

Policy on REF attendance at events that charge an attendance fee

Introduction

1. It is the funding bodies' position that information and guidance about the REF should be freely and equally available to all participating institutions, and other interested parties.
2. We recognise the value of the discussion and engagement arising from participation in conferences, forums and events that there is for those involved in research policy. We also recognise the value gained by the REF team and panels in participating in events, through increased feedback on and engagement with current issues relating to the exercise.
3. To balance both of these aspects in communicating on the REF, we have developed the following policy that will govern the attendance, in a speaking capacity, of REF team and panel members at events that charge delegates an attendance fee ('pay-for events').

Policy

4. No new information about REF 2021 will be presented by the REF team or panel members at pay-for events.
5. Any presentation material used at pay-for events will be drawn from publicly available material. Where feasible, slide packs will be published on the REF website.
6. Information shared by the REF team or panel members during Q&A sessions at pay-for events will be drawn from publicly available material.
7. To manage the resource demands of participation at pay-for events, the REF team and panels will consider invitations in the context of current workloads and communication objectives.
8. In terms of travel costs, the REF team will cover these if a member is already intending to visit that location; where this is not the case, event hosts will be asked to cover expenses.