REF policy on Open Access

- Articles and conference proceedings* accepted for publication from 1\textsuperscript{st} April 2016
- Limited exceptions
- Credit in ‘environmental component’ for making other outputs open access

*not posters or abstract only items
For REF

Output must be a new insight into research

Possible that a commentary, editorial, or review is a new insight into research

Non-Peer reviewed articles and conference proceedings must meet the Open Access requirements
The output must have been deposited in a repository as soon after the point of acceptance* as possible, and no later than three months after this date.

- Author Accepted manuscript – final agreed text before publisher adds logos and mark-up
- We must evidence it is in our repository
- It may be a closed deposit

*final acceptance - all changes made and ready to typeset – not the date that the publisher says they will publish subject to amendments
REF Eligibility –
The Library can help

AND
Made open-access.

REF accepts embargo periods:
• 12 months for Science, Technology and Medicine
• 24 months for Arts and Social Sciences

MYTH SPOILER - It is not necessary to pay an open access charge to comply with REF open access requirements.
Example Exceptions

Clause in Guidance on Submissions:

252b – There was a delay in securing the final peer-reviewed text

253a – The output depends on the reproduction of third party content for which open access rights could not be granted

255a – Other exception e.g. sole author, long term sick leave
Example Exceptions

Clause in Draft Guidance on Submissions:

253b – The publication concerned requires an **embargo period** that exceeds the stated maxima, and was the **most appropriate publication** for the output.

253c – The publication concerned actively **disallows open-access** deposit in a repository, and was the **most appropriate publication** for the output.
Example Exceptions

Clause in Draft Guidance on Submissions:

252c – The staff member to whom the output is attributed was **not employed on a Category A contract by a UK HEI** at the time of **submission** for publication.

254a - At the point of **acceptance**. The staff member to whom the output is attributed was **employed at a different UK HEI**, and it has not been possible to determine compliance with the criteria.
Exceptions


(see page 58-59, clauses 252-255)
Reminder: REF Open Access Eligibility Rules

REF-submitted outputs must be OA compliant

• Aim for 100% compliance

• In each Unit of Assessment submission, a maximum of 5% of in-scope outputs (journal articles and conference proceedings available after 1 April 2016) that do not meet OA requirements can be submitted to REF2021.

• It is possible that after submission an item may be deemed not to meet the OA criteria

• Any non-OA compliant outputs submitted over the 5% tolerance will be marked as unclassified.

• Use of predefined exceptions must be robust