Dear Academic and Research Staff,

Welcome to the third REF newsletter of the AY 2022/23 and if you missed the first two, the newsletters can be found [here](https://staff.napier.ac.uk/services/research-innovation-office/ref/Pages/You%20Said%2C%20We%20Listened.aspx).

**Future Research Assessment Programme - Initial Decisions Published.**

The Future Research Assessment Programme (FRAP) was launched by the four funding bodies in May 2021 to evaluate REF2021 and explore possible future approaches to the assessment of UK higher education research performance.

The UK REF team published the initial decisions in June 2023. The key decisions include:

* The next exercise will be conducted in 2028 with institutions providing their submissions in late 2027.
* REF 2028 will have an expanded definition of research excellence, which will see a reduced weighting placed on research outputs in favour of an increased on **‘People, Culture and Environment’**.
* REF 2028 will move further away from the assessment of individuals with the number of staff with significant responsibility for research drawn directly from the HESA staff record.
* In REF 2028 there will be no minimum or maximum number of outputs contributed by an individual.

More information can be found on [**REF Staff intranet pages**](https://staff.napier.ac.uk/services/research-innovation-office/ref/Pages/REF%202029.aspx).

Following the publication of these initial decisions, there will be a short targeted consultation to allow further development of the REF2028 guidance. Responses to the consultation are due **6 October 2023**. Further communications will be circulated by the REF team to invite colleagues to contribute to the response via various platforms.

**Output Quality Enhancement**

In Autumn 2022, we launched an annual output quality enhancement process with a view to measure research output quality, as well as aiming to provide quality-enhancing feedback to authors.

The REF team is now working with senior leaders to provide authors with feedback and to develop bespoke, discipline-specific output quality enhancement training for all staff.  It is anticipated that this will be rolled out towards the end of academic year 2022-23 into 2023-24.

If you nominated an output in the current review process, you will receive feedback on your output in due course.

A big thank you to all the internal and external critical peers who were involved.

**Impact from Research**

In May this year, the University’s Research and Innovation (R&I) Committee approved a University-wide R&I Impact strategy.

The strategy was created in support of the University’s strategic ambitions to increase impact from research.  It aims to provide us with a framework by which to embed an impact culture.

You can access the [strategy here](https://staff.napier.ac.uk/services/research-innovation-office/ref/Pages/Impact-from-Research.aspx).

If you are interested in learning more about impact from research or if your research is making a difference, we’d love to hear about it.  Get in touch with the REF Team to discuss your work and to start building an impact story.

**Finally…**

Please do get in touch with the REF Team if you have any questions. There is also a [REF FAQs page](https://staff.napier.ac.uk/services/research-innovation-office/ref/Pages/REF-FAQs.aspx) on the Staff intranet that can be referred to as a useful resource on the Research Assessment Framework.

The next newsletter will be circulated in September 2023. Please note, targeted communications on specific REF processes and policies may be sent in the interim.

Best wishes

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