

University Research and Enterprise Committee (09/15 -)

Report from Cass Business School

1. Adding a new condition to the City University Consultancy and Commissioned Research Contract Template – Funders have a duty to provide evidence of impact of our research.

Research contracts issued by Cardiff University contain the clause:

It is acknowledged that Cardiff may be subject to governmental or other assessments which monitor the quality of research in UK higher education institutions. Accordingly, where reasonably requested by Cardiff, and subject to the confidentiality provisions in paragraph 12, the Funder agrees to assist Cardiff in providing information and/or materials to support or evidence research impact and/or demonstrate a business co-working environment as may be required.

Could a similar clause be added to the City University specimen research contract?

2. HEIF funding and the consequences for REF impact

The early notification of School HEIF funding for 2015-16 is welcomed by Cass but the amount of money disbursed to Schools is a matter of concern. Two years ago the School HEIF budget was £275k, now it is £110k (incl. salary of school BDM).

HEIF money is very useful in funding impactful activity leading to REF cases and there is great demand from academic colleagues for funds to host events and engagement activities which could lead to research being taken up and used.

Are other schools concerned about the relatively low amount of non-staff HEIF budget distributed to Schools?

3. Problems implementing the Principal Investigator incentive scheme (research sustainability funds)

Principal Investigators on research grants that bring in at least 70% of Full Economic Costs are entitled to 8% of research contract or grant income plus One-third of funding received in respect of principal investigator time charged against a project.

Implementing this policy is difficult because the information needed to make decisions about allocations is dispersed around the university: Schools, Finance Office and Research Office.

What can be done to improve things?