



British Philosophical Association

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Dear Professor Roberts

I am writing to you on behalf of the British Philosophical Association concerning the use of impact as a measure of research excellence.

The BPA broadly endorses the points made in James Ladyman's recent letter to you on this topic, and we would like to add our voice to his request for the British Academy to attempt to exert its influence on policy-makers to reconsider the 'impact' component of the Research Excellence Framework.

We are not opposed in principle to the idea that the case for the funding of research in arts and humanities by the taxpayer might be made more forcefully than it has been. Nor are we opposed to the idea that, where appropriate, some of those working in the arts and humanities might be encouraged to ensure that their work reaches and affects relevant audiences outside academia.

We are, however, opposed to the idea that the non-academic impact of research is in any sense a measure of its quality; and we are therefore opposed to the previous government's proposal to include impact as a component of the Research Excellence Framework.

Yours sincerely

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