



Science and
Technology
Facilities Council

Answers to online questions following the STFC Townhall meeting 9 April 2026

PP Theory Consolidated Grants

1. If the boundaries of PPT are expected to be more fluid in future, will we get clarity on what is and isn't in scope?

2026 PP Experiment Consolidated Grants

1. Will there be any guidance about how the panel will use the new CG submissions - given that the content is different from past rounds?
2. You say that there is an overall case for the core. Will there be individual cases for responsive posts?
3. When do you expect the PPE CG round for grants starting October 2029 to start?

Grants (general)

1. Can the scoring for the Particle Physics proposals be made public?

STFC priorities

1. The STFC portfolio is being subjected to a prioritisation exercise. Will other parts of UKRI, e.g. Innovate UK, conduct a similar review in order to determine if government subsidies for industrial research are good value for money and lead to industrial impact?
2. By using terms such as critical mass, STFC seems to promote the idea that every group should focus its research on a topic of strength within STFC's remit, rather than multiple areas. This could lead to redundancies and restructuring within research organisations. How would STFC expect the implementation of such a focus of activity to be achieved?
3. How will accelerator projects be considered in the STFC prioritisation exercise? Why were project such as AWAKE not included despite having received funding during FY2024-25?
4. Will the outcome of the prioritisation be made public and when?

5. If STFC's priority is to engage with industry, drive growth and get a return from CERN, how does this align with decision on cutting for example posts for engineers?
6. STFC is pushing for stronger connections with industry. How has this effected the curiosity-driven nature of curiosity driven science?
7. Who will be representing the PPAN community on the panels for Bucket 2? How can the PPAN community engage with and support them?

STFC and PPAN funding reductions

1. What is the source of the cost pressures experienced by STFC and what is being done to make savings at the source of the issues?
2. To what extent have PPAN projects caused the cost increase?
3. Why are the PPAN projects and Particle Physics Consolidated Grants being cut?
4. Recent communications to and from the Select Committee on this matter have stated confusing or incorrect figures. Has this been corrected?
5. At the 2025 Townhall meeting, Michelle Doherty said that some projects would need to be ended, rather than subjected to salami slicing, to ensure long term viability. What is Science Board's view on this?
6. If the effect of recent cuts to early career researchers, especially within PPT, was unintended, does STFC recognise that it undermines its entire decision-making process? How does STFC address the lack of transparency?

UKRI Infrastructure Fund

1. The presentation showed that new preliminary activities funded by the UKRI Infrastructure Fund will be starting. Considering the defunding of the full stages of EIC and LHCb from the same fund, how were these decisions made and how were the new projects prioritised?