

Cylchlythyr | Circular

Open Access in the next Research Excellence Framework (REF): Policy Adjustments and Qualifications

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To: Heads of higher education institutions in Wales
Response by: No response required
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This circular announces some adjustments to the UK higher education funding bodies' open access policy for the next Research Excellence Framework (REF). These adjustments are intended to provide flexibility to support institutions in achieving compliance.

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Introduction

1. This circular announces some adjustments to the UK higher education funding bodies' open access policy for the next Research Excellence Framework (REF). These adjustments are intended to provide flexibility to support institutions in achieving compliance.

Open Access in the next REF: Policy Adjustments and Qualifications

2. In March 2014, the UK HE funding bodies announced a new policy for open access in the post-2014 REF (circular W14/10HE). The policy has received wide support from the research community, and institutions are now fully engaged in implementing this in time for the start date (1 April 2016). Work undertaken so far by institutions has revealed a number of challenges around implementation of the policy. These challenges invite flexibility.
3. The UK higher education funding bodies have therefore agreed a number of adjustments and qualifications to the policy that we believe will support institutions in achieving compliance within the spirit of open-access.
4. Full details of these adjustments have been published on the HEFCE website at www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/year/2015/CL,202015/.
5. The policy statement published by the UK higher education funding bodies in March 2014 has been updated to reflect these adjustments. The updated version is available at www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/Year/2014/201407/.
6. Links to this material has also been published alongside this circular under secondary documents.

Further information

7. For further information on any issues specific to Wales, contact Linda Tiller (tel 029 2068 2228; email linda.tiller@hefcw.ac.uk). For general queries on open access, contact Ben Johnson (tel 0117 931 7038; email openaccess@hefce.ac.uk).