

IOP Institute of Physics

Institute of Physics submission to the Higher Education and Research Bill Committee

Introduction

The Institute of Physics is a leading scientific membership society working to advance physics for the benefit of all. We have a worldwide membership of more than 50,000, from enthusiastic amateurs to those at the top of their fields in academia, business, education and government. Our purpose is to gather, inspire, guide, represent and celebrate all who share a passion for physics. And, in our role as a charity, we're here to ensure that physics delivers on its exceptional potential to benefit society. Alongside professional support for our members, we engage with policymakers and the public to increase awareness and understanding of the value that physics holds for all of us. Our subsidiary company, IOP Publishing, is world leader in scientific communications, publishing journals, ebooks, magazines and websites globally.

The IOP welcomes the opportunity to submit to the Higher Education and Research Bill Committee. We welcome a number of areas of the Bill including:

- Mandating certain providers to provide transparency information (page 6, clause 9)
- Mandating the preparation of an access and participation plan for higher education providers (pages 17 - 20, clauses 28 - 36)
- The publication of higher education information and the duty to consult a range of stakeholders (page 35, clause 59)
- Enshrining the balanced funding principle into law (page 56, clause 95)
- Provisions on cooperation and information sharing between the OfS and UKRI (page 59, clause 103)

The suggestions we make below are designed to address some aspects of the bill with which we have concerns. These concerns are covered under the following five areas:

- Maintaining the existing strengths and operations of the higher education and research landscape
- The relationship between the Government, OfS and UKRI
- Links between research and teaching
- Links with the devolved administrations
- Widening participation and access

Our concerns are set out under each Part of the Bill, and covered in either proposed questions to be discussed, or amendments and new clauses to be put forward.

Part 1 – The Office for Students

Amendments and new clauses			
Clause	Proposed amendment or new clause	Amended clause	Explanation
9 - Mandatory transparency condition for certain providers	Page 6, line 9, at end insert – “(iv) disability”	(2) A transparency condition is a condition that requires the governing body of a registered higher education provider to provide to the OfS, and publish, such information as the OfS requests in relation to one or more of the following— (a) the number of applications for admission on to higher education	Clause 9(2) requires that a transparency condition to share data with the OfS be required of certain “prescribed” providers. This condition mandates the provider to share information regarding applications for

		<p>courses that the provider has received;</p> <p>(b) the number of those applications that were received according to—</p> <p>(i) gender,</p> <p>(ii) ethnicity, and</p> <p>(iii) socio-economic background; and</p> <p>(iv) disability;</p> <p>(c) the number of offers made by the provider in relation to those applications;</p> <p>(d) the number of those offers that were accepted;</p> <p>(e) the number of students who accepted those offers that completed their course with the provider.</p>	<p>admission by gender, ethnicity and socio-economic background, but not disability status. Higher education providers have a responsibility to ensure they are open and accessible to disabled students, and so it is important to be able to assess how they are treating applications from disabled students.</p>
24 - Quality Assessment Committee	<p>Page 15, line 4, after “provider”, insert the following new clause -</p> <p>“(5) At least one Committee member of the Quality Assessment Committee should have an internationally significant research record and at least one member should be mandated as a student representative.”</p>	<p>(5) At least one Committee member of the Quality Assessment Committee should have an internationally significant research record and at least one member should be mandated as a student representative.</p>	<p>This clause requires the OfS to establish a Quality Assessment Committee to advise the OfS on its functions in assessing quality and standards in higher education. There is no mandatory representation of either those in research or students. Strong linkages are needed between teaching and research under this new architecture and this should include quality assessment. In addition, students are the primary consumers of higher education and should be able to input directly into quality assessment.</p>
(New) 39 - Financial support to designated institutions	<p>Page 21, line 26, insert the following new clause –</p> <p>“39 Financial support to designated institutions</p> <p>(1) In the event of impending market exit, some providers may apply for “designated status” to request financial support from the OfS/Secretary of State. Providers would be eligible for designated status if they are able to prove that they provide either</p> <p>a) strategically important and/or specialist courses which, following their market exit, would lead to a significant decline in the supply of these courses or;</p> <p>b) are providers with significantly high importance to a local region or local economy, particularly with regards to access.”</p>	<p>39 Financial support to designated institutions</p> <p>(1) In the event of impending market exit, some providers may apply for “designated status” to request financial support from the OfS/Secretary of State. Providers would be eligible for designated status if they are able to prove that they provide either</p> <p>a) strategically important and/or specialist courses which, following their market exit, would lead to a significant decline in the supply of these courses or;</p> <p>b) are providers with significant importance to a local region or local economy, particularly with regards to access.</p>	<p>The Higher Education White Paper states that “the Government should not prevent exit as a matter of policy”. However, there are certain providers which provide a unique and strategically important role within the UK higher education system – whether in the supply of skills or for geographical reasons. Currently, for example, HEFCE provides funding for the teaching of certain “strategically important and vulnerable subjects”, including physics, as these subjects are seen as important due to their impact on skills or the economy, but may be associated with higher costs. At the same time, there are some universities teaching these subjects who in their absence would create “deserts” in their region, denying access to teaching in that subject to large numbers of students from the region.</p> <p>This stipulation allows some institutions, in rare cases, to apply to be designated under the above conditions as requiring special financial protections.</p>

Part 3 – Research

Questions		
Clause	Question	Explanation
84 – The Councils of UKRI	Can the functions of Innovate UK be changed under the regulations of the Bill?	Clause 84(3) states that the names of both Innovate UK and Research England are not able to be omitted or changed from the regulations. However, the Bill says nothing on the ability for regulations to change the functions of Innovate UK. It is essential to clarify whether this is the case to make sure there is confidence that Innovate UK's specific functions are protected. Innovate UK's role is unique and distinct from the Research Councils whose primary role is to support research. It has close working relationships with the private sector, and any change to its functions could lead to significant negative economic impacts.
87 - Exercise of functions by science and humanities Councils	What research facilities is each council responsible for currently that will transfer to STFC under the Bill?	Clause 87(1) suggests that STFC is the sole Council with responsibility for the provision and operation of research facilities. However, under current arrangements Councils including the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) also have responsibility for the provision and operation of research facilities. STFC should not carry the full burden of this responsibility.
87 - Exercise of functions by science and humanities Councils	Under which research council's responsibility do a) space engineering and b) nuclear engineering fall?	There are currently questions of responsibility between the Councils as to where space engineering and nuclear engineering fall. Space science and nuclear physics are currently within the responsibilities of STFC, but most engineering fields are within those of EPSRC.
87 - Exercise of functions by science and humanities Councils	In the area of space science, what are the boundaries of responsibility between STFC and the UK Space Agency with regards to research, investment and delivery?	Both STFC and the UK Space Agency invest in and carry out research into space science. There is a lack of clarity as to where responsibilities lie between the two bodies.
89 – Exercise of functions by Research England	Which powers are held by funding councils in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales that are not held by Research England?	It is unclear to what extent the Bill limits the powers that Research England has compared to equivalent councils in other UK nations. It would be useful to establish which powers have not been replicated and why.

Amendments and new clauses			
Clause	Proposed amendment or new clause	Amended clause	Explanation
84 – The Councils of UKRI	Page 51, line 39, after “subsection (1)” insert “following, at a minimum, consultations with both board of UKRI and significant engagement with the research sector”	(2) The Secretary of State may by regulations amend subsection (1), following, at a minimum, consultations with both board of UKRI and significant engagement with the research sector , so as to – (a) add or omit a Council, or (b) change the name of a Council.	Clause 84(1) of the Bill lists the “committees” that will sit under UKRI, including the seven existing Councils, Innovate UK and Research England. Clause 84(2) states that the Secretary of State has the power to “add or omit a Council” or “change the name of a Council”. Clause 107(2) states that “A statutory instrument which contains (whether alone or with other provision) any of the following may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament” and includes in its list “regulations changing the structure of UKRI's Councils”. These powers are held by the Secretary of State under existing legislation (the 1965

			Act). However, changing the names and remits of the Councils should not be an easy process; rushing something through Parliament could potentially disrupt the operation and sustainability of the research community. Consultation with UKRI and the sector should be mandated before any changes are made.																
85 - UK research and innovation functions	Page 52, line 18 after “activities” insert “(h) undertake public engagement and dialogue on behalf of science, technology, humanities and new ideas. (i) promote and support post-graduate training (j) facilitate, encourage and support knowledge exchange”	(1) UKRI may— (a) carry out research into science, technology, humanities and new ideas, (b) facilitate, encourage and support research into science, technology, humanities and new ideas, (c) facilitate, encourage and support the development and exploitation of science, technology and new ideas, (d) collect, disseminate and advance knowledge in and in connection with science, technology, humanities and new ideas, (e) promote awareness and understanding of science, technology, humanities and new ideas, (f) provide advice on any matter relating to any of its functions, and (g) promote awareness and understanding of its activities, (h) undertake public engagement and dialogue on behalf of science, technology, humanities and new ideas, (i) promote and support post-graduate training, and (j) facilitate, encourage and support knowledge exchange.	Clause 85(1) details the functions which UKRI may undertake, including carrying out, facilitating and communicating research in science, technology, humanities and new ideas. The Bill also details that UKRI may “promote awareness and understanding of science, technology, humanities and new ideas”. However, there is no explicit recognition of research councils’ current public engagement and dialogue functions in the Bill. Currently, research councils have responsibility to promote and support post-graduate training within their fields of activity, but this is not reflected in the Bill. Similarly, HEFCE provides funding for knowledge exchange, though, for example, Higher Education Innovation Funding (HEIF). This responsibility should transfer to UKRI and be reflected in the Bill.																
87 - Exercise of functions by science and humanities Councils	Page 53, line 20, after “physics” insert “nuclear physics, space science”	(1) <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Council</th> <th>Field of activity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Arts and Humanities Research Council</td> <td>Arts and humanities</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council</td> <td>Biotechnology and biological sciences</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Economic and Social Research Council</td> <td>Economic and other social sciences</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council</td> <td>Engineering and physical sciences</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Medical Research Council</td> <td>Medicine and biomedicine</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Natural Environment Research Council</td> <td>Earth sciences and ecology</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Science and Technology Facilities Council</td> <td>Astronomy, particle physics, nuclear physics, space science, and provision and operation of research facilities in relation to any area of activity specified in this column</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Council	Field of activity	Arts and Humanities Research Council	Arts and humanities	Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council	Biotechnology and biological sciences	Economic and Social Research Council	Economic and other social sciences	Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council	Engineering and physical sciences	Medical Research Council	Medicine and biomedicine	Natural Environment Research Council	Earth sciences and ecology	Science and Technology Facilities Council	Astronomy, particle physics, nuclear physics, space science, and provision and operation of research facilities in relation to any area of activity specified in this column	Clause 87(1) determines that the field of activity of the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) includes “Astronomy, particle physics and provision and operation of research facilities in relation to any area of activity specified in this column”. The existing Royal Charter for STFC includes the additional fields of activity of space science and nuclear physics. To be in line with other Councils, the Bill should replicate STFC’s Royal Charter in full.
Council	Field of activity																		
Arts and Humanities Research Council	Arts and humanities																		
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council	Biotechnology and biological sciences																		
Economic and Social Research Council	Economic and other social sciences																		
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council	Engineering and physical sciences																		
Medical Research Council	Medicine and biomedicine																		
Natural Environment Research Council	Earth sciences and ecology																		
Science and Technology Facilities Council	Astronomy, particle physics, nuclear physics, space science, and provision and operation of research facilities in relation to any area of activity specified in this column																		

87 - Exercise of functions by science and humanities Councils	Page 53, line 23, after “column” insert the following new clause – “(2) The science and humanities Councils are responsible for the promotion and support of post-graduate training within their fields of activity”	(2) The science and humanities Councils are responsible for the promotion and support of post-graduate training within their fields of activity	Currently Research Councils have responsibility for promoting and supporting post-graduate training within their fields of activity. This should continue and should be detailed as a responsibility within the Bill.
87 - Exercise of functions by science and humanities Councils	Page 53, line 27, after “researcher” insert “technician”	(3) A “relevant specialist employee”, in relation to a Council, means a researcher, technician, or scientist employed by UKRI to work in the field of activity of that Council (see the table in subsection (1)).	Clause 87(3) defines a “relevant specialist employee” in relation to a Council to be a “researcher or scientist”. Research Councils need a range of specialist employees to fulfil their functions and fields of activity effectively, above and beyond those carrying out research – including technicians. As such, this definition should reflect this.
87 - Exercise of functions by science and humanities Councils	Page 53, line 36, after “regulations” insert “following, at a minimum, consultations with both board of UKRI and significant engagement with the research sector”	(5) The Secretary of State may by regulations, following, at a minimum, consultations with both board of UKRI and significant engagement with the research sector — (a) amend the first column of the table in subsection (1) in consequence of provision made by regulations under section 84; (b) amend the second column of that table.	Clause 87(5) gives the Secretary of State the power to “amend the first column of the table in subsection (1) in consequence of provision made by regulations under section 84” and “amend the second column of that table”. Clause 107 of the Bill states that “A statutory instrument which contains (whether alone or with other provision) any of the following may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament” and includes in its list “regulations in connection with changes made to structure of UKRI’s Councils or changing the fields of activity of the Councils”. As above with clause 85, these powers are held by the Secretary of State under existing legislation (the 1965 Act). Again, changing the activities of the Councils should not be an easy process; rushing something through Parliament could potentially disrupt the operation and sustainability of the research community. Consultation with UKRI and the sector should be mandated before any changes are made.
89 – Exercise of functions by Research England	Page 54, line 19, leave out “either” and insert “one” and leave out “both” and insert “all”. Page 54, line 25, after “research” insert – “(c) knowledge exchange”	(2) Financial support is within this subsection if it is given to the governing body of an eligible higher education provider in respect of expenditure incurred, or to be incurred, by the provider for the purposes of either one or both all of the following – (a) the undertaking of research by the provider; (b) the provision of facilities, or the carrying out of other activities, by the provider which its governing body considers it is necessary or desirable to provide or carry out for the purposes of, or in connection with, research;	HEFCE currently provides funding for knowledge exchange, though, for example Higher Education Innovation Funding (HEIF). This responsibility should transfer to UKRI and be reflected in the Bill. The White Paper indicates that Research England will be responsible for this.

89 – Exercise of functions by Research England	Page 54, line 34, after “support”, insert the following new clause – “(5) Research England must consult with relevant bodies within or under the devolved administrations in exercising its provision of research funding”	(c) knowledge exchange (4) Research England must consult with relevant bodies within or under the devolved administrations in exercising its provision of research funding	Currently, clause 89, and in particular subsection 89(4), do not include any stipulation that Research England should collaborate or deliberate in its provision of research funding with funding bodies in the devolved nations. UKRI is a UK wide organisation and requires collaboration on strategic and other issues across the UK. As part of UKRI, this requirement extends to Research England and Research England must effectively work with bodies in other UK nations to fulfil its functions.
91 – UKRI’s research and innovation strategy	Page 55, line 14, after “relate” insert the following new clause – “(4) UKRI must consult with the UKRI Executive Committee in preparing a strategy”	(4) UKRI must consult with the UKRI Executive Committee in preparing a strategy	Clause 91 stipulates that UKRI must, if requested, prepare a strategy for the exercise of its functions – a research and innovation strategy. However, although the clause does not say how it should go about this, whether this be top-down or bottom-up, at the very least, the strategy should be prepared with full consultation with the executive chairs of the Research Councils to ensure the all disciplines and functions of UKRI are taken into account in any strategy. The form of this consultation should be with the UKRI Executive Committee, if such a committee is constituted. See suggested new Schedule 9, clause 3.
95 - Balanced funding and advice from UKRI	Page 57, line 1, leave out “provided to the Secretary of State by UKRI” and insert “that the Secretary of State must seek from UKRI”	(2) The matters are— (a) the balanced funding principle, and (b) any advice, that the Secretary of State must seek from UKRI, in relation to its functions.	Clauses 93 – 95 stipulate certain restrictions by which the Secretary of State can exercise direction making grant funding decisions and clause 95 effectively enshrines the “balanced funding principle” into law - which is to be welcomed. As is currently the case, the Bill allows for the Secretary of State to set the budgets for Research England and the Councils within an annual grant letter, and the balance between them. Particularly now that Councils’ leadership will be reduced under UKRI, there is a risk that this gives the Secretary of State too much influence in setting these budgets. UKRI is given an advising role under 95(2)(b) but this should be strengthened.
95 - Balanced funding and advice from UKRI	Page 57, line 8, after “section 89” insert the following new clause – “(4) The budget for Innovate UK should be set separately to that of the Councils and Research England and the balanced funding principle.” (5) The two funding streams	(4) The budget for Innovate UK should be set separately to that of the Councils and Research England and the balanced funding principle. (5) The two funding streams should be grounded in a complementary evaluation and allocation mechanism, with funding functions exercisable by Research England based on an evaluation of research excellence and allocated as a non-hypothecated grant.	With Innovate UK falling under the auspices of UKRI, there is a risk that funding for its functions is squeezed by needing to compete with research. In order to ensure that funding for the unique functions of Innovate UK in supporting innovation and promoting economic growth,

	should be grounded in a complementary evaluation and allocation mechanism, with funding functions exercisable by Research England based on an evaluation of research excellence and allocated as a non-hypothecated grant. “		<p>Innovate UK’s budget should be clearly identified as protected under “balanced funding” arrangements.</p> <p>Clause 95(3) of the Bill enshrines the balanced funding principle into law, but it does not establish any reasons for why funding the balance funding principle is important, and why funding for Research England (QR) money should be maintained. This clause sets out the reasons for this approach.</p>
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Part 4 - General

Questions		
Clause	Question	Explanation
Entire section	Which Secretary of State will exercise powers under this clause and others in this section relating to cross-UKRI/OfS functions?	Within the current Government, responsibility for higher education has now been split between the Department for Education and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. While the relevant Secretaries of States for Parts 1, 2 and 3 are clear, it is unclear with Secretary of State will have responsibility for the cross-cutting and cooperative functions under Part 4.

Schedules

Schedule 1 – The Office for Students

Amendments and new clauses			
Clause	Proposed amendment or new clause	Amended clause	Explanation
2 – Membership	<p>Page 63, line 18, after “members” insert the following new clause –</p> <p>“(2) A permanent sub-committee of shared members shall be created under both the OfS and UKRI which report up the board of each body”</p>	(2) A permanent sub-committee of shared members shall be created which sits under both the OfS and UKRI which reports up the board of each body	<p>Clause 103 states that “The OfS and UKRI may cooperate with one another in exercising any of their functions” and that information is shared between the two of them for the purposes of the exercise of any of their functions. This, the White Paper suggests, is to ensure a joined up approach to teaching and research, particularly with regards to the funding of higher education institutions. However, just how this will work in practice when both organisations are up and running is still to be spelled out and there will need to be clearer structures in place to ensure that their operations are well coordinated. This amendment mirrors the amendment in Schedule 9, clause 2.</p>
2 – Membership	<p>Page 63, line 37, after “providers” insert the following new clause –</p> <p>“(3) Higher education institutions in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales should each be represented</p>	(3) Higher education institutions in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales should each be represented with an ex-officio observer on the OfS	<p>Clause 111 notes that, with the exception of clause 71 and 72 relating to “powers to obtain and use application-to-acceptance data”, Part 3 on research, and clause 111, the provisions of the Bill only apply to England and Wales. Both</p>

	with an ex-officio observer on the OfS.”		within and outside of these areas, there are likely still to be significant impacts on the operations of higher education and research within Northern Ireland and Scotland as well as some aspects of the Bill to Wales and/or England only. This clause is intended to strengthen links with the administrations of each devolved nation.
3 – The Director for Fair Access and Participation	Page 64, line 12, after “OfS” insert the following new clause – “(3) The Director for Fair Access and Participation has the power to investigate and require the provision of information from higher education providers - in particular, those providers whose performance in access and participation has been indicated to be below the standards expected in their access and participation plan”	(3) The Director for Fair Access and Participation has the power to investigate and require the provision of information from higher education providers - in particular, those providers whose performance in access and participation has been indicated to be below the standards expected in their access and participation plan	Schedule 1(3) introduces a Director for Fair Access and Participation as a member of the OfS to replace the Director of Fair Access abolished under clause 74. The Director for Fair Access and Participation “is responsible for reporting to the other members of the OfS on the performance by the OfS of its access and participation functions.” The Higher Education White Paper states that, in relation to the Teaching Excellence Framework, the Director will provide advice to panels on potential gaming to ensure that higher education institutions are not reducing their intake from disadvantaged groups. This stipulation, and the powers of the Director under the Bill, appears to be too weak to meet the aim set out in the White Paper to support the OfS’ “statutory duty to cover equality of opportunity across the whole lifecycle for disadvantaged students, not just access.” The Director for Fair Access should be given greater powers under the Bill to fulfil their duty.

Schedule 9 – United Kingdom Research and Innovation

Amendments and new clauses			
Clause	Proposed amendment or new clause	Amended clause	Explanation
2 – Membership of UKRI	Page 92, line 11, after “members” insert the following new clause – “(2) A permanent sub-committee of shared members shall be created under both the OfS and UKRI which reports up to the board of each body”	(2) A permanent sub-committee of shared members shall be created which sits under both the OfS and UKRI which reports up to the board of each body	Clause 103 states that “The OfS and UKRI may cooperate with one another in exercising any of their functions” and that information is shared between the two of them for the purposes of the exercise of any of their functions. This, the White Paper suggests, is to ensure a joined up approach to teaching and research, particularly with regards to the funding of higher education institutions. However, just how this will work in practice when both organisations are up and running is still to be spelled out and there will need to be clearer structures in place to

			ensure that their operations are well coordinated. This amendment mirrors the amendment in Schedule 1, clause 2.
2 – Membership of UKRI	Page 92, line 24, after “profession” insert the following new clause – “(6) Funding councils in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales should each be represented with an ex-officio observer on UKRI.”	(3) Funding councils in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales should each be represented with an ex-officio observer on UKRI	Clause 111 notes that, with the exception of clause 71 and 72 relating to “powers to obtain and use application-to-acceptance data”, Part 3 on research, and clause 111, the provisions of the Bill only apply to England and Wales. Both within and outside of these areas, there are likely still to be significant impacts on the operations of higher education and research within Northern Ireland and Scotland as well as some aspects of the Bill to Wales and/or England only. This clause is intended to strengthen links with the administrations of each devolved nation.
(New) 3 – Executive Committee	Page 92, line 24 after “profession” insert the following new clause – “ 3 Executive Committee An Executive Committee will sit as a sub-committee of UKRI to support its functions and shall include a) the Chief Executive of UKRI and b) the executive chairs of the Councils”	3 Executive Committee An Executive Committee will sit as a sub-committee of UKRI to support its functions and operations and shall include a) the Chief Executive of UKRI and b) the executive chairs of the Councils	Schedule 9(2)(1) states that the board of UKRI is to be made up of a chair, CEO, CFO and “at least nine and not more than twelve other members.” Meanwhile, the boards of each Council will include an executive chair, and “at least five and not more than nine other members”. In appointing members to UKRI, the Secretary of State is to take into account the experience of members in both the research and development of science, technology, humanities and new ideas and “industrial, commercial and financial matters and the practice of any profession”. However, neither the board of UKRI, nor each of the Councils, has a requirement to include a member of one or the other on its board. While UKRI is able to appoint (all but one) members of each of the Councils “after consulting the executive chair”, it appears that the linkages between UKRI and the Councils are weak. This clause aims to replicate the Executive Committee recommended by Sir Paul Nurse in his review of research councils.
5 – Terms of appointment and tenure	Page 93, line 19, after “appropriate” insert the following new clause – “(5) Ministerial appointees must undergo scrutiny from a relevant parliamentary committee(s) before they are to be formally appointed to their role”	(5) Ministerial appointees must undergo scrutiny from relevant a parliamentary committee(s) before they are to be formally appointed to their role	The members of UKRI, Research Council executive chairs and members of the Research Councils appointed by the Secretary of State (Ministerial appointees) must, variously, be appointed only after consultation with certain other individuals within UKRI (e.g. the Chair). However, there is no stipulation for additional scrutiny. Parliament should be afforded the ability

			to scrutinise such important public appointments as they do for individuals on other public bodies.
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**For further information, please contact
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