

The UKCP18 peer review process

The UKCP18 Peer Review Panel (PRP) is an independent panel of international climate experts that reports directly to the governance board of UKCP18. It has given advice on UKCP18 project scientific methodology and deliverables, providing a strong oversight of the work done to produce the new climate projections out to 2100.

The PRP is chaired by Sir Brian Hoskins (Grantham Institute, Imperial & University of Reading) and its membership is:

- Professor Mat Collins (University of Exeter);
- Professor Jim Hall (University of Oxford);
- Dr Ed Hawkins (University of Reading);
- Professor Gabi Hegerl (University of Edinburgh);
- Dr Erik Kjellström (Rossby Centre, SMHI, Sweden);
- Professor Christoph Schär (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETH Zurich));
- Professor Ted Shepherd (University of Reading);
- Dr Claudia Tebaldi (National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR));
- Professor Dr Bart Van Den Hurk (Institute for Environmental Studies at the VU University, Amsterdam), and;
- Prof Sybren Drijfhout (University of Southampton).

Selection

The Chair of the PRP, along with the UKCP18 project partners, agreed criteria for selecting panel members: independent leading experts with a strong publication record in one or more of scientific areas covered by UKCP18; drawn from universities, meteorological services and/or climate institutions; or have demonstrated research or practical experience at an equivalent level. The Chair then nominated members who were reviewed and agreed by the Chief Scientific Advisor of Defra and the Defra Science Advisory Council.

Specific responsibilities included:

1. Scrutinising the project work plan, monitoring scientific progress and providing technical advice to the governance board as required.
2. Commenting on any scientific concerns over how realistic, any aspects of Defra's requirements were, given the current status of climate science and project constraints.
3. Identifying any areas of scientific concern in relation to the project delivery partners' ability to meet customers' requirements and achieve the associated policy aims of the project.
4. Providing advice to the project team to refine scientific decisions at points identified in the project work plan.
5. Reviewing and commenting on the scientific quality of project deliverables against the standards expected from the project plan. This included guidance and reports and providing written comments prior to publication on a timescale agreed with the Project.

The peer review panel have met at key decision points to provide their advice on development of the scientific methodology of the projections and also provided advice on an ad-hoc basis throughout the project lifetime.

Most recently, in September of 2018 the peer review panel and additional selected experts* reviewed the science content of draft documents produced by the UKCP18 project for publication at launch. This included key descriptions of the science methodology and outputs from UKCP18 such as the science overview report, the land projections report and the marine projections report. Their comments on these drafts and the changes made by Met Office in light of these comments led to the production of the final versions. These comments and responses are documented in the comments tracker published at UKCP18 launch and linked to below.

*Additional selected experts: Dr David Stainforth (London School of Economics and Political Science), Prof Kevin Horsburgh (National Oceanography Centre) and Dr Francis Zwiers (University of Victoria)