AHRC
responsive mode scheme changes

AHRC Webinar

5 July 2023

Agenda

1 Introduction & welcome

Barry Knowles, Senior Process Manager

2 Context and aims

Jaideep Gupte, Director Research, Strategy and Innovation

Helen Abbott, AHRC Advisory Board member

3 Curiosity and Catalyst overview

Ruth Robinson, Head of Operations

4 Questions and answers

Open to all

5 Wrap up and thanks

Barry Knowles, Senior Process Manager

Context

A clear vision for the arts and humanities sector

Supporting arts and humanities research and innovation as a key driver for economic growth, prosperity and productivity during a cost of living crisis and inflationary pressures

Learning from good practice across the Councils and challenging ourselves to be simpler and better

Enabling greater efficiency and effectiveness following Grant and Tickell reviews

Aims of the changes

Deliver against our commitment to enable diverse and inclusive discovery research in our responsive mode offer
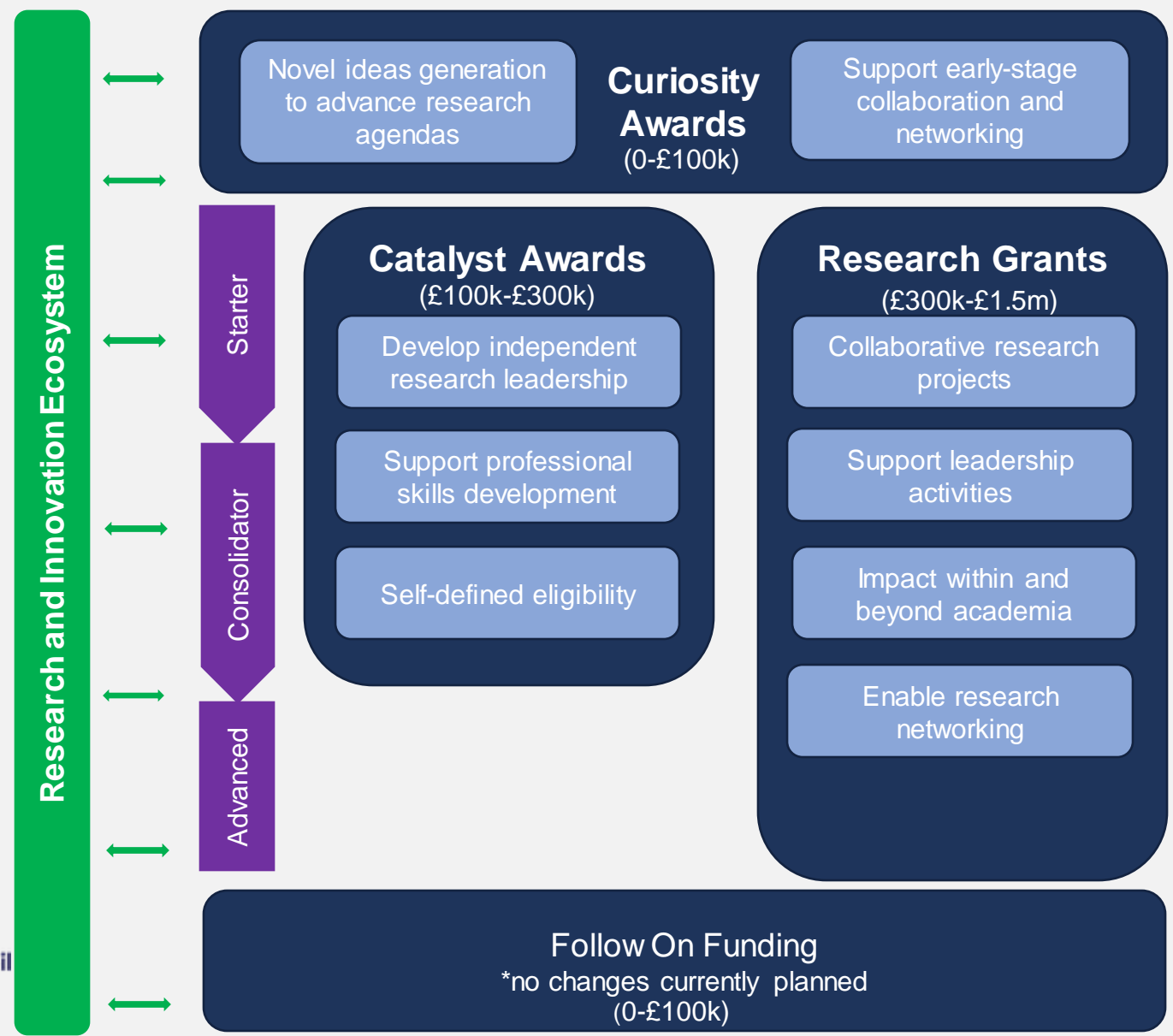
- Increase flexibility and accessibility to support a greater range of researchers and research ideas/projects.

- Improve support for progression through the schemes for both research ideas and researchers, as well as minimising gaps in our offering.

- Support emerging arts and humanities talent, by offering new and expanded provision for start of career and early career researchers as well as increasing access to researchers with non-traditional career paths.

- Offer provision for larger and more ambitious projects, which also acknowledges the increasing cost of research.

What will change?

Previous schemes	Going forward...
1. **Research grants** (both the standard and early career routes) 2. **Research development and engagement fellowships** (both the standard and early career routes) 3. **Research networking** 4. **Follow-on funding for impact and engagement**	1. **Research grants** (updated) 2. **Curiosity Awards** 3. **Catalyst Awards** 4. **Follow-on funding for impact and engagement**

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Responsive Mode Transformation – Scheme Overview

Research and Innovation Ecosystem

Starter

Consolidator

Advanced

Curiosity Awards
(0-£100k)

Novel ideas generation to advance research agendas

Support early-stage collaboration and networking

Catalyst Awards
(£100k-£300k)

Develop independent research leadership

Support professional skills development

Self-defined eligibility

Research Grants
(£300k-£1.5m)

Collaborative research projects

Support leadership activities

Impact within and beyond academia

Enable research networking

Follow On Funding
*no changes currently planned
(0-£100k)

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New schemes detail

Curiosity Awards	Catalyst Awards
• Flexible awards to fund curiosity-driven research, networking activity and idea generation, which enables the **development of further research opportunities and new research agendas.**	• Awards to support researchers without prior experience of leading a significant research project, with the aim of **accelerating their trajectory as independent researchers and build leadership experience.**
• Funding projects between £1 and £100,000.	• Funding projects between £100,000 and £300,000.

Will support teams, networks and solo researchers

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Applications in the Funding Service

APPLICATION:

- Opportunities across all councils found in one place

- Guidance and questions are consistent, concise, in one place and include assessment criteria

- RO visibility as soon as applications created

- Only ask for what we need once, when we need it. Far fewer attachments.

- Accessible and intuitive interface

- Automated checks before submission e.g. word count (reducing return for amendment)

Assessment in the Funding Service

ASSESSMENT:

- Assessors are able to read the whole application on a single, easy-to-navigate screen or print as a PDF

- Assessors can see the full applicant guidance alongside the application content

- Alignment of Application questions and Assessment criteria

- Panellists will use the service for panel documents

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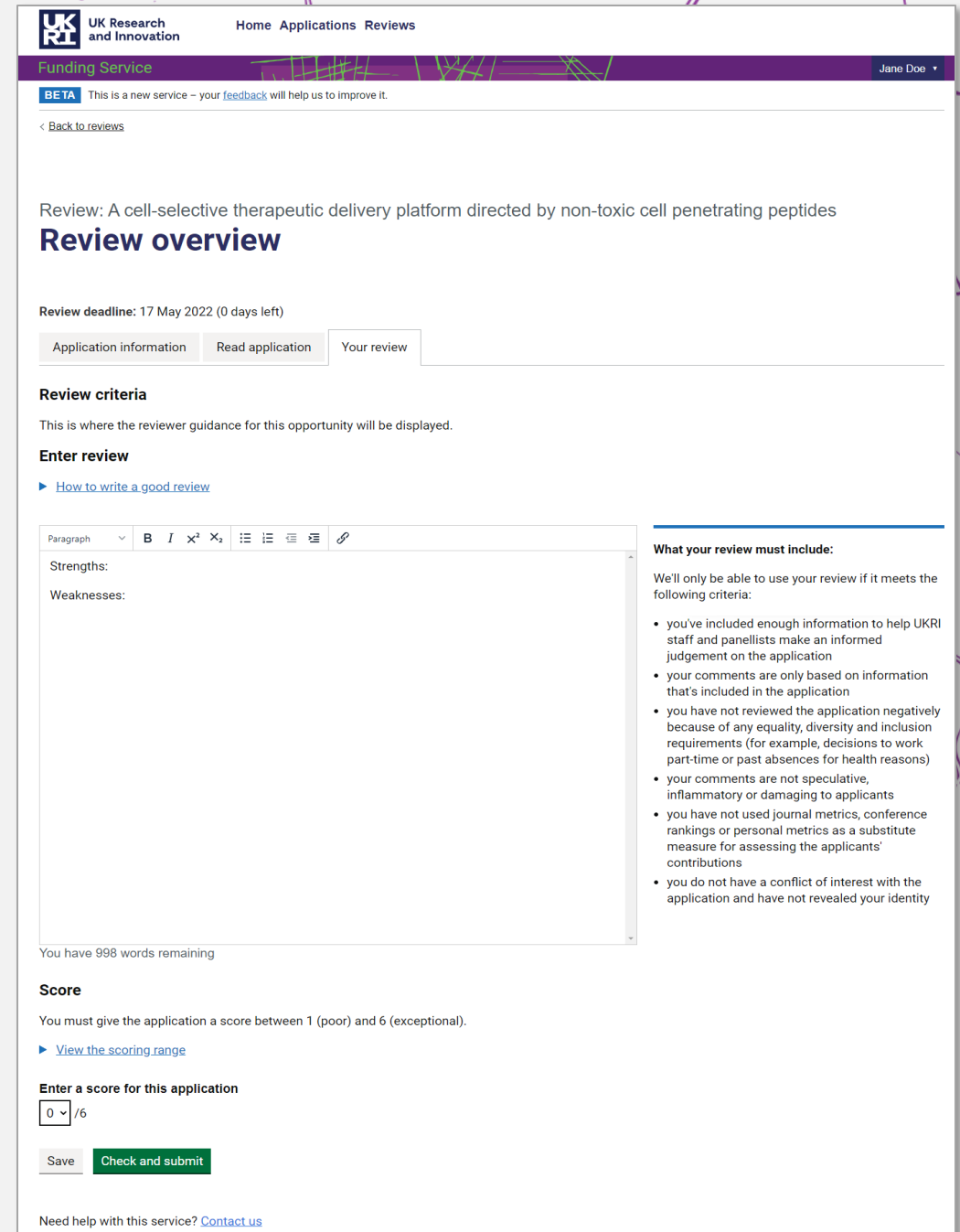
Application forms in the Funding Service

	Research Grants	Follow-on Funding	Curiosity Awards	Catalyst Awards
Application details	Y	Y	Y	Y
Summary (within above section)	500	500	500	500
Discipline classification - primary	5	5	5	5
Discipline classification - secondary	50	50	50	50
Eligibility to apply for opportunity	N/A	250	N/A	250
Vision	500	500	500	500
Approach	2500	1500	1500	2000
Core team	Y	Y	Y	Y
Applicant and team capability to deliver	1000 + 500 for additions	1000 + 500 for additions	1000 + 500 for additions	1000 + 500 for additions
Project Partners	1000	1000	1000	1000
Ethics and Responsible Research and Innovation RRI	500	500	500	500
Resources and cost justification	1000	1000	1000	1000

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Transitioning to the Funding Service

- AHRC will be launching responsive mode opportunities as consecutive rounds with defined closing dates, using UKRI core assessment criteria and questions.

- This will accommodate system and policy developments whilst ensuring that batches of applications receive equitable treatment.

- It is our intention to return to 'always open' responsive mode when this is made possible within the Funding Service.

- UKRI's principles of assessment and decision making remain unchanged.

Scheme	Round 1 opens	Round 1 closes	Round 2 opens	Round 2 closes
Research Grants	29 June 2023	14 September 2023	*September 2023*	*December 2023*
Follow-on Funding	29 June 2023	14 September 2023	*September 2023*	*December 2023*
Curiosity Awards	17 July 2023	19 October 2023	*October 2023*	*January 2024*
Catalyst Awards	17 July 2023	19 October 2023	*October 2023*	*January 2024*

NB: Research Networking closes in Je-S on 29 June 2023 and will not reopen

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https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/improving-your-funding-experience/council-transition-to-the-new-the-funding-service/council-transition-to-the-new-funding-service-ahrc/

Supporting you

AHRC's responsive mode schemes
- [Further webinars](#) on Curiosity and Catalyst awards.
- Full scheme details in the [UKRI Funding finder](#)
- Summary of changes and further info on [dedicated page on AHRC website](#).
- [Jaideep Gupte's blog](#) about the new schemes was released on 23 May

Simpler and Better Funding (SBF) and the Funding Service
- [How applicants use the service](#)
- [How research offices use the service](#)
- Recording of [past SBF webinars](#)
- Subscribe to the [SBF newsletter](#)