

COUNCIL

21 APRIL 2009

ELIGIBILITY FOR RESPONSIVE MODE FUNDING

SUMMARY

Independent Research Organisation (IRO) status confers eligibility for access to research funding on institutions which are not Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) or Research Council institutes. Council has set up a sub-group to assess applications for IRO status. This paper reports on the outcome of recent applications and asks Council to continue this means of assessment.

ACTIONS

Council is invited to:

- a) **NOTE** the decisions of the sub-group on recent IRO applications
- b) **NOTE** ongoing discussions regarding the Scottish Government institutes
- c) **AGREE** to continue the current process of assessment of IRO applications by a sub-group of Council

Research, Innovation and Skills Directorate
April 2009

BACKGROUND

1. At its meeting in February 2007, Council agreed it would wish to assume responsibility for awarding BBSRC IRO (Independent Research Organisation) status as it had done for the now superseded Academic Analogue status. This status confirms full or partial eligibility to receive research grant funding from BBSRC on institutions other than Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Research Council (RC) institutes. It was further agreed that matters of eligibility in relation to applications for IRO status should be handled by a sub-group of Council until the end of 2007, with actions brought to Council for note. It was subsequently agreed at the December 2007 meeting that this mechanism should continue until at least the end of 2008.
2. This paper presents the recommendations of the sub-group on applications received, and discusses the way forward in consideration of further any applications. The membership of the Council sub-group is at **Annex 1**.

CONDITIONS FOR GRANTING IRO STATUS

3. The eligibility terms for IRO status are RCUK wide, according to criteria established in October 2006, and an application process has been established to enable organisations to apply to be considered. In order to be eligible for access to RC funding an institution must normally not receive its principal funding for research from a government source other than the RCs. To then gain access to grants applicants have to additionally demonstrate they have a high quality research capability which is not widely represented in the HEI or research council institute sector and which is of clear benefit to the health of the research base; and/or specialist services, expertise or research training on which HEI or research council institute research programmes depend. Various exceptions are mentioned in the 2006 criteria – the only ones that affect BBSRC relate to the botanical gardens and museums and to NHS trusts. **Annex 2** lists the organisations currently awarded IRO status by BBSRC.

DECISIONS ON APPLICATIONS FOR IRO STATUS

4. *This section relates to individual applications and is recorded separately.*

THE SCOTTISH INSTITUTES

5. *This section relates to work in progress.*
6. *This section relates to work in progress.*
7. *This section relates to work in progress.*

FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF IRO APPLICATIONS

8. *This section relates to work in progress.*
9. *This section relates to work in progress.*

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MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL IRO SUB-GROUP

Professor Anne Dell	Imperial
Professor Christopher Gilligan	Cambridge
Professor Quintin McKellar	RVC
Professor Peter Fryer	Birmingham

The sub-group is an *ad hoc* body convened from time to time with membership drawn from Council according to the scientific focus of the applications received. It deals with applications by correspondence.

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS ELIGIBLE FOR BBSRC FUNDING

Eligible for Managed Mode Calls for Proposals and Responsive Mode Committee Grants

Animal Health Trust
European Bioinformatics Institute
Marine Biological Association
The Natural History Museum
National Institute of Agricultural Botany
Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute
Institute of Zoology *

Eligible for Managed Mode Calls for Proposals only

East Malling Research
NCSR

Previously Eligible but Requiring Review

CABI *
University of Buckingham *
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine *

* These institutions previously enjoyed a level of academic analogue status but need to reapply for IRO status. The Institute of Zoology has already done this.

A list of all the Research Councils IROs may be found on the RCUK website at <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/research/eligibility.htm>