



# Terms of Reference for the Nurse Review

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**The purpose of the Nurse Review is to examine, and provide recommendations on, how Research Councils can evolve to support research in the most effective ways, reflecting the requirements to secure excellence, promote collaboration and allow agility, and in ways that best contribute to sustainable growth.**

Questions which Sir Paul Nurse has been asked to consider as part of his review are:

- Is the balance between investigator-led and strategically-focused funding appropriate, and do the right mechanisms exist for making strategic choices?
- Within each Research Council is the balance of funding well-judged between support of individual investigators, support of teams and support of equipment and infrastructure?
- How should the Research Councils take account of wider national interests including regional balance and the local and national economic impact of applied research?
- Is the balance of funding between different Research Councils optimal?
- Do they adequately support interdisciplinary research?
- Are the right arrangements in place to ensure optimal funding for research that crosses disciplinary boundaries?
- Are the divisions of scientific subject areas between the research councils appropriate?
- What are the gaps or holes in the funded portfolios of the research councils?
- How can the RCs catalyse collaboration between institutions?
- Should the funding of research councils be directed almost exclusively to the university sector, with organisations such as the Meteorological

Office, the Health and Safety Laboratories and the National Physical Laboratory out of scope?

- How should the work of the research councils integrate most effectively with the work of agencies funding innovation, such as Innovate UK, and with the work funded by Departmental research and development budgets?



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