

## ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

### ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORTING FRAMEWORK 2009/10

#### Introduction

This is the fifth annual Economic Impact Reporting Framework (EIRF) published by the ESRC. These reports were implemented across all the Research Councils in 2005, and form part of the Performance Management System managed by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). The ESRC's Framework should be read in conjunction with its 2009/10 Delivery Report: <http://www.esrc.ac.uk/publications/delivery-plan/>; its 2009/10 Annual Report ; <http://www.esrc.ac.uk/publications/annual-report/> and its 2009/10 Economic Impact Baseline: <http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding-and-guidance/tools-and-resources/impact-evaluation/economic-impact-reporting.aspx> which together provide a comprehensive summary of achievements over the period. The Framework has been completed in line with the Interim Structure provided by BIS for this reporting year, and contains data on selected aspects of ESRC's performance relevant to the Government's objectives for the UK science base: overall economic impacts; innovation outputs and outcomes; knowledge generation; investment in the research base and public engagement. The Framework shows, where available, annual data for the period 2006/07 to 2009/10.

#### Highlights:

- *Overall economic impact* – the results reported this year (Metric 1) demonstrate the considerable and economically valuable impact of ESRC research on government policy, business practices and civil society.
- *Impact through World Class Social Science Research* – the basis of ESRC's economic impact is its world-class research programme. Quality remains exceptionally high, and is improving year on year, with 38% of research projects rated 'outstanding' by independent reviewers this year (Metric 19a) and a significant increase in refereed research output (Metric 12).
- *Impact through Skilled People* – the overall increase in the number of placements (Metric 7) reported reflects a continued emphasis on placement opportunities as a key route to impact, and the Council's excellent PhD submission rates (Metric 16) are also maintained
- *Impact through World Class Infrastructure* – the importance of ESRC's research resources to the Council's portfolio is reflected in the continued investment in this area, with the overall proportion of expenditure dedicated to resources remaining at a significant level (Metrics 28 and 29).
- *Impact through International Leadership* - UK Social science continues to make a strong international impact, exemplified this year in Sociology, where an independent panel of international experts confirmed 'UK sociology to be at the international forefront with its intellectual performance and research output' (Metric 19b).
- *Impact through Partnerships* - Increasing spend on cross-Council programmes (Metric 31), demonstrates the important contribution the social science is able to make to interdisciplinary research challenges, and rising external income as a proportion of the Council's total income (Metric 24) reflects an increasing emphasis on partnership working and co-production of research.

## 1. 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, civil society and professional practice. The Council creates and supports these impacts through its five strategic objectives: impact through world class social science research; impact through skilled people; impact through world class infrastructure; impact through international leadership; and impact through partnerships.

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. Results reported this year demonstrate the considerable and economically valuable impact of ESRC research on government policy, business practices and civil society.

| METRIC                                   | 2009/10   |
|--|---|
| 1. Overall Economic Impact: Case Studies | <p data-bbox="488 676 875 711"><i>Developments in Impact Evaluation</i></p> <p data-bbox="488 711 2029 1002">Following on from a pilot study undertaken in 2008, which looked at ways to value the contribution of ESRC-funded social science to government policy, in 2009 two new evaluation studies were commissioned to trial an innovative ‘tracking-back’ approach to evaluating economic impact. Two teams took as their starting point two government policies (Education Maintenance Allowance and Pathways to Work), and worked backwards to assess the influence of ESRC research on the development and implementation of these policies, and from there to attempt to quantify that influence, using benchmarking data from government evaluations of the policies. The objective of the studies was to test the effectiveness of the ‘working-back’ approach, and particularly whether the methodologies applied to quantifying any identified ESRC influence could derive robust measures of economic value<sup>1</sup>.</p> <p data-bbox="488 1002 2029 1219"><b>Education Maintenance Allowance:</b> Clear evidence of a long-running interplay between research and policy in this area was identified, which informed discourses and shaped the accepted mores of policy-makers, although it was difficult to make a direct connection between such influences and the decision to introduce the EMA. The study did, however, identify clear social science and ESRC contribution to the successful implementation of the EMA, specifically through the government evaluation of the initiative, which was conducted by a consortium of leading research institutions, including the Institute for Fiscal Studies, and relied heavily on social science expertise.</p> <p data-bbox="488 1219 2029 1321">By undertaking a cost-benefit analysis of the EMA in terms of increased attainment levels and participation in post-compulsory education, it was possible to estimate the benefits of the policy outcomes in terms of increased lifetime earnings of the target population. As well as influencing the decision to continue with the EMA by demonstrating its</p> |

effectiveness, the national evaluation also had an impact on its efficiency, by identifying the most cost-effective variant of the pilot scheme. The study calculated the benefits associated with these efficiencies and used them as a baseline for the assessing of the value of ESRC's contribution to the EMA, estimated to be around £10m, or one-eighth of the estimated net benefit of £80m.

**Pathways to Work Initiative:** Through the tracking back approach, the study identified clear evidence of the contribution of ESRC funded research and researchers to the design, development and implementation of the Pathways to Work initiative. This influence was found to be largely indirect, for example, by supporting leading researchers and research centres, and developing new methodologies and data sources – in particular, ESRC supported researchers made substantial contributions to the 2002 Green Paper that set out the proposals for Pathways to Work.

Through a detailed analysis of the publications that were identified as key research influences on the development of this Green Paper, an 'ESRC impact ratio' was developed, suggesting that ESRC funding was associated with 24% of the overall impact of Pathways to Work. This ratio was then applied to the benefits identified in the government evaluation's cost benefit analysis, giving an estimated ESRC contribution in the order of £2m, or 20%, over the period 2003-09.

#### *Impact through Partnership*

An award winning ESRC-supported Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) completed by the University of Manchester and Bradford and Airedale Teaching Primary Care Trust has resulted in cost savings of over £350,000 for the Trust and significantly improved access to healthcare for local residents<sup>ii</sup>.

The project has improved the effectiveness and efficiency of the Trust's logistical assets, through ensuring that all patient, staff and non-patient movements are carried out in the most appropriate and cost-effective manner. By addressing the transport issues that made access to healthcare difficult, the project has made major progress in improving access to health services, resulting in fewer missed appointments and a more efficient use of clinical resources.

In addition to providing a better service, financial savings have accrued from more effective contracting and the use of community transport in place of more expensive transport methods. The project is predicted to deliver direct savings worth over £1 million within three years.

The success of the project was recognised at the 2010 KTP Awards, where the project received the ESRC accolade for Best Application of Social or Management Science and the Regional award for Yorkshire and Humberside.

#### *Impact through Skilled People*

Whilst undertaking her ESRC/MRC studentship, Sarah Sowden was in close contact with exercise referral scheme

providers, commissioners and others undertaking research in this field. She became aware of work being undertaken by the British Heart Foundation to produce a toolkit for Exercise Referral Scheme referrers, commissioners and providers. As a result close engagement with the BHF during her research, her work has been cited in chapter 1 of the toolkit and she provided input to the consultation on the draft. Upon completion of her PhD, Dr Sowden returned to working in the NHS where she is a Specialty Registrar in Public Health. During her first placement at Northumberland Care Trust she was able to directly use some of the knowledge gained through her PhD research to assist in drawing up a standard service specification for commissioning of exercise referral services across Northumberland.

*Impact through World Class Social Science Research*

Research on organisational designs and new technologies amenable to micro-factory production undertaken by the ESRC Centre for Business Relationships, Accountability, Sustainability and Society (BRASS, Cardiff University) has informed a number of major international firms in the auto-industry and beyond, including Saab, Volvo, Toyota, VW and John Lewis, with General Motors adopting some of the ideas on smaller-scale production developed by the BRASS team.

*Impact through World Class Infrastructure*

Social class gaps in children's attainment levels become evident by the age of 22 months and remain constant thereafter. Recent evidence from the Millennium Cohort Study shows that vocabulary scores of the sons and daughters of graduates were 12 months ahead of those with the least-educated parents by the age of three. A second 'school readiness' assessment measuring understanding of colours, letters, numbers, sizes and shapes found a gap of 13 months between the two groups. The equivalent gaps for children in families living above and below the poverty line were 8 months for vocabulary and 9 months for school readiness. Such findings have influenced policymaking in terms of the former Government's *Every Child Matters* agenda, the Children's Plan and the 2009 White Paper, *Your child, your schools, our future*, particularly the drive to increase aspiration and attainment among disadvantaged groups, assistance for parents to support their child's learning and development, (including through adult and family learning and parenting support) and initiatives such as the Inspiring Communities programme which aims to raise the aspirations and educational attainment of young people in deprived areas.

*Impact through International Leadership*

In February 2009, the ESRC Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy, together with the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, published a report on 'An outline of the case for a 'green' stimulus'<sup>iii</sup>. The main findings of the report were reported by the media in many countries around the world. The main

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|--|--|
|  | <p>recommendation of the report, that about 20 per cent of economic recovery packages should be used to promote action against climate change, was used as a benchmark against which budgets were assessed.</p> <p>The authors were invited to meet with key decision-makers, such as the UK Committee on Climate Change, and to present their findings at workshops and conferences. The report also generated an invitation to produce a joint report with Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research on 'Towards a global green recovery' which was presented to the German Foreign Minister ahead of the G20 summit in London in April 2009. The summit communiqué included a commitment to "make the best possible use of investment funded by fiscal stimulus programmes towards the goal of building a resilient, sustainable, and green recovery". The research influenced the Government's position on developing the Green Economy in the last budget, and ongoing work at the Centre is examining the implications for climate change on UK economic policy.</p> |
|--|--|

### Notes

1. 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.

The ESRC's impact evaluation programme series is testing and implementing methods of identifying research impact which can help to mitigate 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 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.

Also reported here are a handful of the many available case studies from the Council's varied research, resources, training and knowledge transfer portfolio, which demonstrate how the ESRC is achieving impact from activities across the full range of its strategic objectives.

## INNOVATION OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

The results published this year show the ongoing success of the Council's increased emphasis on research partnerships and co-production of research is reflected in the increasing value of research contracts with external partners (Metric 3). The Council's knowledge exchange activities continue to play a major role in generating economic impact; in particular the ESRC placement scheme has been highly commended, and the overall number of placements reported this year (Metric 7) shows a significant increase in activity in this area.

| METRIC  | 2006/07    | 2007/08    | 2008/09    | 2009/10    |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <i>Common Metrics</i>                                       |            |            |            |            |
| 2. Income from Commercial Activity                          |            |            |            | £0.05M     |
| 3. Co-Funding/Collaborative Funding                         | £16.4M     | £22.7M     | £28M       | £30.9M     |
| 4. Knowledge Transfer Spend                                 | £2.3M      | £4M        | £3.9M      | £4.4M      |
| 5. External Representation in Main Governing Body (Council) | 43% (6/14) | 38% (5/13) | 33% (4/12) | 38% (5/13) |
| a) OGD/NDPBs  |            |            |            | 3          |
| b) Academia   |            |            |            | 8          |
| c) Business   |            |            |            | 1          |
| d) Voluntary Sector   |            |            |            | 1          |

### Notes

- Figures reported here reflect sales of the ESRC's magazine 'Britain in 2010', which was published in November 2009 and sold in a number of major retail outlets nationwide, including Tesco, Sainsbury's, Waitrose, Marks and Spencer and WH Smith. The ESRC does not directly undertake any other form of commercial activity. The Council's major investments do leverage a significant amount of external funding through contract research and consultancy, but this is funded directly to HEIs, and reporting to the Council is partial, so is not captured here. This metric was not reported against in previous Frameworks.
- 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.
- As reported in Annual Accounts
- Non-academic members of ESRC Council. The breakdown of membership was not reported in previous Frameworks.

| <b>METRIC</b>   | <b>2006/07</b> | <b>2007/08</b> | <b>2008/09</b> | <b>2009/10</b> |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>Optional Metrics</i>   |                |                |                |                |
| 6. Number and type of strategic partners (concordat partners)                             | 16             | 23             | 28             | 34             |
| 7. Placements   |                |                |                |                |
| a) Number of Researchers placed in user organisations                                     | 37             | 40             | 65             | 168            |
| b) Number of users placed in HEIs or ESRC research investments                            | 31             | 62             | 52             | 32             |
| 8. Number of co-funded research projects  | 99             | 120            | 155            | 170            |
| 9. Number of public policy and business-orientated seminars/workshops                     | 58             | 78             | 108            | 42             |
| 10. Number of workshops/seminars to help develop entrepreneurial/commercialisation skills | 6              | 6              | 6              | 5              |
| 11. External Representation in Other Governing Bodies (Boards)                            | 30% (28/92)    | 27% (24/88)    | 25% (24/95)    | 26% (25/97)    |
| a) OGD/NDPBs  |                |                |                | 13             |
| b) Academia   |                |                |                | 72             |
| c) Business   |                |                |                | 8              |
| d) Voluntary Sector   |                |                |                | 4              |

#### Notes

6. The Council maintains a number of strategic concordat partnerships with a range of research beneficiaries. Formal concordat partnerships involve 24 Government departments and NDPBs, along with all three Devolved Administrations, and other key organisations including the British Library and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO). In addition to the formal relationships reported here, the ESRC also has a number of less formal strategic partnerships with a range of organisations including the CBI and the Social Enterprise Coalition.
7. Reported here are both placements organised and part funded by ESRC through its placement scheme, and also placements organised by the Council's major investments. Under 7a, 31 placements were directly supported via the ESRC placement scheme, with the remaining 137 reported by ESRC investments in their annual reports, over four times as many as reported by investments in 2008/09 (43), reflecting a significant push in 2009/10 to encourage investments to take up placement opportunities. The majority of placements reported are under a month in duration. There has, however, been a fall in reverse placements (Metric 7b), due in part to some major investments which had previously supported a number of reverse placements coming to an end of their ESRC funding.

8. Figure includes all co-funded awards (including Knowledge Transfer grants).
9. The fall in the number of events reported reflects a shift in approach to funding knowledge exchange activities. The Knowledge Exchange Small Grants scheme was launched in 2009/10, and offers competitive funding for KE and impact-generating activity including organisation of the type of events reported here. 109 applications were received to the first round of the scheme, with 20 funded. Figures reported also do not include almost 500 seminars for policy, business and practitioners held by ESRC's major investments in 2009/10, an increase of over 200 such events from 2008/09.
10. The number reported here for 2009/10 reflects the ESRC's Knowledge Transfer Learning and Development workshops, representing an amalgamation of the former Getting Research into Policy and Practice (GRIPP) and Engaging with Business workshops. Each L&D workshop is tailored towards a specific experience level (PhD students, early-mid career researchers and experienced academics), and engagement with a specific audience (private, public and voluntary sector). These interactive workshops aim to equip researchers with the necessary tools to effectively engage and apply their research to these non-academic audiences.
11. Non-academic members of the ESRC's Boards and Committees. The breakdown in membership was not reported in previous frameworks. With effect from April 2010, the ESRC has refreshed its governance arrangements and has increased non-academic membership on all new Committees. Figures reported in 2010/11 will therefore reflect this new structure.



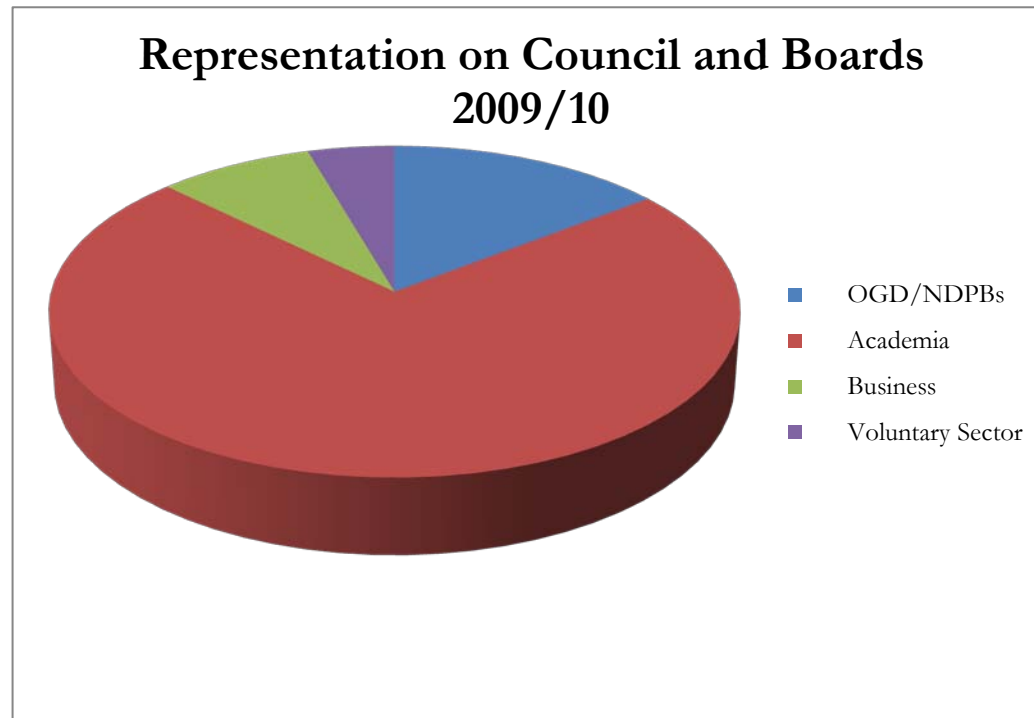


Figure 1: Representation on Governing Bodies (Council, Boards and Committees, Metrics 5 and 11)

## KNOWLEDGE GENERATION

The results published this year show that the quality of ESRC research remains exceptionally high, and improving year on year, with 38% of research projects rated ‘outstanding’ by independent reviewers (Metric 19a) and a significant rise in the number of refereed publications from ESRC research (Metric 12). More generally, UK Social science is making a strong international impact, exemplified this year in Sociology where an independent panel of international experts confirmed ‘UK sociology to be at the international forefront with its intellectual performance and research output’ (Metric 19b). The ESRC’s excellent PhD submission rates (Metric 16) are also maintained.

| METRIC                            | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| <i>Common Metrics</i>             |         |         |         |         |
| 12.Refered Publications           | 524     | 733     | 1066    | 1772    |
| 13.Principal Researchers          |         |         |         | 272     |
| 14.Research Fellows               |         |         |         | 138     |
| 15.Research Students              | 791     | 743     | 686     | 719     |
| 16.Submission Rates after 5 years | 84%     | 84%     | 85%     | 85%     |
| 17.Recruitment and Retention      |         |         |         |         |
| a) HE                             | 47%     | 51%     | 63%     | 62%     |
| b) Business                       |         |         |         | 10%     |
| c) Public Sector                  |         |         |         | 15%     |
| d) Other                          |         |         |         | 13%     |
| 18.Studentship Diversity          |         |         |         |         |
| a) Female                         | 54%     | 55%     | 55%     | 61%     |
| b) Ethnic Origin: White           | 90%     | 86%     | 91%     | 90%     |
| Other Ethnicity                   | 6%      | 5%      | 7%      | 8%      |
| Not provided                      | 4%      | 9%      | 2%      | 2%      |

## Notes

12. The ESRC's Research Catalogue records all publications produced during the award period, and captures post-award publications on a voluntary submission basis. The numbers of refereed publications notified in (calendar year) 2009 are reported here.
13. Data includes all PIs on all grants commencing activity in the period April 2009-March 2010 funded under the following schemes: Small and Standard Grants, Programme Grants, First Grants, Ventures, Networks, Centres (first and subsequent phases). Where a PI was awarded multiple grants within this period, only one has been counted. This metric was not reported against in previous Frameworks.
14. Data includes all Fellowship grants commencing activity in the period April 2009-March 2010 funded under the following schemes: Professorial Fellowships, Research Fellowships, Mid-Career Fellowships, Research Career Fellowships, Postdoctoral Fellowships, GU Fellowships and AIM Fellowships. Data excludes Placement Fellowships (reported under Metric 7) and Research Fellows funded as part of other Research Grants. No overlap with the figures reported for Metric 13. This metric was not reported against in previous Frameworks.
15. All new studentships funded through Quota, Competition, CASE and other studentship schemes, including Project-Linked Studentships.
16. Data from ESRC's Annual Studentship Submission Rate Survey, which reports on four-, five- and six-year submission rates.
17. Data extracted from the HESA Longitudinal Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education Survey (LDLHE) which provides data on student destination three years after graduation. Categories used in the LDLHE do not map exactly on to the reporting categories, so there may be a small margin of error in the public/private/other sector split reported in the breakdown. The breakdown between non-HE sectors was not reported against in previous Frameworks
18. Data based on a sample of approximately two thirds of new student awards for 2009/10.

| <b>METRIC</b>   | <b>2006/07</b>  | <b>2007/08</b>   | <b>2008/09</b>   | <b>2009/10</b>   |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| <i>Optional Metrics</i>   |   |  |  |  |
| 19. Quality of ESRC Research  |   |  |  |  |
| a) Evaluation Grades  | Outstanding 29%<br>Good 68%<br>Problematic 3%<br>Unacceptable 0%  | Outstanding 30%<br>Good 67%<br>Problematic 3%<br>Unacceptable 0%   | Outstanding 32%<br>Good 65%<br>Problematic 3%<br>Unacceptable 0%   | Outstanding 38%<br>Good 59%<br>Problematic 3%<br>Unacceptable 0%   |
| b) Relative Quality of UK Social Science (Findings from International Benchmarking Reviews) | UK Social Anthropology Review: 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 | UK Political Science and International Studies: 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. | UK Economics: the International Panel concluded that 'the research achievements of United Kingdom scholars are exceptional by World standards; the UK economics profession is more prominent than any other country's except for the United States [and] has been very influential in a number of important fields...', and it | UK Sociology: the international Panel concluded that 'sociology in the UK is in a healthy state, intellectually vibrant and endowed with capacity to respond vigorously to current and future challenges...we attest UK sociology to be at the international forefront with its intellectual performance and research output'. |

|                              |   |      |  |      |
|------------------------------|---|------|--|------|
|                              | critical scholarly and applied significance?. |      | has attained World leadership in micro-econometrics. |      |
| 20.Non-Refereed Publications | 5199  | 5810 | 4856   | 4088 |

### Notes

19. 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

For all reports received from November 2010, evaluation grades will be allocated on a new six point scale, with the grade awarded on the basis of both the scientific and economic and societal impact of the funded research.

19b. The Council reports here the headline findings from 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.

20. The Research Catalogue records all publications produced during the award period, and captures post-award publications on a voluntary submission basis. The numbers of non-refereed publications notified in (calendar year) 2009 are reported here. Non Refereed publications have fallen as the number of refereed publications has increased.

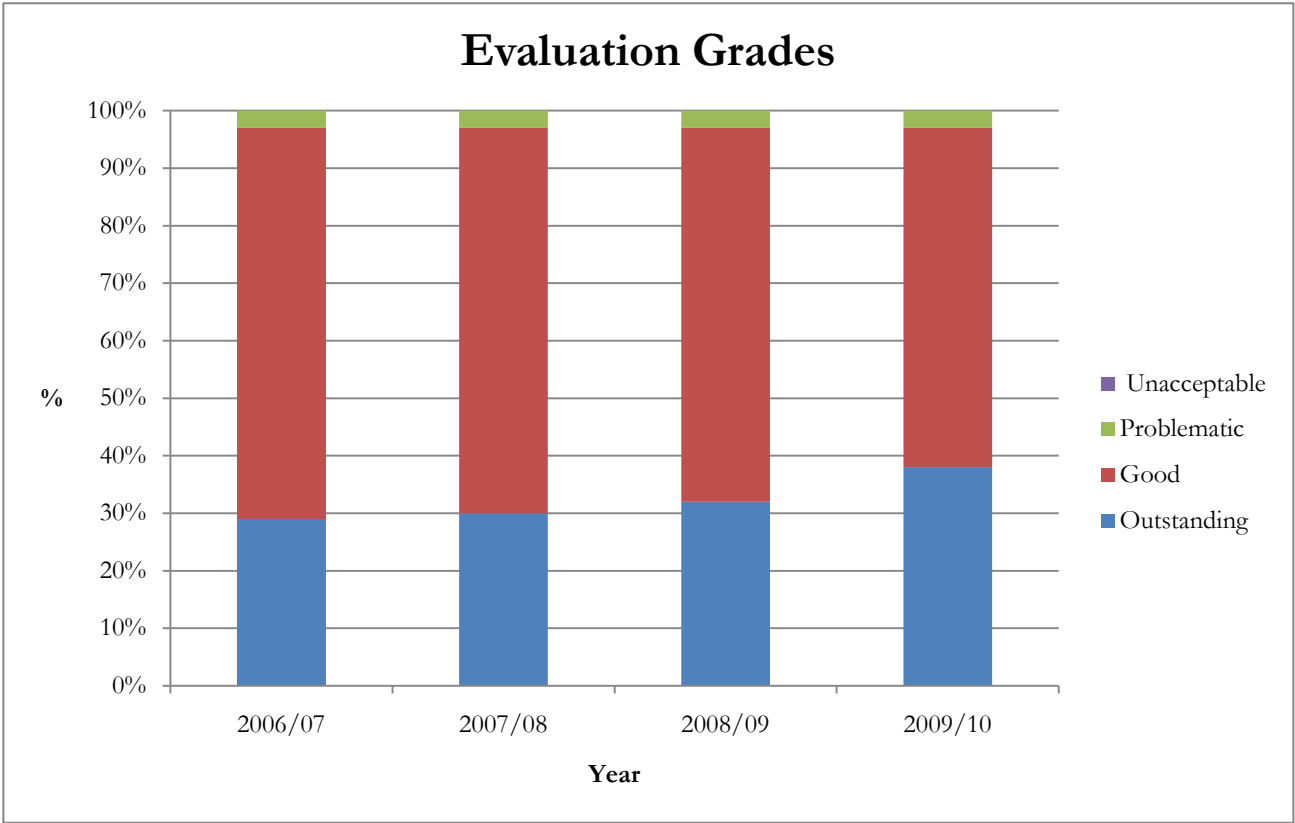


Figure 2: Quality of ESRC Research (Metric 19a)

## INVESTMENT IN THE RESEARCH BASE

The UK's social science research base is generally strong and the Council continues to make important strategic investments to maintain the strong academic performance reported above. In particular, we report here on funding for the ESRCs research resources (Metrics 28 and 29), which provide UK social scientists with essential tools to analyse economic and social issues. These resources are amongst the best in the world and represent a significant investment by the Council. Increasing spend on cross-Council programmes (Metric 31), demonstrates the important contribution the social science is able to make to interdisciplinary research, and rising external income as a proportion of the Council's total income (Metric 24) reflects an increasing emphasis on partnership working and co-production of research.

| METRIC                             | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10      |
|------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|
| <i>Common Metrics</i>              |         |         |         |              |
| 21. Grant-in-Aid received          | £140.5M | £135.0M | £178.0M | £178.7M      |
| 22. Other Income                   | £16.4M  | £21.2M  | £27.9M  | £30.9M       |
| 23. Total Income                   | £156.9M | £156.2M | £205.9M | £209.6M      |
| 24. % DEL and Other Income         | 90/10   | 86/14   | 86/14   | 85/15        |
| 25. Expenditure on Responsive Mode |         |         |         | 23% (£47.4M) |
| 26. New Capital Spend              |         |         |         | NA           |

### Notes

21. As per Annual Accounts.
22. As per Annual Accounts. All additional funding received.
23. As per Annual Accounts.
24. As per Annual Accounts.
25. Data reports on all responsive mode spend. This metric was not reported against in previous Frameworks.
26. Data for this metric is not available.

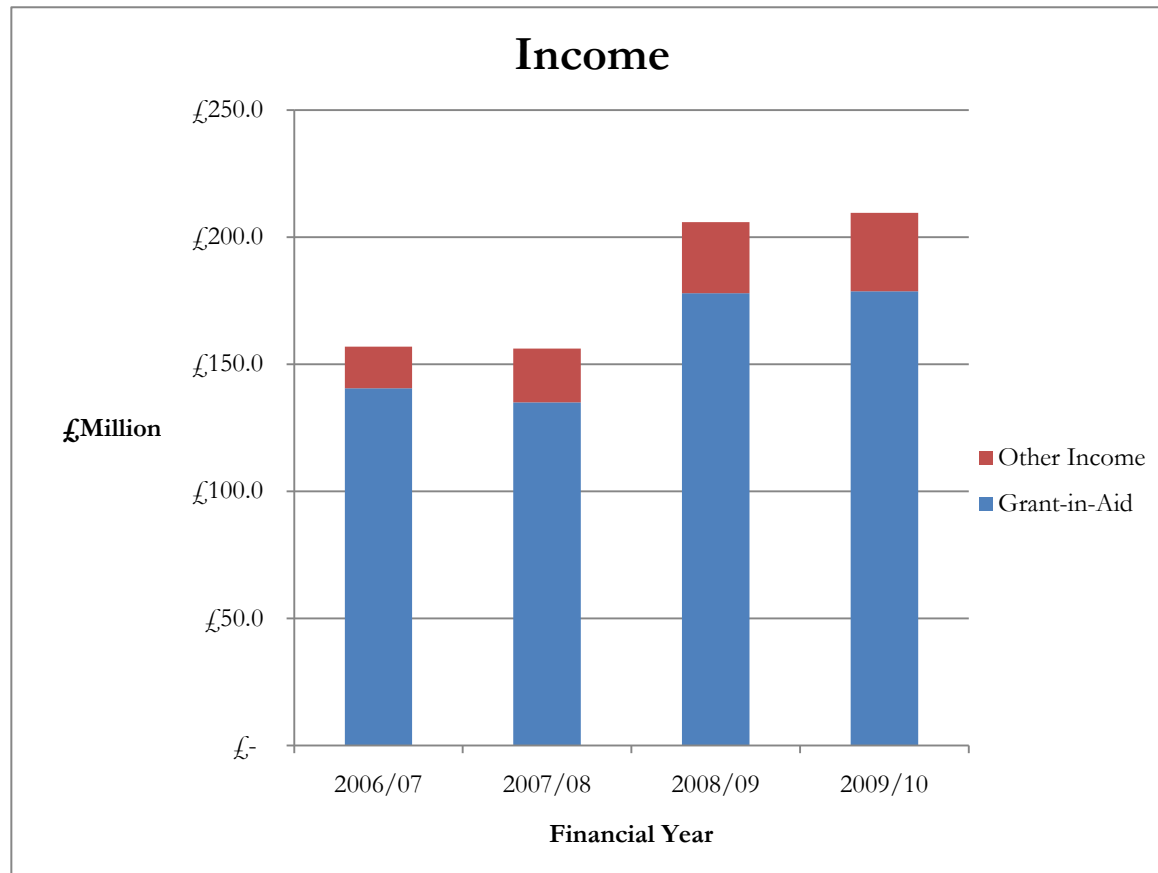


Figure 3: Total Income (Metrics 21-23)



| <b>METRIC</b>  | <b>2006/07</b> | <b>2007/08</b> | <b>2008/09</b> | <b>2009/10</b> |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>Optional Metrics</i>  |                |                |                |                |
| 27.Savings made in proportion of expenditure attributable to admin costs | £0.4M          | £0.6M          | £0.05M         | £0.5M          |
| 28.Value of ESRC Support for new Research Resources                      | £12.2M         | £23.8M         | £16.8M         | £4M            |
| 29.Proportion of ESRC expenditure dedicated to Research Resources        | 11%            | 9.5%           | 10.40%         | 11.90%         |
| 30.Level of usage of ESRC Research Resources                             |                |                |                |                |
| a) Active Registered Users   | 46,682         | 47,635         | 46,304         | 41,783         |
| b) Datasets delivered  | 49,169         | 47,934         | 48,580         | 50,941         |
| 31.Value of ESRC support for Cross-Council Programmes                    | £1.3M          | £1.8M          | £25.1M         | £32M           |

#### Notes

27. From Gershon return
28. We report here the value of new Resources investment for 2009/10. The lower figure in comparison to previous years reflects the fact that no commissioning for major, long-term resources investment (e.g. *Understanding Society*) took place in the reporting year.
29. This figure shows the proportion of ESRC's expenditure that is dedicated to research resources and facilities.
30. 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 past year has seen a further decline in the number of active registered users. However, new registrations have increased by over 3000 (see chart below), and there has been a continuing trend in the number of datasets delivered, due in part to closer monitoring of grantholders through the End of Award process, and the introduction of sanctions for failure to offer datasets to ESDS.
31. Robust data on the ESRC contribution to cross-Council has only been available since 2008/09. For 2009/10, spend on cross-Council programmes represented approximately 15% of ESRC expenditure.

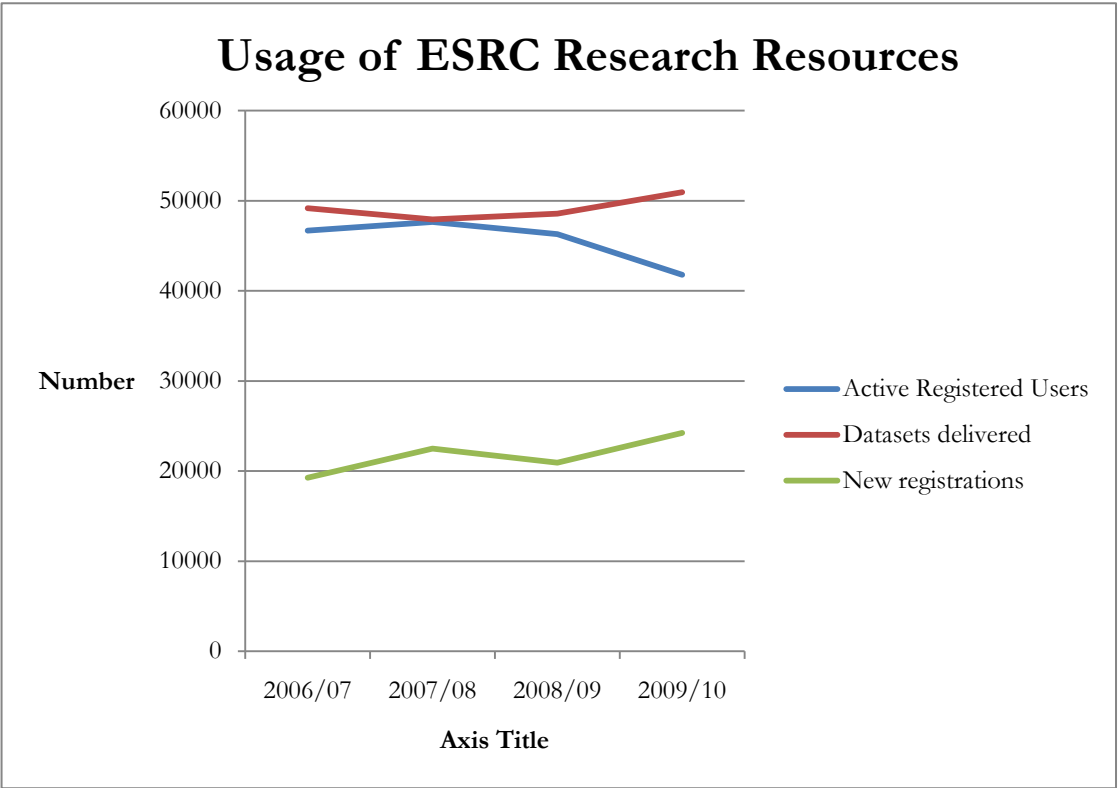


Figure 4: Level of usage of ESRC Research Resources (Metric 30)

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

The ESRC's Festival of Social Science continues to be an important vehicle for discussing the impact and contribution of the social sciences with a wide variety of people, and over 18000 engaged with this year's event (Metric 33a), which represents a substantial increase on the previous Festival. In addition to the activities reported here, ESRC also continues to work closely with other Councils through the RCUK Public Engagement with Research (PER) unit, which supported £2.5m of public engagement activities in 2009/10.

| <b>METRIC</b>                    | <b>2006/07</b> | <b>2007/08</b> | <b>2008/09</b> | <b>2009/10</b> |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>Common Metrics</i>            |                |                |                |                |
| 32.Funding for Public Engagement |                |                |                | £0.2Mil        |

### Notes

32. The figure quoted for 2009/10 includes funding for the Festival, Dishonesty Project at British Science Festival and the Social Science for schools resource. Spending on the LWEC debates and GU Schools Network which were facilitated by ESRC cost a further £0.08M, but this was funded through cross-Council Programme budgets. The figure does not capture any spending on public engagement activity by ESRC investments.

| <b>METRIC</b>   | <b>2006/07</b> | <b>2007/08</b> | <b>2008/09</b> | <b>2009/10</b> |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>Optional Metrics</i>   |                |                |                |                |
| 33.Number of ESRC interactions focussed on public participation and engagement: |                |                |                |                |
| a) Attendance at Festival of Social Science                                     | c4800          | c9400          | c5000          | c18000         |
| b) Interactions via other public events/activities                              | 475            |                |                | c16850         |
| 34.Number of researchers trained in media/public engagement skills              | 257            | 246            | 154            | 313            |

### Notes

- 33a The Festival of Social Science included 127 events throughout Britain during National Science and Engineering Week (March 2010). Figures reported for 2007/08 include around 4600 participants in the Great Land Use Debate.
- 33b 2006/07 figures include attendance at ESRC event at BA festival and attendance at annual debates. 2009/10 figures include involvement in Dishonesty Project at British Science Festival (c15,000 participants in total for an online experiment and follow-up lecture); the Global Uncertainties School Network, which remains ongoing until January 2011 and offers schools an opportunity to engage with issues around GU research areas (c1600 participants); and the Living with Environmental Change Debates, which involved around 250 participants at two debates. Figures presented do not include events organised by the ESRC's investments. Additional ESRC activities not reported here include the Social Science for Schools resource, which attracted over 11,000 visitors to the website in 2009/10, and the publication of 'Britain In 2010', which sold 16,000 copies (a 129% increase from the first annual issue), with an additional 16,000+ copies distributed free of charge to all sixth form schools and colleges, along with selected businesses, voluntary organisations and government.
- 34 The ESRC runs media training sessions which are practical and informative and aim to equip researchers with skills to disseminate their research to the public via the media. The ESRC runs different sessions to accommodate the range of researchers funded.  
Stream 1: Training aimed at PhD & Post Doc researchers. (Number trained in 09/10: 194)  
Stream 2: Training aimed at senior researchers. (Number trained in 09/10: 53)  
Stream 3: Media training aimed at ESRC large Investments. (Number trained in 09/10: 66)  
Media training provision is currently under review, so figures reported in 2010/11 are likely to be quite different. The ESRC also provide informal training in media and PE on an ongoing basis, but especially during festival, which is not captured here.

<sup>i</sup> <http://www.esrc.ac.uk/impacts-and-findings/impact-assessment/economic-impact-evaluation.aspx>

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- ii <http://www.esrc.ac.uk/news-and-events/press-releases/2876/award-winning-study-helps-flashing-lights-go-green.aspx>
- iii <http://www.ccecp.ac.uk/Publications/Policy/briefs.aspx>