

**Implementation of the
Research Concordat in Scotland**

Professor David Gani
Research Policy and Strategy



 Scottish Funding Council
Promoting further and higher education



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Implementing in Scotland

- Scottish signatories include:
 - Scottish Funding Council
 - Scottish Government Health Directorates
- SFC does not employ researchers ...
- But our fundable bodies do
- Role of HEIs is crucial
- UK wide sign up means level playing field



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rae2008
Research Assessment Exercise
2008: the outcome

December 2008
HEFCS
HEFCW
Department of Education and Training



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Outcome of RAE2008

- Confirms Scotland's strong research base
- Performance strong across breadth
- Performance strong in areas of pools
- All institutions conducting world-leading research
- World leading research in 64 out of 65 (submitted) UoAs
- 15 per cent rated at 4* in RAE2008 (10% in RAE2001 (5*))
- Very low levels of '0' rated research
- Post-92 institutions and SSIs did well.



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What does this mean for early career researchers?

- Highly competitive environment
- Even greater need to support and nurture
- What can SFC do to help?
- One way is through funding model



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Research Excellence Grant (REG)

- From AY2009-10
- Replacement for QR and RDFG
- Developed after consultation with Universities Scotland
- Key guiding principles



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Principles of REG

- Support the research base in Scottish universities
- Ensure that the research base remains globally competitive and attractive to the best researchers
- Recognise and encourage business support by universities
- Uphold the principles of the Dual Support system
- Address our responsibilities to early career researchers, as identified in the Concordat, to which the Council is a signatory
- Ensure support for the development and potential of researchers, including PGRs, as articulated through the new UK-wide Vitae Programme
- Anticipate greater future use of metrics



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What does it mean?

1* will be supported through REG



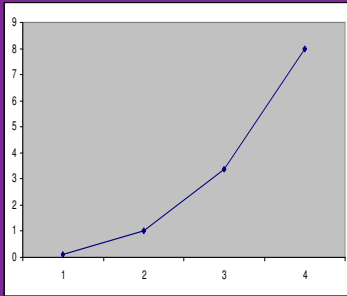
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But the curve will be steep ...

Quality rating in RAE2008	2009-10 weighting (cubic mean)
Unclassified	0
1*	0.125
2*	1
3*	3.375
4*	8



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The rest of the policy landscape



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**WEALTHIER & FAIRER •
SMARTER • HEALTHIER • SAFER
& STRONGER • GREENER**

...to focus the Government and public services on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth.

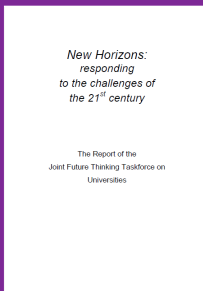
November 2007



SFC should:

- Support research infrastructure which underpins existing and emerging world-class science.
- Prioritise both research excellence and strategic knowledge exchange.
- Increase support for knowledge exchange in order to support - with *SE* and *HIE* ...
- Work with universities to develop the research pooling model ...
- ...

November 2008



*New Horizons:
responding
to the challenges of
the 21st century*

The Report of the
Joint Future Thinking Taskforce on
Universities



- Horizon Fund
- General Fund
- Outcome Agreements
- Lighter Touch



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HFU

- Agent of change
- Aligned to key Government strategies and priorities
- Employability and skills interventions
- Access and progression
- World class research
- Knowledge transfer and innovation
- Differentiation, diversity and specialisms
- Collaboration



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Plus, of course

- The Concordat
- Vitae
- European Charter and Code



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How to implement

- Embed personal and professional development in university culture
- Ensure buy-in
- Communicate what support is available
- Contribute clearly to university strategy and the needs of stakeholders
- Evaluate what is provided
- Research staff societies ?



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How can we help?

- Support through our funding model
- Recognition of light touch governance
- SFC represented on Strategy Group and Executive group
- Workshops on PGR experience
- And a proposed new Forum ...



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Scottish Researcher Career Coordination Forum

- Bring together key players from HEIs, SFC and others
- Identify ways in which Concordat and related issues can be taken forward:
 - Coordinate support for career development
 - Embed good practice
 - Build consensus
 - Provide connectivity

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