Staff Network Celebration and Development Day - Shaping our environment together

Event Overview

Date: Wednesday 29 April 2026

Time: 10:00–15:00

Location: RAL Visitor Centre (R112), Harwell Campus, Didcot

Arrival: Reporting to RAL Main Reception (R75) on arrival

Registration: Complete the **Registration form**

Background and context:

UKRI Staff Networks are vital to supporting our People priorities and building the inclusive environment we need for everyone who works in research and innovation to thrive and deliver impact from UKRI's investments.
The Staff Network Celebration and Development Day, facilitated by Radius, will bring colleagues together to recognise the contribution and legacy of our staff networks, strengthen relationships and collaboration, and build a shared understanding of the impact we want our networks to have and how we can work together to achieve it.

Target participants:

Staff Network leaders and sponsors, ExCo members, senior leaders, and other colleagues who play key roles in engaging with and supporting the impact of our staff networks.

Aims: Our core aims for the day are to:

- **Build connections** between senior leaders and across networks to support collaboration and closer strategic alignment.
- **Highlight achievements** of our staff networks and identify opportunities to build on these in 2026/2027.
- **Deepen understanding** of network roles within UKRI and provide development opportunities to enhance leadership impact

Our partnership with Radius Networks:

Radius Networks is a global leader in employee network and resource group (ERG) development, working with over 1,000 international organisations across 125 countries. Founded in 2009 as a professional diversity network, Radius leverages first-hand experience and empathy through experienced consultants to transform networks into powerful strategic assets that drive business impact and culture change.

The Radius mission is simple - "Build Better Networks Together" by investing in the key people—leads, committee members, and sponsors—who are essential to a network's success and the wider EDI ecosystem.

Programme Outline

10:00 – Registration and informal networking

10:30 – Welcome and setting the scene

- Welcome from UKRI leadership, including remarks from CPO.
- Connecting with UKRI future, strategies and plans.
- Celebrating and recognising staff network contributions.

11:00 – Global Insights

- Radius share insights from Global Impact Report.
- Interactive: Plenary for questions and reflections.

11:25 – Break

11:30 – Unlocking the power of networks

- Identifying the impact we want networks to have
- A recap of ExCo engagement
- Exploring challenges and unlocking barriers
- Practical: Impact vs effort exercise

12:15 – Making connections for success

- Interactive: A guided exercise to get to know each other and find connections.

12:30 – Lunch

13:30 – Sustainable and Supportive Leadership

Group 1 – The Roles Sponsors Play in Supporting Networks

This session is for network sponsors.

- Breaking down the different roles sponsors play in supporting staff networks.
- Guiding colleagues in achievable actions to strengthen network support.

Group 2 – Sustainable Leadership and Wellbeing

This session is for Staff Network leadership team members

- Reflecting on the link between identity, wellbeing and sustainable leadership.
- Exploring how to prioritise limited time and focus on what matters most.

Group 3 – Optimising Employee Voice, Protecting Network Capacity

This session is for attendees who support and engage staff networks

- Exploring how we can engage staff networks without overburdening

Regroup and share themes and outcomes of smaller group discussions

14:30 – Effective and consistent network operations

- An update on the review of the Framework or Operations and Engagement
- Highlighting resources and support available to Staff Networks and Sponsors

14:45 – Reflections and next steps

15:00 – Close

Useful Information

Where to find us

RAL is located on the Harwell Campus in Oxfordshire:
Science and Technology Facilities Council
Rutherford Appleton Laboratory
Harwell Campus
Didcot
OX11 0QX
Tel: +44 (0)1235 445 000
Fax: +44 (0)1235 445 808

Registering on arrival

Registration will be at RAL Main Reception (R75). If you have driven you can temporarily park in the reception car park while you sign in.
Unless you are already based at RAL you **must bring suitable ID.**
Below is a list of acceptable forms of ID

- STFC/UKRI Issued Photo Pass
- UK or foreign driving licence
- UK or foreign passport
- EU/EEA National Identity Card
- UK PASS Card
- eVisa
- MOD 90 / Government ID / Warrant Card

Once you have signed in you will need to walk a little further up the road to reach the RAL Visitor Centre (R112), or if you have a booked parking space you will need to take your car to the EPAC car park or to one of the disabled parking bays outside the Visitor Centre.

Travel arrangements

Parking on site is very limited and colleagues are encouraged to travel by public transport or car share.

Coach from Polaris House

There will be a free coach available for colleagues to travel between Polaris House, Swindon and RAL, Harwell, Didcot.
The coach will board at Polaris House at **08:45** (departing no later than 09:00).
The coach will depart RAL at **15:15.**
Book your place via the registration form.

Cars

Send you vehicle registration in advance if you have been allocated a reserved parking space.

There is additional parking at Harwell Parking but spaces can't be guaranteed. There is a 15-minute walk from these car parks to the Main RAL Reception, where you will need to report on arrival.

Train

Didcot Parkway rail station is five miles away, with frequent bus services and taxis available for onward travel to RAL.
Colleagues wishing to travel by taxi can meet at the taxi rank to organise themselves into shared taxis. Separate emails have been sent providing details of who to look out for.

Bus

There are several fast bus services to RAL.
Bus stops and routes on campus can be found on the Harwell Campus travel map (PDF, 9MB).
Details of all bus services serving Harwell can be found on the Oxford Bus Company website.

Catering and dietary requirements

Pastries and fruit, and hot and cold drinks are available on arrival.
There will be a buffet lunch of sandwiches and salads in the RAL Visitor Centre.
Please ensure you have advised us of dietary requirements.

Contact Information:

Workforce EDI Team inbox: EDIHR@ukri.org
RAL Reception: 01235 77 Ext. 8940/8900
RAL Security: 01235 44 Ext. 5545
Emergency / First Aid Incident – Dial 01235 44 Ext. 2222 or 01235 778888 from a mobile [redacted] contact number (for emergencies only): [redacted]

Unable to attend?

We recognise that not everyone who would like to attend will be able to do so. All invited colleagues will receive a follow-up email after the event, capturing key themes, outcomes and next steps.