



EPSRC

Paying Referees?

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World-leading research requires excellent peer review

- Good refereeing is vital;
- EPSRC operates a peer review system that is fair, flexible, open, easy to understand, and efficient to operate;
- The College is at the heart of the EPSRC peer review system:





EPSRC Peer Review College

- The EPSRC college contains over 4100 members
- Wide range of disciplines and backgrounds
- 15% of members are UK non-academics
- 11% of members are from outside the UK and are both academic and non-academic
- Members are appointed for 4 years
- All members are offered training





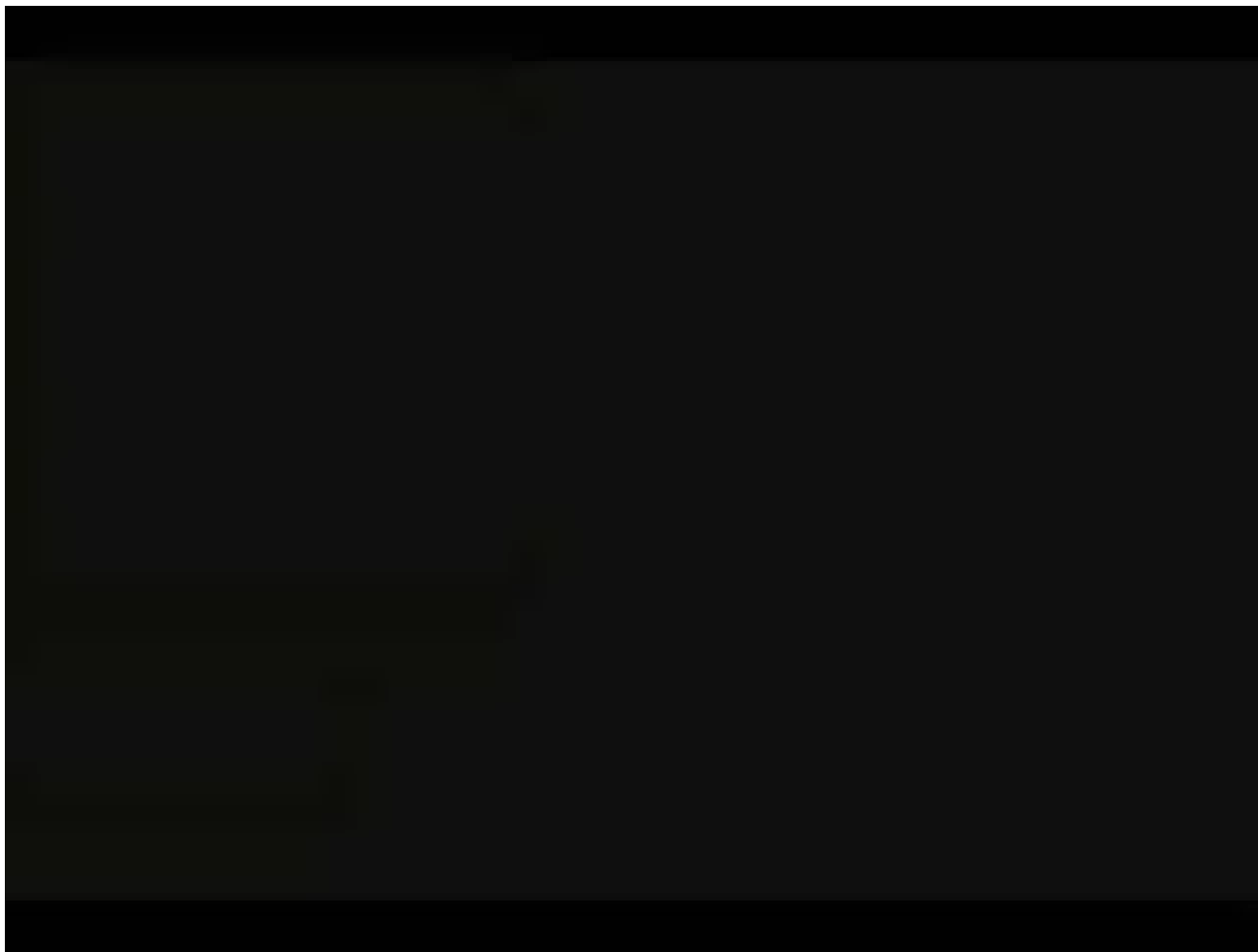
EPSRC Peer Review College

	College	Grant Investigators
Female	12%	11%
Non-White	9%	10%
Age: Under 40	19%	35%
40-50	41%	35%
50-60	29%	21%
60+	11%	9%





Peer review process - video





Problems with refereeing

For the Research Council

- Quality
- Timeliness
- Referees do not fully understand the refereeing process

For the Referee

- Lack of time/Too many other things to do
- Lack of recognition
- Referees do not understand how EPSRC uses referee reports





Solution?

For the Research Council

- Faster, better refereeing
- Raise prestige
- Train referees

For the Referee

- More time
- More recognition
- Get training



Payments for Refereeing – “Peer Miles”

- Introduced in 2001 to raise prestige of refereeing and improve response rate
- One “Peer Mile” for a referee’s report
- Two “Peer Miles” for a report returned on time
- At year end “Miles” gained by department added up
- EPSRC distributes £750k (€1.1M) to Departments for use for approved purposes - conferences, students support etc
- Each “Mile” worth about £30 (€45)

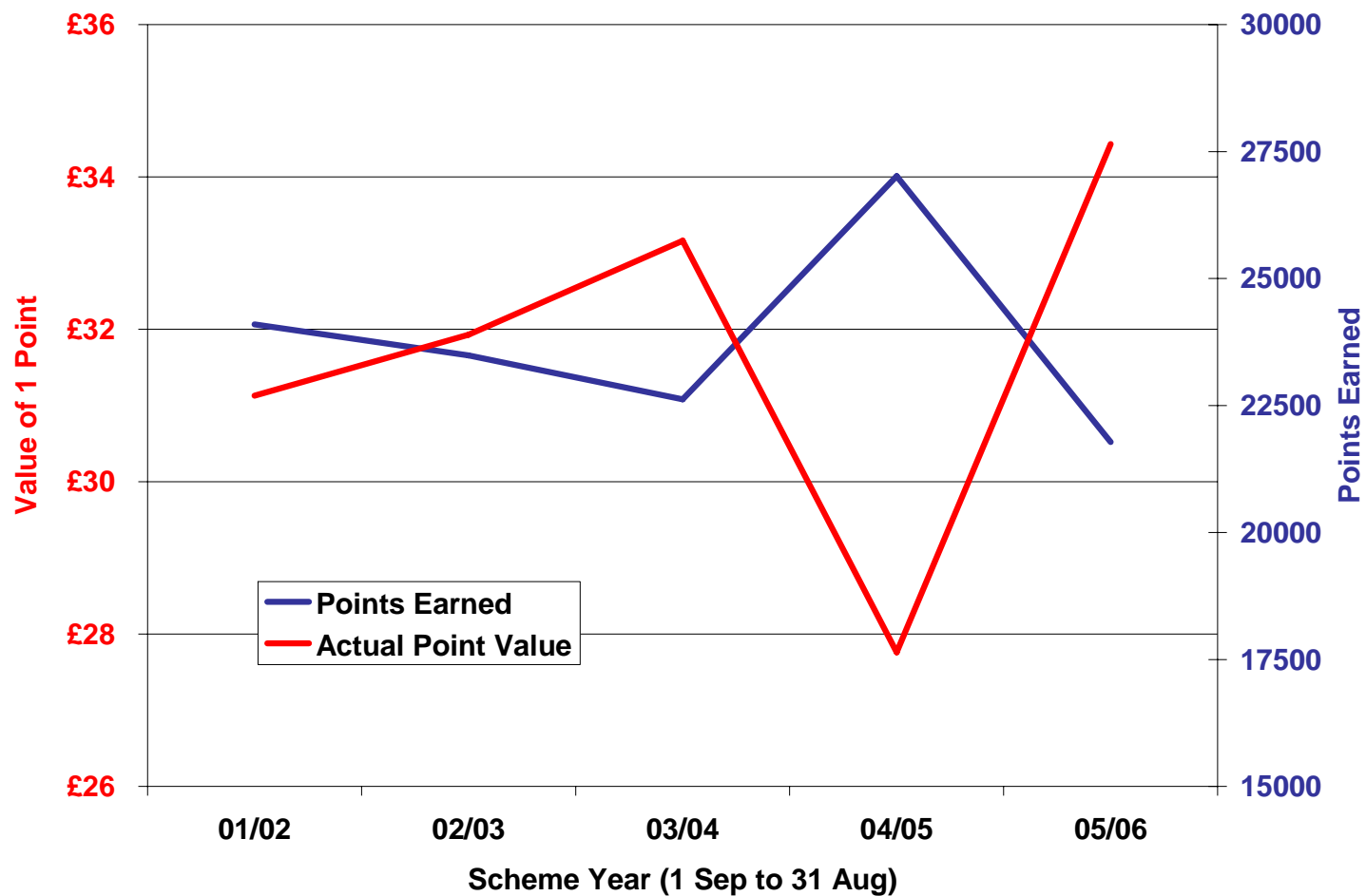


Use of Payments for Refereeing

- visits to conferences
- publication costs
- staff or student development
- teaching seminars - paid for travel to these events
- travel budgets
- expenses for invited speakers
- equipment for PhD students, small pieces of lab equipment, bits of software, computer equipment

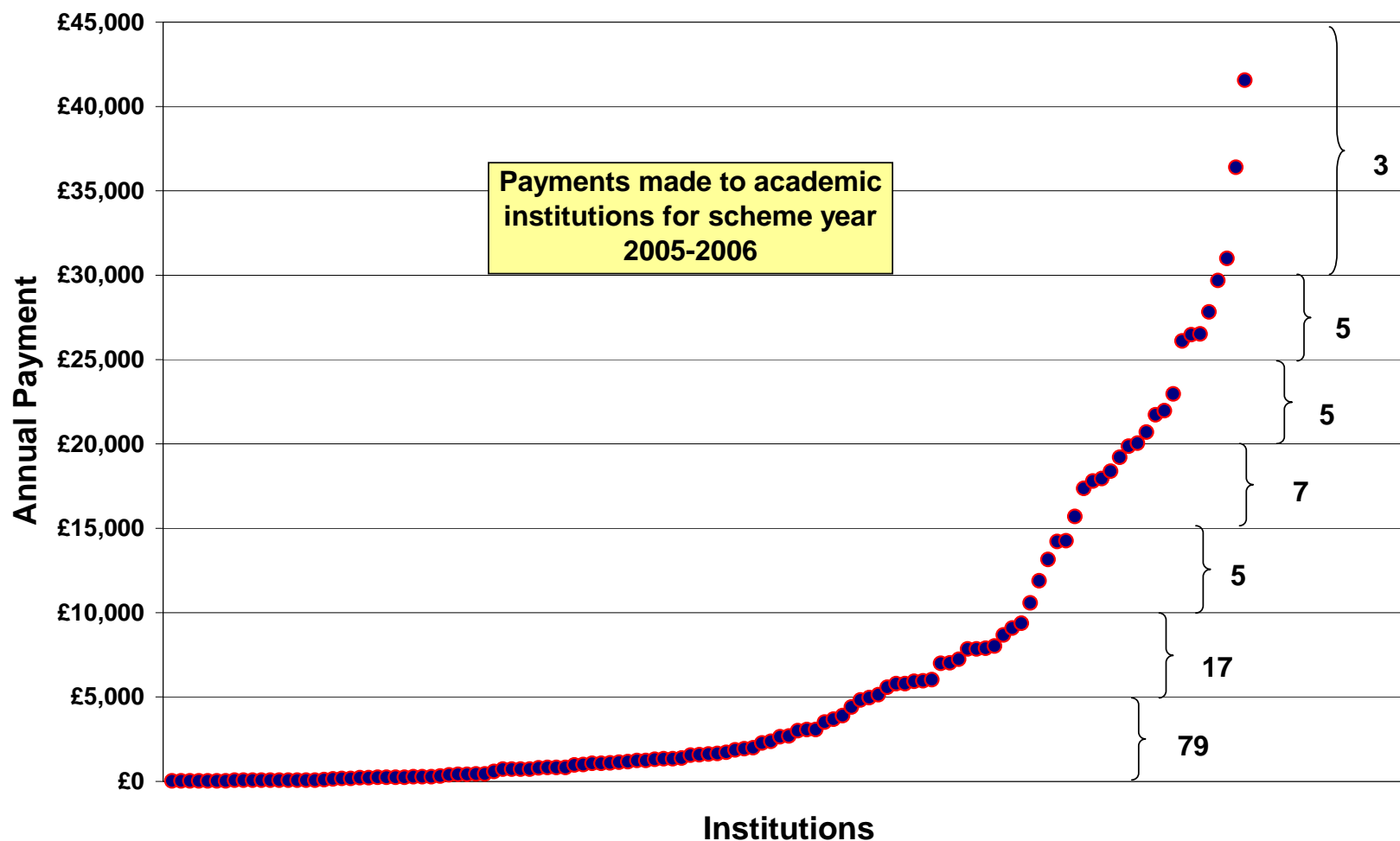


Value of a "Peer Mile"



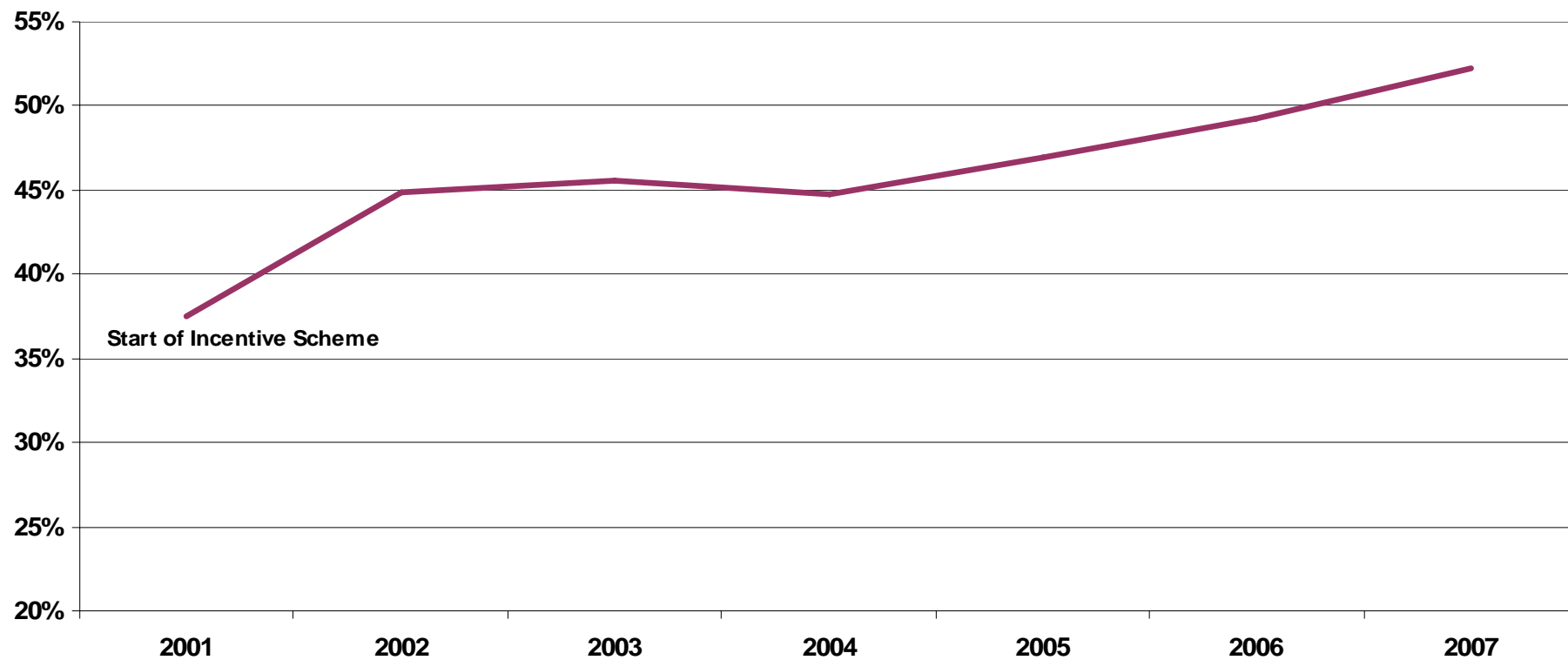


Payments made to academic institutions for scheme year 2005-2006



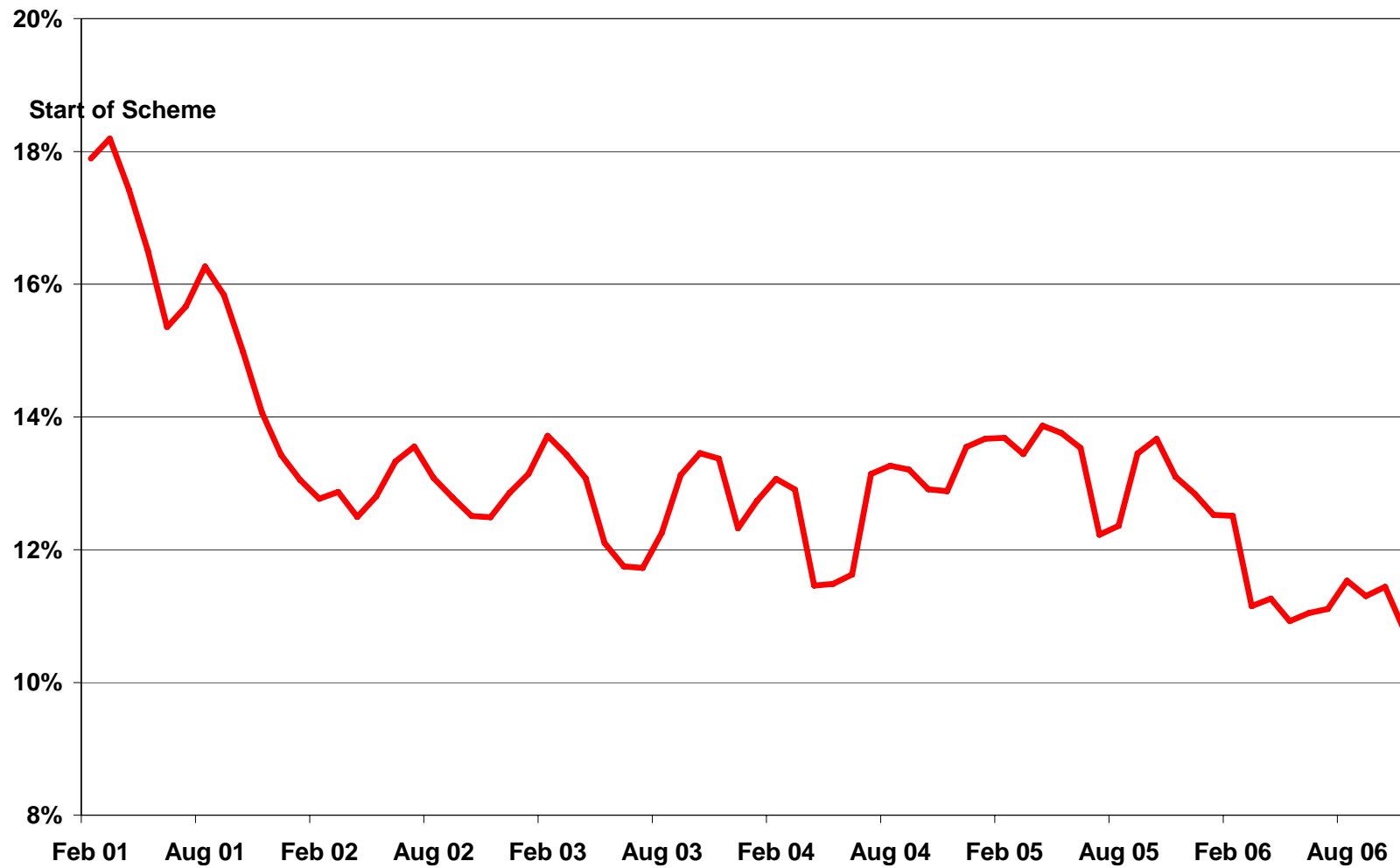


Referee Reports (Grants) Usable & Received On Time





Referees Not Responding - 3 Month Rolling Averages



Issues for the future

- Payment to other types of referees? How?
- Value of Fund – should it be increased?
- Introduce a quality factor?
- Provide closer direct feedback of results to referees and Heads of departments



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Thank You

Comments to Stuart Ward, EPSRC

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