

Dear Academic and Research Staff,

Welcome to the second REF newsletter of the AY 2022/23 and if you missed the first, 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 – Outcome Delayed**

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. Further information about the programme and copies of our institutional consultation responses can be found on the [staff intranet pages](https://staff.napier.ac.uk/services/research-innovation-office/ref/Pages/Sector%20Consultation.aspx).

The outcome has been delayed until Spring 2023. We will communicate the outcomes and any further consultation as soon as this information is released.

In parallel to this, a project was undertaken to consider machine learning, metrics & merit in the future of research assessment. The projectrecommends that artificial intelligence should not be introduced in the review process.

**New Learning and Development Materials**

The REF team has developed learning and development materials **to provide a basic overview of the research excellence framework and impact.** The training materials are intended for those less familiar with REF.

**The informative training videos can be found** [here](https://staff.napier.ac.uk/services/research-innovation-office/ref/Pages/REF-Training-and-Development-.aspx)**.**

Please get in touch with the REF Team, if you have any questions on the REF exercise and the process at Edinburgh Napier University.

**Impact from Research**

Are you interested in learning more about impact? Is your research making a difference in the real-world? Have a look at the [impact from research webpages](https://staff.napier.ac.uk/services/research-innovation-office/ref/Pages/Impact-from-Research.aspx) or get in touch with the REF Team to discuss your work in more detail and start to build an impact case story.

**Output Quality Enhancement**

Our [internal evaluation](https://staff.napier.ac.uk/services/research-innovation-office/ref/Pages/You%20Said%2C%20We%20Listened.aspx) suggests that staff would benefit from more training on research quality and REF thresholds. In response to this feedback, we are developing a bespoke research quality enhancement training programme addressing the needs of the different disciplines and subject groups and will be delivered across the five Schools.

It is anticipated that this will be rolled out towards the end of 2022-23 into 2023-24.

**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 May 2023. Please note, targeted communications on specific REF processes and policies may be sent in the interim.

Best wishes

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