



## 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

#### REF2029 Internal Timeline Planning

The RIQI Team and DPVC Seb Oliver are currently working to produce an overarching institutional timeline for REF preparations at Sussex, including key external deadlines and internal processes of review, support and development. We are aiming to share the timeline early in the new year.

#### REF2029 main panel and sub-panel recruitment to launch in December

The REF team are working to launch the recruitment process for REF2029 main and sub-panels in December. The panels will be composed of leading experts in their disciplines and play a crucial role in REF, with responsibility for assessing the quality of submissions against the established criteria.

For REF2029, the panel recruitment process is moving to open applications, where anyone can submit their own application rather than being nominated by a sector body. By adopting this approach, REF are aiming to enhance transparency, broaden the pool of potential applicants, and ensure that the panels reflect the diversity of expertise within each discipline.

Panel membership is very important for understanding the REF process and improving our performance at UoA and institutional level, as well as being an important contribution that individuals can make to their disciplines at a national level. Please do consider putting yourselves forward for these panels and encouraging your colleagues to do so too.

If you are considering applying for the REF main/sub-panels, we would encourage you to let the RQI team know as it will be very useful for us to understand where people are thinking of applying. [You can read more about panel recruitment here.](#)

## Open Access Compliance Dashboards

The Research & Open Scholarship team in the Library have created School-specific Open Access compliance dashboards, which can be found in the Reporting Hub area of Elements. To access, navigate to the [Reporting Hub](#), type in your School name/acronym and select your OA Compliance Report. You can filter by date and department before downloading the report.

These dashboard reports have been designed to be more concise and easier to read than Elements' standard OA Monitor report; they show only pertinent metadata and include a clear non-compliance reason where applicable.

If you have any questions about REF Open Access compliance, please contact the SRO team at [sro@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:sro@sussex.ac.uk).

Thank you to Jack Coull in the ROS team for his work creating these dashboards.

## Assessment Module Training Videos

Training videos with voiceover and captions have been added to the [Elements Assessment Module guidance pages](#). The following topics are available:

- Assessment module overview
- Using the Assessment Module – for authors & reviewers
- Bulk uploading review data

A video on the Management Area of the assessment module will be uploaded shortly.

The videos can be found on the relevant page of the guide, and on a [dedicated training videos page here](#). On this page you can also download the video slides, a review scores template spreadsheet and an annotated/dummy example bulk upload spreadsheet, both of which include instructions on where to find the required information to complete a bulk upload of review data.

Please contact [rqi@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:rqi@sussex.ac.uk) with any assessment module queries and requests for one-on-one or group training sessions.

## REF Reviews

### Engagement & Impact and Contributions to Knowledge & Understanding Reviews

The deadlines for uploading Unit templates to the Engagement and Impact Review (31 October), and output review data to the Elements Assessment Module (15 November) have now passed. Thank you to all colleagues for their efforts in contributing to these reviews; they are valuable exercises in assuring our preparedness for the REF and your work is sincerely appreciated. The RQI team are now completing their assessment of the reviews and working to arrange discussion meetings with Units for next steps.

## REF Review meetings format

Christine Rhodes has been/will be in contact with Faculties to schedule REF Review Meetings, which will include discussions on Engagement & Impact and Contributions to Knowledge & Understanding, as well as a workshop on People, Culture & Environment. As these are Faculty-level meetings including all UoAs in each faculty, they will be extended sessions (a full day for Social Sciences and for Science, Engineering and Medicine, and a half day for MAH and the Business School) and the Executive Dean will participate in key parts of the day.

The PCE workshops will be an opportunity to find out more about the design of the new assessment (from what we know so far), to understand more about initiatives to build positive research cultures at Sussex, and to learn about work from across the sector. The aim of discussions will be to enable Faculties/UoAs to consider the research culture challenges they want to tackle and start to plan activity to bring about change they want to see.

We (via Christine) are offering a selection of dates, and sessions will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis.

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

Falmer House

[rqi@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:rqi@sussex.ac.uk)

<https://twitter.com/SussexUniRQI>