



A new approach to Public affairs



Frankie Walker - Senior public affairs officer, Jisc


A new approach

- Our why?
- Background
- Recent history
- Looking forward

Jisc About us > Public affairs

Public affairs

We provide insight into national policy and advocate for the tertiary education sector's needs.



Collaborating and advocating

We lead on engagement with policymakers, sector partners and government, fostering the collaborative relationships to support the FE, HE and research sectors and their needs. Through input into national policy, we advocate for where digital can make a real difference.



Our Why?



Why is a new approach important?

Jisc 2030 vision

- To lead the UK tertiary education, research and innovation sectors and to be pioneers in the use of digital technology and data.
- Through world-class, sustainable and shared digital infrastructure, we will provide clear strategic direction, expert guidance and deliver integrated solutions that are tailored to the evolving needs of higher and further education, research and policy.
- We will enable collaborative innovation, data driven decision-making and sector-wide transformation, always seeking to drive cost savings and operational efficiencies. We will give stakeholders the confidence, insight and tools to lead, influence and thrive in a fast-changing world.

How?

- **We'll do this by focusing on four things:**
- **Sector leadership and strategic influence**
 - We will leverage our trusted status and deep sector expertise to position ourselves as the vital strategic partner for digital, data and technology in higher and further education.
 - **OKR:** Influence national policy and investment decisions to secure sustainable funding and drive digital innovation across UK education and research.
- **Focus on sector-wide challenges**
- **Financial sustainability and commercial focus**
- **Operational excellence and agility**



Background



Where we were...



Outreach focused on ministers and high-profile politicians in Westminster Bubble



Focus on short term, operational projects



Inconsistent messaging



Productivity focused, not impact focused



Governance



Journey so far



Prioritisation...

Policy bodies

- The Department of Education
 - Further Education and Higher Education
 - Skills, training and careers
 - AI
- The Department of Work and Pensions
 - Apprenticeships, Adult FE, skills, training and careers (incl Skills England)
- The Department of Science, Innovation and Technology
 - AI, digital transformation
 - Research and Innovation
 - Data
 - Cyber, Networking and Connectivity
- Office for Students
- UKRI / Research England (and its associated councils)

Policy areas

- Research and Innovation - specifically digital research infrastructure
- Transformation and Efficiency (inclusive of digital transformation and sector sustainability)
- AI
- Digital Inclusion and accessibility
- Security

External partner

Working with an external agency:

- Intelligence/insight
- Hold a mirror up to us/provide critical challenge
- Access to corridors of power
- Trusted advisor

Fundamentals – PA processes

Internal housekeeping

- Visibility of who is talking to who, and about what (stakeholder mapping and customer relationship management (CRM))
- Developing evidence bases for policy areas
- Criteria-based "No"
- Formalised BAU PA processes (e.g Consultations and Briefings)
- Yearly impact and evaluation

Proactive engagement



"The Government's International Education Strategy highlights education as a core enabler of future growth and an essential tool for advancing the UK's global influence. As institutions expand their footprint across borders, digital infrastructure, cyber security, data, and licensing become mission critical. Jisc is proud to provide the technologies, insights and support that ensure UK education remains trusted, competitive and world-leading."

David Patterson, head of international

Jisc



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We are delighted to support the ambitions of the UK's AI for Science Strategy.

As AI reshapes research, equipping scientists with the right skills to use these tools responsibly is essential for trust, integrity and global advancement.

We look forward to working with [Department for Science, Innovation and Technology](#), [UK Research and Innovation](#) and the UK's research-intensive institutions to explore the feasibility of a system that enables federated coordination of compute downtime and capacity across the UK's national research and education network, Jisc's JANET network. JANET provides the underlying infrastructure, presenting an opportunity to develop a system that increases efficiency and reduces waste, unlocking the full potential of AI for science.

Supporting the ambitions of the UK's AI for Science Strategy



"We look forward to working with DSIT, UKRI and the UK's research-intensive institutions to enable the coordination of compute capacity across the UK's national research and education network, unlocking the full potential of AI for science."

Victoria Moody,
Director for research

Jisc



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Impact so far...

- **Collaboration for a sustainable future**

- Following the publication of our report, hosted by HEPI for a webinar '*Competition or collaboration? Opportunities for the future of the HE sector*' to discuss the key findings of the report. **HEPI's most booked webinar to date, with sign ups including policy leads from the Department of Education.**

- **Russell Group – Value of international research partnerships**

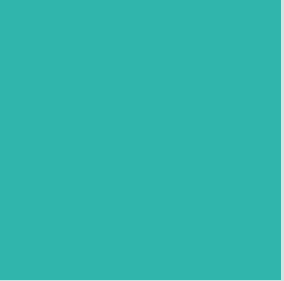
- Our joint policy briefing with the Russell Group used our novel data analysis to extract examples of UK research's international reach through patent data and case studies. This feeds into the ambitions of the Department of Science, Innovation and Technology. This work **featured in the upcoming UKRI Global Mobility Evidence Report 2025,**

- **The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology – Ministerial invite to roundtable on AI in public services**

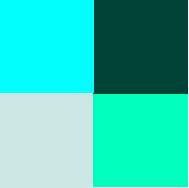
- *Invited by Minister for AI and Digital Government to attend and contribute to an in-person roundtable on AI in public services.*

- **London Tech Week – Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology praises spin out register**

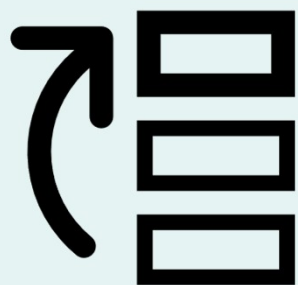
- *DSIT Secretary, Peter Kyle praised the publication of the register as marking 'a step-change in the type and quality of information available on the UK's spin-outs – which will inform better policy-making*



Coming soon...



Strategic policy development



**Policy development
and prioritisation**



**Alignment across
directorates**



**Review policy work
and resource
coordination**



**Externalisation and
outreach**