

SOURCES OF RESEARCH INCOME OF HIGHER
EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN WALES

Disclosable

Meeting	Agenda Item	Reference No
08/05/09	17	HEFCW/09/42

1 Issue

- 1.1 This paper presents information on sources of research income for higher education institutions (HEIs) in Wales in 2007/08, together with comparative data for earlier years.

2 Corporate Planning Implications / Rationale for paper

- 2.1 One of the Strategic Aims in the Corporate plan is to ensure that institutions are delivering improved research performance to underpin the knowledge economy and cultural and social renewal.
- 2.2 More specifically, Reaching Higher includes targets for the sector to achieve a 4.5% share of UK research council income by 2010/11 and to increase levels of research income from other external sources by 100% (from a 2000/01 baseline of £55.7M). The information in this paper will allow the Council to note progress against these targets.

3 Recommendation(s)

- 3.1 The Council is invited to note the contents of this paper.

4 Timing for decisions

- 4.1 This paper is for information only.

5 Council members' interests

- 5.1 No conflicts of interests have been declared in advance of the meeting.

6 Further information

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7 Background

- 7.1 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.

8 The Data

- 8.1 Information on the sources of research income for individual HEIs in Wales for 2006/07 and 2007/08 is presented in tabular form at Annex A. A summary of the sources of research income for the sector for the period 2002/03 to 2007/08 is attached at Annex B. Annex C highlights the levels of growth in external research income.

9 Points of note emerging from the data are:

- 9.1 Institutions in Wales received 4% of the total UK research income for 2007/08 (Annex Ai). This is below the notional figure of 5% which is normally assumed to represent Wales' share of the UK higher education activity, and remains static from 2006/07.
- 9.2 The Council's research grant continued to be by far the largest single source of research income, amounting to 34.4% of the total research income for Wales in 2007/08 (Annex Ai). This represented 4.3% of the total Recurrent Research Funding for the UK as a whole and again this percentage share remains static from 2006/07 (Annex Bii).
- 9.3 The sector's share of the total UK Research Council income was 3.2% in 2007/08, a slight improvement on the 3.1% level in 2006/07. This remains a disappointing result 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.
- 9.4 The level of funding secured from UK Central Government Bodies remains a notable area of success for Welsh HEIs. At £46M the level of funding continues to be higher than income received in Wales from Research Council grants (£43.9M) and represents 7.2% of the total UK income for the category. However, it is possible that this category may include some European funding provided through the Welsh Assembly Government (e.g. A4B) which is available only within Wales, and is fixed term.
- 9.5 The chart at annex Ci details total external research income (excluding recurrent funding) for the research intensive universities in Wales. It is notable that in 2007/08 Swansea University demonstrated a clear increase in external research income capture (up 28%). Conversely Cardiff University, for the first time since we began monitoring this data, saw its external research income decline slightly (down 0.6%). Future data should establish whether these results mark the beginning of new income trends for both institutions.

10 Financial implications

- 10.1 There are no financial implications arising from this paper.

11 Communications implications

11.1 There are no publicity or communications implications arising from this paper.

12 Diversity and Equal Opportunities implications

12.1 This paper has no implications for age, disability, gender, race, religious belief, sexual orientation or the Welsh language.

13 Risk Assessment

RISK	ACTION TO ADDRESS RISK
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.