own redundancies | 68 | 152 | – | – | 999 | 1,620 | – | 2,839 |
| System termination fee | – | – | – | – | 1,000 | – | – | 1,000 |
| Total provision | 68 | 152 | – | – | 1,999 | 1,620 | – | 3,839 |
| % of liability to be borne by the Council | 1.33% | 20.54% | 1.83% | 8.24% | 26.98% | 20.54% | 20.54% | 100% |
| Amount borne by the Council | (1) | (31) | – | – | (540) | (333) | – | (905) |
| Contributions toward councils redundancy and system termination provision received from/provided to other councils | (16) | 668 | 70 | 316 | (423) | (499) | 789 | 905 |
| Net provision required for each Council | 51 | 789 | 70 | 316 | 1,036 | 788 | 789 | 3,839 |

Further costs may be incurred in future years.

13 Notional Cost of Capital

| | 31 March 2008 £000 | 31 March 2007 £000 |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Notional Cost of Capital | (1,069) | (624) |

In accordance with Treasury guidance the notional cost of capital credit has been written back to the Income and Expenditure Reserve.

Notes to the Accounts

14 Reserves and Reconciliation of Movement in Government Funds

| | Restricted Reserve £000 | Revaluation Reserve £000 | Income and Expenditure Reserve £000 | Total Government Funds £000 |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| As at 1 April 2007 | 516 | 2,334 | (14,221) | (11,371) |
| Grant in Aid received | – | – | 135,018 | 135,018 |
| Funding received from Other bodies | – | – | 21,244 | 21,244 |
| Revaluation in year | – | 282 | – | 282 |
| Transfer to Income & Expenditure – depreciation | – | (54) | 54 | – |
| Transfer of Restricted funds | 472 | – | (472) | – |
| Net Expenditure for the year | – | – | (177,099) | (177,099) |
| Reversal of notional cost of capital | – | – | (1,069) | (1,069) |
| As at 31 March 2008 | 988 | 2,562 | (36,545) | (32,995) |

15 Reconciliation of the Net Operating Expenditure Before Financing to Net Cash Outflow from Operating Activities

| | 2007/08 £000 | 2006/07 £000 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Net operating expenditure | (178,204) | (160,119) |
| Depreciation / Amortisation charges | 938 | 948 |
| Increase / (Decrease) in Provisions | 56 | (73) |
| Decrease in debtors | 1,047 | 1,040 |
| Increase in prepayments | (632) | (9,828) |
| Increase in creditors | 14,085 | 20,437 |
| Net cash outflow from operating activities | (162,710) | (147,595) |

16 (a) Reconciliation of Movement in Net Funds

| | 2007/08 £000 | 2006/07 £000 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Cash at 1 April 2007 | 11,136 | 2,836 |
| (Decrease) / Increase in cash | (6,882) | 8,300 |
| Cash at 31 March 2008 | 4,254 | 11,136 |

16 (b) Breakdown of Cash Balance

| | 2007/08 £000 | 2006-07 £000 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Office of Paymaster General | 3,265 | 10,620 |
| Restricted Reserve bank account | 989 | 516 |
| Cash at 31 March 2008 | 4,254 | 11,136 |

17 Commitments

(a) Research Awards

Future commitments on approved research awards to Higher Education Institutions and other approved Research bodies:

| | | £000 |
|--|-------------|----------------|
| | 2008/2009 | 137,873 |
| | 2009/2010 | 84,106 |
| | 2010/2011 | 50,903 |
| | Later years | 37,920 |
| | | 310,802 |

(b) Postgraduate Training

Future Commitments on approved postgraduate awards:

| | | £000 |
|--|-------------|----------------|
| | 2008/2009 | 42,779 |
| | 2009/2010 | 33,775 |
| | Later years | 32,056 |
| | | 108,610 |

(c) Capital Commitments

The capital commitments as at 31 March, for which no provision has been made, are as follows:

| | | £000 |
|--|------------------------|------------|
| | Shared Services Centre | 439 |
| | | 439 |

The SSC capital commitment represents the council's individual share of the future committed spend on the Shared Services Centre. Costs incurred to 31 March 2008 have been recognised through the Statement of Net Expenditure and the SSC Assets in the Course of Construction.

Notes to the Accounts

18 Contingent Liabilities

The Council has no known material contingent liabilities (2006/07 None).

19 Related Party Transactions

The ESRC is a Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) sponsored by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS).

DIUS is regarded as a related party. During the year, ESRC has had various material transactions with DIUS and with other entities for which DIUS is regarded as the parent Department, viz: Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council; Office of Science and Innovation; Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council; Natural Environment Research Council; Medical Research Council; Science and Technology facilities Council; Arts & Humanities Research Council; Technology Strategy Board. In addition ESRC has had various material transactions with other Government Departments and other Central Government bodies, viz: Office for National Statistics; Department for Children, Schools and Families; Higher Education Funding Council for England; Scottish Executive; National Assembly for Wales; Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Department of Transport; Department of Education Northern Ireland; Department for Employment and Learning Northern Ireland; Department for International Development; HM Treasury; Department of Communities and Local Government; Office of the Deputy Prime Minister; Home Office; Department of Works and Pensions.

These Accounts provide disclosure of all material financial transactions with those who have been defined as 'Directors'. In the ESRC context this has been taken to include senior executive staff, as at Section 38 of the Remuneration Report, and all Council members. In addition disclosure is provided in respect of members of ESRC Scientific Advisory Boards, which are used to make recommendations on research and training awards.

During the year, ESRC did not enter into any transactions with any such Directors. However it did enter into a number of material transactions with Institutions employing Council members who had no direct interest in the award concerned (Table A). None of the Council members were involved in the recommendation of awards to the Institution where they are a senior member of staff or member of the Governing body.

Information is disclosed on material financial transactions with any related party of these senior staff, Council and Board members (Table B).

In addition, ESRC made a number of payments in respect of ESRC funded awards to Institutions where Board/Council members were the named Principal Investigator. None of the disclosed Board/Council members were involved in the approval of awards to the Institution where they were named as the Principal Investigator. (Table C). Under ESRC regulations the Audit Committee chairman reviews and approves all awards to Council and Board members.

Table A

| Council | Institution | No of Awards | Amount £ |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Professor A Buchanan | University of Oxford | 98 | 7,992,262 |
| Professor C Jeffrey | University of Edinburgh | 71 | 4,778,752 |
| Professor M Lamb | University of Cambridge | 67 | 5,253,368 |
| Professor A Pettigrew | University of Bath | 22 | 1,262,662 |
| Professor C Propper | University of Bristol | 67 | 3,651,239 |
| Professor J Rees | London School of Economics | 68 | 5,501,506 |
| Professor M Grant | University College London | 82 | 5,915,710 |
| Professor F Devine | University of Manchester | 85 | 5,979,070 |
| Professor A Richard | University of Cambridge | 67 | 5,253,368 |

Table B

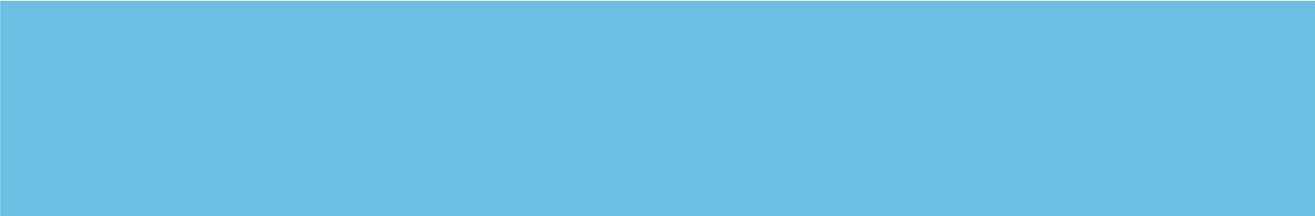
| Council/Board Members/Senior Staff | Related party | No of Awards held by related party | Amount paid to Related Party £ |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Dr S Delamont | Partner | 1 | 102,150 |
| Professor J Fairhead | Partner | 1 | 683,898 |
| Drs Astrid Wissenburg | Partner | 1 | 34,462 |

Table C

| | Institution | No of Awards | Aggregate Amount £ |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Council/Board Members | | | |
| Professor OP Attanasio | University College London | 1 | 194,568 |
| Professor OP Attanasio | Institute for Fiscal Studies | 2 | 224,056 |
| Professor GA Boyne | Cardiff University | 1 | 115,713 |
| Professor JD Brewer | University of Aberdeen | 1 | 42,641 |
| Professor AH Buchanan | University of Oxford | 2 | 131,573 |
| Professor A Edwards | University of Oxford | 1 | 49,351 |
| Professor P Elias | University of Warwick | 1 | 269,076 |
| Professor B Francis | Lancaster University | 1 | 324,847 |
| Professor K Gilhooly | University of Hertfordshire | 1 | 47,101 |
| Professor C Howe | University of Cambridge | 1 | 116,172 |
| Professor C Huxham | University of Strathclyde | 1 | 39,358 |
| Professor C Jeffery | University of Edinburgh | 2 | 17,562 |
| Professor M Martin-Jones | University of Birmingham | 1 | 28,326 |
| Professor S Monsell | University of Exeter | 1 | 27,833 |
| Professor J Nazroo | University College London | 1 | 124,982 |
| Professor M Overton | University of Exeter | 1 | 33,089 |
| Professor EC Page | London School of Economics | 1 | 9,070 |
| Professor AM Pettigrew | University of Bath | 1 | 51,414 |
| Professor D Reay | London Metropolitan University | 1 | 33,216 |
| Professor PH Rees | University of Leeds | 1 | 50,852 |
| Professor S Roper | Aston University | 1 | 3,000 |
| Professor C Sedikides | University of Southampton | 2 | 99,648 |
| Professor ME Slade | University of Warwick | 1 | 13,384 |
| Professor R Thorpe | University of Leeds | 1 | 19,454 |
| Professor MM Vihman | University of York | 2 | 346,887 |
| Professor RL Walker | University of Oxford | 1 | 28,467 |
| Professor S Wheeler | Queen's Belfast | 1 | 41,966 |

20 Post balance sheet events

FRS 21 'Events after the balance sheet date' requires the disclosure of the date on which the financial statements were 'authorised for issue' and who gave that authorisation. The financial statements were authorised for issue on 8 July 2008 by Ian Diamond. There have been no events after the balance sheet date requiring an adjustment to the financial statements.





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