

There is a very large amount of information available on research and knowledge transfer, although relatively little on the implications for corporate governance.

Useful sources on the operation and funding of UK HE research can be found at the web sites of:

- The four UK HE funding bodies: the Higher Education Funding Council for England - Hefce at www.hefce.ac.uk/research; the Scottish Funding Council - SFC at www.sfc.ac.uk; the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales - HEFCW at www.hefcw.ac.uk; and the Department for Employment and Learning in Northern Ireland - DELNI at www.delni.gov.uk
- Universities UK at www.universitiesuk.ac.uk
- The Research Councils UK at www.rcuk.ac.uk

Details of how QR/REG funding is allocated can be found at:

- Hefce: How Hefce allocates its funds at www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2010/10_24;
- SFC: General Fund Grant Letter at www.sfc.ac.uk/news_events_circulars/Circulars/2010/GeneralFundGrantLetter.aspx;
- HEFCW: Explanation of QR Funding Method at www.hefcw.ac.uk/policy_areas/research/funding_research.aspx
- DELNI: Quality Related Research Funding at www.delni.gov.uk/index/further-and-higher-education/higher-education/role-structure-he-division/he-research-policy/recurrent-research-funding/quality-related-research-funding.htm

Information on charitable research funding is not available from any single source, but the Association of Medical Research Charities is the most convenient source of information on medical and related charities at www.amrc.org.uk. There is also a useful web site on the implications of charity legislation run by Hefce at www.hefce.ac.uk/finance/charities

The best single source of information of the internationalisation of research and the implications for UK HEIs is probably the UK HE International Unit at www.international.ac.uk

With the changes to the methodology for assessing research quality, and the proposed introduction of the Research Excellence Framework, the best source of information is from the REF implementation unit based at Hefce at www.hefce.ac.uk/research/ref

Information on the financial sustainability of research and the adoption of full economic costing varies between the four UK jurisdictions, with detailed information available from the funding bodies. However, there have been two important recent reports with UK wide implications that all governors (particularly in research active HEIs) need to be aware of:

- RCUK/Universities UK, (2009), Review of the Impact of Full Economic Costing on the UK Higher Education Sector, at www.rcuk.ac.uk/cmsweb/downloads/rcuk/reviews/fec/fecreport.pdf
- Universities UK/RCUK, (2010), Financial Sustainability and Efficiency in Full Economic Costing of Research in UK Higher Education Institutions, at www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/Publications/Documents/FinancialSustainabilityAndEfficiencyInFullEconomicCostingOfResearchInUKHigherEducationInstitutions.pdf

ANNEX A: SOME KEY INFORMATION SOURCES

So far as knowledge transfer is concerned there is no single comprehensive source of information, but relevant information includes two useful guides to IPR that governors may wish to consult:

- AURIL and Universities UK, (2002), Managing Intellectual Property: a Guide to Strategic Decision Making in Universities, at www.ipo.gov.uk/managingipguide.pdf
- AMRC, (2007), Working with Industry, at www.amrc.org.uk

For business and industry links there are many sources of information, with the best starting point for governors being the Hefce webpages devoted to the issue at www.hefce.ac.uk/econsoc/buscom

Since the Lambert Review of Business-University Collaboration in 2004 lots has been written on the topic, but the following three reports may be helpful for governors in raising issues of practical relevance about knowledge transfer:

- A Report on "Streamlining University/Business Collaborative Research Negotiations" commissioned by government, which reported to the Research Base Funders' Forum at www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/corporate/migratedd/publications/f/file41123.pdf.
- A Report by the Council for Industry and Higher Education (CIHE) and the Centre for Business Research (CBR) on 'Universities, Business and Knowledge Exchange' at www.cihe-uk.com/category/themes/key/collaboration
- An AMRC study on working with industry which sets down numerous practical guidelines for enhancing collaboration and knowledge transfer at www.amrc.org.uk/training--research-practice_working-with-industry

Finally, on the future of research in UK HEIs, Universities UK have recently produced a short report which will be of interest to most governors: Universities UK, (2010), The Future of Research at www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/Publications/Documents/TheFutureOfResearch.pdf