



Engineering and  
Physical Sciences  
Research Council

# EPSRC Mathematical Sciences Update

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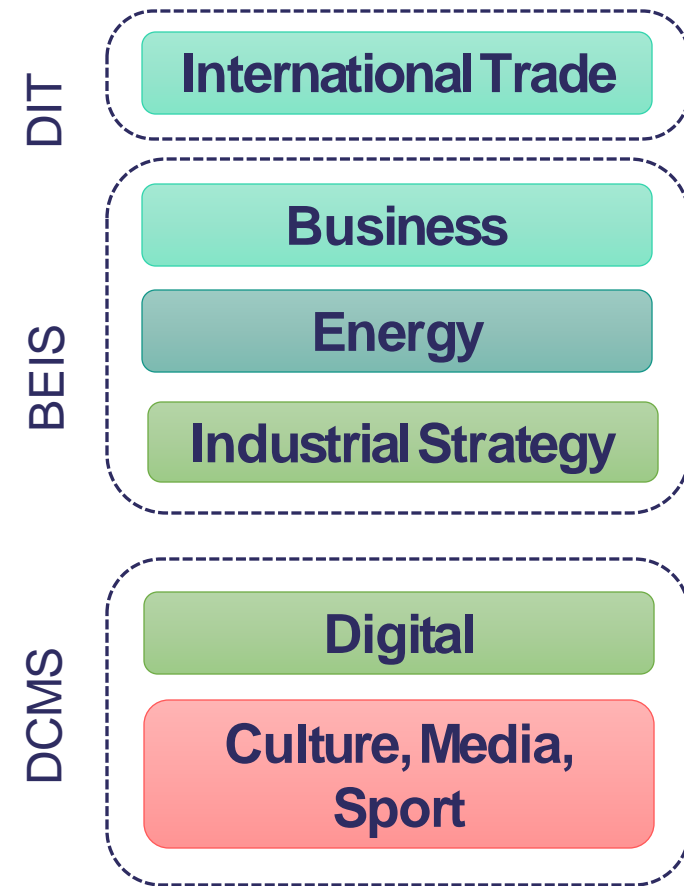
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# Senior Leadership Changes in EPSRC

- Lynn Gladden will be stepping down from her role of Executive Chair for EPSRC at the end of June 2023. The recruitment process to appoint Lynn's successor as Executive Chair of EPSRC has begun.
- In February, Jon Dawes joined EPSRC as Deputy Executive Chair on secondment from the University of Bath where he is professor of applied mathematics. Jon was previously Chair of the Mathematical Sciences SAT and has also served on EPSRC's Strategic Advisory Network (SAN).

# Machinery of Government Changes

## Previously



## Now



Science, Innovation and Growth Directorate (from BEIS, DG Jo Shanmugalingam)

Digital Directorate (from DCMS, DG Susannah Storey)

Government Office for Science (GCSA Patrick Vallance)

Office for Science and Technology Strategy (from Cabinet Office, DD Kata Escott)

Office for AI  
Office for Life Sciences

Parent Department to Public Bodies include: **UKRI** and ARIA

# EU Update - Current situation

- The EU is still in the process of formalising the UK's association, but UK-based applicants can apply; they do not need to wait for the EU to formalise association to do this.
- The Government has begun a formal consultation process with the European Commission, set out in the EU-UK Trade Cooperation Agreement, to make progress on this point. This process is confidential, so we cannot comment on its content, the potential outcome or timing of any decisions.
- We recognise that researchers and innovators in the UK and internationally are experiencing difficulties due to the current uncertainty. UKRI is playing a key role in tackling the impacts of this delay, with funding and advice and guidance on navigating the application process.
- Meanwhile we are working hard in collaboration with the UK government to prepare alternatives to Horizon Europe in case they are needed.

# The Funding Service

- In March we released our latest communications on the transition to The Funding Service.
- The timeline for the transition of some of EPSRC's Responsive Mode Opportunities including standard research, new investigator award, overseas travel grant, network grant, discipline-hopping in ICT and working with overseas scientists has been published.
- Information about the harmonised application and assessment question set that will be used by all council standard research responsive mode Opportunities on the Funding Service can be found on our website.
- The next Communications in May will include details of the transition of Group 2 opportunities including Mathematical Sciences Small Grants Scheme


# EPSRC's Transition to The Funding Service

- EPSRC will launch our always open Opportunities on The Funding Service as rounds with closing dates.
- During the first year or more of The Funding Service, the system will continue to develop in response to internal and external user needs. By opening as rounds, we will be able to accommodate system developments in a way that means applications can be assessed in a batch submitted under the same conditions.
- By taking a round-based approach EPSRC will be able to better manage the transition internally, ensuring we continue to deliver a high-quality service.
- We will evaluate the round-based application system after the first year.

# Our 3-year EDI Action Plan

- The EPSRC 3 year EDI Action Plan 2022-2025 was published on 13 December 2022. This was accompanied by a news item and an update to the EDI web pages.
- The plan outlines the steps EPSRC will take to create an inclusive research and innovation community which is globally attractive and in which everyone can thrive, helping to make sure we deliver the best research outcomes for the UK with the research and training we fund.
- Our plan is the result of comprehensive investigations into our portfolio and extensive engagement with our communities, whose ideas and experiences have shaped the way we will approach these challenges.
- The action plan is a living document and will evolve over time as we respond to changing needs and reflect on continuous engagement that forms part of our cycle of learning and improving.

# Our 3-year EDI Action Plan

	<b>Action Set 1</b>	Foster an inclusive and diverse research and innovation system and work in partnership with our community to support action
	<b>Action Set 2</b>	Embed inclusive practices in the way we work to reduce inequities across our portfolio and improve trust
	<b>Action Set 3</b>	Encourage and enable participation in engineering and physical sciences research careers through embedding EDI practice in our portfolio and the wider research community.
	<b>Action Set 4</b>	Increase diversity of voice in our advisory groups
	<b>Action Set 5</b>	Investigating the barriers to greater access and participation to provide better support for people in our community



# Team Priorities

- EDI including conclusion of neurodiversity audit
- Community engagement – workshops, visits, advisory board meetings
- Monitoring and Evaluation, Outcomes work
- Big Ideas development
- Institute Renewal
- Small Grants Review

# Institute Renewal

- The current grant terms of the Isaac Newton Institute (INI) and International Centre for Mathematical Sciences (ICMS) end next spring.
- To ensure continuation of funding support, EPSRC are conducting a renewal of the INI and ICMS.
- The renewal follows a light-touch review of the landscape in which the institutes operate in, reviewing three critical success factors: Strategic Factors, Environmental Factors, Competitive Factors.
- The renewal process will formally be launched in Spring 2023, having already had initial engagements with the INI and ICMS.
- Proposals will be due autumn 2023, reviewed by an expert interview panel late November 2023.

# Small Grants Review

- Small Grant Scheme was launched in Autumn 2020 following announcement of the Additional Funding for Mathematical Sciences.
- In the last spending review provision was made for the continuation of the scheme within the Mathematical Sciences budget.
- For scheme to continue in current form, we need evidence that the scheme is delivering the expected benefits.

# Programme Grants

- Following the announcement of the additional funding for mathematical sciences, it was agreed internally that mathematical sciences would be considered through a separate panel to other themes.
- The process followed was exactly the same, except that the panels only considered mathematical sciences grants.
- Given the move the Funding Service and the return of funding levels to historical values, it is appropriate to re-merge mathematical sciences with other themes.
- As a result, the full proposal panel planned for February 2024 will be the last panel to receive proposals considered by an outline panel made up of mathematical sciences panel members only.

# Strategic Advisory Team

- Small Grants
- Discipline-hopping
- Funding Services
- Centre to Centre
- ED&I (with MS and at EPSRC level)
- Workshops & Community engagement
- Data

**Sara Lombardo\*** (Chair), Maxwell Institute, Heriot-Watt University

**Lisa McFetridge**, Queen's University Belfast

**Jason Lotay**, University of Oxford

**Idris Eckley**, Lancaster University

**Alexander Kasprzyk**, University of Nottingham

**Gueorgui Mihaylov**, Haleon

**Helen Balinsky**, HP Inc

**Chris Daniels**, FlareBright Ltd

**Helen Byrne**, University of Oxford

**James Robinson**, University of Warwick

**Mark Kambites**, University of Manchester

**Gregory Sankaran**, University of Bath

**Arne Strauss**, WHU – Otto Beisheim School of Management

**Peter Challenor**, University of Exeter

**Gwyneth Stallard\***, Open University

**Robert Shaw**, Astra Zeneca

\* *ED&I Champions*

# EPSRC Centre to Centre International Research Collaborations

- Opportunity for leading UK research groups to work in partnership with the best international collaborators for their research.
- Request funding to support any eligible international collaborative activities.
- Applicants must be based at a UK research organisation eligible for EPSRC funding and meet one of our qualifying criteria to apply.
- Apply for up to £1,500,000 at 100% full economic cost with a duration of 3 to 5 years.
- Costs funded at 80% of full economic cost.
- Closing date for outlines: 18 May 2023 1600 UK time.

[International centre to centre research collaborations – UKRI](#)





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# Thank you



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