



**Medical
Research
Council**

MRC Confidence in Concept Guidance

Expected governance standards

Institutions are expected to:

- Allocate funds transparently
- Manage all real, potential or apparent conflicts of interest with integrity, impartiality, honesty and openness (more information on how the MRC manages conflicts of interest can be found here: <https://mrc.ukri.org/funding/peer-review/funding-meetings/#Managing%20conflicts%20of%20interest>)
- Make available details of the assessment criteria, decision-making process and governance structure to internal applicants
- Make available the list of awardees internally

Institutions should be able to explain the rationale behind the funding decisions.

Awards should be used to support transition between fundamental and translational research to a point where the project is competitive for more substantial funding.

Awards may also be used to support early academic-industry engagement and short-term people exchanges not specifically aligned to projects.

Awards must not be used for other purposes.

Expectations and Reporting requirements

The provision of a Confidence in Concept award is expected to lead to:

- successful applications for more substantive funding from public funders, e.g. DPFS or equivalent schemes, or industry
- increased interactions with and understanding of industry as demonstrated by research collaborations, joint funding applications, licencing of IP and successful knowledge exchange etc

Institutions will be required to report to the MRC on the projects awarded and their outcomes.

Any potential renewals will be dependent on performance.