

ENGINEERING AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES RESEARCH COUNCIL

Meeting 11th December 2008

EFFICIENCY OF PEER REVIEW – MANAGING DEMAND

Please note that Pages 1 to 3, sections of page 4 and 5, and page 6 of the original document have been removed as they are not within the scope of your request.

The following information has been extracted from pages 4 and 5 of the original document.

INITIAL APPROACH

6. The initial focus in demand management will be the removal of the lowest quality proposals from the peer review system. Four immediate areas are proposed, addressing resubmission policy, providing best practice and guidance to institutions, constraining repeatedly unsuccessful applicants and enhancing transparency over review outcomes.
10. Repeatedly Unsuccessful Applicants: Table 1 depicts the percentage of applicants, as a proportion of the total applicant population, who have had more than 3 to 7 unsuccessful applications (as PI) within the last two years and personal success rates of lower than 25%. The table shows that a significant number of full submissions originated from applicants within these categories.
 - It is proposed that EPSRC would not accept further applications (as PI or Co-I) from those applicants who have had 4 or more unsuccessful applications within the last two years (and a personal success rate of less than 25%) without the confirmed appointment of a mentor by the appropriate institution. Following a six month period of mentoring the applicant would then be permitted to make further applications at a rate agreed with EPSRC.
 - There is a large cohort of applicants whose proposals repeatedly either fall in the bottom quartile of a panel's rank ordered list or do not merit consideration at a panel. It is proposed that EPSRC would not accept further applications (as PI or Co-I) from those applicants who have had 2 or more applications within the last two years (and a personal success rate of less than 25%) that meet these criteria without the confirmed appointment of a mentor by the appropriate institution. Following a six month period of mentoring the applicant would then be permitted to make further applications at a rate agreed with EPSRC. In responsive mode, this corresponds to approximately 16% of all proposals submitted (see Table 2).

The following has been extracted from pages 7 and 8 of the original document

MANAGING DEMAND

Figure 1: Total number of Proposal Submissions to EPSRC (showing declared resubmissions by applicants)

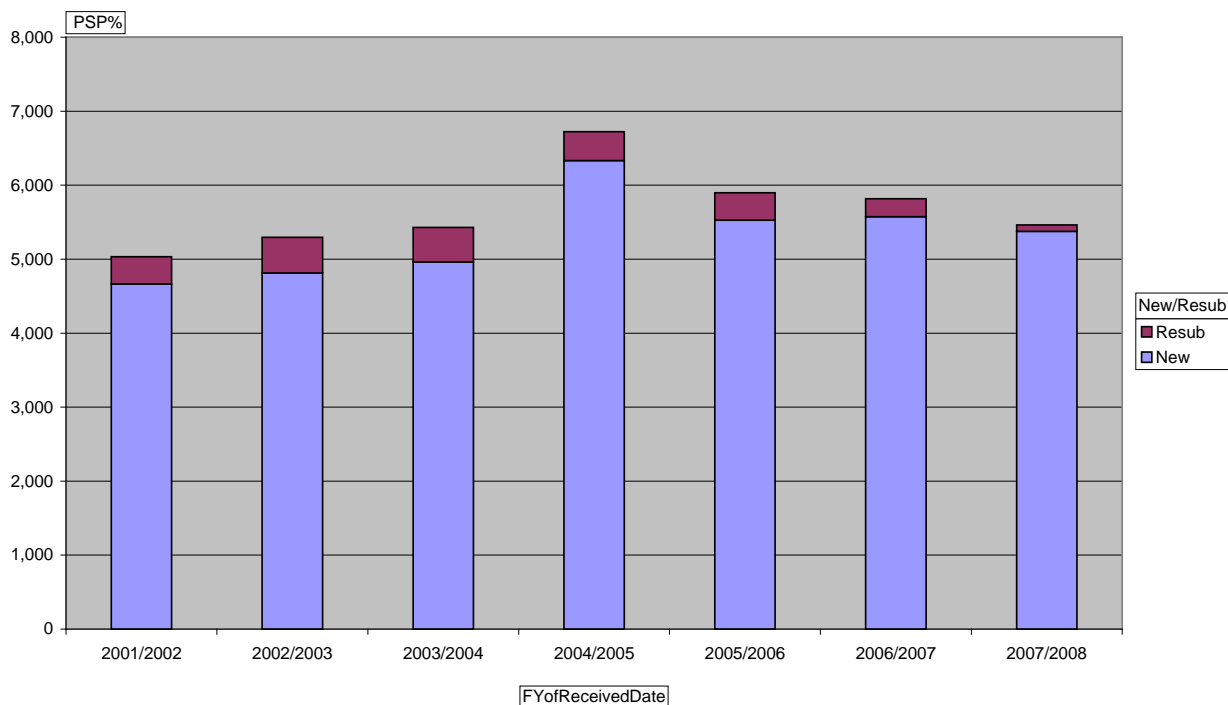


Table 1: Unsuccessful Submission Groups for Applicants with Personal Success Rates less than 25% in the last two years

(where the applicants are principle investigators only)

No. of unsuccessful proposals per applicant	Total no. of unsuccessful proposals for applicants in this group	% of unsuccessful proposals as a proportion of total	No. of applicants in group	Applicants in group as a percentage of total
7 or more	261	2.4%	33	0.5%
6 or more	351	3.2%	48	0.7%
5 or more	601	5.4%	98	1.5%
4 or more	1033	9.3%	206	3.2%
3 or more	1669	15%	418	6.4%

Table 2: Applicants whose proposals are ranked in the bottom quartile of a panel's Rank Ordered List or do not merit consideration at a Panel ¹ in the last two years

No. of such proposals per applicant	Total no. of such proposals for applicants in this group	% of such proposals as a proportion of total ¹	No. of applicants in group
12	12	0.02%	1
6 or more	30	0.06%	4
5 or more	55	0.15%	9
4 or more	151	0.53%	33
3 or more	349	1.60%	99
2 or more	1009	16.29	429

¹ Only Panels with more than 4 proposals have been considered; data applies to Responsive Mode only (6193 proposals)