

Impact: past, present and future

Professor Graeme Reid
@GraemeTR

The past

1675 – Charles II founds Royal Greenwich Observatory

“to find out the so much desired longitude of places for the perfecting of the art of navigation”



...and still in the past

- **1832 British Geological Survey**
- **1900 National Physical Laboratory**
- **1911 National Insurance Act; creation of MRC**
- **1948 National R&D Corporation**
- **1970s and 80s early university spinouts & TTOs**

Strathclyde University Centre for Industrial Innovation (est 1969)

“By 1974 the Centre had 'handled 200 projects' and had a list of regular customers that varied in size from large firms to very small local traders and manufacturers.”

**UNIVERSITY OF
STRATHCLYDE**

**CENTRE FOR INDUSTRIAL
INNOVATION (ice-making in
the tropics)**

TECHNICIAN

Grade 5

required for a period of 2 years with bench fitting and machine shop experience for a variety of development work on prototypes, with the prospect of some UK and overseas travel.

Salary Scale (including all supplements): £2889-£3367 per annum.

Applications in writing, QUOTING REFERENCE CII.23, giving details of age, experience and qualifications, should be made to **The Personnel Officer, University of Strathclyde, Royal College Building, 204 George Street, Glasgow G1 1XW.**

...and more recent still

- **1986 Research Assessment Exercise – performance linked to funding; focus on publications**
- 1993: Science White Paper
- 2004 Ten year framework for science and innovation
- 2006 Peter Warry: increased impact of Research Councils
- **2006-11 Introduction of REF to include assessment of demonstrable economic and social impacts**

...and more recent still

- **1986 Research Assessment Exercise – performance linked to funding; focus on publications**
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Where are we now?

- **Impact embedded in UKRI strategy, industrial strategy and research funding**
- **Impact mainly related to projects in universities**
- **No sign of research excellence suffering**
- **UK strong in international comparisons of excellence and (some) impact**

Clarity of purpose

- **REF and KEF: impact and knowledge exchange**
- **Too many schemes inside UKRI**
- **Diversity of policy across the UK**
- **Need greater coherence with HMRC on R&D tax credits**
- **Regional interventions complicated**

Future opportunities

- **The impact of universities**
- **Institutes, Catapults etc**
- **The impact of disciplines**
- **Questioning the focus on SMEs**
- **Engaging more sectors of business**
- **Designing funding schemes to support impact**

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