

IPNP Meeting 24th Feb 2026



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology



**UK Research
and Innovation**



Scottish Funding Council
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba



**Arts and
Humanities
Research Council**

UKRI AHRC funds outstanding original research across the whole range of the arts and humanities.



**Biotechnology and
Biological Sciences
Research Council**

UKRI BBSRC invests to push back the frontiers of biology and deliver a healthy, prosperous and sustainable future.



**Economic
and Social
Research Council**

UKRI ESRC is the UK's largest funder of economic, social, behavioural and human data science.



**Engineering and
Physical Sciences
Research Council**

UKRI EPSRC creates knowledge in engineering and physical sciences for UK capability to benefit society and the economy.



**Innovate
UK**

UKRI Innovate UK is the UK's national innovation agency supporting business-led innovation in all sectors, technologies and UK regions.



**Medical
Research
Council**

UKRI MRC funds research at the forefront of science to prevent illness, develop therapies and improve human health.



**Natural
Environment
Research Council**

UKRI NERC is the driving force of investment in environmental science.



**Research
England**

UKRI Research England funds and engages with English higher education providers, to create and sustain the conditions for a healthy and dynamic research and knowledge exchange system in the higher education sector.



**Science and
Technology
Facilities Council**

UKRI STFC supports research in astronomy, physics, space science and operates world-class research facilities for the UK.



Science and Technology Facilities Council

PPAN = Particle Physics, Astronomy & Nuclear Physics Grants

UK Labs = RAL, ATC@ROE, Boulby, Daresbury Lab

UK Facilities = Diamond light source, ISIS neutron source, Central Laser Facility

International Subscriptions = CERN, ITER, ESO, SKA, ILL, ERSF

From 2024, budget structure has changed but to give a flavour

<https://indico.cern.ch/event/1348500/timetable/#20240913>

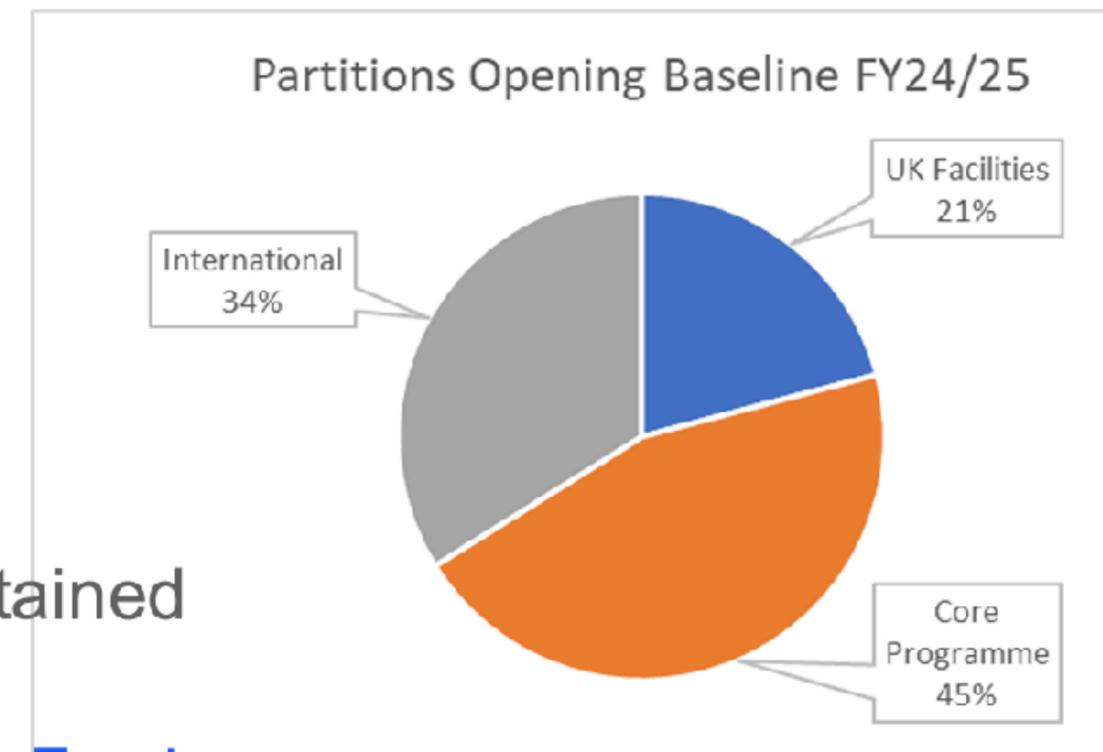
STFC Budget Structure

STFC has three partitions in our core R&D budget

- International Facilities
 - CERN, ESO, ILL, ESRF, EMBL, SKAO, ESS, European XFEL
- UK Facilities:
 - ISIS, Diamond and Central Laser Facility
- Core R&D Programme:
 - “PPAN” Grants and Projects Programme
 - National Laboratories and estates
 - Roughly 50:50 split between the two

Partitions are in place to ensure balance is maintained across the overall portfolio

- + **one-off investments**, e.g. UKRI Infrastructure Fund



STFC advisory boards

Most relevant here:

Particle Physics Advisory Panel (PPAP) & Science Board (SB)

Staffed by UK community members (academics at Universities),

Mark Williams is a current member of PPAP; Matt Needham previous chair

Meeting on Wednesday was convened by PPAP

Next slides from PPAP meeting Wednesday 4/2/26

PPAN Prioritisation: context to date

(Text from slides presented by PPAP chair Wednesday 4th Feb
<https://indico.stfc.ac.uk/event/1822>)

- Over past ~2 yrs the Science Board (SB) has been developing a prioritisation framework for PPAN programme.
- Advisory Panels (AP), including PPAP, were asked to provide input.
- In December 2025 APs received 3 questions.

PPAN Prioritisation: context to date (cntd)

(Text from slides presented by PPAP chair Wednesday 4th Feb
<https://indico.stfc.ac.uk/event/1822>)

- In December 2025 UKRI communicated withdrawal of infrastructure funding from LHCb upgrade, EIC and RUEDI
- On 28-Jan a potential reduction of ~30% to PPAN programme was communicated.
- An expanded set of questions was subsequently issued by SB with unchanged deadline of 23-Feb.
- APs to present responses at SB meeting on 3-4 Mar
- Project leads received pro-forma to identify reductions of 20%, 40% and 60% by 10 Mar

What are the PPAN community doing...

- ECR letter: <https://ecr-openletter-stfc.github.io/> (*ECRs can still sign!*)
- Advanced Fellows letter: <https://advancedfellows-openletter-stfc.github.io/index.html> (*fellows can still sign*)
- Several between senior community members, science minister, head of UKRI and STFC (3 meetings I'm aware of)
- Meetings between Physics HODs and head of STFC
- Westminster **Science Innovation & Technology Select Committee** public hearing on "STFC cost pressures and UKRI funding picture" on 4th March (Catherine Heymans will give evidence)
- In response to ECRs' and fellows' letters:
meeting between ECR & FLF reps head of UKRI on 3rd March, including Harriet Watson (ECR from PPE)

Particle Physics ad-hoc community action coordination group

Jon Butterworth (UCL PPE),

Kirsty Duffy (RAL PPE),

Malcolm Fairbairn (King's PPT),

Mark Lancaster (Manchester PPE veteran of 2008 campaign),

Chris Parkes (Manchester HoS),

Ruben Saakyan (UCL PPAP chair),

Sarah Williams (Cambridge PPE)

(+ Brian Cox when available)

“This group includes people with relevant experience both of previous crises and of UKRI/STFC organisation, while excluding current members of Council and Science Board (PPAN), who could be considered conflicted.

It also includes reasonable diversity of career stage (important training for potential future crises) and scientific background while, crucially, keeping the number of people involved small enough that the group can be agile.”

Royal Astronomical Society are also lobbying; Catherine Heymans monitoring

IOP APP HEPP

- 8th - 10th April 2026 at JMCC (Pollock Halls)
- www.iopeventsair/apphepp2026
- A chance to engage with the main community meeting for particle physics
- STFC Town Meeting 9th April - no need to register for this, unless you also want to stay for evening dinner & ceilidh
- Outreach talk Friday 10th at Old College being planned

What you can do...

Write to your MP and MSP. Best to write to your local MP/MSP. [Matt can share a template?]

- MPs represent constituents at the parliament in London - London parliament is responsible for setting funding to DSIT (that goes to UKRI and STFC)
- MPs represent constituent at the parliament in Edinburgh - Edinburgh parliament is responsible for funding to SFC (that goes to support Universities in Scotland)
- If you are a student, it's reasonable to write to your MP/MSP for where you live in Edinburgh, where you study & also your home (e.g. a parent's) address
- If you are staff, it's reasonable to write to your MP/MSP for where you live in Edinburgh and also where you work.

Tell them the impact that funding cuts will have on you and what the local area might lose because of them.

Local MPs for KB and UoE:

Ian Murray MP for King's Buildings (Labour, Edinburgh South) - has a junior government role in science

Chris Murray MP for central UoE campus (Labour, Edinburgh East & Musselburgh)

Daniel Johnson MSP for King's Buildings area (Labour, Edinburgh South) - labour spokesperson for skills

Angus Robertson MSP for central UoE campus (SNP, Edinburgh Central)

What we can do?

Collect some input from people who have been PhD students or postdocs and now use their skills in a different field.

Reply to IOP on the impact of proposed cuts

Making the case for Particle & Nuclear Physics (and Fundamental Science) more widely, e.g. talking to journalists

Links

ECR letter for signatures: <https://ecr-openletter-stfc.github.io/> (*ECRs can still sign!*)

Advanced Fellows letter for signatures: <https://advancedfellows-openletter-stfc.github.io/index.html> (*fellows can still sign*)

[Guardian opinion piece from Jon Butterworth](#)

- [News items on the Infrastructure Funding Cuts; On PPAN cuts](#)
- Announcement of proposed PPAN funding cuts: [Letter from Michelle Dougherty, Exec chair STFC](#)
- Narrative around proposed cuts and funding restructure: [Letter from Ian Chapman, CEO UKRI](#)
- [Interview with Michelle Dougherty](#)
- [Interesting blog post by Emeritus Astronomy Prof George Efsthathiou FRS](#)
- [Vintage news item on the 2008 crisis](#)