

# **ARTS AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH COUNCIL (AHRC) – ROYAL CHARTER**

ELIZABETH THE SECOND by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Our other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith:

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING!

WHEREAS it has been represented unto Us that it is expedient for the better execution of the purposes of the Higher Education Act 2004 to make further provision for promoting arts and humanities research:

AND WHEREAS Our Secretary of State has appointed and proposes to appoint a Chair and Chief Executive and other members of a Council for promoting and supporting research into the arts and humanities to be known as the Arts and Humanities Research Council:

AND WHEREAS it has been represented unto Us that for the purpose of carrying out the Council's objects and with a view to facilitating the holding of and dealing with property and encouraging the making of gifts and bequests in aid of those objects it is expedient that the Council should be incorporated:

NOW THEREFORE Know Ye that We, by virtue of Our Prerogative Royal and of all other powers enabling Us so to do, have of Our especial grace, certain knowledge and mere motion granted and declared and do by these Presents for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, grant and declare as follows:

1. All such persons as may hereafter become the Chair, the Chief Executive and Deputy Chair and other members of the body corporate hereby constituted, shall for ever hereafter (so long as they continue to be members of the Council) be one body corporate under the name of "The Arts and Humanities Research Council" ("the Council"), and by the same name shall have perpetual succession and a Common Seal, with power to break, alter and make anew that Seal from time to time at their will and pleasure and by the same name shall and may sue and be sued in all courts and in all manner of actions and suits, and shall have power to enter into contracts, to acquire, hold and dispose of property of any kind, to accept trusts and generally to do all matters and things incidental or appertaining to a body corporate.
2. (1)The objects for which the Council is established and incorporated are:
  - (a) to promote and support by any means high-quality basic, strategic and applied research and related post-graduate training in the arts and humanities;

- (b) to advance knowledge and understanding of the arts and humanities (including promoting and supporting the exploitation of research outcomes and research relating to cultural aspects of the different parts of Our United Kingdom) and provide trained personnel who meet the needs of their users and beneficiaries, and thereby to contribute to the economic competitiveness of Our United Kingdom and effectiveness of public services and policy, and to enhance the quality of life and creative output of the nation; and
  - (c) in relation to the activities as engaged in by the Council under (a) and (b) above and in such manner as the Council may see fit to:
    - (i) generate public awareness;
    - (ii) communicate research outcomes;
    - (iii) encourage public engagement and dialogue;
    - (iv) disseminate knowledge; and
    - (v) provide advice.
- (2) The Council may pursue its objects in Our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or elsewhere.
- (3) Without prejudice to the fulfilment of the objects for which the Council is established and incorporated, in pursuing its objects, it shall use its best endeavours to identify and pursue opportunities for mutually beneficial joint working with any one or more of the other Research Councils.
- 3. All moneys and property of the Council, including any moneys voted by Parliament, shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Council and no portion thereof (except as otherwise provided in this Our Charter) shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly to its members.
- 4.
  - (1) The Council shall consist of a Chair, a Chief Executive and Deputy Chair, and from ten to eighteen other members, at least half of whom shall be appointed by reason of their qualifications in the arts and humanities.
  - (2) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (3) of this Article, Our Secretary of State shall appoint the Chair, the Chief Executive and Deputy Chair, and other members and shall determine the terms of their appointment or the revocation of any such appointment.
  - (3) (a) Before appointing any member, including the Chair and the Chief Executive and Deputy Chair, on account of his qualifications in the arts and humanities, the Secretary of State shall consult the President for the time being of the British Academy on such qualifications.

- (b) Before appointing any member, including the Chair and the Chief Executive and Deputy Chair, Our Secretary of State shall consult the Chair for the time being of the Council, who may consult other members of the Council.
- (4) Every member, including the Chair and the Chief Executive and Deputy Chair, shall hold and vacate his office solely in accordance with the terms of his appointment, and shall, on the expiry of his appointment, be eligible for re-appointment for a term of no more than four years but:
- (a) a member who is re-appointed shall, on ceasing to be a member, be ineligible for re-appointment before the expiration of one year from the end of the period for which he is re-appointed: but this sub-paragraph shall not apply to a person appointed to serve as Chair or Chief Executive and Deputy Chair or to a person who is a civil servant or employed by a Research Council;
  - (b) a member may at any time resign from the Council by giving written notice to Our Secretary of State; and
  - (c) any member who is also employed as a civil servant or by a Research Council shall hold his office only so long as he is so employed.
- (5) Except as provided in paragraph (7) of this Article, the Council shall in the case of any such member as Our Secretary of State may determine:
- (a) pay him such remuneration and allowances as may be so determined in his case; and
  - (b) pay him or in respect of him such pension, allowance or gratuity on his retirement or death, or make such payments towards provision for such a pension, allowance or gratuity, as may be so determined in his case.
- (6) If a person ceases to be a member of the Council otherwise than on the expiration of his term of office, and Our Secretary of State considers there are special circumstances for making that person a compensation payment, the Council shall pay him such amount as Our Secretary of State may determine.
- (7) The Council shall never make to or in respect of any person in his capacity as a member of the Council any payment for or in respect of any period when he is also a member of the House of Commons, the Scottish Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales or the Northern Ireland Assembly (when

so constituted), other than a payment by way of reimbursement to him of actual out of pocket expenses previously and necessarily incurred by him in the performance of his duties as a member of the Council.

- (8) Paragraphs (5) and (6) of this Article shall not apply to a member who is a civil servant.
5. (1) The Council may act notwithstanding a vacancy among its members and the validity of any proceedings of the Council shall not be affected by any defect in the appointment of any member.
- (2) The quorum of the Council shall be six members personally present or such greater number as the Council may from time to time determine.
6. Subject to the provisions of this Our Charter the Council may regulate its own procedure.
7. (1) The Council may appoint Committees to exercise, or advise it on the exercise of, any of its functions and may:
- (a) appoint to any such Committee persons who are not members of the Council; and
- (b) revoke the appointment of any member of any such Committee.
- (2) Where the Council appoints to any such Committee any person who is not a member of the Council it may, with the approval of Our Secretary of State, pay him such remuneration and allowances as may be so determined in his case, and Article 4(7) of this Our Charter shall apply to him as though he were a member of the Council.
8. (1) The Council may appoint such officers and employ such other persons as it may determine.
- (2) The Council may:
- (a) pay its officers and employees such remuneration and allowances as it may, with the approval of Our Secretary of State, from time to time determine; and
- (b) pay to or in respect of any officers or other employees of the Council or of any institution or department of an institution which is supported by the Council by grants made under Article 2(1)(a) of this Our Charter, in whose case it may be determined by the Council with the approval of Our Secretary of State so to do, such

pensions and other benefits or compensation (including gratuities), or provide and maintain for them such pension, benefit or compensation schemes (whether contributory or not) as may be so determined.

(3) Where the holder of an office or employment, whether with the Council or with institutions or departments of institutions which it supports by the making of grants under Article 2(1) of this Our Charter, who is a participant in any pension, benefit or compensation scheme applicable to the office or employment, is or becomes a member of the Council, he may be treated for the purposes of such scheme as if his service as a member of the Council were service in an office or employment with the Council, and his rights under the scheme shall not be affected by any provision of this Our Charter which requires that pensions, allowances, gratuities, benefits, compensation or payment towards the provision of them payable in the case of members of the Council shall be determined by Our Secretary of State.

9. The application of the Seal of the Council shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chair, or of some other Council member whom it has authorised generally or especially to act for that purpose, and of any officer of the Council whom it has so authorised.
10. The Council may by resolution in that behalf passed at a meeting by a majority of not less than three-quarters of the members present and voting (being an absolute majority of the whole number of Council members) add to, amend or revoke any of the provisions of this Our Charter, and such addition, amendment or revocation, shall, when allowed by Us, Our Heirs or Successors in Council, become effectual, so that this Our Charter shall then continue and operate as though it had been originally granted and made accordingly: and this provision shall apply to this Our Charter, as added to, amended or revoked in the manner aforesaid.
11. In this Our Charter, references to Our Secretary of State are to Our Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, references to Research Councils are to Research Councils within the meaning of the Science and Technology Act 1965 and Higher Education Act 2004, and words importing the masculine gender shall include the feminine and words importing the singular shall include the plural.

IN WITNESS whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.

BY WARRANT UNDER THE QUEEN'S SIGN MANUAL