**Summary of** [**MRC Delivery Plan 2022-2025**](https://www.ukri.org/publications/mrc-strategic-delivery-plan/)

**MRC’s Vision**

To accelerate improvements in human health and economic prosperity for everyone, regardless of background, place or upbringing, by supporting world-class biomedical research and innovation, and strengthening partnerships within UKRI, across the UK and around the world.

**Strategic objectives and highlights**

1. **People and careers**

Supporting the breadth and diversity of skilled people needed for the future R&D workforce; and advancing an open and collaborative research and innovation culture.

1.1: Support the breadth and diversity of skilled people needed for the future Research and Development workforce

* Grow commitment to people and ideas through fellowship panels and other training support by increasing investment by 30% to £80m pa, and response mode funding by 18% to £200m pa
* Pilot a £4m postdoctoral fellowship scheme, co-funded with AstraZeneca, which is the first MRC fellowship scheme in partnership with industry
* Develop and pilot interventions to promote diversity across career stages and job roles.

1.2: Advance an open and collaborative research and innovation culture

* Promote all aspects of open science, initially focussing on Data Management Plans to support the implementation of FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Re-usable) data principles, and Data Access Statements in publications
* Develop an MRC strategy that sets out clear principles, expectations, and good practice for public involvement and engagement
* Embed a new policy requiring the use of both sexes in the design of preclinical scientific experiments and launch a further inclusive research design policy in 2023 which will consider sex and gender as well as other characteristics such as ethnicity and socio-economic position.
1. **Places**

Supporting the breadth and diversity of skilled people needed for the future R&D workforce; and advancing an open and collaborative research and innovation culture.

2.1: Foster Capability and Partnerships – locally, nationally, internationally

* Tackle health inequalities, working with at-risk and underserved populations and local communities to support; leverage place-based research addressing local health challenges
* Enhance engagement with partners in established and trusted emerging science nations, including in North America, Europe and Asia.

2.2: Ensure the UK has the infrastructure & digital capabilities needed for world-class research and innovation

* Roll out an annual research equipment call
* Deliver UKRI Infrastructure Fund investment in novel Data and Analytics Research Environments capability (DARE UK) for storing, connecting, and analysing complex and sensitive data
* Establish human central nervous tissue resources, through a £5 million investment.

2.3: Increase financial sustainability and agility of MRC’s major investments portfolio

* Establish a new unit funding model to support bold, interdisciplinary approaches that address major health challenges and require long-term funding of up to 14 years. Investments include Health Data Research UK and the UK Dementia Research Institute.
1. **Ideas**

Funding world-class discovery science and driving an integrated understanding of human disease.

3.1: Fund world class discovery science

* Invest close to £200 million per annum to support the best discovery research
* Support the MRC National Mouse Genetics Network - a new £20 million investment.

3.2: Drive an integrated understanding of human disease

* With other Research Councils, fund basic technology development to accelerate the development of next generation sensing and imaging technologies.
1. **Innovation**

Strengthening the translation of discovery science and experimental medicine; driving

advanced therapies and innovative technologies; and broadening partnerships with industry.

4.1: Maximise translation of discovery science and strengthen experimental medicine

* Develop challenge-led Translational Co-development Centres with other funders

4.2: Drive advanced therapies and innovative technologies

* Invest in emerging advanced therapies supporting the de-risking of innovative technologies

4.3: Enhance and broaden partnerships with industry

* Broaden engagement with industry beyond biopharma, and in particular with Small to Medium-sized Enterprise.
1. **Impacts**

Promoting healthy ageing and reducing the burden of mental and physical illness; strengthening health equity and prevention; tackling infections; protecting human health in the face of environmental change; and progressing transformative technologies.

5.1: Promote healthy ageing and reduce the burden of mental and physical illness throughout life

* Invest a minimum of £15 million to develop a new mental health research platform that will harness a wide range of human data
* In support of the Government’s Life Sciences Vision, invest £20m as part of a wider cross-Government Neurodegeneration initiative to support therapy development for diseases such as dementia

5.2: Strengthen health equity and prevention of disease

* Strengthen population health and health equity as part of the UKRI Securing Better Health, Ageing and Wellbeing strategic theme

5.3: Tackle infections

* Build new inter-disciplinary, challenge-led programmes and capacity strengthening investments addressing epidemic preparedness and antimicrobial resistance

5.4: Protect human health in the face of environmental change

* Work across UKRI to develop planetary health priorities and strengthen research on the environmental impact on health

5.5: Progress transformative technologies

* Partner with fellow Research Councils through the UKRI AI programme.
1. **A world-class organisation**

Strengthening equality, diversity and inclusion and enabling talented people to thrive; being an efficient, effective and agile organisation; and catalysing change and improving environmental sustainability through partnerships and leadership.

6.1: Strengthen equality, diversity and inclusion and enable talented people to thrive

* Develop positive action initiatives to increase applications from and participation by people from under-represented groups for job roles, funding and peer review

6.2: Be an efficient, effective and agile organisation

* Complete piloting of the new UKRI Funding Service (replacing Je-S); engage with and transition all MRC funding opportunities into the new service before the end of 2023

6.3: Catalyse change and improve environmental sustainability through partnerships and leadership

* MRC has committed to achieving Net Zero by 2040 and halving carbon emissions by 2030.

**Budget**

MRC budget allocation will increase annually from £636M in 2022-23 to £674M in 2024-25.

Approximate % breakdown by category (2022-2025):

Core Research & Innovation 89%

Existing cross-UKRI Strategic Programmes 4%

Infrastructure 6%

Existing time limited commitments (COVID R&D) 1%