

Minutes of the 69<sup>th</sup> meeting of the UK Computing Research Executive Committee on Monday 28 July 2025 at 11:00, held online

**PRESENT**

Kevin Jones (Chair)  
Julie McCann

Michael Fisher

Amir Hussain

**BY INVITATION**

\*Nadia Berthouze (Membership  
Panel Chair)

Dharam Shadija (CPHC)

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Maxine Leslie (BCS)

**APOLOGIES**

Simon Dobson

Alex Frangi

David Hutchison

Alastair Irons (BCS Academy)

Julia Adamson MBE (BCS)

Daniela Tresoldi (EPSRC)

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (UKCRCEC/2025/04)**

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 25 March 2025 were APPROVED and are now ready for transfer to the UKCRC website [*action complete*].

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

25 March 2025, item 5 Chair's report: for the action to 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, the Chair had held a few conversations with former members to encourage their involvement, especially with those who had previously timed out.

25 March 2025, item 8 Membership Panel report: for the action to contact Membership Panel members to finish processing the outstanding application, the conflict of interest issue was now resolved as acceptable provided the conflict was declared and the judgement was not borderline. M Leslie undertook to progress the appointment administration in liaison with N Berthouze and K Jones as appropriate.

**ACTION: M Leslie**

**4. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**4.1 UKCRC Constitution update** (deferred from March) [UKCRCEC/2025/06] – the initial reason for this review was to address the different relationship with the IET, but this was a good opportunity to ensure that the contents are current and fit for purpose. It was noted that the outcome of the forthcoming Mission task & finish group may have an effect on the contents. The timeline will include approval by the Executive Committee prior to consideration and sign off by the membership at

the AGM. Exec members were invited to provide any comments or suggested amendments to the group via the secretariat at [ukcrc@bcs.uk](mailto:ukcrc@bcs.uk) before the next meeting on 14 October.

**ACTION: Members**

D Shadija explained that CPHC was undertaking a big piece of work around its constitution to ensure continuity of membership and enable succession planning.

For UKCRC it was noted that there are up to nine members of the UKCRC Executive, members of which serve for three years, with one third (usually three) elected each year.

- 4.2 Committee roles** (deferred from March) **[UKCRCEC/2025/07]** – the Chair introduced the document, noting that apart from A Hussain, only his own and D Hutchison's names were listed as volunteer reps. Members were encouraged to volunteer so that a broader range of Exec members were involved. In particular it would be helpful to fill the CPHC and BCS Academy of Computing Board observer roles. The vacant roles should not be arduous, only involving one meeting every couple of months and is really beneficial to the participant organisations in terms of fostering relationships and being clear on roles and responsibilities.

**ACTION: Members**

Having hosted the 2025 Computing Summit at Sheffield Hallam University, D Shadija continued to be involved in the planning group which was starting to think about the 2026 event. It would be good to ensure that UKCRC has a strong presence on the group if possible to promote good participation both across the three organisations and the four UK nations. Members provide feedback on the 2025 joint Computing Summit. J McCann had been involved in planning the 2024 event and last year an invitation to get involved was circulated to the wider membership with Andrew Gordon volunteering to host the CSA panel. It was noted that this session was of less interest to UKCRC members as many already know Chris Johnson and Tom Crick and are aware of their work. There appears to be little value seen in the Summit by senior researchers even in the opportunities to network and communicate with other UK-based academics and IT professionals. It was important to be realistic with this although the potential to hold the UKCRC AGM in person at the Summit might help with attendance. Any Exec members with ideas for engaging members in this event were invited to contact the secretariat at [ukcrc@bcs.uk](mailto:ukcrc@bcs.uk).

**ACTION: Members**

D Shadija indicated that the venue being looked at by the planning group for the 2026 Summit was in London, possibly at UCL. This might make it more accessible for attendees. It was noted that senior researchers often cannot make time to attend events unless they are giving the keynote address. One possible discussion area was UKRI activities.

The Chair still has regular meetings (when available) with the BCS Academy and CPHC Chairs and will see what options there are for widening the appeal of the Summit.

N Berthouze asked about the Committee roles for the RS0 Working Group and whether volunteers would need to be RS Fellows. The Chair explained the background to the establishment of an ad hoc working group for this, prompted by the need to ensure there is recognition of a broad and inclusive range of disciplines. This resulted in the establishment of Sectional Committee 0: Computer Science, currently chaired by Jane Hillston to nominate members from the community for Royal Society Fellowship (see <https://royalsociety.org/about-us/committees/sectional-committee-0-computer-sciences-193/>). When the

Committee was being set up, UKCRC was asked to make suggestions for possible nominees for consideration by the Sectional Committee, who are all RS Fellows; however the UKCRC RS0 working group do not need to be.

## 5. CHAIR'S REPORT

K Jones reported that there had been mention of Computer Science Research Groups in the various spending reviews and it was encouraging that the sector is seen as significant. It will be important to think about how UKCRC will respond as a body once the roadmap for government spending is published. It looks like defence spending will grow, along with research in the digital space, security and resilience. There is likely to be a good level of information available by the October meeting when a plan to offer a response could be discussed. M Leslie undertook to include this in the notes for the October meeting agenda. **ACTION: M Leslie**

There may be specific groups of UKCRC members well qualified to help with a detailed response and perhaps a 10 people-strong working group would be best placed to undertake this work.

Lastly, the REF is not quite as stable as institutions would wish, but more will be known by the end of 2026. Panel recruitment is underway however, there still appears to be flux eg, in eligibility of representation. Exec members will look to provide updates on this.

## 6. CONSULTATIONS & SUBMISSIONS

A Hussain indicated that there was little to report and reiterated the request for consultations relevant to UKCRC to be forwarded to [a.hussain@napier.ac.uk](mailto:a.hussain@napier.ac.uk).

## 7. RESEARCH FUNDING AND POLICY

**7.1 EPSRC Update** – Apologies had been received from the EPSRC representative but the Chair noted that there are some interesting activities coming out of the Funding Councils including the possibility of more cross-Council plans or even a reduction in Councils. It will be important to keep an eye on this.

## 8. REPORTS

**8.1 Membership Panel** – N Berthouze reported that there was nothing to report other than the outstanding membership application discussed earlier (see item 3, matters arising above).

**8.2 International Matters inc Informatics Europe** – the role of international representative was currently vacant and it was suggested that a member of the broader UKCRC community may be well positioned to report on IE activities (if their institution is an IE member. Exec members were asked to make suggestions for who to approach via the secretariat [ukcrc@bcs.uk](mailto:ukcrc@bcs.uk). **ACTION: Members**

**8.3 CPHC** – D Shadija reported that the new and full complement of Committee members had been confirmed at the AGM in April 2025 and that two members had also been co-opted. In addition at the AGM a renewed strategy document with deliverables for 2025-2030 had been approved (see <https://cphc.ac.uk/vision-strategy/>). If schools or departments of Exec members are part of CPHC, the CPHC communications should be getting through (see also [\(21\) COUNCIL OF PROFESSORS AND HEADS OF COMPUTING: Posts | LinkedIn](#)).

**8.4 BCS Academy** – J Adamson and A Irons had sent their apologies for this meeting.

9. **Date of 2025 AGM** (deferred from March; originally scheduled for Friday 5 December 2025). Members discussed possible timing options and it was agreed that the 2025 event should still be held online on Friday 5 December with a plan to hold a physical AGM at the 2026 Summit in April 2026. M Leslie undertook to schedule these meetings. D Shadija noted that the likely venue for the 2026 Summit was in London (possibly UCL) which might help with maximising attendance.

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Date of next meeting: it was noted that the next meeting on Tuesday 14 October will be a hybrid meeting so that those that are overseas are able to join.

**2025 Executive Committee meetings**

\*Tuesday 14 October (11:00-14:30) – BCS London AND ONLINE

\*to include networking lunch and joint meeting with CPHC Committee

**AGM 2025**

Monday 1 December (previously Friday 5 December) at 12:00-13:00, online

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

Outstanding Actions in Red

No.	Item	Item No.	Decision/Action	Responsibility	Complete
<b>UKCRC Executive Committee Meeting ACTIONS from 28 July 2025</b>					
1	<b>MATTERS ARISING: Membership Panel</b>	2	Progress the appointment admin for the new applicant in liaison with N Berthouze and K Jones as appropriate	M Leslie	Complete
2	<b>COMMITTEE BUSINESS: Constitution update</b>	4.1	Provide any comments or suggested amendments to the Constitution via the secretariat at <a href="mailto:ukcrc@bcs.uk">ukcrc@bcs.uk</a> before the next meeting on 14 October	Members	Complete
3	<b>COMMITTEE BUSINESS: Committee roles</b>	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 <a href="#">M Leslie</a>	On-going
4			Summit ideas for engaging UKCRC members in the 2026 Summit to the secretariat	Members to contact <a href="#">M Leslie</a>	On-going
5	<b>CHAIR'S REPORT</b>		Add October 2025 agenda item to discuss a UKCRC response to the government's Spending Review and post-16 White Paper	M Leslie	Complete
8	<b>REPORTS: International matters</b>	8.2	Make suggestions for who to approach to provide an Informatics Europe report for the Exec	Members to contact <a href="#">M Leslie</a>	On-going

UKCRC Executive Committee Meeting ACTIONS from 25 March 2025					
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
6	CONSULTATIONS & SUBMISSIONS		(First raised at June 23 meeting) Let <a href="#">Amir Hussain</a> know if there are any other forthcoming consultations to which the UKCRC should respond	Members	On-going
8	REPORTS: Membership Panel	8.1	Communicate any gaps in the current MP membership to K Jones so that, if the call for nominations is unsuccessful, potential contacts can be approached to be co-opted for a one year term of office <i>[supersedes 24 Oct 23 action to liaise on composition of the MP &amp; 25 Mar 24 action to look to co-opt an industrialist from the membership]</i>	N Berthouze/ K Jones	On-going
UKCRC Executive Committee Meeting ACTIONS from 8 October 2024					
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 <a href="#">M Leslie</a>	On-going
UKCRC Executive Committee Meeting ACTIONS from 7 June 2022					
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