



Updates from the RQI team

Welcome to this newsletter edition from the Research Quality and Impact team. Please see important news items and reminders below. You can view all previous newsletters on our [Updates from the RQI team page](#).

News

Dominic Dean leaving Sussex via VLS

Dom would like to share that he will be leaving Sussex through the VL scheme at the end of July. Dom would like to thank all the many colleagues across the University with whom he has worked over the years, and he wishes everyone every success with the REF2029 submission.

Appointments made to lead REF2029's 34 Sub-Panels

The four UK higher education funding bodies, working with the REF Main Panel Chairs and Advisory Panel members, have appointed chairs and deputy chairs for the 34 expert sub-panels that will assess research in REF2029. [You can view the appointments here](#).

The panel chairs and deputy chairs will lead their [units of assessment](#) through the criteria setting phase, beginning later this year, and on through to the final assessment. Work is underway to appoint the full panels, ensuring that membership reflects the full range of required expertise. These appointments will be announced in summer 2025.

Let us know if you have applied to be a REF panellist

Please email rqi@sussex.ac.uk to let us know if you have applied to be a REF2029 panellist, letting us know which panel you have applied to.

Updates to REF OA policy & FAQs

The REF team have made some minor changes and clarifications to their OA policy and accompanying FAQ page to reflect feedback from the sector. You can see the changes in the [change log here](#).

A reminder that our previous newsletter included a slide summarising the REF OA requirements for authors, which you are encouraged to share within your School/Faculty.

Fellowships demonstrating research independence for REF2029 volume measure

The REF Team have released a [list of fellowships](#) that they regard as definitively indicating that holders of these fellowships are independent researchers. This list will be incorporated into the University's final position on determining the independence of research-only staff for REF2029; a proposal on the latter has been recently circulated for consultation with members of the HESA-REF Task and Finish Group, and the position and associated processes will be set out in our Code of Practice for REF2029.

Code of Practice

Each institution that submits to the REF is required to develop a REF Code of Practice, to have this reviewed and approved by the REF Team (at Research England), and to publish it online. This is a key governance document that commits the University to developing our REF submission in a fair, transparent, and robust manner. Following the release of the REF Team's [template and guidance for Codes of Practice in REF2029](#), the drafting of Sussex's Code of Practice for REF2029 has now begun and is being led by RQI with oversight from PVC Keith Jones and the REF Steering Group. An early draft of the Code of Practice will be discussed at the next meeting of the University Research and Innovation Committee (URIC).

Action Required

UoA Targets

Following the recent REF Review Days, each UoA Lead (and other colleagues involved at UoA level as appropriate) is asked to review their previously stated targets for REF2029, to consider whether these are still appropriate, and to update them if/as necessary. These are not final targets, and you will remain able to amend them for the foreseeable future, but it is useful for all involved to have up-to-date REF targets, and UEB does use them as context to understand progress in our preparations for REF2029. Please provide your updated targets by EOD Friday 11 July 2025.

Your target spreadsheets are saved in your RQI/UoA Box folders. Your 2024 targets have been copied into a new tab titled '2025 targets'. Please edit this tab to reflect any changes in your targets. If there is no change in your targets, please leave this tab as-is.

Post-Faculty REF Review Day Action Plans

Following the recent Faculty REF Review Days, each Faculty is asked to complete an action plan, which includes sections on Contribution to Knowledge and Understanding, Engagement and Impact, and People, Culture and Environment. You are asked to input one or more actions in each section and provide a date by which you intend to complete the action(s). The action plans are saved in the RQI/Faculty Box folders. We would encourage ADRIs to complete the action plan or sign off the action plan once it has been completed. Please complete your action plans by EOD Friday 11 July 2025.

If you have any questions about completing your action plans, please contact rqi@sussex.ac.uk.

The notes from each Faculty REF Review Day will be available via box soon; we will let each Faculty know when they are available.

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If you do not wish to be included in this distribution list or would like an individual or team to be added, please reply to this email with details.

[Research Quality and Impact Team](#)

Research and Innovation

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