UK Research and Innovation

Welcome

Research integrity landscape study

Karen Salt

UKRIO Webinar 8 July 2020

1 Introductions

Helen Munn: Research Integrity Committee interim chair

Karen Salt: UKRI Deputy director, research culture and environment

Rebecca Veitch: UKRI Head of research integrity

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2 UK Research and Innovation

We work with the government to invest over £7 billion a year in research and innovation by partnering with academia and industry to make the impossible, possible. Through the UK's nine leading academic and industrial funding councils, we create knowledge with impact.

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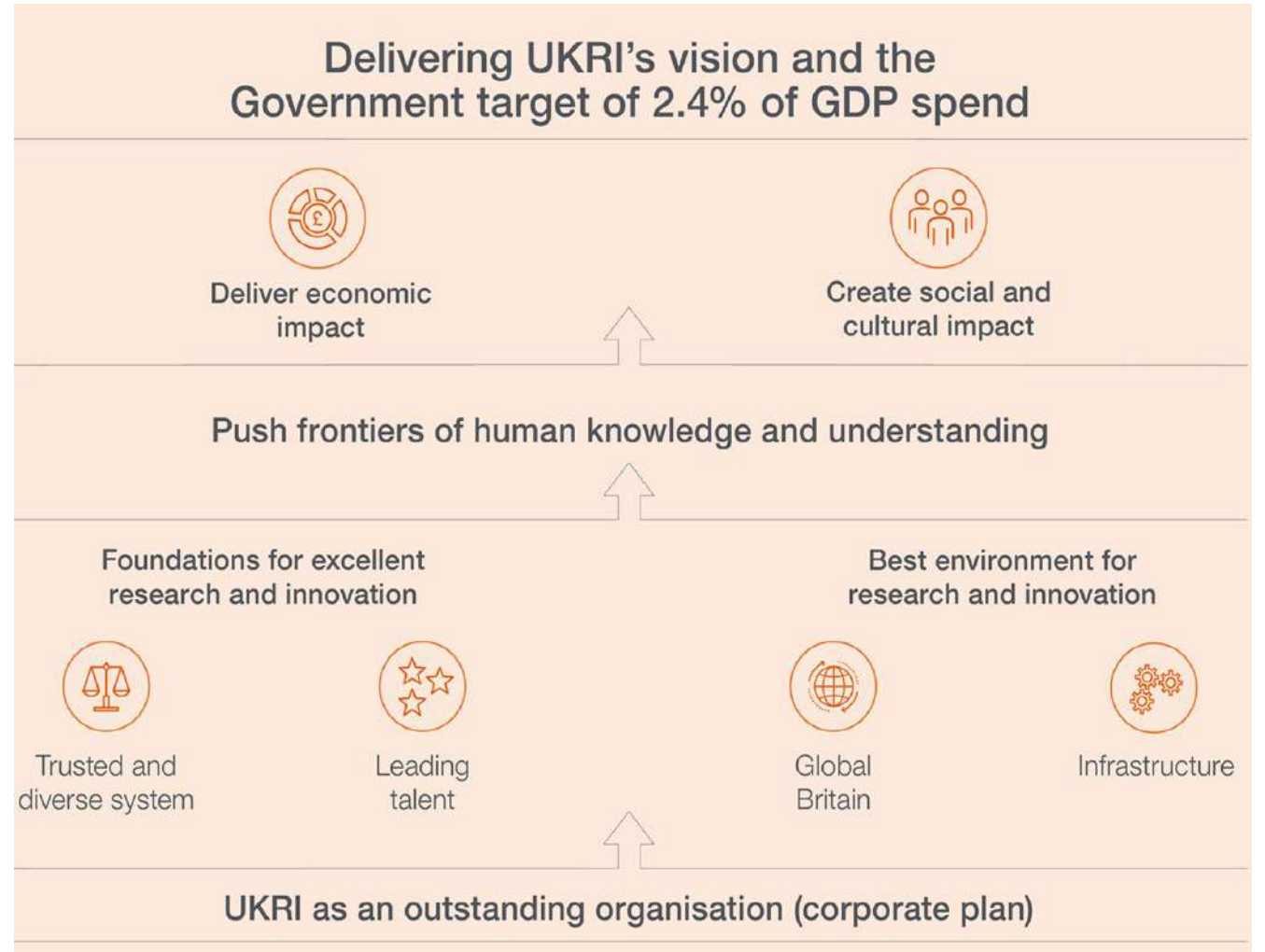
Why UKRI?

Bringing nine councils together into a single strategically-oriented public body.

- Cross-discipline

- Funder, employer, infrastructure provider

- Close to research sector and to Government

- Critical mass

- International outlook

Foundations for excellent research and innovation

Strategic Prospectus: Building the UKRI Strategy

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Insight
Inspiration
Impact

May 2018

Leading talent
Nurturing the pipeline of current and future talent

Openness and transparency
Supporting the development of a research and innovation system that is accessible, transparent and cooperative

A trusted and diverse system
Driving a culture of equality, diversity and inclusivity providing the best opportunities for individuals and teams of people from all backgrounds to thrive

Research culture
Promoting the highest standards of research, collaboration and integrity.

UKRI Research culture and environment team

- Open research
- Equality, diversity and inclusion
- Research culture
- Research integrity

Related teams

- Preventing harm
- Talent

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Transforming the Research and Innovation System

UKRI as an employer
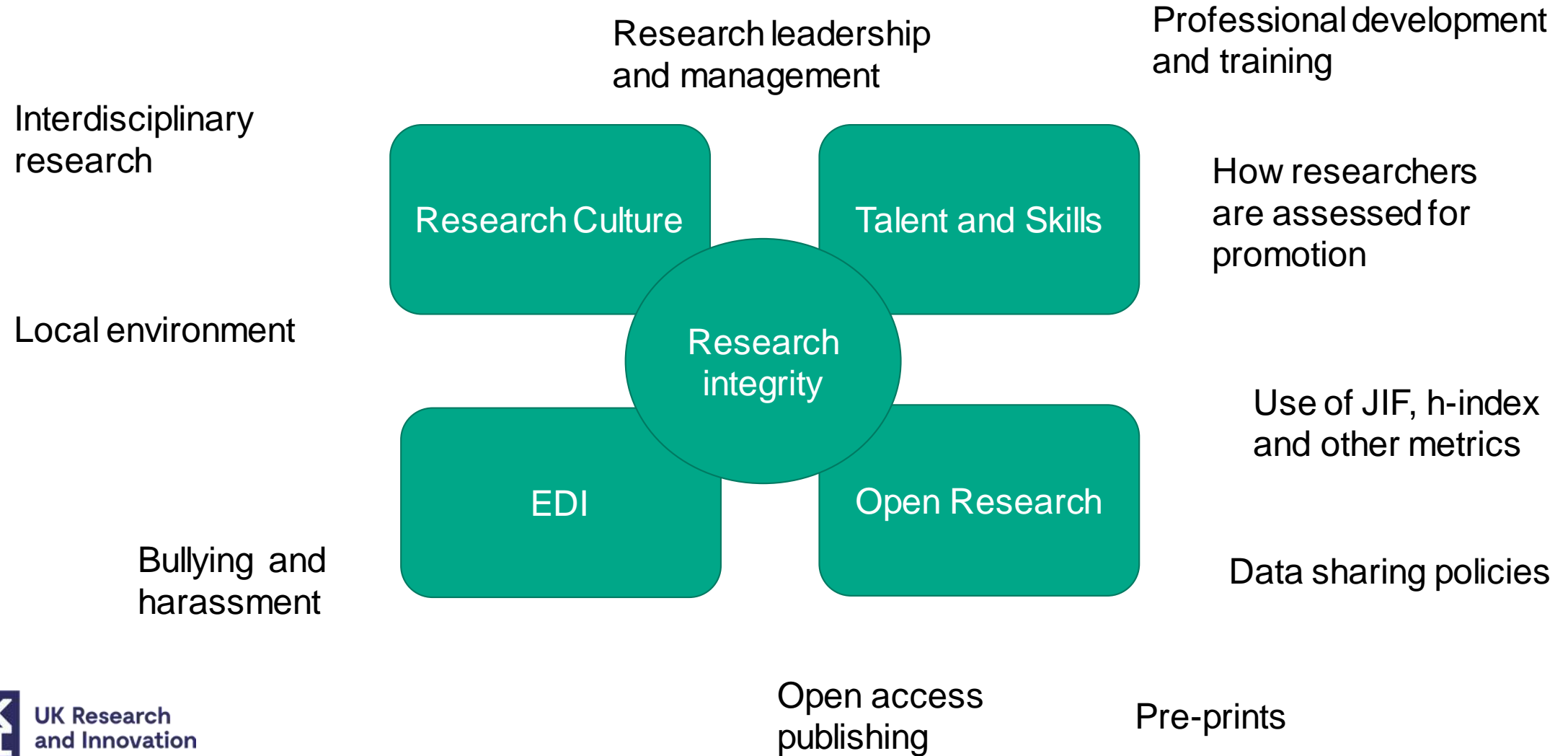Lead by example

How we fund
Debiasing our processes and systems

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Our vision is to enable a supportive environment where everyone is treated with dignity and respect, and has the opportunity to flourish and succeed.

What we fund
Diversity of ideas and thought

Who we fund
Diversity of applicants, teams and place

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Cross-cutting themes

Research leadership and management

Professional development and training

Interdisciplinary research

How researchers are assessed for promotion

Local environment

Research Culture

Talent and Skills

Research integrity

Use of JIF, h-index and other metrics

EDI

Open Research

Bullying and harassment

Data sharing policies

Open access publishing

Pre-prints

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UKRI activities

Concordat to support research integrity

Concordat to support career development of researchers

Research Ethics Hub

Equality impact assessments

Bullying and harassment statement

PGR BAME funding call

Safeguarding policy

Research Culture	Talent and Skills
EDI	Open Research

DORA

UKRI Open access review

Open research data concordat

Vision and priorities 2025

UK Forum for Responsible Research Metrics

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3 Next steps
UKRI

The evidence so far

Nuffield Council on Bioethics 2014

Competition

Funding of research

Assessment of research

Research integrity

Career progression and workload

Science and Technology Committee report 2018

Incentives

Doctoral training

Use of statistics

Non-disclosure

Investigations into alleged misconduct

Wellcome Trust survey 2020

Personal passion and integrity

Unhealthy competition, bullying, mental health

Management skills

System / metrics drive out creativity and quality

UKRI study 2020

High personal integrity

Concern on compromised research integrity

Limited confidence in raising concerns

Positives: local culture, collaboration, openness

Negatives: bullying, metrics, assessment, workload models, (funding)

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The evidence so far

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Management and funding: assessment

Research assessment

- Ensuring the principles of the San Francisco Declaration on research assessment (DORA) are implemented

- Eg, piloting the narrative 'résumé for researchers' CV format across the Research Councils

(this could help researchers account for the impact of COVID when moving on in their careers)

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Culture: promoting high standards

Ethics

- Signposting guidance and processes for ethical researching at pace during the COVID-19 pandemic

Preventing Harm

- Implementing the recently published UKRI Preventing Harm (Safeguarding) policy, which encompasses bullying and harassment

- Taking forward a wider programme on bullying and harassment, based on our position statement, and working with other funders

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Preventing Harm (Safeguarding) in Research and innovation

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Preventing harm (safeguarding) in research and innovation policy

• UKRI is strongly committed to promoting safe research and innovation environments, which are free from sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment, bullying, psychological abuse and physical violence, for all individuals that are employed on, participate in, or otherwise come into contact with, the research and innovation activities that we fund.

• UKRI has developed a preventing harm (safeguarding) in research and innovation policy to support individuals and organisations to enhance their approach to preventing and addressing actual or potential harms in their research and innovation activities building on good practice where it exists.

Thank you

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Next steps
Research Integrity Committee

Background

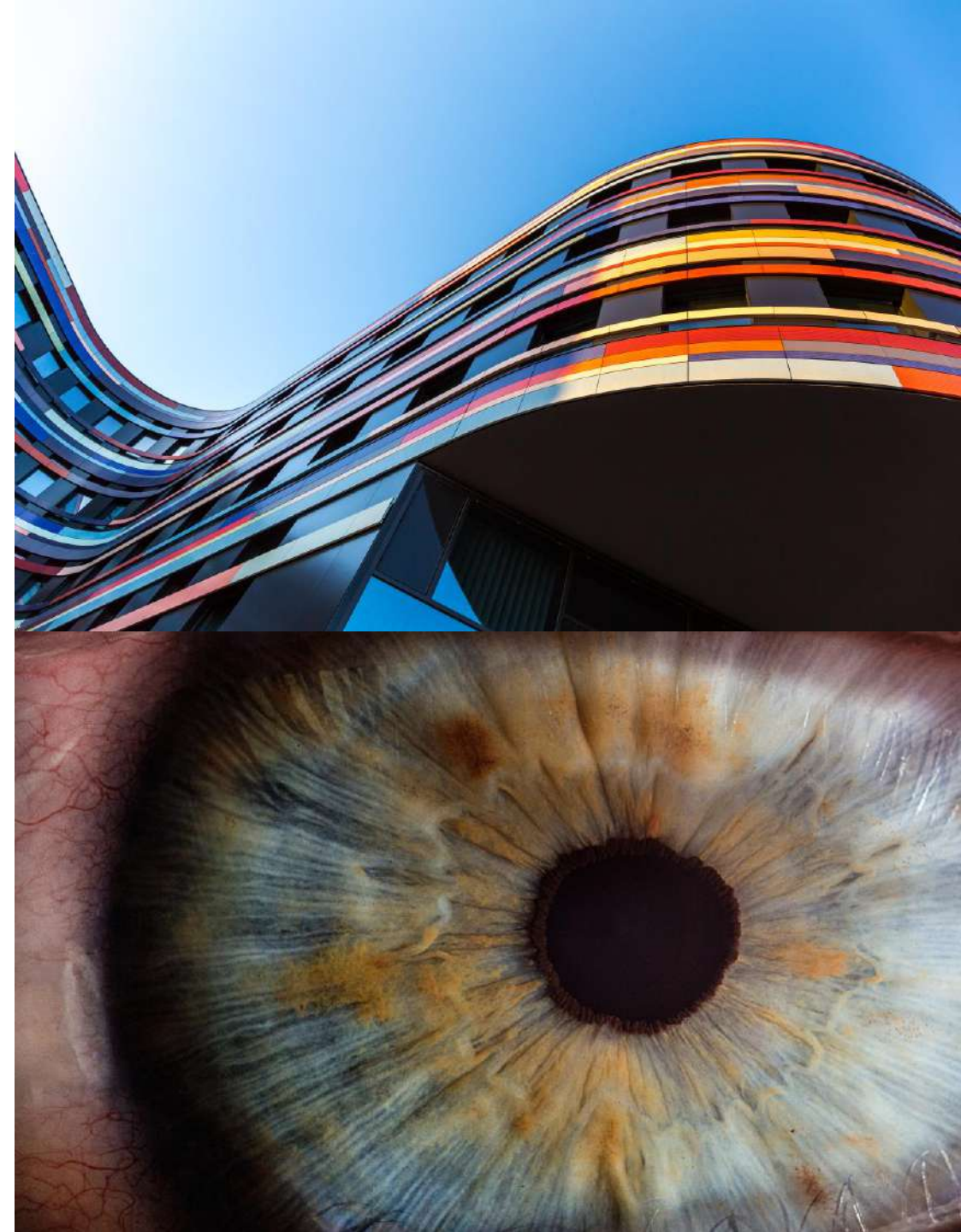2014 Nuffield Council on Bioethics on research culture

2017 Royal Society 'Changing Expectations'

2017 Manifesto for reproducible science

2018 UKRI Strategic Prospectus

2018 Science and Technology Committee inquiry

2020 Wellcome 'Reimagine Research Culture'

Background

From Science and Technology Committee 2018 report:

- **National voice:** champion research integrity in the UK
  - engage (inter)national communities to contribute to evidence bases, practices and standards
  - drive *[not own]* the implementation of the revised Concordat to Support Research Integrity

- **Review and assurance:** independently examine whether research institutions have followed appropriate processes to investigate research misconduct

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Approach

Prompted by the Science and Technology Committee
Set up under the auspices of UKRI
…but working **with** the sector to put this into practice

We have heard directly so far from:
- Royal Society, British Academy, Royal Academy of Engineering, Academy of Social Sciences
- Universities UK, Russell Group, GuildHE
- Association of Research Managers and Administrators, and over 50 institutional managers via workshops and 1-1 during 2020
- Concordat signatories and UK Research Integrity Office
- Regulators and similar, eg Office of the Independent Adjudicator
- International peers, such as similar bodies in Australia, Canada, USA, Finland, Austria, Denmark, Norway…

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We will deepen and widen this engagement, to design and set up the Committee in a collaborative way.

Where we are now

New Interim Chair: Dr Helen Munn to provide strategic leadership toward:

- open recruitment for the Committee Chair and members
- open consultation on the aims and remit of the Committee

A committee that adds value, not burden

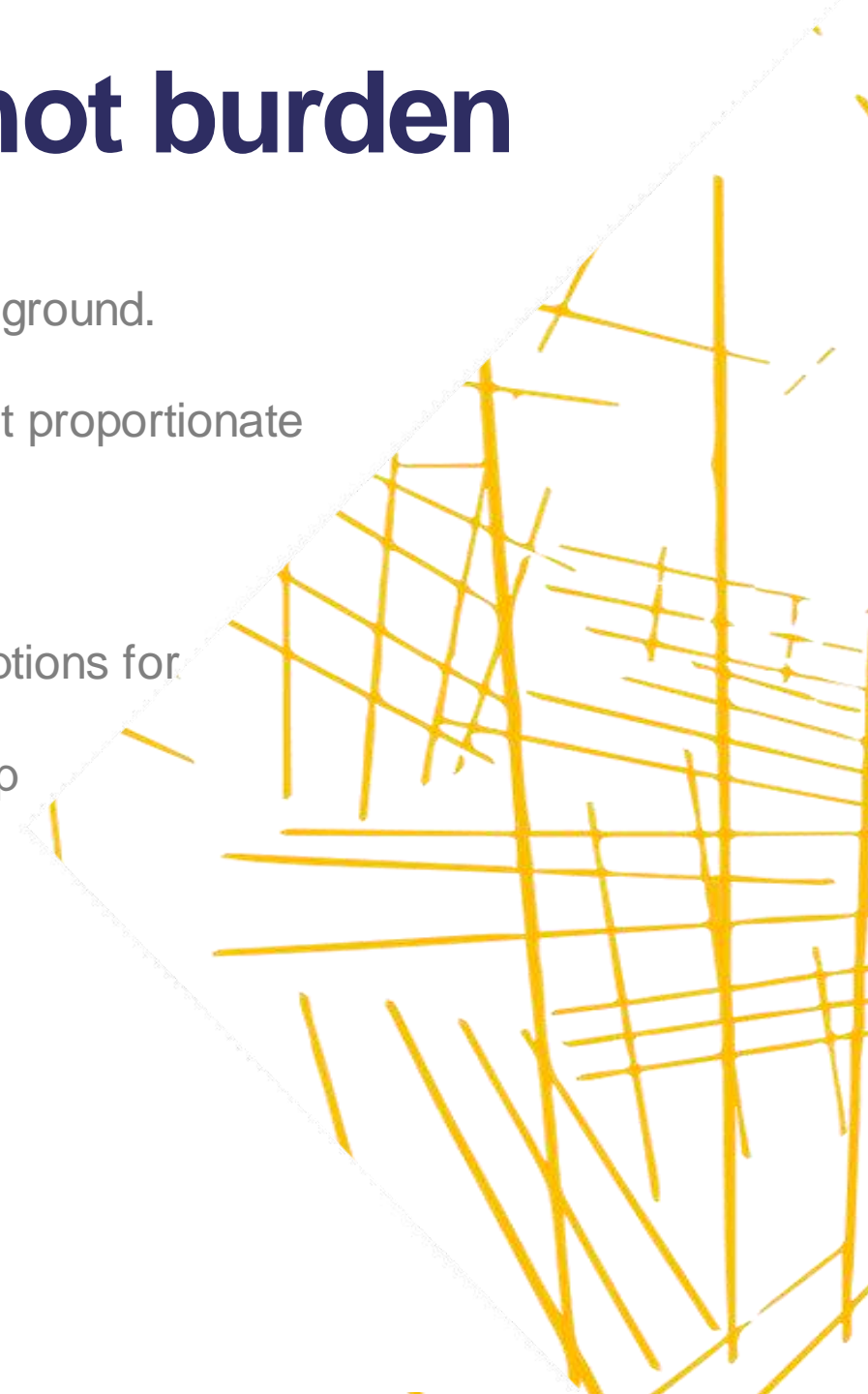Setting up the committee as a semi independent body of UKRI breaks new ground.

Keeping stakeholders engaged at every step is key to providing a robust but proportionate role.

Summer 2020
- Consultation continues with a broad range of stakeholders, testing the options for process and scope of the committee
- Deepening the UKRI effort via discussion with an Internal Advisory Group

Next steps
- Public open consultation
- Recruitment of the Chair and panel members

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