

SOURCES OF RESEARCH INCOME OF HIGHER
EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN WALES

DISCLOSABLE

Meeting 04/05/07	Agenda Item 17	Reference No HEFCW/07/46
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INTRODUCTION

- 1 This paper presents information on sources of research income for higher education institutions (HEIs) in Wales in 2005/06, together with comparative data for earlier years.

BACKGROUND

- 2 A report on sources of research income is submitted to the Council annually in order to enable it to monitor the research support obtained by HEIs in Wales from sources other than the recurrent grant.

THE DATA

- 3 Information on the sources of research income for individual HEIs in Wales for 2005/06 and 2004/05 is presented in tabular and graphical form at Annex A. A summary of the sources of research income for the sector for the period 1997/98–2005/06 is attached at Annex B.
- 4 Points of note emerging from the data are:
 - a) Institutions in Wales received 4.1% of the total UK research income for 2005/06 (Annex Ai). This is below the notional figure of 5% which is normally assumed to represent Wales' share of the UK higher education activity, but is a small increase from 2004/05.
 - b) The Council's research grant continues to be by far the largest single source of research income, amounting to 36.2% of the total research income for Wales in 2005/06 (Annex Ai). This represented 4.5% of the total Recurrent Research Funding for the UK as a whole compared with 4.6% in 2004/05.
 - c) The sector's share of the total UK Research Council income increased slightly from 3.1% in 2004/05 to 3.2% in 2005/06. This remains a disappointing result, particularly as one of the key Reaching Higher targets is to increase Research Council grant income of Welsh HEIs to 4.5% of the UK by 2010/11.
 - d) One notable area of success has been the level of funding secured from UK central government bodies. At £32.5M the level of funding is only slightly below the total funding received in Wales from Research Council grants (£34.6M) in 2005/06. It also represents 5.6% of the total UK income for this category.
 - e) The Welsh sector has also proved successful in securing funding from UK Industry. The level of funding secured in 2005/06 has increased by 35% to £11.6M. This represents 4.5% of the UK total.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5 There are no financial implications arising from this paper.

PUBLICITY IMPLICATIONS

6 There are no publicity requirements arising from this paper.

RISK ASSESSMENT

7 There is a risk that, if the sector does not secure credible levels of research income from external sources, there will be an adverse effect on the research base in Wales, both in terms of its reputation and standing and the level of activity which could be undertaken. Performance in securing income is monitored annually by means of this paper to the Council in order to provide early warning of any problems.

DIVERSITY AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

8 There is no implications for race, gender or disability issues.

RECOMMENDATION

9 The Council is invited to note the contents of the paper.

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