

Review of benchmarking approach

UKPITG 14/02†

Issue

1. The UK Performance Indicators Steering Group (UKPISG) identified a need to undertake a review of the benchmarking approach and would like to seek advice from the UK Performance Indicators Technical Group (UKPITG) as to the appropriate timing of such a review.

Recommendations

2. That members provide advice to the UKPISG as to the timing of a review of the benchmarking approach, and the role that the UKPITG may be able to play in such a review.
3. That members provide suggestions of representatives of organisations, groups, committees or departments that may also contribute to a review of the benchmarking approach.
4. If members feel that they have expertise required to contribute to a review of the benchmarking approach, are there any assessments that they wish to highlight at this stage.

Discussion

5. At their February 2014 meeting the UKPISG considered the analysis undertaken by the UKPITG in November 2013 with regards to the fit of the set of existing WP UKPIs with the principles agreed for UKPIs.
6. In relation to principle D4 that "*the benchmarks provided in association with UKPIs should take account of context and differing institutional characteristics, thereby supporting fair comparison of indicators between institutions*", the UKPITG had made the acknowledgement that the benchmarking approach had not been subject to review for a number of years.
7. Members of the UKPISG agreed that a review of the benchmarking approach was necessary but were not clear at what stage of the wider review processes this would be appropriate. The UKPITG have been asked to consider the timing at which a review of the benchmarking approach might be appropriate.
8. The UKPITG were also invited to comment on the expertise required to undertake such a review, and whether or not this might require an expert group (or roundtable discussion, of the form discussed in relation to paper UKPITG 14/02) to be established.

Recommendation: That members provide advice to the UKPISG as to the timing of a review of the benchmarking approach, and the role that the UKPITG may be able to play in such a review.

† Proposed as exempt from immediate publication

Recommendation: That members provide suggestions of representatives of organisations, groups, committees or departments that may also contribute to a review of the benchmarking approach.

9. If members of the UKPITG feel that they have specialist expertise that they might be able to contribute to a review of the benchmarking approach (such as assessments of fit with the principles for UKPIs, or identification of advantages and disadvantages of the current benchmarking methodology) they are invited to provide advice to the UKPISG.

Recommendation: If members feel that they have expertise required to contribute to a review of the benchmarking approach, are there any assessments that they wish to highlight at this stage.

Further information

10. For further information contact Mark Gittoes (Phone: 0117 931 7052; e-mail: m.gittoes@hefce.ac.uk) or Alison Brunt (Phone: 0117 931 7166; e-mail: a.brunt@hefce.ac.uk).