



Scottish Funding Council  
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

## Consultation on the design of the UK's future research assessment system

**SFC Consultation**

Issue Date: 22 February 2022

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Issue date: 22 March 2022

Deadline: 6 May 2022

Reference: SFC/CN/02/2022

Summary: The four UK higher education funding bodies are consulting on the design of the UK's next research assessment system, as part of the Future Research Assessment Programme (FRAP).

FAO: Principals and Vice-Principals (Research) of Scotland's universities

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## Consultation on the design of the UK's future research assessment system

1. The four UK higher education funding bodies are consulting on the design of the UK's next research assessment system, as part of the Future Research Assessment Programme (FRAP).
2. The Programme is a significant piece of work aimed at exploring possible approaches to the assessment of UK higher education research performance. It seeks to identify those that can encourage and strengthen the emphasis on delivering excellent research and impact, and support a positive research culture, while simplifying and reducing the administrative burden on the HE sector.
3. Responses to this consultation will be considered alongside a range of internal and commissioned evaluations, feedback on the current REF exercise, and advice from the Programme's International Advisory Group. Decisions on the design of the next exercise will be taken by the four funding bodies.
4. We invite responses from higher education institutions and other individuals, groups and organisations with an interest in the conduct, quality, funding or use of research. This includes businesses, government and public sector bodies, charities and other third sector organisations.
5. The full consultation document is available at Annex A.
6. Responses to the consultation should be made using the online form provided available alongside this consultation at <https://www.jisc.ac.uk/future-research-assessment-programme/consultation> by noon on **Friday 6 May 2022**.

### Further information

7. Any questions about this letter should be addressed to Hazel McGraw, email: [hmcgraw@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:hmcgraw@sfc.ac.uk).



**Karen Watt**  
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