

Professor David Delphy
Chief Executive
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
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Dear Professor Delphy

The University and College Union (UCU) is writing to you with major concerns about the new EPSRC policy regarding resubmissions.

During the consultation phase of the RCUK Efficiency and Effectiveness of Peer Review Project, we expressed our scepticism about the value of the 'resubmission' proposals. For example, we questioned whether the proposal would actually result in a reduction in overall costs.

However, the main concern we have is that the EPSRC intends to apply the measures retrospectively, which means UCU members who have been pressured by departments and institutions to submit lots of applications over the last two years could now face exclusion as the rules have changed.

Obviously if the members (and presumably departments) had been aware of the implications, their strategy may have been very different. A number of UCU members' reputations (and possibly careers) are now threatened because they have been encouraged to play by the wrong rules. The fact that this major change has been introduced without proper consultation with the sector is of additional concern to the UCU.

We urge you to withdraw the current proposals on retrospective exclusions.

Yours sincerely

Sally Hunt
UCU General Secretary