

From: [REDACTED] [MRC UKRI](#)  
To: [REDACTED] [@gov.scot](#); [REDACTED] [@dhsc.gov.uk](#)  
Cc: [REDACTED] [MRC UKRI](#)  
Subject: RE: FW: UKCRC ME/CFS Research Working Group agenda  
Date: 30 March 2023 17:52:00  
Attachments: [REDACTED]

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Hi all

I see from the minute of the last meeting the update was:

[REDACTED] She was also in the process of updating the UKRI/MRC highlight notice webpage.

[REDACTED]

The UKRI/MRC highlight notice has been updated to include the PSP Top 10 and I have provided a bespoke, in person, update on ME/CFS research strategy to 4 of the MRC funding Boards to raise awareness.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Medical Research Council  
Telephone: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] [MRC UKRI](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED] [MRC UKRI](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] [MRC UKRI](#)  
**Subject:** ME CFS slide for Panel meetings  
**Date:** 02 March 2023 09:46:00  
**Attachments:** [PSMB March 2023 - ME-CFS update.pptx](#)

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Hi [REDACTED]

Please see the slide for the ME/CFS update.

The aim of this update is to:

- To provide background on ME/CFS funding and recent strategic activity
- To raise awareness and visibility of the ME/CFS Highlight notice to funding Boards and Panels and their communities to help stimulate research in this under-funded area.

UK has low funding rates and research capacity for ME/CFS research. MRC receives low application numbers (av, 3/yr) and funding is also low (approx. £5m total since 2011). Diagram shows recent strategic work (in blue) & how MRC are working towards supporting and enabling a strong portfolio of ME/CFS research (actions/outputs in green).

**Main message** - Money is there for ME/CFS research and highlight notice will give uplift – barrier is the *quality of proposals* and lack of UK capacity in this area which we hope the strategic activity will start to address.

Please let me know if there are any questions and happy to take any follow up Qs by email.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Medical Research Council

Telephone: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] [MRC UKRI](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED] [MRC UKRI](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FYI - FW: Researching ME/CFS: highlight notice INC-14646  
**Date:** 09 February 2023 15:02:30

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That was quick – I raised awareness at REPSTET yesterday too

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**From:** [REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org)>  
**Sent:** 09 February 2023 11:51  
**To:** [REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org)>  
**Subject:** FYI - FW: Researching ME/CFS: highlight notice INC-14646

Web pages updated and live.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Medical Research Council

Telephone: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** UKRI Web [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 February 2023 13:18  
**To:** [REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Researching ME/CFS: highlight notice INC-14646

Hi [REDACTED]

Ticket [REDACTED]

I have made these updates for you now, please see

<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/researching-me-cfs-highlight-notice/>

<https://www.ukri.org/what-we-offer/browse-our-areas-of-investment-and-support/myalgic-encephalomyelitis-also-known-as-chronic-fatigue-syndrome/>

Any issues, please let me know.

M

[REDACTED]

Web team

[REDACTED]

Web team helpline [REDACTED]

[Sign-up by submitting a ticket](#) to join the next Web Team induction workshop on 15 March at 2 00pm.

[REDACTED]

On Mon, 6 Feb 10 19 AM, UKRI Web team [REDACTED] wrote

Hi [REDACTED]

Ticket [REDACTED]

Thanks for letting us know. We'll get those updated for you.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

Web team

Web team helpline [REDACTED]

[Sign-up by submitting a ticket](#) to join the next Web Team induction workshop on 15 March at 2 00pm.

**From:** [UKRI Web](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED] [MRC UKRI](#)  
**Subject:** Ticket Closed - Researching ME/CFS: highlight notice  
**Date:** 06 February 2023 13:19:35

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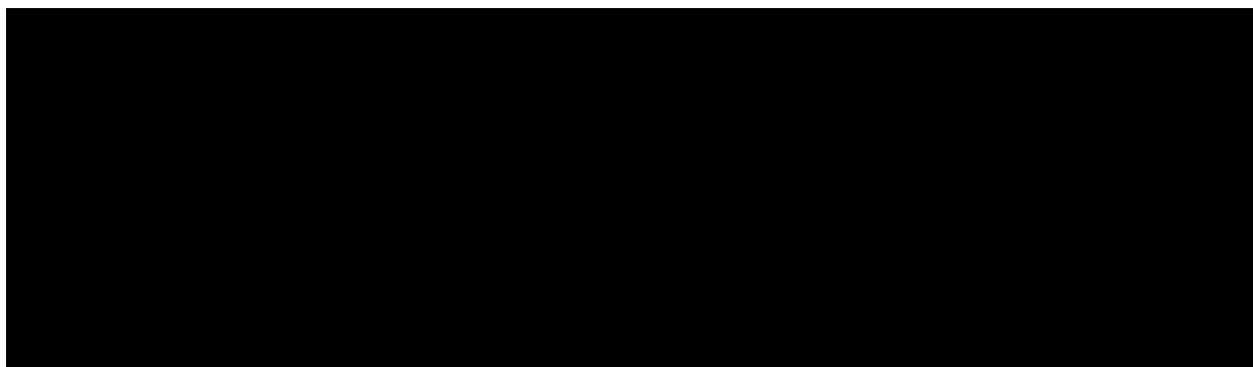
Dear [REDACTED]

Your ticket - Researching ME/CFS: highlight notice - has been closed by the web team.

We hope that the request was resolved to your satisfaction. If you feel that the request should not be closed or if the request has not been resolved, please reply to this email to reopen it.

Sincerely,  
Web team

[REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED] [MRC UKRI](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED] [MRC UKRI](#)  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** 03 February 2023 14:07:47  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

---

okay

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Medical Research Council  
UK Research & Innovation  
Caxton House  
Tothill Street  
London, SW1H 9DA  
[REDACTED] [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org)

For diary: [REDACTED]



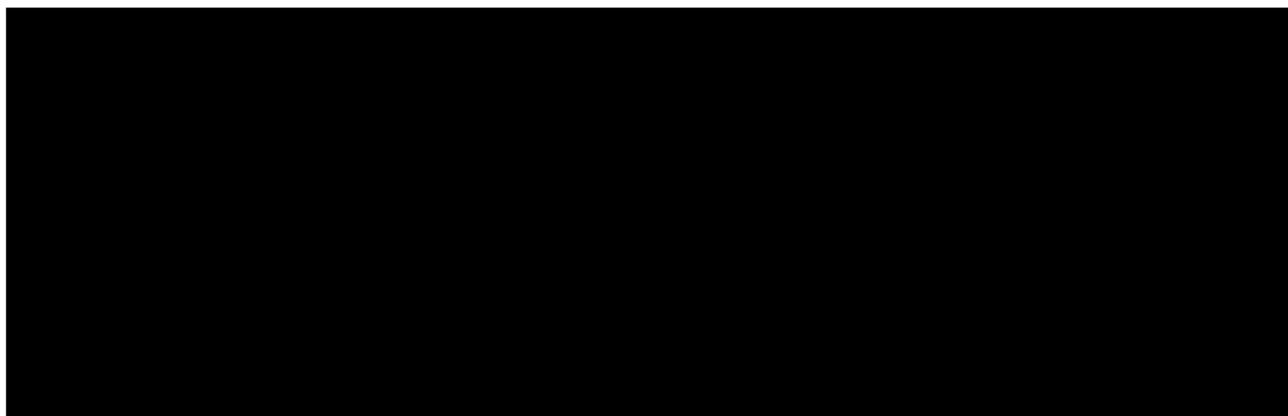
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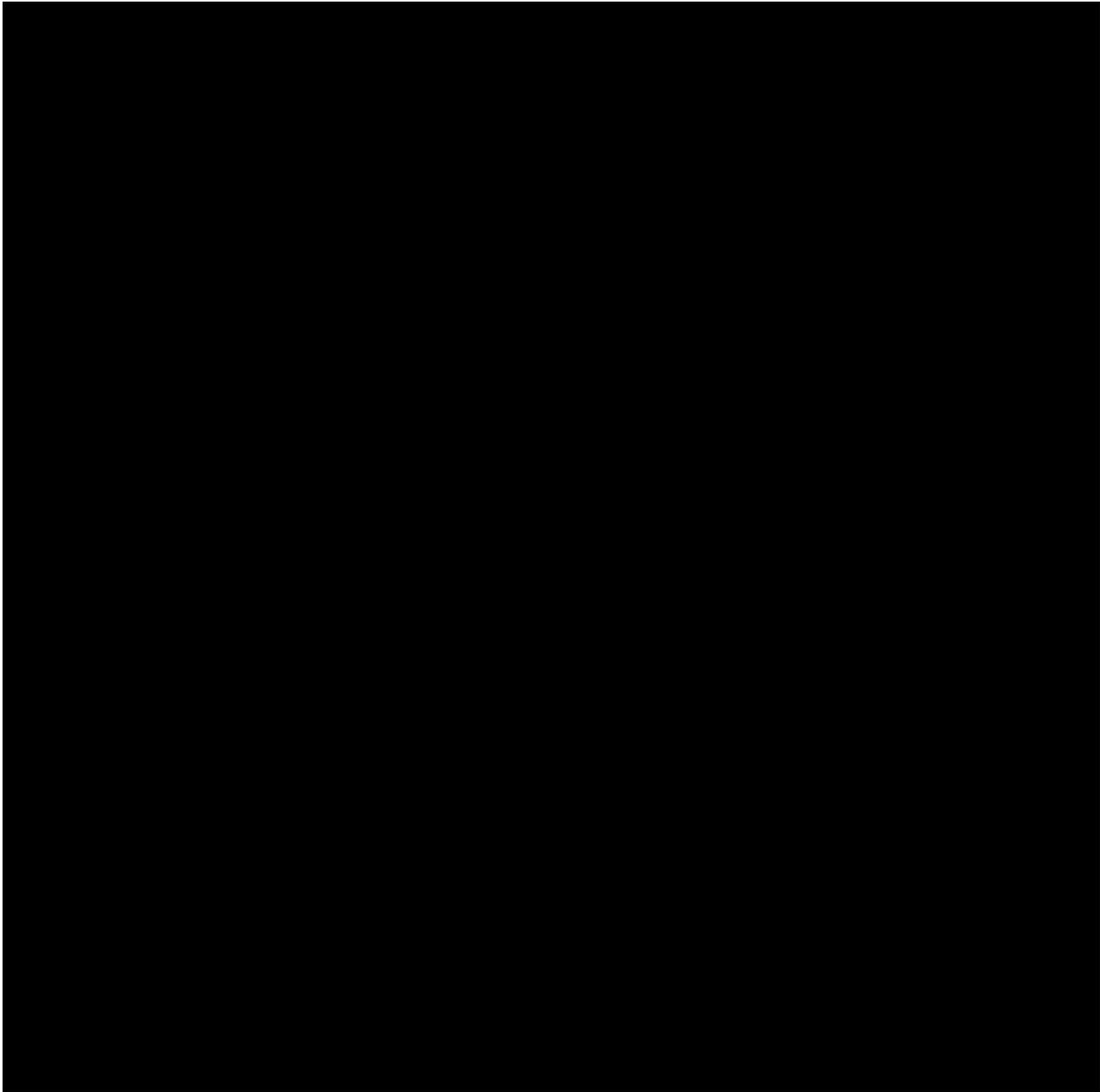
**From:** [REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED] [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org)>  
**Sent:** 03 February 2023 14:00  
**To:** [REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED] [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org)>  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

Hello, sorry to jump on the bandwagon. Might I add a very brief AoB (of course happy to speak to it) on updating the ME/CFS highlight notice to REPSTET?

This has in the past been cross Board/cross MRC – appears it is currently being applied to Boards and Fellowships (ie uplift within median at ranking), but not other panels. Would be keen to know if there is a reason not to make it truly ‘cross MRC’ (we don’t see a lot...).

Do you think that might fit? [REDACTED]





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**From:** [REDACTED] MRC UKRI  
**Sent:** 03 February 2023 13:49  
**To:** [REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED] [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org); [REDACTED] MRC UKRI  
[REDACTED] [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org); [REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED] [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org);  
[REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED] [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED] [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org); [REDACTED] MRC UKRI  
[REDACTED] [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: ME/CFS Highlight notice

Hi [REDACTED]

As [REDACTED] checks all BMBR applications across both Board and cross-MRC highlights (we also try to identify NIHR priorities in the same way). This is then raised only if the applications are in contention at ranking. (We noted it on the agenda once or twice but it just slowed the meeting and confused the Panel)

We haven't seen anything specifically referencing ME/CFS or specifically targeting ME/CFS research communities. There's probably been methods that would add value to ME/CFS research but keen not

to send signals that could end up with a bunch of contrived responses.

Best wishes,

█

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**From:** █ MRC UKRI █ [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:█@mrc.ukri.org)  
**Sent:** 02 February 2023 10:37  
**To:** █ MRC UKRI █ [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:█@mrc.ukri.org); █ MRC UKRI █ [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:█@mrc.ukri.org); █ MRC UKRI █ [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:█@mrc.ukri.org); █ MRC UKRI █ [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:█@mrc.ukri.org)  
**Cc:** █ MRC UKRI █ [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:█@mrc.ukri.org); █ MRC UKRI █ [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:█@mrc.ukri.org)  
**Subject:** RE: ME/CFS Highlight notice

Hi all,

A gentle reminder to please update me whether the ME/CFS highlight notice is being applied to the below schemes.

Thanks,

█

█  
█

Medical Research Council  
Telephone: █

█  
█

█

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**From:** █ MRC UKRI  
**Sent:** 24 January 2023 16:03  
**To:** █ MRC UKRI █ [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:█@mrc.ukri.org); █ MRC UKRI █ [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:█@mrc.ukri.org); █ MRC UKRI █ [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:█@mrc.ukri.org); █ MRC UKRI █ [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:█@mrc.ukri.org)  
**Cc:** █ MRC UKRI █ [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:█@mrc.ukri.org); █ MRC UKRI █ [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:█@mrc.ukri.org)  
**Subject:** ME/CFS Highlight notice

Hi all,

I am in the process of updating the ME/CFS Highlight notice and updating on some work we have been doing in this area. The MRC Highlight notice is a cross-MRC opportunity and I wanted to check whether this is something that has been applied/is being applied to the funding schemes in your remit:

- Developmental Pathway Funding Scheme

- MRC/NIHR Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (aware this is led by NIHR, but any info appreciated)
- MRC/NIHR Better Methods, Better Research
- MRC/NIHR Develop guidance for better research methods
- Experimental Medicine Panel

You may not have encountered a high volume of applications in this area, but as part of our work to promote high quality ME/CFS applications, I want to make the funding opportunities as clear as possible for researchers. I would be grateful if you could confirm with regard to the schemes listed above.

Thanks,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Medical Research Council

Telephone: [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



Hi all,

A gentle reminder to please update me whether the ME/CFS highlight notice is being applied to the below schemes.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Medical Research Council

Telephone: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED] MRC UKRI

**Sent:** 24 January 2023 16:03

**To:** [REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org)>; [REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org)>; [REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org)>

**Cc:** [REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org)>; [REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org)>

**Subject:** ME/CFS Highlight notice

Hi all,

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- Experimental Medicine Panel

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Thanks,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] [\\_MRC UKRI](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED] [\\_MRC UKRI](#)  
**Subject:** ME/CFS pages [REDACTED]  
**Date:** 02 February 2023 11:21:00  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

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Hi [REDACTED]

To discuss on Friday 1-1

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Web pages:**

I have updated these as discussed, noted in comments. It's looking like the Highlight notice is not applied to Translation schemes so have removed the reference to Panels.

[REDACTED]

 [Funding Opportunity - ME CFS Highlight notice update Jan 2023.docx](#)

 [ME CFS Strategy page update 2023.docx](#)

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Medical Research Council

Telephone: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] [MRC UKRI](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED] [MRC UKRI](#)  
**Subject:** RE: ME/CFS Highlight notice  
**Date:** 02 February 2023 11:00:19

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Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks that's really helpful. You're right, NIHR had a commissioned call around ME/CFS, I'll check the details with them but their commissioned calls are time limited so may not be quite the same as our highlight notices. They also don't receive an uplift so I'm not 100% sure how it works. I'll go away and find out more.

For DPFS we don't apply board opportunities or strategic priorities, again I'm not sure why and perhaps it should be across MRC.

[REDACTED] said she's also going to reply and [REDACTED] will probably be able to give you a clearer picture.

BW,  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org>  
**Sent:** 02 February 2023 10:55  
**To:** [REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org>  
**Subject:** RE: ME/CFS Highlight notice

Thanks [REDACTED]

Yes, the highlight opportunity is like a 'Board opportunity' – not sure if DPFS have those? It's a strategic priority area for the funding panel. With the highlight notice, the idea is it is treated like a 'board opportunity', so in ranking is given an uplift against other applications scoring the same. Ideally we'd be applying the highlight across all funding opportunities, but there may be exceptions.

We used to have several highlight notices, but these have dwindled now and replace by the Board opportunity concept. I think ME/CFS might be the only one but it sits with the MRC wide opportunities (see below).

### Cross-board areas

In addition to board opportunities, IIB will prioritise submissions that meet the criteria of MRC-wide opportunities, which apply to all boards. These are:

- [new investigator research grants](#): supporting researchers towards becoming independent investigators
- [experimental medicine](#): understanding disease mechanisms and therapeutic targets using human participants
- advanced therapeutics: including cell or gene therapy, regenerative medicine, innovative medicines

IIB also supports research areas identified by MRC as a high priority including [Myalgic Encephalomyelitis or Chronic Fatigue Syndrome research](#).

What I don't know is, if there is a reason it only applies to Boards, or whether it was/is extended to Panels – and if there is a reason behind this justification, so I'm trying to gather information to understand what the situation is.

I **\*think\*** NIHR also have a highlight notice for ME/CFS (I feel like I've heard it discussed in conversation but could be wrong). If you can confirm re: EME and I can raise it with my DHSC contact in this area.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Medical Research Council

Telephone: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED] [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org)>

**Sent:** 02 February 2023 10:44

**To:** [REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED] [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org)>

**Subject:** RE: ME/CFS Highlight notice

Hi [REDACTED]

Sorry for the late reply. I'll email EME today and double check but I'm pretty sure that we don't apply MRC highlight notices to EME, although perhaps we should. We don't generally discuss highlight notices at DPFS either so what would we expect to happen regarding highlight notices? Do they receive an uplift in the ranking or something else?

Sorry if these are really silly questions.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED] [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org)>

**Sent:** 02 February 2023 10:37

**To:** [REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED] [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org)>; [REDACTED] MRC UKRI

[REDACTED] [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org)>; [REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED] [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org)>;

[REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED] [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org)>

**Cc:** [REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED] [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org)>; [REDACTED] MRC UKRI

[REDACTED] [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org)>

**Subject:** RE: ME/CFS Highlight notice

Hi all,

A gentle reminder to please update me whether the ME/CFS highlight notice is being applied to the below schemes.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Medical Research Council

Telephone: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED] MRC UKRI

**Sent:** 24 January 2023 16:03

**To:** [REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED] [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org); [REDACTED] MRC UKRI  
[REDACTED] [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org); [REDACTED] UKRI [REDACTED] [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org);  
[REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED] [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org)

**Cc:** [REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED] [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org); [REDACTED] MRC UKRI  
[REDACTED] [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org)

**Subject:** ME/CFS Highlight notice

Hi all,

I am in the process of updating the ME/CFS Highlight notice and updating on some work we have been doing in this area. The MRC Highlight notice is a cross-MRC opportunity and I wanted to check whether this is something that has been applied/is being applied to the funding schemes in your remit:

- Developmental Pathway Funding Scheme
- MRC/NIHR Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (aware this is led by NIHR, but any info appreciated)
- MRC/NIHR Better Methods, Better Research
- MRC/NIHR Develop guidance for better research methods
- Experimental Medicine Panel

You may not have encountered a high volume of applications in this area, but as part of our work to promote high quality ME/CFS applications, I want to make the funding opportunities as clear as possible for researchers. I would be grateful if you could confirm with regard to the schemes listed above.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org>

**Sent:** 30 January 2023 08:32

**To:** [REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org>

**Cc:** [REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org>

**Subject:** RE: ME-CFS activity and long Covid

Thanks [REDACTED] this is very helpful and all that I need to know at this stage. I will come back to [REDACTED] in due course if more is needed.

Regards

[REDACTED]

-----  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Medical Research Council (UKRI)

7th Floor Caxton House, 6-12 Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA

Phone: [REDACTED]

Executive Assistant: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]



Medical  
Research  
Council

[www.mrc.ukri.org](http://www.mrc.ukri.org)

---

**From:** [REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org>

**Sent:** 27 January 2023 20:20

**To:** [REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org>

**Cc:** [REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org>

**Subject:** RE: ME-CFS activity and long Covid

Hi [REDACTED] conscious Monday is [REDACTED] non-working day. [REDACTED] is very much the lead on the area at the moment, but hopefully the below is enough for you on Monday ([REDACTED] can add more on Tue if needed?):

- In 2022, MRC co-funded an [ME/CFS Priority Setting Partnership](#) to identify the Top 10+ ME/CFS research priorities.
- We are updating MRC's [cross-Board highlight notice](#) to include these priorities and encourage more high quality applications
- We are engaging with the UKCRC convened ME Research Subgroup reporting to [REDACTED] [REDACTED], seeking to raise awareness of research into ME and build trust between relevant stakeholders. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- In 2020, MRC and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) jointly funded the £3.2 million [DecodeME](#) study (£1.4 million from NIHR and 1.8 million from MRC).

Anecdotally, a recent change to moving the highlight notice to the funding finder has seen an increase in enquiries and potentially more applications, but I don't believe these have fed through to recent awards to include in a response.

Let us know if you need more and I can either dig on Monday or [REDACTED] can look into this on Tue (if it can wait until then). [REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED] [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org)>  
**Sent:** 27 January 2023 18:04  
**To:** [REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED] [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] MRC UKRI [REDACTED] [@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@mrc.ukri.org)>  
**Subject:** ME-CFS activity and long Covid

Hi [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] has received a query in the long Covid area and was just wondering how much we are doing in ME-CFS these days beyond the [REDACTED] consortium? Could you give me a top-level view by CoP Monday please (no grant by grant detail needed)

Thanks

[REDACTED]

---

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Medical Research Council (UKRI)  
7th Floor Caxton House, 6-12 Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA

Phone: [REDACTED]