Introduction

Research England has opened a technical consultation on the proposed design and implementation plan for the first iteration of the Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF) for English HEIs.

The Chartered ABS will submit a response that reflects the consensus view of our members. We would appreciate if you could complete this survey to help inform our collective response.

If you would prefer to simply provide your general views rather than answer the various questions, then there is an opportunity to do so.

Respondents are asked to provide details of their name, institution and email address. An email address should only be given if you are happy to be contacted by the Chartered ABS to discuss your answers further and help shape our submission to Research England.

Our final response to the consultation will be based on the aggregated results to this survey and the responses of individual institutions will not be cited.

Your Details

1. Your Name

* 2. Please select the name of your Business School from the drop-down list

3. Your email address (if you would be happy to be contacted to discuss your answers further)

4. Would you prefer to provide general written feedback on the KEF rather than answering the various questions related to the technical consultation?

○ Yes

○ No

5. Do you consider that the KEF as outlined will fulfil its stated purposes?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree	Strongly agree	No opinion
To provide universities with new tools to understand, benchmark and improve their performance	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
To provide businesses and other users with more information on universities	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
To provide greater public visibility and accountability	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

Please provide a commentary in relation to your scores above

6. The KEF consultation document describes the overall approach as being an annual, institutional level, largely metrics driven exercise, although noting that narrative will have an important role. More background may be found in the report summarising the recommendations of the technical advisory group. Do you consider this overall approach to be appropriate?

- ( ) Strongly disagree
- ( ) Disagree
- ( ) Somewhat disagree
- ( ) Somewhat agree

- ( ) Agree
- ( ) Strongly agree
- ( ) No opinion

Please provide a commentary in relation to your scores above

Clustering

The English higher education sector is very diverse. Research England therefore proposes to create clusters of knowledge exchange peer groups. The proposed clusters and clustering approach is detailed in the KEF consultation document. Please use the following questions to provide your feedback on Research England's proposals.

7. Please indicate your degree of support for the following aspects of our clustering approach

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree	Strongly agree	No opinion
The conceptual framework that underpins the cluster analysis	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
The variables and methods employed in undertaking the cluster analysis	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
The resulting make up of the clusters, i.e. the membership	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
That the overall approach to clustering helps Research England to meet the stated purposes of the KEF and ensures fair comparison	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

Please provide commentary on any aspect of your scores above. If relevant please incorporate suggestions for alternative arrangements.

Perspectives and metrics

Knowledge exchange covers an extremely diverse range of activity and it is appropriate that some HEIs will perform more strongly in different areas that align more closely with their mission and strategic goals.

Research England has therefore proposed a range of seven perspectives. The following questions will seek your views on the number and range of perspectives and metrics proposed.

Perspectives

- **Research partnerships**
- **Working with business**
- **Working with the public and third sector**
- **Skills, enterprise and entrepreneurship**
- **Local growth and regeneration**
- **IP and commercialisation**
- **Public and community engagement**

8. Taking into account the overall range of perspectives and metrics outlined in the consultation document, do you agree or disagree that a sufficiently broad range of KE activities is captured.

○ Strongly Disagree   ○ Agree

○ Disagree   ○ Strongly agree

○ Somewhat disagree   ○ No opinion

○ Somewhat agree

○ Comments:

9. Taking into account the range of metrics proposed for each perspective in the consultation document, please provide a figure between 0 and 100 for each perspective to indicate the extent to which the associated metrics adequately represent performance.

Research partnerships

Working with business

Working with the public and third sector

Skills, enterprise and entrepreneurship

Local growth and regeneration

IP and commercialisation

Public and community engagement

10. Research partnerships

Taking into account the range of metrics outlined in the consultation document for this perspective, please provide any comments on the balance and coverage of the proposed metrics.

11. Working with business

Taking into account the range of metrics outlined in the consultation document for this perspective, please provide any comments on the balance and coverage of the proposed metrics.

12. Working with the public and third sector

Taking into account the range of metrics outlined in the consultation document for this perspective, please provide any comments on the balance and coverage of the proposed metrics.

13. Skills, enterprise and entrepreneurship

Taking into account the range of metrics outlined in the consultation document for this perspective, please provide any comments on the balance and coverage of the proposed metrics.

14. Local growth and regeneration

Taking into account the range of metrics outlined in the consultation document for this perspective, please provide any comments on the balance and coverage of the proposed metrics.

15. IP and commercialisation

Taking into account the range of metrics outlined in the consultation document for this perspective, please provide any comments on the balance and coverage of the proposed metrics.

16. Public and community engagement

Taking into account the range of metrics outlined in the consultation document for this perspective, please provide any comments on the balance and coverage of the proposed metrics.

Supplementary narrative

Research England considers that for two perspectives - Local Growth & Regeneration and Public & Community Engagement - the existing metrics do not provide sufficient measure of the scale and variety of activities undertaken by higher education institutions (HEIs).

Research England intends to work with the sector to develop, where possible, metrics that will capture the outcomes derived from all types of knowledge exchange in the future. In the mean time they propose to supplement both the Local Growth & Regeneration and Public & Community Engagement perspectives by requesting a narrative statement from each provider to set out the main strategic goals, activities, outputs and potential outcomes achieved.

17. Do you consider it appropriate for HEIs to provide narrative text to support the metrics in perspectives that don't currently have fully developed metrics?

◯ Strongly disagree   ◯ Agree

◯ Disagree   ◯ Strongly agree

◯ Somewhat disagree   ◯ No opinion

◯ Somewhat agree

18. Public and community engagement narrative

Overall, is the guidance on the provision of narrative text for this perspective clear?

◯ Strongly disagree   ◯ Agree

◯ Disagree   ◯ Strongly agree

◯ Somewhat disagree   ◯ No opinion

◯ Somewhat agree

Please comment on the proposal to include narrative from HEIs for the public and community engagement perspective, in particular:

Where further clarification is required
Where refinements could be made
Whether there are areas where more consistency across HEIs could be achieved

19. Local growth and regeneration narrative

Overall, is the guidance on the provision of narrative text for this perspective clear?

○ Strongly disagree   ○ Agree

○ Disagree   ○ Strongly agree

○ Somewhat disagree   ○ No opinion

○ Somewhat agree

Please comment on the proposal to include narrative from HEIs for the local growth and regeneration perspective, in particular:

Where further clarification is required
Where refinements could be made
Whether there are areas where more consistency across HEIs could be achieved

20. The role of further narrative or contextual information

Research England welcome responses on what other types of narrative or contextual information would be helpful.

You may wish to consider, for example:
• Should the HEI or Research England provide other narrative information?
• How should Research England use other contextual information, such as information on local economic competitiveness described in section 5 of the cluster analysis report?
• Would other perspectives benefit significantly from further narrative information?
• Would the benefit of adding further narrative information be outweighed by the burden of doing so?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree	Strongly agree	No opinion
Overarching institutional statement - provided by the HEI	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Overarching institutional statement - provided by Research England	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

Comments

Visualisation

Research England has provided examples of visualisations of the KEF within the consultation document.

21. Please provide a figure between 0 and 100 to indicate your level of support for each of the proposed methods of comparison and visualisation

Each of the seven perspectives is to be given equal weighting

Metrics under each perspective are to be normalised and summed

The performance of each HEI is to be expressed in a radar chart in deciles, relative to the mean average decile of the peer group

Perspectives are not intended to be aggregated into a single score.

Narratives are to be presented alongside the metric score, making it clear that metrics in the two perspectives of Public & Community Engagement and Local Growth & Regeneration are provisional, and should be read in conjunction with the narratives.

Visualisation is to be delivered through an interactive, online dashboard which will allow exploration of the data underlying the 'headline' results in various ways.

22. Please comment on the presentation and visualisation proposals, for example:

• Where further clarification is required
• Where refinements could be made
• Whether there are areas where more consistency across HEIs could be achieved- how narratives could be incorporated?

Implementation

23. Research England will pilot the implementation with a group of HEIs as described in the consultation document.

Please provide any comments about the implementation of the KEF.

Any other comments

24. If you have any other comments, please share them here.