

Summary of main findings

BBSRC's *Corporate Stakeholder Benchmarking Research*, is based on 30 in-depth interviews and 383 completed online surveys. Responses were anonymous.

The main findings from the research included:

- Awareness and familiarity with BBSRC was high across its stakeholder audience and the majority of stakeholders felt BBSRC kept them well informed about its work (73%).
- Interactions with BBSRC were generally rated positively as well (80% affirmed this). Understanding of BBSRC's role was also strong;
- More than half of stakeholders completing an online survey found BBSRC easy to work with (56%); with academics particularly likely to state that this was the case (68%).
- A strong desire to work more closely with BBSRC (particularly among NGOs).
- Most stakeholders felt forging closer working relationships was their responsibility as much as BBSRC's. However, a few felt that BBSRC could be more proactive
- A broad cross-section of stakeholders felt there was scope for BBSRC to add more value to their organisations.
- While BBSRC was thought to have a strong reputation, was trusted and had established largely positive working relationships, areas for improvement were evident.
- BBSRC is perceived to be operating in a fast-moving and competitive environment and stakeholders felt there were areas it could strengthen.
- The vast majority agreed the UK has a world-leading position in bioscience (88%) – with 77% attributing this to work of BBSRC, but BBSRC's contribution to social and economic impact in the UK was a fairly divisive issue.
- Stakeholders tended to be broadly familiar with BBSRC's mission but often lacked a detailed knowledge or understanding of the specifics of it.

Themes which emerged from the research included:

- Developing a better understanding of stakeholder needs, expectations and motivations
- Looking at the method and frequency in which BBSRC interacts with stakeholders.
- Developing relationships with NGO and government and policy sectors.
- Improving messaging around BBSRC's role in UK bioscience and the social and economic importance of this, and providing greater clarity around BBSRC's impact
- Utilising stakeholder favourability and advocacy towards BBSRC.