

DWP

Social and Economic Research Framework

January 2005 Newsletter

01/2005

Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of the Research Framework Newsletter. Through these newsletters we aim to communicate the latest developments on Framework issues, details of future events and information on the Framework Projects that have recently been contracted or published.

Newsletter Circulation

It is our intention to circulate the newsletters every three months to the main contact listed for each of our Framework Organisations. If you have any colleagues that would like to receive copies please give the Framework Team their details and we will send them future editions.

Framework Projects Commissioned

As agreed at our Framework Workshops in November, we will be notifying you which projects have commissioned through the Framework and who has been contracted to manage these.

Period	Number of Projects Commissioned
July 2005 – September 2005	34
October 2005 – December 2005	24
January 2005 – March 2005	9
Total 04/05	67

The list of projects has been attached as a separate document to this newsletter.

See http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/Framework_projectlistattachment.pdf

Since our “Go-live” in July 2004 we have so far engaged 33 (53%) of our Framework Contractors and commissioned 67 projects.

This includes a number of Contractors who are new to working with the Department, and whilst this is encouraging, the Framework team have a commitment to promoting the use of ALL the contractors on the Framework and actively promoting this aim.

We are currently considering ways to achieve this, including further meetings with DWP researchers which are being planned to take place when further details of the Work Programme are announced. In the mean time, we are happy to circulate any information you wish to share with the Research Community, such as details of work undertaken or results published. Please contact the Framework team if you would like to do this.

You will be informed of any further workshops as soon as we have more information.

Research Publications

Each quarter we will provide a list of all the Research Papers that the analytical communities produce. This list is intended to provide only a short summary and not to replace the details the can currently be found on our website (http://www.dwp.gov.uk/resourcecentre/research_analysis_stats.asp). Again due to the size of the list it has been attached as a separate document to this newsletter.

See http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/Framework_publications.pdf

Future Events

A meeting will be taking place on 2nd February 2005 with Contractors who have expressed a specific concern with current IPR arrangements. Following this meeting we will decide on the best way to proceed, which may entail further meetings with other Contractors or revised guidance and interpretation of the rules. Full feedback will be shared with all Contractors following the meeting.

Future Work Programme

From 2005/06 departmental research will be subdivided into three programmes: Work, Welfare and Equality; Pensions; and Central Strategic and Cross-Cutting research to align better the relationship between research, the relevant evidence bases and the policy and delivery strategy for the key areas of the department's business and delivery targets. Jobcentre Plus also commissions its own programme of research and the other delivery businesses commission mainly customer satisfaction surveys.

The sub-programmes that form the overarching strategic research programme are:

- Work, Welfare and Equality Strategy covering: unemployed people; deprived areas and worklessness; disadvantaged groups; skills; lone parents, families and childcare; partners of benefit claimants and couple households; health and disability; disability rights; child poverty and financial support; minority ethnic groups; labour market issues and Jobcentre plus; extending working lives; contestability; European Social Fund Evaluation; child support; housing support; fraud.

- Pensions strategy including: increasing provision for retirement; improving saving through the workplace; extending working lives; facilitating informed choice; alleviating pensioner poverty.
- The Central Strategic and Cross-Cutting Research Programme covers cross-departmental surveys such as Families and Children Study run by the DWP but with contributions from and collaboration with Other Government Departments. The British Social Attitudes Survey, General Household Survey, and the Millennium cohort run externally but to which the Department contributes.

Directorates are currently developing their respective programmes and we will provide an update in our next newsletter.

Request for information

One of the actions agreed during our workshops in November was that contractors would provide the Framework Team with an electronic copy of their main Framework Tender/Bid Document. Electronic copies will be saved to our Framework Database and will be available all DWP Researchers.

As the database is a vital source of information it was also suggested that contractors may wish to enhance the information they originally provided. There is no limit on the amount of data we can hold and information can be amended at any time. If you wish to add extra details please complete the questionnaire sent out with this newsletter. Please also use this form if contact details change or if you need to add or remove members of staff.

Please send copies of your bids or questionnaires to colin.browne@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Action Points from November Workshops

Minutes of the November Workshops and Action points were circulated in December 2004. If anyone has not seen these please contact the Framework Team for a copy.

Work on all the Action Points is ongoing and will be updated in the next newsletter. The following Action Points have been progressed in the last month;

1. Update on impact of sharing budget information with contractors and decisions made – **Decisions with Senior Management for approval. Contractors to be copied into any change to guidance when issued.**
2. Database - The Framework team will investigate ways for Contractors to check their information. Standard template for changes to be with these notes – **being actioned currently. The Framework Team will be contacting Contractors to discuss.**

3. IPR – workshops to be arranged in New Year, all Contractors to be contacted for volunteers to take part in possible review – **meeting 2/2/05 – feedback to be issued to all Contractors following the meeting**
4. Future workshops to be directly related to the work programme, be lot based & involve DWP Project Managers from Lot areas, we will also consider workshops for contractors who are new to working with DWP as an “induction”, to explain policy/research relationships, who’s who etc – **this has been passed on to DWP Project Managers. Currently looking at the best way to take forward**

Future Newsletters

Over the next few months we will be updating our divisional web pages. We hope that future newsletters will also be published alongside previous editions. As these newsletters will be for you, our contractors, what would you like to see included? Do you want to see items added or removed?

If you have comments on either the website or newsletters, or wish to contribute to future editions please provide details to the Framework Team.

**This newsletter was put together by the Research Framework Team.
Please contact us at:**

Kate Callow
Framework Manager
Tel: 0114 2098118
Email: kate.callow1@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Colin Browne
Framework and Database Development Manager
Tel: 0114 2098112
Email: colin.browne@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Department for Work and Pensions
IAD Social Research Division
Level 2
Kings Court
Sheffield
S3 7UF