



**Research grants and contracts 6-month update 2020/21**

<b>Outcome requested:</b>	FIC is asked to <b>note</b> the paper.
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	<p>The paper updates the research income tables for the first half of 2020/21.</p> <p>So far income is tracking slightly under last year. Historically there has been a stronger performance in the second half of the year. The number of applications being made has not significantly altered, therefore it is too soon to be definitive on whether previous years income growth will be maintained</p> <p>The paper outlines some positive responses to changes in strategy in the face of the pandemic, with diversified income through SMD commercial grants, a strong performance from H&amp;SS in Covid related research and continued successes from EU sources.</p> <p>The paper outlines some of the themes brought forward through the Planning Round discussions to enable further income growth in line with the 2030 Strategy.</p>
<b>QMUL Strategy: strategic aim reference and sub-strategies [e.g., SA1.1]</b>	Research and Innovation
<b>Strategic Risks:</b>	Research Income
<b>Subject to prior and onward consideration by:</b>	Director of Research, Enterprise and Partnerships, VP Research and Innovation, SET
<b>Confidential paper under FOIA/DPA</b>	No
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<b>Date:</b>	9/3/20

## Research grants and overhead income - 6 month update report 2020/21

This report updates the Committee on research income and overhead recovery since the annual report presented in November 2020. The table below updates on the research grant and contract income to end January 2021. In our 19/20 annual report we had preliminary 2019/20 figure of £97.8M as income and this has subsequently been confirmed.

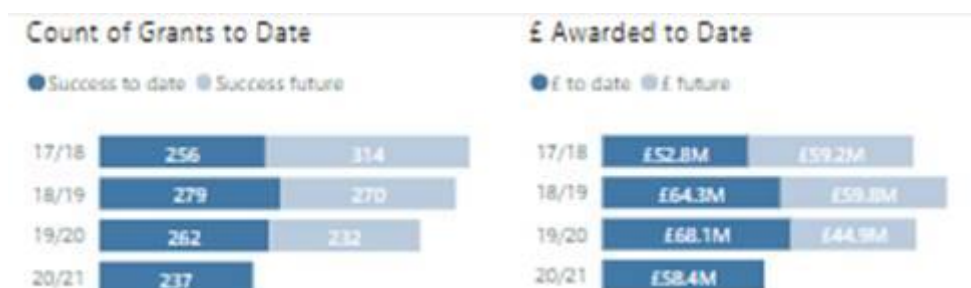
**Table 1 – Research income (£m)**

£000	H&SS	S&E	SMD	Total
2017/18	5,424.1	18,745.1	67,903.6	97,072.8
2018/19	5,700.0	20,977.3	61,520.7	88,198.0
2019/20	6,180.4	23,110.6	68,538.0	97,829.0
2020/Jan 21	3,204.1	10,758.8	33,369.2	47,332.1

### Overhead income

£000	H&SS	S&E	SMD	Total
2017/18	1,126.2	6,204.9	4,660.0	11,991.1
2018/19	385.9	6,570.0	6,706.6	13,662.5
2019/20	1,654.2	7,466.2	5,988.8	15,109.2
2020/Jan 21	754.6	3,137.0	2,276.0	6,167.6

We are now tracking successful applications and awards in real time to demonstrate the pipeline of grants. Analysis below suggests that based on the previous 3 years the number and volume of grants awarded in the latter part of the year remains strong, the lighter bars showing awards in the second half of the year below.



The number and value of grants recorded so far in 20/21 is below the levels at the same time last year. We are tracking the number of applications being made on a month by month basis and applications are running slightly under the previous year's average for S&E and H&SS and slightly over for SMD. Historically the number of grants submitted in the final half of the year tend to be greater, so it is too soon to say whether the trend of research income increasing will not continue into 2020/21.

Some changes of approach were put into practice to address concerns that income growth was not going to continue the upwards trend, particularly concerning lower charity funding being available and some other funders prioritizing Covid related work in their portfolios. These have shown signs of being successful, for example, NIHR/Department for Health and Social Care awards in Covid testing (£6M awarded to date), a strong performance by H&SS in Covid related grants (£1.3M awarded to date) and continued encouragement to apply for European Union grants, with recent awards under both the Marie Curie and

European Research Council of £2.7M. We are promoting Horizon Europe schemes heavily to researchers as these are valuable sources of funding that have brought an average of > £10M p.a. income over the last 3 years.

**In conclusion,** we are not yet certain that the pandemic has not impacted our upwards trend in income generation, there is often a strong performance in the second half of the year. But we are actively tracking the pipeline of bids and awards, and working with School and Faculty colleagues to adjust strategies where possible to grow our income.

The recent enabling plan discussions show a new research strategy for SMD which provides a strong framework for larger interdisciplinary bids with other Faculties to UKRI, the Wellcome Trust and NIHR is positive; in S&E a focus on larger program grants and commercial partnerships in areas of expertise being developed and a more strategic approach to infrastructure investment based on the grant activity and research quality of the groups requested investment, are steps being taken to support income growth over the next 3 years.