

Meeting
07/05/10

Agenda Item
16

Reference No
HEFCW/10/45

1 Issue

- 1.1 This paper presents information on sources of research income for higher education institutions (HEIs) in Wales in 2008/09, 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 The Council's Corporate Strategy for 2009-10 to 2011-12 includes targets for the sector to achieve a 4.5% share of UK Research Council income and to increase levels of research income from other external sources by 100% (from a 2000/01 baseline of £55.7m).

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

contact Emma Morris (Tel 029 2068 2292; E-mail:
Emma.Morris@hefcw.ac.uk)

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 2007/08 and 2008/09 is presented in tabular form at **Annex A**. A summary of the sources of research income for the sector for the period 2003/04 to 2008/09 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 3.9% of the total UK research income for the UK in 2008/09 (**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 sees a small decrease from the 4% achieved in both 2006/07 and 2007/08.
- 9.2 The Council's research grant continued to be by far the largest single source of research income, amounting to 32.9% of the total research income for Wales in 2008/09 (**Annex Ai**). This represented 4.2% of the total Recurrent Research Funding for the UK as a whole and again this percentage share shows a small decrease from the 4.3% achieved in 2006/07 and 2007/08 (**Annex Aii**).
- 9.3 The sector's share of the total UK Research Council income was 3.4% in 2008/09, representing a slight improvement on the 3.2% level achieved in 2007/08. Overall Research Council income increased by £7.6M between 2007/08 and 2008/09. Much of this increase is attributable to the formation of the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS) based at Aberystwyth University. UK Research Council income at Aberystwyth rose by 92% from £5.1M in 2007/08 to £9.8M in 2008/09 (**Annex Cii**).
- 9.4 The level of funding secured from UK Central Government Bodies remains a notable area of success for Welsh HEIs. At £48.7M the level of funding continues to be a significant proportion of the total research income received in Wales and represents 6.9% of the total UK income for the category. However, it is possible that this category may currently 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. In 2007/08 Cardiff University experienced a slight decline in income (by 0.6%). However, in 2008/09 external research income at Cardiff increased by 11.8%. Conversely Swansea University who had seen a notable increase in external research income in 2007/08 (up 28%) experienced a drop in income capture by 4.5% in 2008/09.

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.