

Minutes of the 71st meeting of the UK Computing Research Executive Committee on Monday 27 April 2026 at 15:00, held online

PRESENT

Kevin Jones (Chair)

Michael Fisher

David Hutchison

BY INVITATION

Julia Adamson MBE (BCS)

Dharam Shadija (CPHC)

IN ATTENDANCE

Maxine Leslie (BCS)

APOLOGIES

Alex Frangi

Amir Hussain

Laura McDonnell
(EPSRC)

Nadia Berthouze (Membership
Panel Chair)

Daniela Tresoldi
(EPSRC)

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed Executive Committee members to the meeting and apologies for absence were as above.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (UKCRCEC/2025/12)

The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 1 December July 2025 were APPROVED. These minutes are now ready for transfer to the UKCRC website [*action complete*].

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1 Dec 2025, item 4 Chair's report: for the action to investigate the possibility of subscribing to consultation notifications at www.gov.co.uk, initially for Exec Committee only, in response to a question the following URL was noted:
<https://www.gov.uk/search/policy-papers-and-consultations>.

1 Dec 2025, item 4 Chair's report: for the action to contact J Adamson to ask if resource is available to maintain the member webpage with accurate personal homepage URLs, this linked to work that N Berthouze had been undertaking on identifying gaps in the membership. M Leslie undertook to check with N Berthouze on the problems encountered.
ACTION: M Leslie

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair thanked D Hutchison for offering to extend his term on the Executive Committee with co-option to November 2026. In addition, Cliff Jones and Martyn Thomas had offered to be involved and K Jones had met with both to discuss the urgent matters of the waning membership applications

Membership Panel and recruitment Initiatives:

- **Panel gaps and co-option:** K Jones highlighted the need to co-opt members to fill existing gaps on the Panel, noting that this action was not yet complete but agreeing to carry it forward for further attention.
- **Collective triage initiative:** The Committee discussed the plan to establish a collective triage between CPHC, UKCRC, and BCS, but acknowledged that no progress had been made as yet and agreed to continue pursuing this action.
- **Subscription to consultation alerts:** K Jones asked for feedback on the Committee's experiences subscribing to government consultation call announcements; J Adamson confirmed subscribing to most notifications but had not seen anything relevant for the Committee (see item 3 above for the URL).
- **Membership criteria and outreach:** K Jones described efforts to broaden membership by seeking lists of notable individuals from EPSRC, the Royal Academy of Engineering, and BCS. EPSRC representatives were not in attendance, but it would be helpful if L McDonnell and D Tresoldi could provide suggested names for Martyn Thomas to review, aiming to identify and encourage new members from diverse backgrounds. **ACTION: L McDonnell/D Tresoldi**
- **Sifting and Membership Panel:** David asked about the process for sifting new candidates, to which K Jones explained that identified individuals would be encouraged to apply, potentially with reduced scrutiny if they hold significant fellowships, and that this would require revitalising the Membership Panel with new volunteers.

4.1 UKCRC response to government spending review – members examined the effectiveness of current consultation processes, the government direction in research funding, and strategies for UKCRC to proactively influence policy, including the creation of succinct briefing materials and leveraging relationships with Chief Scientific Advisers (CSAs).

- **Government funding changes:** K Jones reported on the shift in UKRI and EPSRC funding streams towards government priorities, with increased focus on AI and quantum, and a reduction in curiosity-driven research funding, noting the need for the community to adapt to these changes.
- **Proactive policy influence:** M Fisher and J Adamson suggested that UKCRC should develop concise, impactful statements for policymakers, particularly CSAs, and use established relationships to proactively present key issues before formal consultations.
- **Working Group for articulating UKCRC expertise:** members AGREED to form a working group, including Martyn Thomas, Cliff Jones and D Hutchison, to draft a one- or two-page briefing document summarising UKCRC's expertise and recommendations, aiming to influence government policy more effectively. K Jones undertook to form this Working Group and liaise with M Thomas, C Jones and D Hutchison on producing the briefing document.

ACTION: K Jones

- **Collaboration with BCS and other bodies:** J Adamson and K Jones discussed the importance of working closely with BCS and using joint networks to identify the best experts for government working groups, ensuring that UKCRC and BCS present a unified and credible voice in policy discussions.

ACTION: K Jones/J Adamson

5. CONSULTATIONS & SUBMISSIONS

See item 4 Chair's report. A Hussain was not in attendance. M Leslie confirmed A Hussain's transition to a visiting professorship at Oxford, while D Hutchison and M Leslie described unsuccessful attempts to reach him via new and private email addresses, agreeing to continue efforts to establish contact for future updates. M Leslie undertook to liaise with A Hussain in advance of the June meeting [*post meeting note: action complete*].

6. RESEARCH FUNDING AND POLICY

6.1 EPSRC Update – No report as D Tresoldi and L McDonnell were not in attendance.

7. REPORTS

7.1 Membership Panel – N Berthouze had sent apologies but had reported via email that there had been one successful application during the last period. Exec Committee members were reminded to invite applications from their networks, who might meet the membership criteria.

7.2 International Matters inc Informatics Europe – nothing to report.

7.3 CPHC – D Shadija reported on the recent CPHC AGM, the appointment of James Davenport as Chair, improved representation from the four nations, and the Committee's willingness to assist UKCRC with recruitment by sharing calls for nominations.

Members AGREED that, as the November 2025 Executive Committee call for nominations yielded no responses, a mid-term call should be circulated to UKCRC members.

ACTION: M Leslie/K Jones

Furthermore, it was AGREED that a call for a CPHC representative to the UKCRC Membership Panel should be shared with CPHC members.

ACTION: M Leslie/D Shadija (James Davenport/)

7.4 BCS Academy – J Adamson provided the following updates:

- **BCS Academy and Policy team changes:** there have been leadership changes at BCS including the appointment of a new CEO in Sharron Gunn and the Vice President/Chair of the BCS Academy in Steve Pettifer (Manchester). As well as a new BCS-wide strategy, the BCS Policy team now reports into J Adamson and there is a strong commitment to clearer communication and collaboration with UKCRC.
- **Upcoming consultations and curriculum review:** J Adamson mentioned ongoing and anticipated consultations, including the phone ban in schools and a major upcoming consultation on the new Computing curriculum, highlighting the importance of coordinated responses from the community.

- **Improved communication channels:** plans are being put in place to enhance communication between BCS and UKCRC, including involving Dan Howl, Head of Policy, in future meetings to ensure effective collaboration on policy and consultation matters. K Jones also offered to meet colleagues at BCS Swindon to progress discussions.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items of AOB.

2026 Executive Committee meetings

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 2022-6

Outstanding Actions in Red

No.	Item	Item No.	Decision/Action	Responsibility	Complete
UKCRC Executive Committee Meeting ACTIONS from 27 April 2026					
Apr2026.1	MATTERS ARISING: Membership Panel	3	Check with N Berthouze about UKCRC member page issues	M Leslie	On-going
Apr2026.2	CHAIR’S REPORT	4	Provide suggestions for possible UKCRC membership from EPSRC contacts	L McDonnell/ D Tresoldi	On-going
Apr2026.3		4.1	Form a Working Group comprising M Thomas, C Jones and D Hutchison to produce a briefing document on UKCRC expertise	K Jones	On-going
Apr2026.4			Liaise on BCS/UKCRC responses to government consultations/calls for evidence	K Jones/ J Adamson	On-going
Apr2026.5	REPORTS	7.3	Circulate a mid-term call for nominations for the Executive Committee & Membership Panel	M Leslie/ K Jones	On-going
Apr2026.6			Share call for a CPHC representative to the UKCRC Membership Panel with CPHC members	M Leslie/ D Shadija (J Davenport)	On-going
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	M Leslie	Complete

			notifications at www.gov.co.uk , initially for Exec Committee only		
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	K Jones/M Leslie	On-going (depends on Dec2025.4)
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 (superseded Apr2026.5)
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					
Jul2025.3	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	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