

Review of benchmarking approach

UKPITG 15/02†

Issue

1. To establish the arrangements for the UK Performance Indicators Technical Group (UKPITG) to commence a fundamental review of the benchmarking approach and methodology used within UK Performance Indicators (UKPIs).

Discussion

2. At their meeting in March 2014 the UKPITG were asked to consider the appropriate timing of a review of the benchmarking methodology used in UKPIs. At that time they confirmed that review of the factors used in the application of the benchmarking methodology to individual UKPIs would be included in the in-depth review processes of those indicators, and at later stages of their development.
3. However, the UKPITG had agreed that it was important to begin a fundamental review of the approach to benchmarking within UKPIs and the methodology employed as early as possible in order to help inform the wider review work. A critical element of the work would be to develop a set of principles for benchmarks to follow. Members of the UKPITG agreed that the group held the expertise to undertake a review of this nature within its membership and that they were willing and able to lead that process, bringing in experts or external peer review as necessary.
4. It was on this basis that approval was subsequently sought and gained from the UK Performance Indicators Steering Group (UKPISG) for this work to begin as soon as possible.
5. The benchmarking approach currently employed within the UKPIs is one that was developed by HEFCE, and Mark Gittoes in particular. As such, HEFCE are unable to coordinate or lead the proposed review process on account of a clear conflict of interest. Given UKPITG have identified that they have the expertise to undertake the review, members are invited to consider their organisation's ability to resource and coordinate the fundamental review process that has been agreed upon.

Recommendation

6. UKPITG members are invited to consider their organisation's ability to resource and coordinate the fundamental review process that has been agreed upon.
7. Arrangements for commencing a fundamental review of the benchmarking approach and methodology to be established at the earliest opportunity.

Further information

1. For further information contact Mark Gittoes (Phone: 0117 931 7052; e-mail: m.gittoes@hefce.ac.uk).