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Circular

## Research Excellence Framework: Second Consultation

**Date:** 23 September 2009  
**Reference:** W09/30HE  
**To:** Heads of higher education institutions in Wales  
**Response by:** 16 December 2009  
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This Circular announces the publication of proposals for the Research Excellence Framework (REF) – the new arrangements for the assessment of research in UK higher education institutions that will replace the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE).

This document is available online, in large print, Braille, on CD and on audio CD and cassette. Should you or someone you know require this in an alternative format, please contact us on (029) 2068 2280 or email [info@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:info@hefcw.ac.uk).

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## Introduction

- 1 This Circular announces the publication of proposals for the Research Excellence Framework (REF) – the new arrangements for the assessment of research in UK higher education institutions that will replace the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE).

## Background

- 2 Following an initial consultation on the REF published in late 2007 (HEFCW 07/48HE), the UK HE funding bodies have developed detailed proposals for the REF. The proposals build on a pilot exercise on the use of citation information, consideration of how to assess the impact of research as a key new element in the framework, lessons drawn from the 2008 RAE, and extensive expert advice and discussions with a wide range of stakeholders.

## Consultation Proposals

- 3 The UK-wide consultation document on proposals for the REF can be accessed at [http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2009/09\\_38/](http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2009/09_38/). A link to the consultation document has also been published alongside this Circular (under Secondary Documents).

## Responses

- 4 Responses to the consultation should be made using the response form which is available alongside the published consultation document.
- 5 Completed responses should be emailed to [ref@hefce.ac.uk](mailto:ref@hefce.ac.uk) by **midday on Wednesday 16 December 2009**. They should also be copied to Linda Tiller at HEFCW ([linda.tiller@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:linda.tiller@hefcw.ac.uk)).

## Further Information

- 6 For further information, contact Linda Tiller (tel 029 2068 2228; email [linda.tiller@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:linda.tiller@hefcw.ac.uk)).