Professor David Sweeney

Executive Chair of Research England

David has been active in Open Access for a long time, having responsibility for a university library since 1997. David convened the Finch Group Report which reviewed Open Access in the UK in 2012 and has also been engaged in Coalition S from the beginning.

Whilst Director of HEFCE, he led the development and implementation of the Research Excellence Framework. He was responsible for research policy and funding, knowledge exchange and university/business relations.

As the Executive Chair of Research England, a council established as part of UK Research and Innovation alongside the seven disciplinary Research Councils and the UK Innovation Agency, David has particular responsibilities for Place (Regional Funding), Commercialisation and Open Science.

David has been invited to visit many countries to advise on research assessment and funding, particularly with respect to research impact. He is also a member of the Executive Steering Group for Plan S, the international initiative on full and immediate open access to research publications.

Abstract of Presentation

The presentation will set out the UK's approach to open science, covering three themes: open access to publications, open research data, and open culture. The talk will include an overview of the recent UK Research and Innovation open access policy review and the approach for research articles and monographs; policy directions for the sharing of research data to support integrity, collaboration and innovation, and how this is being addressed via skills and infrastructure investment, and finally it will outline a key pillar to achieving open, transparent and impactful research via modernising research reward and incentives. UKRI is pursuing this via an approach of responsible research assessment and doing so in collaboration with a range of stakeholders across the UK and globally. Latterly the benefits of open science have been seen during the current pandemic and assuring lessons are learned is an additional priority, in particular how to support rapid research sharing and collaboration, and ensuring that research data is as open as possible and as secure as necessary; the presentation will also reflect on some of the priorities that have emerged from this experience.