

Minutes of the 70th meeting of the UK Computing Research Executive Committee on Monday 1 December 2025 at 13:00, held online

PRESENT

Kevin Jones (Chair)

David Hutchison

BY INVITATION

Nadia Berthouze (Membership
Panel Chair)
Dharam Shadija (CPHC)

*Julia Adamson MBE
(BCS)

Daniela Tresoldi
(EPSRC)

IN ATTENDANCE (hosting only)

Helen Allison (BCS)

**attended part of meeting*

APOLOGIES

Michael Fisher

Alex Frangi

Amir Hussain

Alastair Irons (BCS Academy)

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed Executive Committee members to the meeting and apologies for absence were as above. *[Post meeting note: J McCann and S Dobson have stepped down as their terms of office came to an end in November 2025 and, although invited to the meeting subsequent to their end of term, had sent apologies.]* Members expressed disappointment at the level of attendance for this meeting as only two full Executive Committee members including the Chair were present, in spite of the postponement of both the June and October meetings to accommodate members' availability and ensure a quorum.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (UKCRCEC/2025/09)

The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 28 July 2025 were APPROVED with one amendment to the actions: (5) Chair's report 'Add October 2025 agenda item to discuss a UKCRC response to the government's Spending Review *and post-16 White Paper*'. These minutes are now ready for transfer to the UKCRC website *[action complete]*.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

25 March 2025, item 8 Membership Panel report: for the action to co-opt members to fill the gaps on the Panel, it was agreed that there should be one more attempt to fill the vacancies and then approach named contacts for co-opting. This action is therefore to be replaced by a new action arising from this meeting.

ACTION: N Berthouze/K Jones/M Leslie

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

K Jones reported on the following items:

UKCRC AGM: this was held immediately prior to the Exec Committee meeting and had better attendance than in previous years, but still only about 12 members. Both Martyn Thomas and Cliff Jones volunteered to undertake some actions. Members considered the role of UKCRC and the Chair indicated that UKCRC, in conjunction with CPHC and the BCS Academy, has evolved to be a representative voice for computing within the UK, with UKCRC particularly being the advice for research and innovation activity. The question is how does UKCRC do that effectively, particularly as it has lost visibility in recent years due to lower activity levels and members having less time and energy to contribute. It is therefore crucial to decide on where UKCRC brings the most value. Specifically this is providing broad based expert input, particularly to government level on topics that are of concern to the computing research community.

Consultations & submissions: it will be important to a) ensure that the consultations and submissions role is very active and influential and b) remind members that the collective body of knowledge within UKCRC is broader than any other group within this area. At the AGM it was agreed that a small working group be established in the new year to agree a plan of action for this. Government tends to go to contacts that they already interact with, but UKCRC has lost that link. Optimising the link with BCS via J Adamson and the Policy team should help with this.

J Adamson agreed and suggested putting in place a collective triage between CPHC, UKCRC and BCS on the requests so that they can be forwarded to the broadest group of experts. It was AGREED that a working group be established to implement this along with BCS.

ACTION: M Leslie

J Adamson noted that it may be possible to subscribe to notifications at www.gov.uk, either overarching or specific areas of policy. The secretariat will have a look at how this could be implemented, with consultations circulated to members, thereby reducing the burden on A Hussain. Members AGREED that notifications should initially be forwarded to the Exec Committee rather than the full membership, to test the volume levels.

ACTION: M Leslie

The Chair listed the eight priority sectors: advanced manufacturing, clean energy, creative industries, defence, digital and technologies, which includes AI, financial services, life sciences, professional and business services. All of these sectors are dependent on computing in some ways.

Membership: a question was raised at the AGM by Martyn Thomas about membership eligibility, whereby there were two research fellows working with M Thomas that were making a significant impact but did not meet the threshold for UKCRC membership as they are not in an appropriate stage of their career. There is a need to find new members that are enthusiastic and willing to contribute to the work of UKCRC. Members discussed the possibility of having two levels of membership: one level that is for those that meet the current criteria for admission and a further level for those either in an earlier stage of their research career or on the way to meeting the current criteria. When this had been discussed before, there had been resistance due to a perceived concern about diluting the 'elite' nature of UKCRC membership.

The introduction of mentoring candidates towards the goal of UKCRC membership had been looked at in the past, but there is currently little resource capacity to take this work forward. It would be helpful to have a triage system to filter out those unlikely to meet the requirements (eg, by CV review), however the volume of applications is so low to non-existent, that this is not a workable solution. Conversely if a pre-review service is offered on the website, then a larger volume of applications would be difficult to manage. There was also a lack of clarity on the website about applications requiring an independent supporter statement [*post meeting note: the website has now been updated to strengthen this aspect*].

Members acknowledged that to attract new members (and encourage current members to make nominations), it is important to demonstrate a good level of UKCRC activity. N Berthouze had been looking at a mapping to identify the areas of computer science that were not well covered by the membership, although this is a longer term aim due to being on sabbatical. **ACTION: N Berthouze**

N Berthouze further noted that some of the links on the member page no longer work, but acknowledged the resource implications of maintaining this page. The Chair suggested contacting J Adamson to see if there would be resource available to maintain this page. **ACTION: K Jones/M Leslie**

5. CONSULTATIONS & SUBMISSIONS

See discussion at item 4. A Hussain was not in attendance and as noted previously, both D Hutchison and M Leslie had encountered difficulties in contacting him.

6. RESEARCH FUNDING AND POLICY

6.1 EPSRC Update – D Tresoldi reported that the SAT meeting with CPHC, BCS and other learned societies had been held in mid-November 2025 and provided very interesting discussions on the talent pipeline, careers, sustainability of the skills pipeline, computing education in schools/HE, national skills priorities, future leaders and homegrown talent in the CS/ICT portfolio. A document with the output is being prepared for sharing with the learned societies.

Following the appointment of a new CEO, there are some changes within EPSRC, including a refresh of the ICT strategy with the intention of obtaining feedback on the various areas via a focus group which includes the learned societies. An example of one area is the fundamental frontiers in ICT, the blue sky and high risk/high reward activities in the ICT space.

The Chair asked about the post-16 White Paper and whether EPSRC is seeing any changes in the instructions from DSIT. D Tresoldi replied that there is a great deal of focus on areas such as semiconductors and there are separate activities that are specifically linked to DSIT with different budgets and themes.

The Chair thanked D Tresoldi and invited EPSRC to pass on any information or requests which UKCRC could try to help with.

7. REPORTS

7.1 Membership Panel – See min 5 Chair's report above. N Berthouze noted that as reported previously, there had only been one recent application, which had not been approved. It was AGREED that an email should be circulated in the new year to ask UKCRC members to think about suitable candidates for membership, specifying particular areas, once N Berthouze's mapping had been completed. **ACTION: K Jones/M Leslie**

N Berthouze further reported that, as Phil Trinder's term of office on the Membership Panel had ended early due to retirement, there were now only two members on the Panel. According to the UKCRC Constitution, the Panel comprises a minimum of four members elected by the UKCRC. In addition one representative each from BCS and CPHC may be added but is not a requirement (appointed in each case by the senior honorary officer of the relevant organisation). It would be helpful if one of the two UKCRC vacancies could be filled

by an industrialist. It was noted that in the case of the BCS and CPHC nominations, UKCRC membership is not a requirement. It was therefore AGREED that a request be made to J Adamson to nominate a BCS representative [*post meeting note: this request is being extended to the BCS Academy of Computing Board*].

ACTION: M Leslie

In addition, a call will be made to the membership for nominations, as would be usual in March of each year. N Berthouze undertook to think about who to approach if there are no willing nominations by reviewing the [UKCRC member list](#)

ACTION: N Berthouze

It would be good to set expectations of UKCRC membership in terms of contributions and perhaps this could be explored with applicants during the application process, asking what role they would be interested in contributing to, particularly in areas where there are gaps in expertise. N Berthouze undertook to draft some words to incorporate into the application process for consideration by the UKCRC Exec, such as 'where do you think you could be contributing and what would you be willing to do?'

ACTION: N Berthouze

7.2 International Matters inc Informatics Europe – the role of international representative continues to be vacant. Following the suggestion at the last meeting that a member of the broader UKCRC community may be well positioned to report on IE activities (if their institution is an IE member), the action for Exec members to make suggestions for who to approach via the secretariat ukcrc@bcs.uk remains open (Jul2025/8).

7.3 CPHC – D Shadija indicated that there was not much to report, other than the implementation of the previously reported new 2030 Strategy and programme of action. The CPHC AGM will be held at the 2026 annual event in April. Involvement of UKCRC members in this event was discussed and the need for sessions which could draw in UKCRC members. Although it had been challenging to secure monthly times when all three Chairs could meet, it was important to maintain this link and in particular the mutual understanding of the missions of each of the three partners.

7.4 BCS Academy – no report as J Adamson had left the meeting and A Irons had sent apologies. It was noted that A Irons would be standing down as BCS Vice President, Academy and BCS Academy Chair at the 2026 BCS AGM in March.

8. Dates of 2026 meetings including AGM

Members AGREED and NOTED the dates. M Leslie will circulate meeting invitations to existing Exec members and observers/invitees.

In addition, it was noted that the date of the 2026 AGM was to be decided and that one possibility was to align it with the Computing Summit in April.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items of AOB.

2026 Executive Committee meetings

Monday 27 April (15:00-17:00) Online meeting (NOTE CHANGE FROM Monday 23 March)

Monday 29 June (10:00-12:00) Online meeting (NOTE CHANGE FROM Tuesday 9 June)

*Tuesday 13 October (11:30-14:30) BCS London & Online

AGM 2026

TBC

*to include networking lunch and joint meeting with CPHC Committee & BCS Academy Board

UKCRC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN AT MEETINGS 2022-5

Outstanding Actions in Red

No.	Item	Item No.	Decision/Action	Responsibility	Complete
UKCRC Executive Committee Meeting ACTIONS from 1 December 2025					
Dec2025.1	MATTERS ARISING: Membership Panel	3	Make one further attempt to fill the MP vacancies, then approach named contacts for co-opting	N Berthouze/ K Jones/M Leslie	On-going
Dec2025.2	CHAIR'S REPORT	4	Set up WG tasked with introducing a collective triage process between UKCRC, BCS and CPHC for consultation requests	M Leslie	On-going
Dec2025.3			Investigate the possibility of subscribing to consultation notifications at www.gov.co.uk , initially for Exec Committee only	M Leslie	On-going
Dec2025.4			Continue to work on mapping gaps in expert areas within the UKCRC membership	N Berthouze	On-going
Dec2025.5			Contact J Adamson to ask if resource is available to maintain the member webpage with accurate personal homepage URLs	K Jones/M Leslie	On-going
Dec2025.6			REPORTS: Membership Panel	7.1	Circulate email to ask UKCRC members to think about suitable candidates for membership, specifying particular areas
Dec2025.7	Ask J Adamson to nominate a BCS representative for MP <i>[post mtg note: request extended to ACB at Feb mtg]</i>	M Leslie			Awaiting responses
Dec2025.8	Think about who to approach for MP membership if no nominations received in March 2026	N Berthouze			On-going
Dec2025.9	Draft wording on request for membership applicants to state areas that willing to contribute to UKCRC activities, initially for consideration by Exec Committee	N Berthouze			On-going
UKCRC Executive Committee Meeting ACTIONS from 28 July 2025					
Jul2025.1	MATTERS ARISING: Membership Panel	2	Progress the appointment admin for the new applicant in liaison with N Berthouze and K Jones as appropriate	M Leslie	Complete
Jul2025.2	COMMITTEE BUSINESS: Constitution update	4.1	Provide any comments or suggested amendments to the Constitution via the secretariat at ukcrc@bcs.uk before the next meeting on 14 October	Members	Complete

Jul2025.3	COMMITTEE BUSINESS: Committee roles	4.2	Consider volunteering to fill the vacant roles, in particular the CPHC and BCS Academy of Computing Board observer roles <i>[originally raised at Jun 24 meeting]</i>	Members to contact M Leslie	On-going
Jul2025.4			Summit ideas for engaging UKCRC members in the 2026 Summit to the secretariat	Members to contact M Leslie	On-going
Jul2025.5	CHAIR'S REPORT		Add future agenda item to discuss a UKCRC response to the government's Spending Review and Post-16 White Paper	M Leslie	Complete
Jul2025.8	REPORTS: International matters	8.2	Make suggestions for who to approach to provide an Informatics Europe report for the Exec	Members to contact M Leslie	On-going
UKCRC Executive Committee Meeting ACTIONS from 25 March 2025					
Mar2025.5	CHAIR'S REPORT		Send a note to the full Exec to ask for suggestions of those that might be willing to stand for the two vacant Exec positions	K Jones	On-going
Mar2025.6	CONSULTATIONS & SUBMISSIONS		(First raised at June 23 meeting) Let Amir Hussain know if there are any other forthcoming consultations to which the UKCRC should respond	Members	On-going
UKCRC Executive Committee Meeting ACTIONS from 8 October 2024					
Oct2024.3	MATTERS ARISING: RS0 Sectional Committee nominations Working Group	3.1	Volunteer to participate in working group to make suggestions to the RS Sectional Committee 0 for CS for possible nominations to RS Council for election to the Fellowship	Members to contact M Leslie	On-going
UKCRC Executive Committee Meeting ACTIONS from 7 June 2022					
Jun2022.7	REPORTS: Membership Panel	7.1	Exec to think about potential members and communicate names to N Berthouze <i>[see also 25 Mar 25, item 8.1 above]</i>	Exec members	On-going