

Our File Ref: 6.4.8

Dr. David Pilsbury
Head of Research Policy
Higher Education Funding Policy for England
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10/11/99

Dear Dr. Pilsbury,

Review of Research Policy and Funding

Consideration has been given by the Institution to your consultation paper dated 29th September 1999 and we have the following comments to make.

We support the principle of Assessment Exercises for the funding of Research and would wish to see the process continue. We do have reservations concerning the present structure however and feel that the opportunity should be taken for a review and some modification (see below).

We suspect that the structure may have evolved from the dictates of the assessment process itself rather than from a wider analysis of research requirements. With the application of some lateral thinking a rather different structure may emerge.

The present Panels do not appear to have any significant representation from the professional institutions. With the change in the research landscape with an increase in interdisciplinarity and involvement by industry, a wider representation on the panels is desirable. We would wish to see Environmental Sciences separately represented as a discipline.

We note that there is an on going programme of discussion and development of proposals. We look forward to an involvement in this process and an opportunity to comment further on any proposals formulated.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. R. A. Fuller
Hon. Secretary

Cc Mr. D. J. Blair
Prof. J. W. S. Longhurst