

Clarification Regarding Pre-published Outputs

Members of the community have queried how the subpanel will treat outputs, including journal articles, published within the REF 2021 period that have material in common with conference and workshop papers published prior to the REF period. The subpanel confirms that such outputs are eligible for submission to REF 2021, as long as the prior publication was not submitted to REF 2014, and that overlap with the prior publication will not be taken into account in the assessment. This advice is based on paragraphs 258 and 259 in the Guidance on Submissions (GoS 258, 259).

GoS 258 states that “An output first published in its final form during the REF 2021 publication period that was ‘pre-published’ in the previous publication period – whether in full in a different form (for example, as a pre-print), or as a preliminary version or working paper – is eligible for submission to the REF, provided that the ‘pre-published’ output was not submitted to REF 2014.” The subpanel confirms that it will treat conference and workshop papers as ‘pre-published’ outputs in the sense intended in this paragraph. GoS 259 makes clear that the issue of overlap only applies to outputs submitted to REF 2014, and specifically excludes outputs that satisfy GoS 258.