

AERC policy on funding research within universities

In 2003, the Office of Science & Technology (OST) conducted a consultation exercise on the 'Sustainability of University Research'. The Government responded in its ten-year 'Science and Innovation Investment Framework', published in July 2004, and concluded that universities need to know the full costs of the research they undertake and invest appropriately to ensure sustainability over the medium- to long-term. In order to help universities achieve this goal, the Government has committed additional funding to the main Research Councils, provided ongoing support for university infrastructure, through the Science Research Investment Fund (SRIF), and **introduced an additional stream of funding to support charity research.** The charity research support fund will be included as part of the Funding Councils' block grant to universities for research and will be allocated on the basis of eligible charity-funded research income.

In January 2005, OST and DfES announced that research councils would fund 80% of the full economic costs of projects. However, while the Government recognised that it would not be appropriate or desirable for all funding bodies to fund research in the same way as the research councils, the culture in higher education has been to assume that the same methodology for pricing all research will apply.

In line with advice from the Association of Medical Charities (AMRC) the Alcohol Education and Research Council will not fund university research on a percentage basis. The AERC will continue to pay for the directly incurred and identifiable costs of research, but charities are not required to fund university indirect costs or cover some of the other costs, such as investigators' salaries or estate costs.

The AERC expects that resources from the university block grant (i.e. Quality-Related or QR) and, in particular, the charity research support fund, will be used by institutions to underpin eligible charity funded research and to cover those costs which charities regard as outside their remit.