

RESPONSIBLE REF RESULTS WORKSHOP – 13.01.2021

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM CHAT

- **Will all the results sent on 10 May be sent through the submission system too?**
 - Yes
- **Will representative bodies such as GuildHE be receiving the results with the Press contacts?**
 - Yes, we can provide results to Guild HE and other external stakeholders with the press - indeed, I think several such stakeholders came to the 2014 press conference.
- **Will the briefing for HEI press officers be organised via institutional REF contacts? The relevant department that manages research comms and press engagement will vary between institutions.**
 - Yes, we'll be in contact with institutional REF contacts to arrange the press officers briefing in the first instance.
- **Will testing be one on the submission system so that we can be confident that we won't have any difficulties accessing the data. Every HEI in the UK will be accessing the system at the same time and the potential for the system to crash or be very slow is considerable**
 - yes, load testing is one of our priorities to ensure the system stands up to very heavy use
- **Is there a reason the results are published / emargo lifted at 00.01 on 12th May rather than within working hours? What time will each of the data releases be done on 9th and 10th?**
 - Timings for release have been based on precedent from 2014 and also to meet the morning media round, as we expect there will be some media attention. Releases on the 9/10th tbc, but these will be in working hours.
 - A question was asked on how many authorised submitters each HEI will be allowed: it will be the same as for submissions, so 2.
- **The colours of the different star ratings are all very similar - any chance of changing the colours to make them more distinctive?**
 - Thanks for the feedback on colour contrasts!
- **Is the public access to results going to look like the tool shown here?**
 - yes, this is the tool that will be on the REF website
- **Is there any communications toolkit or guidance about how we are permitted to communicate (we have a far wider team than press)**
 - that's a really good suggestion, I've taken note to see what we can do

- **Will the Staff data be downloadable in excel too?**
 - the staff data (FTE and % eligible) is just within the data for the sub-profiles, so it will be in those spreadsheets when you download them. It will appear in it's own columns so you can analyse that way though.
- **Would a potential communications guidance encourage users to avoid comparisons with REF2014 results considering how the process and rules have evolved, in particular in relation to impact?**
 - it's not so much that comparisons with REF2014 must not be made but there must be a number of caveats.
 - We are giving careful thought to messaging around comparisons between 2014 and 2021 results
- **Would it be possible to confirm the calculation being used for % staff submission? What are the technical details of working that out, what data is being used, when does rounding take place etc.?**
 - It's a good question. The simple answer is that it compares the number of staff submitted against HEI HESA returns. On the more technical level, I'd need to just check