

Dear Sir David Cooksey,

I am writing in response to the request to solicit views on UK Health Research. The basis of my opinion is as an external funded scientist (British Heart Foundation Principal Scientist) currently a co-applicant on two MRC programme grants with 25 years experience in biomedical science and over 200 publications.

'Contract research staff' are seldom, if ever, represented on panels such as yours, yet are now in the majority in many Universities such as Cambridge.

Review Question 2 & 4.

The single major challenge in UK Health Research is that the majority of non-clinical scientists, including many at a senior level, working in the biomedical sciences do so without any security of tenure, on a series of short term contracts usually of three years or less. Salary levels are lower than those in a permanent University positions and the conditions of service are less favorable.

These issues were all highlighted and detailed evidence presented by the Academy of

Medical Sciences in a report in 2002

<http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk/images/publication/AcMedSci.pdf> . The situation has not changed. This lack of a career or adequate pay reward is resulting in a decline the numbers choosing science GCSE and A levels with the consequent closure and amalgamation of departments in Universities. This has serious consequences for the continuation of UK Health Research and income generation by the knowledge based economy.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Anthony P. Davenport,  
Clinical Pharmacology Unit,  
University of Cambridge,