



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

The Senate, 8 December 2010

Report of the Vice-Chancellor

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper presents a summary of key background information on recent developments, and is based on the Vice-Chancellor's report to Council on 22 November 2010.

The Vice-Chancellor will introduce the report at the meeting and will provide members of the Senate with the opportunity to raise questions on any aspect of the report.

1. EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT

1.1 Comprehensive Spending Review

The Chancellor, George Osborne, presented the Government's Spending Review, fixing spending budgets for each Government department up to 2014-15, on 20 October 2010. The headlines for Higher Education are as follows:

- overall resource cut of 25% in BIS, but HE the worst hit, with a cut of 40% compared with an average 16% for other areas;
- future state funding only for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and other 'priority' subjects;
- protection of science and research budgets in cash terms, a welcome recognition of the importance of the sector to economic growth, but still a cut of c. 9% in real terms by 2014-15 (no indication at present whether the balance of QR and Research Council funding can be expected to change);
- signals that the Government plans to press ahead with reform of the HE system in line with the Browne Review's proposals (though with the possibility of a fees cap).

The impact of the CSR on HE is expected to be clearer after the following:

- 'reform plans' for the next four years to be produced by Government departments later in 2010;
- formal Government response to the Browne Review proposals and timetable for implementation, including parliamentary legislation (see 1.2 below);
- letter from the Secretary of State to HEFCE at the end of the year;
- HEFCE allocations to institutions for 2011-12 funding, expected early 2011;
- White Paper on the future strategy for HE (late 2010; early 2012).

1.2 Government response to Browne Review

The Government announced on 3 November its response to the Browne Review and its plans for the funding of HE and student finance. The main points are as follows:

- a 'basic threshold' tuition charge of £6,000 and 'absolute limit' of £9,000 per year (HEIs can charge less than £6,000);
- HEIs charging more than £6,000 will have to meet tougher conditions on fair access, including institution-specific progress towards benchmarks and participation in a National Scholarships Programme (but no levy on HEIs);
- access to loans for the full tuition charge (graduate contribution);
- loans for tuition for part-time students studying at least 33% of full-time equivalent;
- loan repayment threshold of £21,000, 9% repayment rate, 30-year maximum liability period; staged rise in interest rate linked to earnings, up to maximum 3% real rate of interest;
- increase in maximum grant, but tighter means testing of grants. Increased maintenance loans for students with household income between £42,000 and £60,000;
- focus on student choice but no clear statement on how student numbers will be managed;
- HE provision to be opened up to new providers, including FE Colleges;
- publication of a Higher Education White Paper in the winter with detailed proposals on the wider, long-term issues that arise from Lord Browne's review;
- any further changes arising from the White Paper unlikely to be implemented before 2013-14 academic year.

The key changes in comparison with Lord Browne's proposals are:

- capped tuition charge (or graduate contribution);
- no levy for HEIs with higher tuition charges;
- increase in the rate of interest for higher earners (to 3%), and changes to the structure of interest subsidies;
- lower income threshold for receipt of partial student grants (but more generous loans);
- new National Scholarships Programme, targeted at bright potential students from poor backgrounds, and providing benefits such as a free first year or foundation year;
- no support for managing student numbers through setting a UCAS tariff threshold for access to student finance.

But the Government supports Browne's calls for:

- stronger commitments to fair access in return for higher tuition charges;
- Government-backed loan available for the whole tuition charge;
- core features of loan repayment structure, including increased earnings threshold,
- repayment rate at 9% of earnings above threshold, and 30-year maximum liability;

- more generous full maintenance grants;
- loans for tuition for higher-intensity part-time students;
- a standard set of public information that students and parents most value.

It is understood that the new arrangements will apply from 2012-13, subject to agreement by Parliament. A vote on contribution levels is anticipated before Christmas; with legislation on interest rates following in 2011.

2. ACADEMIC STRATEGY

2.1 Student numbers

- Registration is not yet fully complete, especially with respect to overseas students and students registering on postgraduate programmes. However current indications are that:
 - the recruitment target for home undergraduate students will be achieved;
 - overseas student recruitment to undergraduate and postgraduate taught programmes will exceed target;
 - recruitment to part-time postgraduate taught courses is expected to exceed target;
 - recruitment to other categories is broadly on target.
- The current projected registration position for full-time funded students as at 1 December 2010 is as follows:

Student Category	Previous Intakes		Target	2010 Intake		Variance
	Intake @ 01 Dec 08	Intake @ 01 Dec 09	a. Financial Forecast targets @ 1 Dec 2010	b. Actual Intake @ 1 Nov 2010	c. Projected Intake @ 01 Dec 2010 (based on 01 Oct figures)	c.-a. (Projected Intake vs Financial Forecast targets)
UG FT HEFCE Funded	4230	4412	4220*	4242	4212	-8
UG FT Overseas	527	631	637	814	814	+177
PGT FT HEFCE Funded	843	933	962	963	960	-2
PGT FT Overseas	1098	1181	1423	1725	1721	+298
PGR FT Home	274	305	315	322	330	+15
PGR FT Overseas	264	234	261	239	255	-7

*Target set at Confirmation, Adjustment and Clearing was 4,375 to reduce to 4,220 by 1 December

- In addition to internal targets, the University measures ug home recruitment against the quota of 4,295 students set by HEFCE. It is anticipated that the final recruitment position will be slightly under this number, and the University will not, therefore, be at risk of a fine for over-recruitment.
- The UEB has agreed faculty-level targets for quota controlled student numbers for the 2011-12 intake and faculties are now setting departmental targets.

2.2 Academic planning

- A separate paper is on the Council agenda in respect of the University's Strategic Plan for the period 2010-15.
- The integrated planning, budget setting and resource allocation cycle adopted in 2009-10 will continue in 2010-11. The existing five-year faculty plans remain the primary strategic documents. During the autumn, faculties will focus on a brief review of progress made in 2009-10 and on the development of a set of KPIs linking the faculty plan to the University-level KPIs that form part of the Strategic Plan.
- The Risk Review Group has undertaken its annual review of the Corporate Risk Register and a separate paper is on the Council agenda.

2.3 University performance metrics / tables

- The second tranche of annual Performance Indicators in Higher Education in the UK for 2008-09 was published in July 2010 and covered research and employment indicators. The University's score has increased for two of the four research indicators. For the graduate employment indicator, Sheffield is now 12th within the Russell Group plus York compared with 19th in last year's ranking, although its score remains slightly below the peer group (benchmark).
- The 2010 Shanghai Jiao Tong Academic Ranking of World Universities (August 2010) ranks the University joint 88th in the world compared with 81st in 2009. Research-related measures (including staff and alumni who have won Nobel Prizes or Field Medals and research citations and publications) have affected the University's position.
<http://www.arwu.org/>
- The 2010 QS World University Ranking (September 2010) ranks the University 69th compared with 82nd in the 2009 ranking. The ranking is based on survey results, the proportion of international staff and students, staff student ratio and research citations. The main reason for the University's improved ranking is an increase in the score for the peer review measure, which is based on a worldwide survey of academics.
<http://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/world-university-rankings/home>
- The 2010 Times Higher Education World University Ranking (September 2010) ranks the University 137th out of the top 200 world universities. The ranking is based on 13 separate indicators grouped into five categories: innovation; research influence; research; teaching; international mix. Significant changes to the methodology of the ranking mean that it is not possible to draw meaningful comparisons with previous years' outcomes.
<http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/world-university-rankings/>
- Information concerning the University's performance in national student-related surveys is provided in section 5.1 below.

3. FINANCE

3.1 Financial results to 31 July 2010

- A separate paper is on the Council agenda in respect of the 2009-10 Financial Statements.

3.2 Financial Forecasts

- A separate paper is on the Council agenda in respect of the Financial Forecasts

2009-10 to 2013-14.

3.3 Student recruitment

- The anticipated financial impact of the increased student recruitment detailed in section 2.1 above is a positive variance of c.£3.5m. This is subject to further revision following the 1 December student number census and will change to reflect further registrations and withdrawals up to this date.

3.4 Review of the University of Sheffield Pension Scheme (USPS)

- A separate paper on the proposed changes to USPS is on the Council agenda.

3.5 Review of the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS)

- A consultation on changes to the scheme commenced on 20 October 2010 and ends on 22 December 2010. Further details are provided in the Report of the Human Resources Management Committee.

4. CAPITAL PROJECTS

4.1 Capital programme, 2008-11

- All projects are progressing satisfactorily. Some underspends have been achieved and the resulting sums will be reinvested in other projects within the CIF 1 timescales, subject to the usual governance approvals process.
- The total cost of the Arts Tower phase 2 project has been revised down to £8.5m due to lower tender returns. This has been approved by Finance Committee (23 June 2010) and Council (12 July 2010). This project is being part funded by CIF 1 reallocations (£4m) and £4.5m would be a commitment against any future CIF 2 award.

4.2 Future capital pipeline, 2011-14

- The University's CIF 2 submission for HEFCE was submitted on 8 October 2010. The results of the assessment will be published in January 2011. If successful the University will be awarded 100% of its CIF 2 funding allocation. If unsuccessful, 60% of the CIF 2 award would be released, with the remaining 40% held back until any inadequacies had been addressed.
- A pipeline of capital projects has been established and preliminary business cases are being prepared. These projects include faculty and University-wide projects. The cases will be prioritised at the next meeting of the UEB Estates and Capital Sub-Group and recommendations made to the University Executive Board in due course.

4.3 Tapton site

- The planning application was approved on 12 July 2010 and necessary responses to discharge planning conditions are underway in conjunction with Miller Homes Ltd, with whom the University has worked over the last six years. Attention will now focus on achieving the best disposal value from the site for the University.

5. THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

5.1 Performance in national student-related surveys

- In the 2010 National Student Survey (NSS), the University was in joint 4th place in the Russell Group for overall student satisfaction, which was scored at 89% (as in 2009). With the exception of feedback and assessment, where steps taken in the University have not yet had time to impact on satisfaction, scores were high across all sections

of the survey. 100% satisfaction was achieved in three subject areas: Modern Languages and Modern Languages with Interpreting, Russian and Slavonic Studies, and Physical Geography and Environmental Science. Satisfaction scores below 80% were found in only four subject areas.

<http://unistats.direct.gov.uk/>

- In the 2010 Postgraduate Taught Experience survey (PTES), in which the University participated for the second time, levels of satisfaction were also high. 77 universities participated in the 2010 survey and in almost all areas the scores for the University are higher than those of other participating Russell Group universities, with students reporting 88% overall satisfaction with their experience and 85% or above satisfaction in more than eight areas, including 91% satisfaction with skills and personal development and 88% with career and professional development. Feedback to students and helping them to feel part of the academic community, and English language support for international students whose first language is not English are areas where improvements are needed. However, satisfaction with feedback has improved since the previous survey.
<http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/ourwork/supportingresearch/postgraduatework>
- In the 2010 International Student Barometer (ISB) survey, overall satisfaction with learning was scored at 88% with 'expert lecturers' receiving the highest level of satisfaction at 94%. Satisfaction relating to career development was less highly scored, with work experience considered to be the least satisfactory area of experience at 59%. In all aspects of learning except two (employability and multiculturalism) the satisfaction scores were higher than those of the 11 other participating Russell Group universities. Although students were generally very satisfied with the support they received (92%), some still report that it is difficult to meet home students socially and expressed concerns about accommodation and about eating places on campus.
http://www.i-graduate.org/services/student_insight--student_barometer.html

5.2 Strategic developments in learning and teaching

- The development of the new Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy for 2010-15 has begun with a series of discussions on key themes taking place with groups of staff and students. The new Strategy will include the Sustainable Excellence in Teaching (SET) agenda, work on which commenced in 2009-10 and is ongoing.

5.3 Key projects

- The School of Clinical Dentistry and the Library are both piloting the University's new Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and initial training of key staff has taken place.

5.4 Other student-related matters

- A new suite of web pages dedicated to student employability has been developed: <http://www.shef.ac.uk/employability/>. A general statement on employability now appears on the Unistats website (for prospective student use) at <http://unistats.direct.gov.uk/>
- October saw the publication of a new edition of a brochure for local schools and colleges, 'Making a Difference, Widening Participation in Higher Education'. A new termly e-newsletter has also been launched, aimed at schools and colleges and focusing on University-wide outreach and recruitment activity, as well as related events organised by academic departments.

- Services to support students entering the University from a background in care have been recognised within two categories in 'Keep Dreaming' – the National Leaving Care Awards 2010. An awards ceremony took place in October.
http://www.carematterspartnership.co.uk/young/leaving_care/

6. RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

6.1 Research awards

- The total value of new research awards won during the 2009-10 financial year was £102m, which compares favourably with the total for the previous year of £87.5m. Of the £102m, 10.3% was contracts with commercial companies – the most significant proportion since the introduction of full economic costing in 2005. The University is seeking to diversify the research funding sources it exploits, as competition for somewhat scarcer funds from traditional funding sources heightens. The trend of reductions in Research Council awards has continued.
- Looking at the rolling 12 month picture, new awards for the 12 months ended September 2010 totalled £98.5m, compared with £88.7m at the end of September 2009. The total value of as yet unspent research awards (our 'order book') currently stands at £182.0m.
- Significant recent awards include a £4m EPSRC Programme Grant to Professor Graham Leggett (Chemistry) and colleagues in Physics & Astronomy and Molecular Biology & Biotechnology; and a £1.1m award from the National Institute for Health Research under its Health Technology Assessment Programme to Professor Paul Griffiths (Radiology) and colleagues from SchARR.
- The University's strategic approach to supporting high value bids, including applications to the competitive European Research Council grant schemes, resulted in 19 applications across the five Faculties in 2010, totalling over £37m. Research & Innovation Services continue to evaluate the support provided to ensure that applications to the 2011 competitions are maximised in terms of quality and income.

6.2 Strategic developments

- Further to the publication by HEFCE of a timetable for the Research Excellence Framework (REF), the University is starting to plan towards the submission date in late 2013 (exact date to be confirmed). A timetable for the necessary preparations, which will commence in early 2011, will be considered by UEB later in the month.
- A review of activities in the areas of Innovation, Impact and Knowledge Exchange is being undertaken to ensure their continuing fitness for purpose and to embed them within an overarching strategy. This will provide institutional coherence, support the University's broader strategic goals, and maximise opportunities for income growth. The review is expected to report in January 2011.

6.3 Research and Innovation news

- All HEIF 4 funds have now been committed. To date more than £3.2m has been invested in around 200 projects across the five faculties, which will facilitate external engagement activities regionally, nationally and internationally.

6.4 Research student matters

- The University's new Doctoral Development Programme (DDP) commenced at the beginning of the session and aims to provide students with a range of skills and competency-based training opportunities relevant to their specific study and future employment. Individual students will take ownership of their development through

various tools, including a Training Needs Analysis, a development plan and a student e-Portfolio, which will record evidence of their achievements and may be shown to prospective employers.

7. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

7.1 Preparation for future funding arrangements

- UEB has recently agreed to launch a major project to co-ordinate and planning for the new HE funding regime proposed by Government. Building on existing strengths, and in line with the University's educational mission and academic strategy, the project will seek to lay out more clearly the value of what we offer our students, understand the market in which we will be operating, and develop a principled approach to setting undergraduate tuition fees (full-time and part-time) for student admission in 2012-13.
- The Project will have three main phases: the first will establish the generic propositional elements that will characterise all the University's undergraduate programmes; the second will plan and model options; and the third will test our proposed offer.
- Six initial workstreams have been agreed, each with an academic and a professional services lead, and involving contributions from a across the University, including faculties, professional services, and students:
 - articulating the proposition (involving whole University community);
 - informing ourselves and understanding our competitive position (including KIS);
 - widening participation, diversity and the 'access commitment';
 - planning and modelling (including common data set for decision-making);
 - visible student experience enhancement, for higher fees (e.g. capital project around the student experience);
 - dialogue and market testing with our 'customers'.

8. HUMAN RESOURCES

8.1 Outstanding achievements

- Emeritus Professor Peter Hannon (Education), Professor Peter Marsh (Sociological Studies) and Professor Georgina Waylen (Politics) have received the title of Academician from the Academy of Social Sciences.
- Professor Mike Hounslow, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty of Engineering, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering.
- Dr Pen Rashbass (Biomedical Science) won the BBC *Countryfile* photographic competition, which will now feature in the programme's 2011 calendar.
- Samantha Warrington, a postgraduate student in the Department of Biomedical Science, won the 'close-up category' in the Society of Biology's Photographic Competition for her picture of an embryo of a fruit fly.
- Dr Andrew West (Student Services) has been appointed Chair of AMOSSHE, the UK Student Services Organisation, and has also been appointed Vice-Chair of the AUA, the professional body for HE leaders, managers and administrators.
- Professor Peter Willett (Information Studies) has received the Patterson-Crane Award of the Dayton and Columbus Sections of the American Chemical Society, for

his work in the field of chemical information. He is now the only person to have received all three of the American Chemical Society's awards for information processing.

- Professor Will Zimmerman (Chemical and Biological Engineering) was awarded the Brian Mercer Award for Innovation from the Royal Society for his work creating a new device for the energy-efficient production of alternative biofuels.

8.2 New key appointments

- Professor Simon Armitage has been appointed as Professor of Poetry in the School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics with effect from 7 February 2011. Professor Armitage is currently a Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at Manchester Metropolitan University.
- Dr Catherine Biggs has been appointed to a Chair in Environmental Engineering in the Department of Chemical & Biological Engineering with effect from 1 October 2010. Dr Biggs was previously a Reader in Biochemical Engineering at the University of Sheffield.
- Professor Jane Binner has been appointed to a Chair in Corporate Finance in the Management School with effect from 1 July 2010. Professor Binner was previously a Reader in Economics at Aston University.
- Dr Nigel Clarke has been appointed to a Chair in Condensed Matter Theory in the Department of Physics & Astronomy with effect from 1 February 2011. Dr Clarke is currently a Senior Lecturer at the University of Durham.
- Mr Gavin Douglas has been appointed as Head of Student Recruitment in Student Services with effect from 16 August 2010. Mr Douglas was previously the Director of Student Recruitment at the Robert Gordon University.
- Dr Shuisheng He has been appointed to a Chair in Thermofluid Mechanics in the Department of Mechanical Engineering with effect from 1 February 2011. Dr He is currently a Reader in the Institute of Environmental and Industrial Fluid Mechanics at Aberdeen University.
- Dr Neil Lawrence has been appointed to a Chair in Neuro and Computer Science in the Department of Computer Science with effect from 1 August 2010. Dr Lawrence was previously a Senior Research Fellow at Manchester University.
- Dr Tim O'Farrell has been appointed to a Chair in Wireless Communications in the Department of Electronic & Electrical Engineering with effect from a date to be confirmed. Dr O'Farrell is currently a Professor of Wireless Communications at Swansea University.
- Dr Magnus Rattray has been appointed to a Chair in Neuro and Computer Science in the Department of Computer Science with effect from 1 September 2010. Dr Rattray was previously a Senior Lecturer at Manchester University.
- Professor Peter Wright has been appointed to a Chair in Economics in the Department of Economics with effect from 1 September 2010. Professor Wright was previously an Associate Professor and Reader in Labour Economics at Nottingham University.
- Dr Jie Zhang has been appointed to a Chair in Wireless Systems in the Department of Electronic & Electrical Engineering with effect from a date to be confirmed. Dr Zhang is currently a Professor of Wireless Communications and Networks at the University of Bedfordshire.

9. MEDIA COVERAGE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

9.1 Events

- The main University library, including the new exhibition space and the Information Commons, were the focus for an open day on 9 September as part of 'Heritage Open Days', England's biggest voluntary cultural event, when over 3,500 historic and unusual buildings open to the public and host tours and events.
- Lord Krebs, Principal of Jesus College, Oxford, delivered the first Sir Hans Krebs Lecture on 20 October. Entitled "Tackling climate change: rhetoric or reality?", the lecture was attended by approximately 850 people.
- On 27 October, the Rt Hon David Blunkett delivered the last in a series of lectures to mark the Centenary of the Sheffield and District Cambrian Society.
- The University hosted a lecture by Ben Wildavsky, author of *The Great Brain Race: How Global Universities Are Shaping the World*, in October. Attendees included colleagues from the Students' Union, and other universities (including Sheffield Hallam, Leeds, Lancaster and York).
- The eighth Roberts Lecture was delivered on 1 November by Sir Nigel Knowles, Joint CEO and Managing Partner of DLA Piper, on the topic of 'Alignment, Leadership and Management'. At a reception prior to the lecture, the Vice-Chancellor announced that Sir Nigel had been given the title of Honorary Professor in the School of Law.

9.2 External relations: international

- **Mexico:** a visit took place from the Director General of CONACYT (the Mexican National Council for Science and Technology), two of his deputies and British Council representatives. Very positive discussions were held about increasing the number of CONACYT-funded students and increasing potential research collaboration. A visit by Vice-Chancellor to Mexico is being planned for Spring 2011.
- **Pakistan.** the Vice Chancellor of Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan (AWKUM) visited the University to discuss collaboration on School of Architecture's 'Live Projects' programme and opportunities for AWKUM staff to take postgraduate programmes at the University. Although central government support for scholarship funds has reduced dramatically because of the national rebuilding effort after the flooding, the provincial government is making significant funds available to help establish AWKUM.
- Detailed planning for the Vice Chancellor's overseas visits in 2010-11 is underway. These will focus on the development of international collaborations in both learning and teaching and research.

9.3 External relations: regional and national

- Professor Richard Jones and Carrie Warr were part of the small working group established to develop the proposal to Government for the Sheffield City Region Local Economic Partnership (LEP). Sheffield was announced as one of the successful LEP proposals in the Regional Growth white paper in October. Work continues over next two months to develop a more detailed business plan for LEP operations, as well as defining how the University will play a part.
- The University took part in the Sheffield's MADE: Entrepreneurs Festival, a high profile business festival which attracted the attention of government ministers, national media and a number of high profile entrepreneurs. It provided a good opportunity to demonstrate the University's business and enterprise credentials,

and we are exploring with Creative Sheffield how to support the festival in 2011.

9.4 External relations: community

- A new cohort of six Student Community Reps has been recruited to work with students / local residents' groups over the course of this academic year.
- The University has continued to work closely with Sheffield City Council on its 'Good Communities, Great Neighbours' project.
- Public engagement events held or supported over the period covered by this report included:
 - 'Jesters, Japes and Jackanapes', a lecture held in association Sheffield's 'Grin Up North' festival, in which Professor Cathy Shrank (English) presented a lively discourse on medieval comedy;
 - the Doc/Fest film festival, which has secured some high profile media coverage.
- Community meetings/events supported over the period included:
 - the Broomhall 'Group of Groups' (a forum of the various community groups in Broomhall area);
 - the Central Partner Panel (part of the SCC Community Assembly);
 - Sheffield Children's Hospital's 'Theo's Games';
 - the Crookes Community Forum;
 - the Broomhill Neighbourhood Action Group;
 - the City Centre Neighbourhood Action Group;
 - the Catalytic clothing project – "HERSELF" installation in City Centre – aimed at demonstrating how innovative science can be used to tackle air pollution;
 - visits to the City from the Brazilian Olympics team, during which the cultural/language support from three students from Hispanic Studies was particularly appreciated.

9.5 Media coverage

- The University generated 1,183 articles in the press and media between 15 June 2010 and 27 October 2010. This amounted to £2,983,587 in AVE (the amount the coverage would have cost if paid for in terms of advertising). This included coverage on *BBC News*, *BBC Radio 4*, *The Independent*, *The Guardian*, *The Daily Mirror*, *The Engineer*, *BBC History Magazine*, *Yorkshire Post* and *Sheffield Telegraph*.
- Professor Paul Crowther (Physics and Astronomy) led an international research team which found the most massive star ever discovered. This story featured in *CNN*, *Al-Jazeera*, *New York Times*, *Channel 4 News*, *BBC Sky at Night*, *The Guardian*, *The Independent* and *Yorkshire Post*.
- Professor Bob Shoemaker (History) co-directed the London Lives project, which saw thousands of records detailing the lives of everyday eighteenth-century Londoners published online. This was covered in *BBC Radio 4*, *The Observer*, *Times Educational Supplement* and *Family History Monthly*.
- Professor John Harding and Professor Colin Freeman (Materials Science and Engineering) conducted research using computing power to provide an insight into egg shell formation, work which also raised the possibility of an answer to the 'chicken or egg' question. This story appeared in *Fox News*, *Global Times*, *BBC*

London, BBC Radio Bristol, Sunday Times, Daily Mail, Yorkshire Post and Sheffield Star.

- Dr Bethan Thomas (Geography) conducted research into levels of inequality in premature mortality in the UK. This story featured in *BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio 5 Live, BBC Radio Wales, BBC Radio Sheffield, Metro, Yorkshire Post* and *Sheffield Star*.
- Professor Martin Thornhill (Clinical Dentistry) is carrying out clinical trials of a new test for oral cancer, which could be used by dentists. This story received coverage in *Times of India, BBC News, The Engineer, Medical Industry Week, Dentistry Scotland* and *Yorkshire Post*.

10. SERIOUS INCIDENT REPORTING

- In its role as principal regulator of HEIs as charities, HEFCE requires an annual declaration that serious incidents have been appropriately reported. This declaration is made on behalf of members of Council, and it is therefore appropriate that they should be informed on a regular basis about incidents reported to HEFCE. HEFCE defines a serious incident as 'one which has resulted in, or could result in, a significant loss of funds or a significant risk to a charity's property, work, beneficiaries or reputation'.
- Details of any serious incidents reported to HEFCE will be notified to Council through this report.
- During the period since 1 June 2010, no serious incidents have been reported to HEFCE.