

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER, STRATEGIC COORDINATION OF OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUNDED RESEARCH (SCOR) BOARD

1. Introduction

Since 2015 HMG has taken a 'whole government' approach to its international development effort. The Strategic Coherence of ODA-funded Research (SCOR) Board was established in 2018 in response to the resulting need for a standing coordination body to clarify roles and responsibilities, avoid duplication and overlap, and facilitate exchange of learning.

The SCOR Board now provides an overall perspective on the funding, expertise and experience of all parts of Government and has a central role in ensuring that research can have the maximum impact on international development objectives and outcomes in developing countries.

The SCOR Board also governs and provides strategic direction to the UK Collaborative on Development Research (UKCDR), a collective of government departments and research funders working in international development.

The Board's membership includes the major funders of ODA-funded research (FCDO, BEIS, UKRI and DHSC) and Wellcome, the UK's largest private funder of international health research. The Board brings together Chief Scientific Advisers and directors within these departments with highly regarded independent academics in this sector.

The individuals currently on the SCOR Board are:

- Marie Staunton, CBE (Chair) – (Independent)
- Prof Charlotte Watts – Chief Scientific Adviser, FCDO
- Prof Chris Whitty – Chief Scientific Adviser, DHSC; Chief Medical Officer for England
- Harriet Wallace – Director, International Science and Innovation, BEIS
- Prof Andrew Thomson – Executive Chair, AHRC (current) / Professor Christopher Smith, Executive Chair, AHRC (from 1 April) (UKRI representative)
- Prof Fiona Watt – Executive Chair, MRC (UKRI representative)
- Prof Jeremy Farrar – Director, Wellcome
- Prof Melissa Leach – Director, Institute of Development Studies (Independent)

2. The role

Alongside an independent Chair, two independent members provide advice and expertise to the SCOR Board. These members are typically senior non-governmental, non-budget holders with significant thematic, sectoral and/or regional expertise. As such they contribute to a good balance of expertise and broad range of perspectives on international development research.

Key activities will include:

- Supporting the SCOR Board in determining strategic priorities and activities for coherence and impact of ODA-funded and ODA-related R&D
- Contributing to SCOR Board decisions and taking forward Board actions.
- Creating or taking part in cross-organisational thematic working groups.
- Contributing to joined-up policy and practice across organisations.
- Through the SCOR Board, providing oversight and guidance for UKCDR.

- Proactively engaging with UKCDR activities and being prepared to attend special events, chair or participate in ad-hoc meetings as needed.

The Board's secretariat is UKCDR. The Executive Director of UKCDR will attend Board meetings and work closely with the Independent Chair and other members.

3. Person specification

The successful candidate will bring the following:

Essential

- Experience of operating at a senior level within the international development sector and in-depth knowledge of how the international development sector engages with publicly-funded ODA research.
- Sound understanding of UK international development research policy and evolving dynamics of the ODA-funded research landscape.
- Experience of UK ODA research and development policy and research agendas in one or more LMICs
- Relevant thematic and sectoral expertise to contribute to discussions that will ensure that the UK remains a global leader in the research for international development sector.
- Ability to promote coherence and strategic linkages between public funders of international development research, academia, non-governmental organisations and private sector entities.
- Ability to exercise judgement across a broad spectrum of strategic issues.
- Strong communication skills

Desirable

- Based in a lower- or middle-income country
- Previous board experience

The SCOR Board is committed to broadening the diversity of its membership and expressly encourages applications from a wide range of applicants. This includes the categories protected by UK law (age, disability, gender identity, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation), as well as socio-economic background and ways of thinking.

4. Terms of appointment

The appointment will be made for a term of 3 years.

The time commitment for the role will include a minimum of three ca. 3-hour meetings per year, which can be attended by videoconference, one one-day strategic offsite meeting, and engagement with SCOR Board papers in advance of Board meetings. The Board may also call ad-hoc meetings to address time sensitive issues (can be attended via videoconference). Meetings are scheduled at the beginning of each calendar year in consultation with all Board members.

Membership is not remunerated, except for reasonable travel and subsistence costs relating to authorised SCOR Board business.

Every member will enter any relevant interests in the Register of Interests, maintained by the Secretariat and owned by the Board Chair, and keep the entry up to date. Should a matter

give rise to a conflict of interest, a member is required to inform the SCOR Board in advance and withdraw from discussions or consideration of the matter. A member is expected to inform the SCOR Board in advance of any new appointment that may impinge on their duties as a member of the SCOR Board.