The Peer Review Process for UKRI grants (with a focus on EPSRC)

Caroline Jay
University of Manchester
Peer review principles

- Transparency
- Appropriateness
- Managing interests
- Confidentiality
- Expert assessment
- Prioritisation
- Right to reply
- Separation of duties
- No parallel assessment
- Fairness
Standard process

- Receive proposal
- Accept/decline (quickly)
- Read guidance
- Complete review (on time)

- If the scores are high enough, proposal is sent to panel
What happens at a panel?

• Sent all proposals (a LOT of reading)
• Allocated proposals as primary, secondary or tertiary reviewer
  – Score proposals (based on comments)
  – Score reviews
• Consider in order of initial score
• Place in rank order
Being a good reviewer

• Be nice
• Be constructive
  – you don’t need to write a lot, but what you do write should count
• Be aware of your bias
• Disclose conflicts
• Start at the end of the pack
Being a good panel member

• Keep it brief
• Keep it focused
• Do speak your mind
Why peer review grants?

• You get paid! (But only for panels, and not very much)
• Important community activity
• Helps you to write better proposals
• Good way of engaging with other researchers and the research councils
Getting involved

• Attend research council events
• Get on the mailing list
• Register with the associate college
• Keep your research interests up to date
Questions?