

# ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

## ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORTING FRAMEWORK 2007/08

### Introduction

This is the third annual Economic Impact Reporting Framework published by the ESRC. These reports were implemented across all the Research Councils in 2005, and form part of the Economic Impact Framework managed by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. More information about the Economic Impact Framework can be found at: <http://www.berr.gov.uk/dius/science/science-funding/framework/page9306.html>

The ESRC's Framework should be read in conjunction with its 2007/08 Delivery Report: <http://www.esrc.ac.uk/publications/delivery-plan/index.aspx> and its 2007/08 Annual Report: <http://www.esrc.ac.uk/publications/annual-report/> which provide a comprehensive summary of achievements over the period. The Framework contains data on selected aspects of ESRC's performance relevant to the Government's objectives for the UK science base: progress towards measuring the economic and societal impact of research, knowledge generation, investment in the research base and innovation, framework conditions and knowledge exchange. The Framework shows, where available, annual data for the period 2005/06 to 2007/08.

### Highlights:

- *Research Quality & Impact* - the quality of ESRC research is exceptionally high, with 30% of research projects rated 'outstanding' by independent reviewers. UK Social science is making a strong international impact, exemplified this year in Politics and International Studies where an independent benchmarking review found that 'British scholars have been leading contributors to some of the main debates of our time' based on 'truly outstanding research in the UK profession'. [Metrics 2 and 3]
- *Research Resources* - an independent review of ESRC's Centre for Longitudinal Studies by a leading US expert, concluded that the Birth Cohort Studies are a national treasure held in the highest regard by the international research community. [Metric 16]
- *Research Capacity* - the Council has identified a number of areas in the social sciences in which capacity needs to be bolstered and has responded by doubling the number of studentships funded in these areas over the last two years. This initiative will help to safeguard the future of the UK as a centre of excellence in social and economic research. [Metric 11]
- *Business Impact* – the Council has increased its engagement with business as exemplified by its partnership with Advantage West Midlands to launch the Innovation Delivers Expansion (INDEX) Scheme which so far has provided 50 vouchers to support collaborations between SME's and academics. [Metric 42]
- *Co-Funding* - the Council has continued to increase the level of external co-funding for its research and training programmes which reached £22.7m this year. [Metric 34]
- *Public Engagement* - the 2008 Festival of Social Science recorded a record number of events and participants, with a positive rating by participants of the value and quality of these events and their role in increasing awareness of social science research and its benefits for society. [Metric 22]

## OVERALL ECONOMIC IMPACT

Economic impact in the social sciences applies to all sectors: public, private and voluntary. It embraces direct and often quantifiable economic benefits, wider impacts that benefit society more generally such as effects on the environment, public health or quality of life; and impacts on government policy, the third sector and professional practice. The Council creates and supports these impacts from: (i) the results of its collaborative research and knowledge exchange activities; (ii) people transfer between the research community and wider society; and (iii) the use of its data, information and methodologies by a wide-range of user communities.

The ESRC is committed to evaluating the economic and societal impact of its research. It has implemented a rigorous review programme to test and implement appropriate evaluation techniques through its impact study series. The first results of this work are reported this year and illustrate the excellent progress that has been made. Further work is underway to test and apply econometric techniques as part of the Council's approach.

Metrics		Data	Comments
1	Impact Studies	<p>2006/07</p> <p>In 2006 the "Warry" Economic Impact Group reported to OSI on how the Research Councils could deliver and demonstrate they are delivering a major increase in the economic impact of their investments. In response, the Councils have commissioned three studies, including case studies on the economic impact of selected RC investments, which will report later in 2007.</p> <p>2007/08</p> <p>The Council collaborated with RCUK partners on a commissioned project to analyse the economic impact of all the Research Councils. This included case studies of the ESRC's Centre for the Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE) and the Council's Advanced Institute for Management</p>	<p>The Council reports here on its work to evaluate the economic and societal impact of its research. This is a developing area of evaluation practice and the Council is working with RCUK partners and a range of specialist evaluators to test and implement appropriate techniques. This year saw the publication of work commissioned through RCUK and results from the Council's own impact studies series.</p> <p>The ESRC impact studies series is testing and implementing methods of identifying research impact which can help to nullify the well-known problems of attribution, time-lags and multiple influences on economic and other decision-making. The series has supported the trial of different approaches by different evaluation teams, with each study being framed within robust conceptual frameworks that</p>

	<p>Research (AIM). The project report concluded that:</p> <p>(i) “CASE research... enabled government to make better policy... and has been one of the key drivers supporting multi-million pound government policies to try and tackle social exclusion, such as the Sure Start programme, anti-social behaviour measures, health initiatives to reduce teenage pregnancy and family tax credits.”</p> <p>(ii) AIM has had a direct impact on “the quality and accessibility of management research in the UK, providing government with an accessible body of expertise, developing extensive networks with business schools, and helping encourage innovative practices within industry, including 36% of the FTSE 100....”</p> <p>The ESRC has published the first results from its own impact studies series.</p> <p>The results of the impact study of the ESRC’s Centre for Business Research can be viewed at: <a href="http://www.esrc.ac.uk/images/Case_Study_of_CBR_tcm8-4557.pdf">http://www.esrc.ac.uk/images/Case_Study_of_CBR_tcm8-4557.pdf</a> The study revealed the Centre’s impact on UK labour policy, including the national minimum wage, and the widespread impact of its Small &amp; Medium Enterprises Survey which has: informed Government policy on the</p>	<p>reflect the non-linear nature of research impact. Lessons from the completed studies are influencing the ways in which the ESRC commissions and manages its research portfolio, and the methodological approaches have been endorsed by leading experts in the UK and overseas.</p> <p>Further results from the impact study programme will be published shortly, and work is underway to test econometric approaches that might be applied in the next set of studies.</p>
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		<p>provision of management training for small firms, been used by a commercial bank to shape credit policy and led to commissioned work for a range of private and public sector clients.</p> <p>The review of the Council's Future of Work Programme can be downloaded from the Council's web site at: <a href="http://www.esrc.ac.uk/images/Case_Study_of_the_Future_of_Work_Programme_Volume_1_tcm8-4561.pdf">http://www.esrc.ac.uk/images/Case_Study_of_the_Future_of_Work_Programme_Volume_1_tcm8-4561.pdf</a> The report shows how research supported by the Programme influenced Government policy on helping women return to the workplace after childbirth and employment relation, and informed the work of the Low Pay Commission.</p> <p>The Council also completed the first-phase of work to develop a programme of economic impact case-studies which will form part of its wider portfolio of impact evaluations. This has produced an economic impact framework with associated analytical techniques, details of which can be found at: <a href="http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding-and-guidance/tools-and-resources/impact-evaluation/economic-impact-reporting.aspx">http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding-and-guidance/tools-and-resources/impact-evaluation/economic-impact-reporting.aspx</a></p> <p>The economic impact framework is currently being pilot tested on two major ESRC</p>	
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		investments and the results of that work will be published in next year's EIRF.	
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## KNOWLEDGE GENERATION

The results published this year show that the quality of ESRC research remains exceptionally high, with 30% of research projects rated ‘outstanding’ by independent reviewers (metric 2). More generally, UK Social science is making a strong international impact, exemplified this year in Politics and International Studies where an independent benchmarking review supported by the ESRC found that ‘British scholars have been leading contributors to some of the main debates of our time’ based on ‘truly outstanding research in the UK profession (metric 3).

METRICS		DATA	COMMENTS
2	The quality of ESRC research	2005/06 Outstanding: 27% Good: 68% Problematic: 5% Unacceptable: 0%  2006/07 Outstanding: 29% Good: 68% Problematic 3% Unacceptable 0%  2007/08 Outstanding: 30% Good: 67% Problematic 3% Unacceptable 0%	Expert analysis has shown that current bibliometric data are not a sufficiently robust measure of the impact of most social science disciplines. For this reason the Council is reporting evaluation grades for the work it funds. These grades reflect the results of independent peer review of end of award reports and are defined as follows:  Outstanding: High quality work making an exceptional research contribution Good: Good quality work making a strong research contribution Problematic: Work of an acceptable quality but with weaknesses in some areas Unacceptable: Poorly conducted research with unreliable results

3	The relative quality of UK social science research.	<p>2006/07</p> <p>The Council has established a series of international benchmarking reviews to assess the standing of UK Social Science. A review of Social Anthropology research was completed this year and a panel of leading international scholars assessed the discipline in the UK as a World leader in 14 important areas, producing ‘excellent research: innovative, widely read and used, drawing very effectively on classical strengths of the field in addressing emergent questions of critical scholarly and applied significance (and, in so doing, transforming the ways in which the field works)’. The Panel’s full report is available on the Council’s web site at: <a href="http://www.esrc.ac.uk/images/Int_benchmarking_social_anthropology_tcm8-4555.pdf">http://www.esrc.ac.uk/images/Int_benchmarking_social_anthropology_tcm8-4555.pdf</a></p> <p>2007/08</p> <p>A review of UK Political Science and International Studies was completed this year. The international panel concluded that there is ‘truly outstanding research in the UK profession...’ with key strengths in political theory, electoral studies, international studies, European Union studies, security studies, political economy, public policy and administration and some aspects of area studies. The Panel’s report is available on the Council’s web site at: <a href="http://www.esrc.ac.uk/images/International%20benchmarking%20review%20-%20Politics%20and%20International%20studies_tc">http://www.esrc.ac.uk/images/International%20benchmarking%20review%20-%20Politics%20and%20International%20studies_tc</a></p>	The Council reports here on work it is undertaking to benchmark the international quality of UK Social Science. Bibliometric data is used where appropriate as part of the evidence of international impact.
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		<a href="#">m8-4554.pdf</a>	
<b>4</b>	The number of publications arising each year from ESRC research.	2005 = 4695 2006 = 4876 2007 = 5265	The ESRC's Society Today Database records all publications produced during the award period, and captures post-award publications on a voluntary submission basis. The numbers of outputs notified in 2006 are reported here
<b>5</b>	Publications per annum in relation to ESRC's priorities.	2006/07 = 2610 2007/08 = 4319	We report here the number of outputs in 2007 arising from ESRC's directive-mode investments.
<b>6</b>	The number of publications per £M of ESRC funding.	2002 = 89 2003 = 72 2004 = 70	We report here the total number of outputs recorded to date from ESRC awards that ended in 2004. This date allows for the inevitable time-gap between research and publication.



## INVESTMENT IN THE RESEARCH BASE

The UK's social science research base is generally strong, as evidenced by the high quality work reported above. However, the Council has identified a number of areas in which capacity needs to be bolstered and has responded by doubling the number of studentships funded in these areas over the last two years (metric 11); this initiative will help to safeguard the future of the UK as a centre of excellence in social and economic research. This section also highlights the ESRC's excellent Ph.D. submission rates (metric 7) and the high number of these students obtaining academic appointments (metric 8).

<b>Newly trained people</b>			
<b>7</b>	The proportion of ESRC funded PhD theses submitted within four years.	2005/06 ESRC Submission Rates Survey 4 year submission = 82% 5 year submission = 82% 6 year submission = 87%  2006/07 ESRC Submission Rates Survey 4 year submission = 80% 5 year submission = 84% 6 year submission = 86%  2007/08 ESRC Submission Rates Survey 4 year submission = 79% 5 year submission = 84% 6 year submission = 88%	ESRC's annual survey provides data on 4, 5 and 6 year submission rates.

8	The proportion of ESRC funded students recorded to be in permanent and temporary academic posts by the Joint Council first destination survey.	<p>2005/06</p> <p>Permanent UK appointments 2001 = 34%</p> <p>Temporary UK appointments 2001 = 27%</p> <p>Further training 2001 = 3%</p> <p>2006/07</p> <p>Higher Education appointments 2005 = 47%</p> <p>Further training 2005 = 17%</p> <p>2007/08</p> <p>Higher Education appointments 2005 = 51%</p> <p>Further training 2005 = 15%</p>	<p>In 2003 the Research Councils contracted the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) to collect data on the first destinations of their Ph.D. award-holders. Initial transitional difficulties with the reliability of the ESRC data have been overcome and the results of the HESA survey can now be used. However the HESA data classifications are different from those of the previous ESRC first destination survey so the categories do not map onto those used previously. For 2007/08 the classification structure is consistent with that used for the 2006/07 returns meaning the data is more reliable.</p> <p>The Research Councils are also working together to obtain better information on the career paths followed by those who have completed research studies, to contribute to the evidence of outcomes from investments in research training and the impact of research graduates. An analysis of options for the collection of information relating to UK Doctoral Graduates reported in April 2008. Following the recommendation of the report, data will be gathered through an enhancement of HESA's survey of the destinations of leavers of higher education (DLHE), seeking responses from all the research graduates who responded to the 2005 DLHE survey, (shortly after their graduation). This will build a picture of their career path roughly 3 ½ years after graduation. The first results of the study will become available in May 2009 and will be drawn on in next year's EIRFs. The</p>
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			<p>analysis will also inform future phases of the study as it follows doctoral graduates' career paths over a number of years.</p> <p>In addition to HESA reports, the Research Councils will commission analysis to inform the higher education sector, policy development and graduates' decisions about their career options and this will be available in Autumn 2009.</p>
9	ESRC studentship awards by gender and ethnic origin	<p>2005/06</p> <p>(i) Award offers by gender in 2005 = 56% female; 44% male</p> <p>(ii) Offers by ethnic origin in 2005 = 60% White UK/Irish 20% White European 2% White Other 3% Asian 1% Black 2% mixed race/other 11% Not provided</p> <p>2006/07</p> <p>(i) Award offers by gender in 2006 = 54% female; 46% male</p> <p>(ii) Offers by ethnic origin in 2006 = 66% White UK/Irish 22% White European</p>	

		<p>2% White Other  3% Asian  1% Black  2% mixed race/other  4% Not provided</p> <p>2007/08  (i) Award offers by gender in 2007 =  55% female; 45% male</p> <p>(ii) Offers by ethnic origin in 2007 =  67% White UK/Irish  18% White European  1% White Other  2% Asian  1% Black  2% mixed race/other  9% Not provided</p>	
<b>10</b>	The annual number of new ESRC studentship awards.	<p>2005/06  New awards in 2005 = 740</p> <p>2006/07  New awards in 2006 = 791</p> <p>2007/08  New awards in 2006 = 743</p>	The drop to 743 awards in 2007/08 is a planned reduction, which reflects broader pressures on the Council budget.

11	The rate of change in the number of PhD awards in ESRC's priority areas.	<p>2005/06 Standard studentship awards in: Management = 50 Statistics = 13 Socio-Legal Studies = 11 Economics = 58</p> <p>2006/07 Standard studentship awards in: Management = 56 Statistics = 19 Socio-Legal Studies = 18 Economics = 74 Social Work = 17 Advanced Quantitative Methods = 37</p> <p>2007/08 Standard studentship awards in: Management = 65 Statistics = 29 Socio-Legal Studies = 32 Economics = 81 Social Work = 15 Advanced Quantitative Methods = 44</p>	These figures show the quota and standard competition studentships awarded for the 2006/2007 academic year in the areas identified as priorities for the period 2005-2008 in ESRC's 2005 Delivery Plan.
12	The average cost of an ESRC studentship award.	<p>2005/06 = £14,000 2006/07 = £16,000 2007/08 = £16,400</p>	The average cost of a studentship award has risen again this year because of the introduction of enhanced stipends in economics and advanced quantitative methods and a larger number of awards made through collaborative schemes, CASE and

			Government Schemes, where the Council also pays a higher stipend. It also reflects the general inflation linked increase in standard stipends.
<b>Trained people</b>			
<b>13</b>	The number of academic staff in UK social science departments.	<p>2004/05 = 28,365</p> <p>2005/06 The Council reported last year on the number of trained academic staff in social science departments. This indicator is not sensitive to significant year-on year- changes so the Council planes to report the numbers at five-yearly intervals.</p> <p>2006/07 See above</p>	
<b>14</b>	Age profiles of academics in leading research departments by discipline.	<p>2004/05 The proportions of staff over the age of 45 in leading research departments are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Psychology (29%)</li> <li>Town &amp; Country Planning (40%)</li> <li>Geography (32%)</li> <li>Law (43%)</li> <li>Anthropology (47%)</li> <li>Economics &amp; Econometrics (37%)</li> <li>Politics &amp; International Relations (38%)</li> <li>Social Policy &amp; Administration (51%)</li> </ul>	

		<p>Social Work (65%)  Sociology (52%)  Business and Management. (43%)  Accountancy (47%)  Middle East and African (63%)  Asian Studies (64%)  Linguistics (52%)  Communications, Culture &amp; Media Studies (53%)  Education (62%)</p> <p>2005/06  The Council reported last year on the number of trained academic staff in social science departments. This indicator is not sensitive to significant year-on year- changes so the Council planes to report the numbers at five-yearly intervals.</p> <p>2006/07  See above.</p>	
15	The number of academic staff in HEI's in each social science discipline.	<p>2004/05  Psychology = 2884*  Town &amp; Country Planning = 658  Geography = 1678*  Law = 2507*  Anthropology = 309  Economics &amp; Econometrics = 1439  Politics &amp; International = 1364  Social Policy &amp; Administration = 1663</p>	

		<p>Social Work = 742  Sociology = 1371  Business &amp; Management St. = 5767  Accountancy = 768  Middle East and African = 149  Asian Studies = 161  Linguistics = 569*  Communications, Culture &amp; Media Studies = 1187  Education = 5202</p> <p>* NB. This figure includes all academic staff within the discipline, not only those classed as social scientists.</p> <p>2005/06  The Council reported last year on the number of trained academic staff in social science departments. This indicator is not sensitive to significant year-on year- changes so the Council plans to report the numbers at five-yearly intervals.</p> <p>2006/07  See above.</p>	
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## FRAMEWORK CONDITIONS

The ESRC's research resources provide UK social scientists with essential tools to analyse economic and social issues. As highlighted below, these resources are widely regarded as amongst the best in the World (metric 16) and the Council is continuing to invest to ensure that UK research remains at the forefront of international developments (metric 17). The Council is equally committed to the public engagement of its research programme, both through its busy programme of media training for ESRC researchers (metric 23), collaborations with funding partners to promote public engagement (metric 21) and special events such as the highly successful 2008 Festival of Social Science (metric 22). This section also highlights the flexibility in ESRC's funding, with an increasing amount of money diverted to new research priorities (metric 24).

Framework Conditions: research resources			
<b>16</b>	Qualitative assessments of ESRC research resource investments.	<p>2005/06</p> <p>In 2003/04, international reviewers described our longitudinal studies as 'world class datasets that are increasingly being used throughout the world to answer key policy questions'. An international review in 2006 of the Council's E-Social Science Programme described it as 'transformational' and at the international leading edge.</p> <p>2006/07</p> <p>The British Election Study has taken place at each general election since 1964. In 2006 an independent review commented that the Survey 'is widely regarded as the gold-standard survey within British political science' and that its 'data are used by a variety of stakeholders: British and international academics, journalists and government bodies'.</p> <p>The Workplace Employee Relations Survey is jointly sponsored by the DTI, ACAS, PSI and the ESRC.</p>	It is difficult to capture the standing of the Council's strategic facilities in a single metric, and qualitative judgments provide a better guide to the UK's international position. The ESRC will continue to benchmark the quality of its research resources against international standards.

		<p>In January 2007 an independent review found that ‘WERS data have been widely used, both by the co-sponsors and by academics at all levels. Studies based on the series have deeply illuminated our understanding of changes in industrial relations in Britain over recent decades’.</p> <p>2007/08 Independent evaluations have underlined the quality and international impact of ESRC’s data resources:</p> <p>(i) A review of the ESRC Qualitative Data Archiving and Data Sharing Scheme (Quads) found that the scheme had supported major advances in ethical standards and procedures for longitudinal participatory research. Major achievements included: the creation of a set of exemplars, advances in using and applying metadata, and use of natural language processing technology to develop tools for semi-automating digital archiving of qualitative data.</p> <p>(ii) A review of ESRC’s Centre for Longitudinal Studies concluded that the Council’s Birth Cohort Studies are a national treasure held in the highest regard by the international research community</p> <p>(iii) A review of ESRC’s UK Longitudinal Studies Centre concluded that the British Household Panel</p>	
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		Survey is a valuable national research resource recognised around the world.	
17	The value of ESRC support for new research resources.	2005/06 = £5.2M 2006/07= £12.2M 2007/08 = £23.8m	We report here the ESRC's investment in the acquisition and collection of major new datasets, and in supporting facilities to promote their exploitation by the social science community. In 2007/08, these included the renewal of funding for the Economic and Social Data Service and new investments in Survey Design and Measurement.
18	The change in the proportion of ESRC expenditure dedicated to research resources.	2005/06 = 10.3% 2006/07= 11% 2007/08 = 9.5%	This figure shows the proportion of ESRC's expenditure that is dedicated to research resources and facilities.
19	The level of usage of ESRC research resources.	2005/06 Registered users in 2004/05 = 20,279 Datasets Delivered in 2004/05 = 35,484  2006/07 Total active registered users in 2005/06= 46,682 Datasets delivered in 2005/06 = 49,169  2007/08	We report here on the number of users registering to access the datasets available from the ESRC's principal data facility, the Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS), and the number of unique datasets delivered to users.  The number of data collections disseminated during 06/07 is about the same as in the previous year, but usage of value-added support materials provided by the ESDS (accessible via the ESDS website) has

		<p>Total active registered users in 2006/07= 47,635  Datasets delivered in 2006/07 = 47,934</p>	<p>increased significantly. Also, the number of new registrations for the Service increased more rapidly than last year. These trends suggest that more users are using fewer but more complex datasets in a more intensive way.</p> <p>It should be noted that the figures reported here do not include usage through the online data browsing and analysis systems via the Beyond 20/20 for international macro datasets and Nesstar. If these were included then the figures would be:</p> <p>2005/06  Datasets delivered in 2005/06 = 140,381</p> <p>2006/07  Datasets delivered in 2005/06 = 163,102</p> <p>These figures represent a 22% increase in international macrodata sessions in Beyond 20/20 compared to the previous year, and a 55% increase in Nesstar on-line browsing and analysis service.</p>
<b>20</b>	<p>The level of co-funding by business and government agencies of ESRC's research resources.</p>	<p>2005/2006 = £2.01M  2006/07 = £1.9M  2007/08 = £1.4m</p>	<p>We report here the co-funding received by ESRC from business and government agencies to support major data infrastructure and facilities.</p> <p>It should be noted that the level of co-funding can vary significantly between years. This is due to the timing of fieldwork for major surveys and the method</p>

			of data collection used by each wave.
<b>Framework Conditions: public engagement</b>			
<b>21</b>	The number of ESRC interactions focused on public participation and engagement	<p>2005/06 Attendance at social science week events in 2006 was around 4,000. Attendance at the annual debates was 300; Attendance at the ESRC event at the BA festival (Dublin) was 150.</p> <p>2006/07 Attendance at festival of social science events in 2007 was around 4,800. Attendance at the annual debates was 405. Attendance at the ESRC event at the BA festival (Norwich) was 70.</p> <p>2007/08 The total number of attendees is estimated at around 9,400, including 4,600 people who participated in the great land use debate.</p> <p>The ESRC has also worked with other Councils through the RCUK Science in Society Unit to</p> <p>1. Invest significantly in supporting public engagement within HEIs through the development of the Beacons for Public Engagement scheme (£9.2M over four years, in collaboration with the funding councils and the Wellcome Trust). This</p>	

		<p>initiative will pilot ways to improve reward, recognition and support for academics undertaking public engagement.</p> <p>2. Fund a range of initiatives including public dialogue, national school enrichment schemes which support the DCSF STEM programme objectives such as Researchers in Residence, and joint activity at science and arts festivals to open up RC-funded work to a broader audience.</p>	
22	Evaluate the quality of interaction focused on public participation and engagement	<p>2005/06</p> <p>An independent evaluation of ESRC's 2006 social science week concluded that it was '... a resounding success. The Week achieved all of its objectives, made a positive contribution to ESRC's science communication and science and society objectives, and delivered good value for money'. Feedback is also obtained from participants in the ESRC's annual debates that take place in November.</p> <p>2006/07</p> <p>An independent evaluation of the 2007 Festival concluded that it had fully achieved all of its key objectives and had delivered excellent value for money. A total of 76 events were held across the UK (an increase of 33% on last year) with the number of participants estimated as in excess of 4,600 (an increase of more than 20% on last year). The geographical spread of events was much</p>	

		<p>improved, and for the first time events were staged in every one of the English regions, as well as in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Over 90% of participants stated that they had learned something new at their event, with two-thirds gaining an increased understanding of the social sciences and the benefits research brings to society, and almost three-quarters gaining a better understanding of ESRC and its work.</p> <p>2007/08 The independent evaluation report on the 2008 Festival of Social Science concluded that the Festival was ‘a resounding success’:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 69% of attendees stated that the event had raised their general awareness of the social sciences, slightly up on last year (63%)</li><li>• 76% of attendees stated that the event had raised their awareness of the ESRC and its work, slightly up on last year (72%)</li><li>• 66% of attendees stated that the event had raised their awareness of the benefits that social science brings to society, slightly up on last year (61%),</li><li>• 63% of attendees planned to use information from the event.</li></ul> <p>In addition, the Research Councils worked collectively through the RCUK SIS unit to deliver the third UK Public Attitudes to Science Survey (funded by DIUS) which was published in January</p>	
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		2008 and provides valuable trend data about what the public thinks about science, scientists and science policy. For the first time, attitudes towards social science were also examined.	
23	The number of researchers trained in media and public engagement skills	2005-06 = 225 2006/07 = 257 2007/08 = 246	
<b>Framework Conditions: financial sustainability</b>			
24	The amount spent on new initiatives and schemes	2005/06 = £2.02m 2006/07 = £6.373m 2007/08 = £8.94m	The figure shown here reflects ESRC's re-prioritisation of programme spend to new research areas, and was reported as part of the RCUK Efficiency Delivery project.
25	Investment in grants involving researchers from more than one discipline	2006/07 = 632 Awards with expenditure of £34.7M 2007/08 = 1,025 Awards with expenditure of £53M	This metric is reported for the first time this year.
26	Funding of programmes focused on a multi-disciplinary area or designed to	2006/07 = £47.7m 2007/08 = £49.1m	This metric is reported for the first time this year.



	promote multi-disciplinary research or training		
27	Funding of cross-Council programmes	2006/07 = £1.3m 2007/08 = £1.8m	This metric is reported for the first time this year.
28	The number and value of research contracts involving other research councils and other non-social science funders.	2005/06 = 270 awards and expenditure of £22m 2006/07 = 260 awards and expenditure of £29m 2007/08 = 295 awards and expenditure of £37m	These data show the number and total value of ESRC's research contracts involving collaboration with other research councils and non social science co-funders.
29	ESRC's annual budget	2005/06 = £135.5m 2006/07 = £163.3m 2007/08 = £184.1m	The figure shown here is ESRC's total expenditure, including non science-budget funding. Science budget funding in 2006/07 was £140.9m (excluding end of year flexibility).
30	Savings made in the proportion of expenditure attributable to administration costs.	2005/06 = £0.4m 2006/07 = £0.4m 2007/08 = £0.6m	This saving was reported as part of the cross-Council Efficiency project.
31	Survey assessment of academic user confidence in the Research Councils	2005/06 RCUK conducted a survey of university researchers and administrators across the UK which showed that a very substantial majority believe that the	

	<p>Councils' grant application administration and peer review processes are excellent or good. The Joint Electronic Submission System is believed to have made the grant application process more efficient, particularly in reducing time and paperwork and enabling the development of collaborative proposals.</p> <p>2006/07 The Council surveyed Professors in 5* Departments in six major disciplines about its funding opportunities. The general response was positive and supportive while highlighting differences between disciplines. Further details are available on the Council's web site.</p> <p>2007/08 No new survey carried out in 2007-08. We will be consulting the social science community about future priorities during 2008-09</p>	
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## KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE EFFICIENCY

The following data illustrate some of the ESRC's work to promote and support knowledge exchange. The Council is currently working to increase its engagement with the business sector and the progress being made in this area is exemplified by (i) the partnership with Advantage West Midlands to launch the Innovation Delivers Expansion (INDEX) Scheme which supports collaborations between small businesses and academic researchers (metric 42) and (ii) the increasing number of events aimed directly at business audiences (metric 38). The continued progress of the Council's wider engagement with policy and practice users in all sectors is illustrated by the increasing level of external co-funding for its research and training programmes [metric 34], its concordats with strategic partners (metric 37) and the growth in collaborative studentships (metric 43). The Council places considerable emphasis on the transfer of people from academia to user organisations and vice versa (metrics 44 and 45), and one of the impacts of this work, on the DIUS White paper 'Innovation Nation' is highlighted in this year's report.

Knowledge Exchange: scale			
<b>32</b>	The proportion of ESRC funded students recorded to be employed in the business and public service sectors by the Joint Council first destination survey.	2005/06 Finishers in 2001 = 11%  2006/07 Finishers in 2005 = 18%  2007/08 Finishers in 2005 = 27%	In 2003 the Research Councils contracted the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) to collect data on the first destinations of their Ph.D. award-holders. Initial transitional difficulties with the reliability of the ESRC data have been overcome and the results of the HESA survey can now be used but are available only from 2005 onwards. For 2007/08 the classification structure is consistent with that used for the 2006/07 returns meaning the data is more reliable. The number of finishers entering the business and public sectors has increased significantly since 2005/06. This not as a result of a drop in academic appointments, which have stayed at round 60%, but appears to be due to a decline in unemployed finishers and a drop in the classification of other finishers as unknown or 'other' (unspecified) forms of employment.  The Research Councils are also working together to

			<p>obtain better information on the career paths followed by those who have completed research studies, to contribute to the evidence of outcomes from investments in research training and the impact of research graduates. An analysis of options for the collection of information relating to UK Doctoral Graduates reported in April 2008. Following the recommendation of the report, data will be gathered through an enhancement of HESA's survey of the destinations of leavers of higher education (DLHE), seeking responses from all the research graduates who responded to the 2005 DLHE survey, (shortly after their graduation). This will build a picture of their career path roughly 3 ½ years after graduation. The first results of the study will become available in May 2009 and will be drawn on in next year's EIRFs. The analysis will also inform future phases of the study as it follows doctoral graduates' career paths over a number of years.</p> <p>In addition to HESA reports, the Research Councils will commission analysis to inform the higher education sector, policy development and graduates' decisions about their career options and this will be available in Autumn 2009.</p>
<b>33</b>	The proportion of ESRC trained research students recorded as	2001 finishers = 8% 2005 finishers = 8% 2006 finishers = 6%	In 2003 the Research Councils contracted the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) to collect data on the first destinations of their Ph.D. award-holders. Initial transitional difficulties with the reliability of the

	unemployed by the Joint Council first destination survey.		ESRC data have been overcome and the results of the HESA survey can now be used.
34	The level of co-funding of ESRC research by external bodies.	2005/06 = £10.6m 2006/07 = £16.4m 2007/08 = £22.7m	This indicator shows the level of co-funding for ESRC research and training but it should be noted that additional co-funding directly to HEIs is not captured here.
35	New co-funding for research and training.	2005/06 = £0.57m 2006/07 = £1.59m 2007/08 = £2.62m	This indicator shows new co-funding for ESRC research and was reported as part of the cross-Council Efficiency project. It should be noted that new co-funding directly to HEIs is not captured here.
36	The proportion of non-academic members of ESRC's Council and Boards.	2005/06 Council = 43% (6/14); Boards = 27% (24/89)  2006/07 Council = 43% (6/14); Boards = 30% (28/92)  2007/08 Council = 38% (5/13); Boards = 27% (24/88)	
37	The number of ESRC concordat agreements with strategic partners.	2005/06 = 14 2006/07 = 16 2007/08 = 23	Formal strategic partnerships involve 11 Government Departments, all 3 Devolved Administrations, the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) and the Office for National Statistics. The latter along with the Foreign & Commonwealth Office represent new partnerships for ESRC.  An additional 7 concordat agreements have been formed with strategic partners, including a ground

			breaking concordat with the Local Authority Research Council Initiative (LARCI). New partnerships also include the Department for Business Enterprise & Regulatory Reform (BERR) and The British Library.
<b>38</b>	The number of ESRC public policy and business-orientated seminars and workshops.	2005/06 = 16 2006/07 = 58 2007/08 = 78	There has been a marked increase in the number of business seminars and workshops held this year. Events have included a number of Business Engagement Forums, bringing together members of the business community from priority sectors identified in the ESRC's Business Engagement Strategy. Forums have been held with the creative industries, financial services and the retail sector. Other business events have been held with a range of partners, including the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and the Institute for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (ISBE). This year's Public Policy Seminars have focused on issues such as 'Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions' and 'Social Enterprise: Dynamics and the Economy'.
<b>39</b>	The number of co-funded ESRC research projects (excluding joint Research Council projects).	2005/06 = 82 2006/07 = 99 2007/08 = 120	
<b>40</b>	The amount of external funding for ESRC research (excluding joint	2005/06 = £4.9m 2006/07 = £5.1m 2007/08 = £6.7m	This indicator reflects the degree to which the ESRC levers more money into the science base. We have reported data based on formal co-funding agreements with ESRC, but it should be noted that additional co-

	Research Council funding)		funding directly to HEIs is not captured here.
41	The number of ESRC workshops and seminars to help develop entrepreneurial and commercialisation skills.	2005/06 = 3 workshops and seminars 2006/07 = 6 workshops and seminars 2007/08 = 6 workshops and seminars	<p>The number of events aimed at encouraging entrepreneurial and commercial skills remains stable, although attendance at these events has increased this year</p> <p>Examples of this activity include:</p> <p>(i) the ESRC 'Enterprisers' event, a four day residential entrepreneurship programme designed to equip students with entrepreneurial skills and help them to develop innovative ideas and gain access to valuable networks.</p> <p>(ii) the ESRC's first CASE conference, attended by 55 students, which incorporated a sessions on engaging with business as well as a Getting Research Into Policy and Practice (GRIPP) workshop.</p>
42	The number of research projects on spinouts, commercialisation and innovation processes.	2005/06 =25 2006/07 = 36 2007/08 = 67	This year the Council introduced in partnership with Advantage West midlands to launch the INDEX (innovation delivers expansion) Scheme in the West Midlands region. This is a knowledge transfer voucher scheme designed to facilitate innovative work between SMEs and HEIs. ESRC contributed funding towards 50 vouchers in 2007–08. A range of companies were involved in the scheme, including Earthoil Plantations who advocate the benefits of

			<p>having taken part in the project: “winning the £3000 voucher index scheme has meant that we can focus our combined efforts on a particular opportunity that if successful will definitely have a significant commercial spin-off to the mutual benefit of both parties”.</p> <p>The data reported here also include the first ESRC impact grants, now part of the Council’s ‘Follow-On Scheme’ which enables researchers to maximise the impact of social science research</p>
<b>43</b>	The Number of collaborative studentships by type (CASE, Knowledge Transfer Partnerships, Government departments and agencies etc).	<p>2005/06 = 135</p> <p>2006/07 = 123</p> <p>2007/08 = 181</p>	There has been an increase this year in the number of Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) awards, which includes a rise in the number of private sector partnerships. Of the 30 KTP’s started this year 11 involve a business organisation, 7 are in the third sector and 12 in the public sector.
<b>44</b>	The number of users placed in HEI’s or ESRC research investments.	<p>2005/06 = 21</p> <p>2006/07 = 31</p> <p>2007/08 = 62</p>	The users placed within ESRC investments include colleagues from the John Lewis Partnership; Austin Reed; SENSE (National Deaf-Blind Organisation); Environment Agency; HM Treasury; Financial Times; Bank of England; and the World Bank.
<b>45</b>	The number of academics placed in user organisations.	<p>2005/06 = 15</p> <p>2006/07 = 37</p> <p>2007/08 = 40</p>	The 2007-08 round of the Placement Fellowship Scheme resulted in a total of 13 placement fellowships. The organisations involved include, the



			<p>Department for Work and Pensions, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Scottish Government, DEFRA, the National Audit Office, the Welsh Assembly Government and SEERAD (Scottish Environment). Feedback from a 2006-07 placement fellowship highlights the value of the scheme: 'Our placement fellow has been an exceptional asset and an exemplar of everything that the Placement Fellowship Scheme should be: informed analysis, stimulating debate, getting people to think differently, applying academic expertise across a number of policy areas'.</p>
<b>Knowledge Exchange: quality</b>			
46	<p>Survey assessment of user confidence in the Research Councils</p>	<p>2005/06 The House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee Report on Research Councils support for knowledge transfer identifies a need for the Councils to engage business users more effectively. Whilst Research Councils have striven to develop effective engagement with business over recent years, they take such feedback seriously and will be consulting with their stakeholders on strengthening this aspect of their operations</p> <p>2006/07 In 2006, the "Warry" Economic Impact Group reported to OSI on how the Research Councils could deliver and demonstrate they are delivering a major increase in the economic impact of their</p>	

		<p>investments. In response, the Councils have commissioned three studies on i) the economic impact of their investments, ii) a user satisfaction survey, and iii) coordination of Research Councils' Knowledge Transfer Schemes and Initiatives. All three are due to report to OSI in September 2007.</p> <p>2007/08  In response to recommendations made in the Warry report, a survey of user satisfaction was commissioned by Research Councils UK. The survey identified that 67% of users strongly agreed that the ESRC is committed to maintaining the UK's excellence in research (a further 25% agreed with this statement) and that three quarters of users (75%) are either quite satisfied or very satisfied with ESRC's service delivery.</p>	
47	Surveys of concordat partner satisfaction.	<p>2005/06  The 2005/06 survey showed a high level of satisfaction. All partners have a good understanding of ESRC research, training and collaborative activities; the concordat meetings are effective or very effective for the majority of partners; and the ESRC had been extremely efficient in dealing with actions agreed at the meetings.</p> <p>2006/07  ESRC conducts a survey of concordat partners</p>	

	<p>every other year. The next study is due in 2008.</p> <p>Two examples of concordat partner satisfaction this year were: (i) the Treasury's reference to an AIM Programme research paper on UK investment in intangible assets in the Chancellor's pre-Budget Report; (ii) the Northern Ireland Office's recognition of the importance of ESRC research on 'Income Distribution and Poverty' for its Anti-Poverty Strategy.</p> <p>2007/08 The 2007 RCUK User Satisfaction Survey included a sample of Government users, and therefore concordat partners have not been surveyed separately this year. In total, 75% of ESRC users who responded to the RCUK survey were from the public sector, with the majority of users reporting satisfaction with their relationship with ESRC (19% stating that they were very satisfied and 56% stating they were quite satisfied)</p> <p>Examples of Government Department satisfaction with ESRC research this year included the range of ESRC funded work cited by BERR in its policy paper on productivity, and the Minister for Science and Innovation's endorsement of the ESRC's broad-based definition of economic impact (that includes wider societal impact) in his opening speech at the Social</p>	
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		Research Association's Annual Conference.	
48	Evaluations of seminars and workshops to assess benefits and application of research findings.	<p>2005/06 The positive feedback from the 3 events held in 2005/06 has been used to inform the design of further events and collaborative activities.</p> <p>2006/07 We received positive feedback from this year's seminars. For example, 89 people were surveyed after attending a workshop on Autism and expressed satisfaction with the utility of the event. One attendee has consequently become the main advisor and support contact for ASD students within their institution, and is introducing improvements to course access and an evaluation of the college's teaching methods.</p> <p>2007/08 Positive feedback has been received from events held this year: For example, 54 students attending the 'Enterprisers' event gave the event an average rating of 4 out of 5. One attendee stated that Enterprisers had 'inspired me with an idea for a business', while another participant said 'I developed presentation skills and confidence as well as an idea for my research progression or maybe a potential new product'.</p>	

		<p>Feedback from the Council's Getting Research Into Policy and Practice workshops (GRIPP) showed that 72% of attendees rated the events 'excellent' or 'good'. One attendee said: 'I feel inspired to go back and run a lunchtime seminar with my fellow researchers to share the key messages and highlights...also to write it up as a report to circulate more widely in our department'.</p>	
49	<p>Feedback reports from user representatives on ESRC boards.</p>	<p>2005/06 The 2005/06 survey of ESRC's Board and Committee User Members showed general agreement that the role and purpose of user members was clear, relevant and appropriate. Users felt fully involved in meetings and the training given was sufficient. The Members also felt that they/their organisations benefited from their membership.</p> <p>2006/07 ESRC conducts a survey of ESRC Board and Committee User Members every other year. The next study is due in 2008.</p> <p>2007/08 The next user members survey will be this summer to coincide with the survey of retiring members.</p>	

50	Evaluations of joint projects over £50,000 in value.	<p>2006/07 = 23 evaluations  Outstanding = 3  Good = 20</p> <p>2007/08 = 36 evaluations  Outstanding = 6  Good = 26  Problematic = 1</p>	We report here on the evaluations of jointly-funded projects completed in 2007/08
51	Systematic surveys obtaining feedback from seminar attendees on learning application	<p>2005/06  7 workshops were held for business sector audiences. Feedback from these events is informing the development of the ESRC's Business Engagement Strategy.</p> <p>2006/07  14 events were aimed at business sector audiences. These include co-sponsorship of a Financial Services Research Forum seminar on consumer behaviour. The Council is planning further events in partnership with the Forum which brings leading academics and financial services organisations together to discuss industry developments and has received a members' approval rating of 86%. In addition, the Council organised five 'Getting Research into Practice' (GRIP) workshops to encourage knowledge transfer activities.</p>	

		<p>2007/08</p> <p>A number of delegates attending an ESRC / ACCA seminar on Shareholder Activism and Pension Fund Governance reported that they were contemplating further actions as a result of what they had learnt from the event,</p> <p>A number of delegates to ESRC/Tomorrow Project seminars reported that the events had led to changes in their organisations policies or plans including, for example, new approaches to charity fund raising resulting from a seminar on the Future of Philanthropy and Civil Society.</p> <p>The Council funded a number of seminars in collaboration with the Institute for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (ISBE) in order to promote understanding of the processes involved in the transfer of knowledge between SMEs and the HE sector. Results from a follow-up survey indicated that the seminars were highly valued and findings from the seminar series have been incorporated into a report to be presented at the next ISBE conference. The report will be used by the ESRC to inform its plans for further engagement with SMEs.</p>	
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52	Follow up studies to track seminar impact.	<p>2005/06 A sample of 40 people was surveyed 6 months after the ESRC's Getting Research Into Practice (GRIP) Workshops. The feedback was positive, with participants identifying insights into best practice and networking opportunities as key benefits.</p> <p>2006-7 26 students attended the four day residential ESRC Enterpriser Training Programme, and feedback was very positive. One participant said "I really feel that Enterprisers was absolutely amazing and actually quite life changing! It encourages confidence and aspirations and a 'can-do' attitude". In addition 35 researchers attended the 'Getting Research into Practice' seminars and the positive feedback from these seminars is being used to shape future training.</p> <p>2007/08 The ESRC provided funding for the Child and Youth Studies Network at the University of Edinburgh to host a series of 4 one-day events reaching out to policymakers and practitioners. A series of follow-up studies were conducted with the intention of mapping the range of impacts the events made. These revealed on-going collaborations arising from the seminars with several respondents mentioning changes to</p>	
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		<p>classroom practices, assessment practices and, changes to planned service provision.</p> <p>Following on from a Local Authority Research Council Initiative (LARCI) seminar on climate change at the University of East Anglia, co-funded by ESRC, a partnership has been formed between the Carbon Reduction Programme (CRed) based at the University of East Anglia, and the Birmingham Strategic Partnership to form a carbon cutting campaign, which is resulting in thousands of actions across Birmingham. The programme has proven an immediate success, with nearly 8,000 local residents using the CRed system to sign up to make their own personal pledge to cut their carbon footprint. CRed's Marcus Armes commented: "without the LARCI event the UEA would never have formed the successful relationship which has built up with the Birmingham Strategic Partnership".</p>	
53	End of placement reports from students in receipt of collaborative funding.	<p>2005/06 5 reports were received from POST/OST students and from students with Knowledge Transfer Partnerships. A review of these activities is currently being undertaken.</p> <p>2006/07 16 reports were received from completed Knowledge Transfer Partnerships. The reports</p>	

		<p>show that over half of Associates were offered continued employment with the company partner. 81% of Associates have either completed an NVQ4 in Management or some units towards that qualification. About 50% of Associates are expecting to complete a PhD.</p> <p>2007/08 10 reports were received from completed Knowledge Transfer Partnerships. These showed similar trends to last year, with 50% of Associates being offered continuing employment, following the completion of their KTP project. Half of Associates reported receiving a higher degree as a result of their KTP work (3 PhDs and 2 MBAs). The majority of Associates (70%) had registered for and completed units towards an NVQ level 4 in Management.</p> <p>16 students who participated in the scheme now known as the Social Science Workplace Experience Programme (SSWEP), reported back on their placement experience, with 94% stating that the placement either met or exceeded their expectations. Comments received from students highlighted the value of the placement; one participant said: 'I feel I have improved my understanding of how a small business works. Being involved in an SME has given me a real insight into business operations at all levels.'</p>	
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54	Surveys of a sample of employers providing work experience for students	<p>2005/06 39 employers involved in ESRC Student Placement Schemes were surveyed. The results fed into the Council's review of Knowledge Transfer Schemes which is being considered by ESRC's Training &amp; Development Board.</p> <p>2006/07 Knowledge Transfer Partnership reports show that 81% of employers reported either an increase in profits or significant savings, with a further 44% reporting an increase in sales revenue as a direct result of the Partnership. Almost half reported an investment in new staff directly related to KTP interventions, with 69% reporting an increase in staff development and training. Half of the employers reported an increase in R&amp;D spend directly attributable to the Partnership.</p> <p>2007/08 Employers who participated in the Social Science Workplace Experience Programme were invited to respond to a survey which aimed to assess the impact of hosting a student placement. The respondents reported that students had produced a range of significant outcomes for the companies. A number of companies stated that as a result of the placements they had already achieved, or expected to achieve in the future, an increase their</p>	
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		<p>market share, a better awareness of their customer base and an increased market share. Over 40% of placement students were offered some work in the future by the host organisation.</p> <p>Feedback from Knowledge Transfer Partnership employers showed that 50% of companies thought that the KTP results had improved their current performance. and 70% expected a benefit to their future performance.</p>	
55	Surveys of a sample of academic supervisors.	<p>2005/06 A survey of Knowledge Transfer Partnership Supervisors showed that 81% of projects had led to further collaborative activities.</p> <p>2006/07 This year three quarters of academic supervisors on KTPs had signed IP agreements resulting directly from the Partnerships. In 81% of cases joint papers were published, and the Associate published sole papers in 44% of projects; 56% of reports noted that the knowledge partner was undertaking further related research as a direct consequence of the KT partnership.</p> <p>2007/08 The vast majority (90%) of KTP academic supervisors had established IPR agreements as a result of the KTP project; this represents a slight</p>	

		<p>increase compared with last year, when three-quarters of academic supervisors had signed agreements. And 70% of supervisors thought that the KTP's had improved their institution's teaching programme.</p>	
56	<p>End of placement reports from award-holders and their hosts.</p>	<p>2005/06 We will report next year on the outcome of the ESRC's HM Treasury placement. Initial comments on this work have been very positive.</p> <p>2006/07 Simon Dietz, an environmental economist, was ESRC's sponsored placement to HM Treasury. Dietz made a substantial contribution to the 'Stern Review' and a letter of commendation recognising his contribution and thanking the ESRC, has been received from Sir Nicholas Stern.</p> <p>2007/08 Reports are produced at the end of Placement Fellowships. Dr Marion Frenz, of Birkbeck University of London, undertook a 9 month placement in the Science and Innovation Analysis Unit of the UK Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). During the placement Dr Frenz wrote a report with her DIUS line manager, on Indicators of non-technical innovation which formed part of the set of research papers supporting the DIUS White</p>	

		<p>paper 'Innovation Nation'. Dr Frenz commented "I am now better able to direct my academic work so that it has a greater relevance to users. I have a better view of what policy makers and businesses see as relevant issues to do with innovation today".</p> <p>Other successful Placement Fellows included: Professor Fergus Lyon who was placed within the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit where he prepared briefings for the Number 10 Policy Unit and senior civil servants on a range of health-related issues concerning innovation, dentistry and public health. Professor Lyon reported that one of the benefits of the placement had been the opportunity to hone skills in presenting recommendations most effectively to policy makers and other users of research</p>	
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