

ESRC SCORECARD 2014/15

Key Deliverables/Targets	Milestones/Measures 2014/15	Reporting By	Reporting Quarters Q2 Q4 only	Rating RAG	Comments and suggestions - for internal use only
1. Develop new strategic priorities	a. Consult widely with academic and user communities, develop and launch the ESRC's new	PRC-ESA	Q4	Amber	
	b. Review the ESRC's governance structure including capital investments governance.	PRC-Capability (Policy and Cohorts)	Q4	Amber	
Delivery Plan Objective: Protect our core investments in the national data infrastructure					
2. Working in partnership with others to consolidate and develop the Council's 'Big Data' strategy	a. Big Data Phase 2: (a) establish appropriate governance structures for the Big Data Phase 2 investments (Business and Local Government Data Research Centres) and (b) ensure that the Centres are able to accept applications for projects using the data made available by the Centres.	PRC-Capability (Resources)	a) Q2; b) Q4	Amber	
	b. Big Data Phase 3: undertake a programme of activity covering both research and infrastructure around social media data and third sector data.	PRC-Capability (Resources)	Q4	Amber	
	c. Administrative Data Research Network (ADRN): a) establish the governance in partnership with UK Statistics Authority and open the ADRN to external users and ; and b) complete the linkage of the data for the first projects, making data available via Administrative Data Research Centres safe settings.	PRC-Capability (Business Critical Projects)	a) Q2; b) Q4	Amber	
	d. Work with ADRN and the three new Big Data Centres to establish their brands, communications and impact strategies and to raise the public and user awareness and understanding of Big Data.	PRC-Communications	Q4	Amber	
	e. Undertake a review of the ESRC Data Policy to ensure it remains fit for purpose.	PRC-Capability (Policy and Cohorts)	Q4	Amber	
3. Promote widespread exploitation and impact of ESRC's investments in the UK data infrastructure and to give priority to investment in longitudinal datasets	a. Develop and implement a programme of activities drawing together projects funded through the Secondary Data Analysis Initiative (SDAI) Phases 1 and 2, and create further the opportunities for exploiting data resources including through SDAI Phase 3.	PRC-Capability (Resources)	Q4	Amber	
	b. Develop and announce the call for Waves 9-11 of Understanding Society.	PRC-Capability (Policy and Cohorts)	Q4	Amber	
	c. Commission research programmes to be undertaken by USOC and CLS to explore and encourage the innovative use of data from these longitudinal/cohort studies.	PRC-Capability (Policy and Cohorts)	Q4	Amber	
4. Commence data collection for Life Study	a. Collect the first data on the pregnancy component at 28 weeks, at the first births, and start collecting data on the birth component.	PRC-Capability (Business Critical Projects)	Q4	Amber	
	b. Confirm any enhancements to the initial design of Life Study to reflect the fathers and immunology workstream findings.	PRC-Capability (Business Critical Projects)	Q4	Amber	
Delivery Plan Objective: Continue to deliver excellent social science research and develop the national capability					
5. Maintain a strong leadership role over the quality of postgraduate student training	a.To further develop the Advanced Training Network, through commissioning up to 10 new training courses providing truly excellent advanced training which will be available to social science researchers at all stages in their career, particularly postgraduate students.	PRC-Capability (Skills and Methods)	Q4	Green	

	b. Complete an evaluation of the current Doctoral Training Centres (DTCs) Network, to inform the recommissioning exercise of the DTC Network in 2015/16.	PRC-ESA	Q4	Green	
6. Work with partners to broaden the skills of students and to enhance capacity building activities in the strategic priorities	a.To co-fund three Centres for Doctoral Training with EPSRC to build interdisciplinary capacity at the interface between the social and engineering and physical sciences.	PRC-Capability (Skills and Methods)	Q2	Amber	
	b. Continue to build capacity in Economics and Advanced Quantitative Methods by ensuring that at least 10 per cent of studentships are in each of these areas.	PRC-Capability (Skills and Methods)	Q4	Amber	
	c. Launch the 2nd Phase of the National Centre for Research Methods.	PRC-Capability (Skills and Methods)	Q2	Green	
7. Continue to deliver excellent social science research underpinned by the Framework for Research Ethics.	c. Review and refresh of the Framework for Research Ethics.	PRC-Capability (Policy and Cohorts)	Q4	Amber	
Delivery Plan Objective: Continue to fund research that focuses on the current ESRC's strategic priorities					
8. Continue to support excellence in social science through existing funding opportunities	a. Commission around four awards under the Large Centres and Grants Competition within available budget.	RPI-Research Teams	Q4	Amber	
	b. Fund up to 60 standard grants.	RPI-Research Teams	Q4	Amber	
	c. Fund minimum of 30 awards under the Future Research Leaders Scheme Call 2013.	RPI-Research Teams	Q2	Amber	
	d. Commission up to 15 new awards under the Transformative Research Scheme.	RPI-Research Teams	Q4	Amber	
9. Continue to fund and co-fund different types of initiatives to address strategic priorities	a. Launch a call for up to six innovative research projects in the area of Urban Transformations, addressing the priorities identified in recent scoping work on 'Cities'.	RPI-SGS	Q2	Amber	
	b. Commission a Knowledge Transfer Fellowship in the area of 'Urban Transformations'.	RPI-SGS	Q2	Green	Call opens April 2014, Decisions June 2014, Work starts October 2014
Delivery Plan Objective: Expand our collaborative activities across HEIs and user communities					
10. Strengthen strategic relationships with the academic community and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)	a. Fund Impact Acceleration Accounts at our most funded HEIs, growing institutional partnerships to support social science impact with diverse partners.	RPI-KE Group	Q2/ Q4	Green	Q2: IAAs operational at top funded ROs. Awards issued following the acceptance of suitable business plans and build on the lessons of our pilots, and RCUK discussions about a simple IAA Framework. Q4: Workshop held to build supportive ESRC IAA community, maximising opportunities for success through IAAs.
11. Develop stronger business engagement that fosters growth	b. Work in partnership with our sister Research Councils to develop and deliver a high level remit-free Business Engagement strategy.	RPI-KE Group	Q2	Green	Q2: Finalisation of an RCUK Business Engagement Strategy, with a focused strategic approach with key partners. ESRC led trail of the approach trialled with Unilever.
12. Work with the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) and strengthen the contribution of social science within the TSB's activities (our financial commitment for the period will be about £10.5 million)	a. Establish agile mechanism of support for ESRC KE Fellows and PhD internships at Catapult Centres to act as a bridge between the UK's social science communities and the work of the Catapults.	RPI-KE Group / Research Teams	Q2	Green	Q2: Pilot approach with Future Cities Catapult and work with TSB and other Catapults to establish opportunities in others. Q4: Framework for mechanism developed and opportunities progressed with two other Catapults.
	b. Create a social science Lab to provide strategic access to social science innovation advice for TSB programmes and activities.	RPI-KE Group/ EPE	Q4	Amber	Q2: Specification agreed and commissioning underway. Q4: Lab operational.
13. Develop stronger partnerships with other users; and to continue to increase the public engagement and awareness of social science research	a. Develop and initiate an engaging 50th anniversary campaign to celebrate the ESRC's successes and to raise enthusiasm and excitement about social sciences for the next 50 years. To include special editions of our photographic competition for young people and our annual Impact Prize.	PRC-Communications	Q4	Amber	

	c. Deliver the 2014 Festival of Social Science with additional features to mark our 50th anniversary.	PRC-Communications	Q4	Amber	
	d. Appoint a Knowledge Exchange Fellow to identify the research, evidence and data needs of Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations (VCSOs), to maximise the impact of ESRC-funded research and existing data resources, to increase the strength of relationships between academics and VCSOs, and to scope the possibility of further strategic investment in this area.	RPI-SGS	Q4	Amber	
Delivery Plan Objective: Encourage and promote international collaboration and leadership					
14. Maintain current strong links and opportunities with a range of international partners	a. Announce the outcomes for two new multinational calls with international partners on Welfare State Futures and the Euro-China call on Understanding Populations and the Green Economy.	RPI-International	Q2	Green	Q2: NORFACE Board will consider proposals at its meeting in July.
	b. Launch in collaboration with Indian and European partners a new European India platform for the Social Sciences and Humanities (EqUIP) Project.	RPI-International	Q4	Amber	Q3: We now have grant agreement from the EC, rated as Amber as will discuss plans for launch with ICSSR and partners in May.
	c. Announce a new joint call with the NWO and FAPESP, a new international joint call between UK, the Netherlands and Sao Paulo Brazil on Sustainable Urban Areas.	RPI-International	Q2	Amber	Q1: Rated as Amber as we are awaiting confirmation on the Newton Fund to support our engagement.
15. Maintain successful and long-standing partnership with the Department for International Development (DFID)	a. Award up to: 10 small, seven medium and two large grants, under first round of new research programme: Education and development: Raising learning outcomes in education systems; and announce plans for second call.	RPI-International Development	Q4	Amber	
	b. Award up to three grants under Poverty Alleviation Programmes Call for large awards on Urbanisation and Risk, Urban Poverty and Poverty and Disability; and announce Call 3.	RPI-International Development	Q2	Amber	
	c. Award grants of the maximum amount of approximately £4.3 million (around 12 awards) under China Africa (DECARP) Programme.	RPI-International Development	Q4	Amber	
Delivery Plan Objective: Contribute to the RCUK interdisciplinary research programmes on the cross-Council themes					
16. Continue to foster the social science contribution to the all six cross-Council programmes	Ageing: Lifelong health and wellbeing				
	a. Deliver an impact evaluation of the cross-Council New Dynamics of Ageing Programme.	PRC-ESA	Q4	Green	
	Global Uncertainties				
	b. Commission up to eight multi-disciplinary and innovative research projects under the RCUK Global Uncertainty call on Ethics and Right in the Security Context.	RPI-SGS	Q2	Amber	The projects will aim to develop greater understanding on how questions of ethics and right plan our in a security environment, with a focus on government. The initiative is co-funded by the ESRC, AHRC and EPSRC. Successful projects are expected to commence on 1 September 2014.
	Living with Environmental Change; Energy and Global Food Security				
	c. Continue to develop linkages with the private sector in the area of Extending Working Lives through a call for partnership building awards.	RPI-HHB	Q4	Amber	
	d. Work with partners including the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Department of Energy & Climate Change to explore the opportunity for establishment of an Environmental Policy Evaluation Centre applying the principles of What Works to a different policy space.	RPI-EPE	Q2	Green	
e. Commission a strategic research investment addressing issues of sustainable prosperity as a key component of our programme addressing the social science challenges of the energy-environment-food Nexus.	RPI-EPE	Q4	Green		
f. Work with partners in the RCUK Energy Programme to develop a whole systems research challenge addressing issues associated with unconventional hydrocarbon resources.	RPI-EPE	Q4	Green		
Delivery Plan Objective: Continue to increase our administrative efficiency					

<p>17. Work to reduce our administrative costs by 23 per cent in real terms over the CSR period 2011-15, particularly through: greater streamlining of our processes; greater RCUK harmonisation and integration and; a reduction in the Shared Business Services (SBS) costs</p>	<p>a. Keep within annual administration budget to be allocated by BIS.</p>	<p>PRI and PRC</p>	<p>Q4</p>	<p>Amber</p>	
---	--	--------------------	-----------	--------------	--

Definitions of Terms:

- Reporting quarters: Reporting to BIS and Council due: Q2 (1 July - 30 September); Q4 (1 January - 31 March)
- Corporate Objectives: What are we trying to achieve/accomplish?
- Key targets: What are our goals?
- Milestones/measures: How we going to deliver the corporate objectives? How will we measure our success?
- Progress/achievements: Progress update and major achievements.
- Rating: **Red - Amber - Green**

EPE	Economic Performance and Environment
ESA	Evaluation, Strategy and Analysis
HHB	Health and Human Behaviour
KE Group	Knowledge Exchange Group
PRC	Policy, Resources and Communications
RPI	Research, Partnerships and International
S&S	Society and Global Security