



Updates from the RQI team

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

News

Contribution to Knowledge & Understanding Guidance Released

REF released their latest guidance on the Contribution to Knowledge and Understanding (formerly Outputs) section of the REF2029 submission last month. Although REF2029 guidance will be formally finalised in 2026, and therefore this guidance module may be subject to small revisions, the guidance does provide useful clarity.

You can [read the guidance in full here](#), and RQI's CKU Summary Note attached to this email. Please do let the RQI team know if you have any questions.

During REF2021 preparations, the RQI team maintained a UoA Leads Network which provided opportunities to discuss REF preparations and developments, such as REF guidance releases, and share best practices across the University. The RQI team will be setting up a UoA Leads Teams channel to provide an informal forum for these discussions as well as the opportunity to arrange regular or ad hoc meetings if the group feels these would be beneficial.

Elements Assessment Module REF Steering Group

Symplectic, the providers of Elements, are holding a REF Steering Group meeting in early September, where they plan to share their plans for REF2029 functionality in the Elements. Members of the RQI team and the Library's Research & Open Scholarship team will attend and any relevant information and updates will be shared via this newsletter.

Impact Support Network Meetings – Autumn 2025

After a successful re-launch this year, the regular meetings for the Sussex Impact Support Network have been postponed until the Autumn term to allow for as many participants as possible to attend. The next session will be on Knowledge Exchange and engaging with commercial partners. Details of the exact date and venue will follow.

A goodbye message from Dominic Dean

I would like to thank all the many colleagues with whom I have worked on REF and related matters at Sussex over the years. Even though aspects of REF can be challenging at times, we've always had a great collegiate spirit between ourselves in the central team and our academic and PS colleagues in the Faculties and Schools and other divisions, notably the Library - and this has enabled some great successes, especially in REF2021 when we achieved some excellent results despite the challenges of the Covid period. I shall miss the thoughtful, committed, pragmatic and good-humoured approach that colleagues across the University have consistently brought to our shared work on REF; and it's been a great honour and pleasure to get to know many of you, and the important research and impact work that you do, through this.

I would also like to say a very special thanks to my immediate colleagues in RIQI, especially to Jen, Chris and James as they continue to take forward REF2029 preparations under Mark's

guidance, and to former RQI team members Katherine Blackadder and Michelle Stonestreet, who contributed so much to making our REF2021 submission happen.

I wish Sussex every success in REF2029 and wish all of you personally all the best for the future.

Dom

Actions

Open Access Webpages

The [Library's Open Access webpages](#) are regularly maintained by the Research & Open Scholarship team and contain up to date OA information relating to REF, research funders and institutional publishing deals and discounts. These pages should be the only source of Open Access information across the University. If your School/area has their own detailed OA webpages, we would encourage you to edit the page(s) to simply link to the Library's OA pages. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the RQI team.

Useful Resources

[Open Access](#)

[Assessment Module Guide](#)

[Impact Support](#)

[About the REF](#)

[Worktribe Guide](#)

[Research Dashboard Information](#)

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