

27 April 2010

**To: Heads of higher education institutions in England, Wales,
Scotland and Northern Ireland**

**For further information contact: Heather Williams,
TRAC Development Group Secretariat: h.williams@hefce.ac.uk; 0117 931 7113**

Dear Vice-Chancellor or Principal

Key messages on TRAC

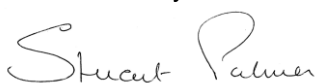
In my letter of 8 March, I told you about a number of changes we are making to TRAC with the aim of making TRAC data more credible and more useful in those institutions which do not currently use TRAC data in their strategic financial management. You will have picked up that Heads of institution may now be asked by funding councils to be more specific about their confidence in their TRAC data (this also seems likely to be a requirement emerging from the Wakeham Review of fEC).

The technical updates which support these changes have been issued to institutions and are available for download via the following link: <http://www.jcpsg.ac.uk/guidance/revisions/>. Given the above, institutional TRAC Steering Groups will need to consider the impact of these changes for their institution, and make sure that they are not missing any opportunities that may be helpful to them. In some institutions this will lead to a need for some accompanying communication within the institution.

We have therefore prepared the attached 'Key messages on TRAC' as a summary of what I see as the critical points that we all need to understand in the current financial climate. There are messages here for institutional senior management teams and governing bodies as well as for the more general academic community. I hope you find this helpful. We are thinking of producing a PowerPoint version, and you are welcome to contact the Secretariat as above about this. If there is demand, we will make this available in the near future.

We have had a good response to the invitations to participate in Management Information Projects, and will be launching these in the next few weeks.

Yours sincerely



Professor Stuart Palmer