



Royal Charter

Economic and Social Research Council, Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon
SN2 1UJ May 1994

ELIZABETH THE SECOND

by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
and of Our other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth,
Defender of the Faith.

TO ALL WHOM THESE
PRESENTS SHALL COME,
GREETING!

WHEREAS We did by Royal Charter dated the sixteenth day of November 1965
(hereinafter called “the original charter”) constitute a body corporate called “The
Social Science Research Council” for promoting and supporting research into the
social sciences and related matters.

AND WHEREAS the Council was subsequently re-named “The Economic and Social
Research Council” (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”)

AND WHEREAS it has been represented unto Us that it is expedient for the better
execution of the purposes of the Science and Technology Act 1965, and of the objects
of the Council, to grant a Supplemental Charter to the council:

NOW THEREFORE Know Ye that We, by virtue of Our Prerogative Royal and of all
other powers enabling Us so to do, have of Ours especial grace, certain knowledge
and mere motion granted and declared and do by these Presents for Us, Our Heirs and
Successors, grant and declare as follows

1. With the exception of Article 1, the provisions of the original Charter are hereby
revoked.

2. (1) The objects for which the Council is established and incorporated are:

- (a) to promote and support, by any means, high-quality basic, strategic and
applied research and related postgraduate training in the social sciences;
- (b) to advance knowledge and provide trained social scientists which meet the
needs of users and beneficiaries, thereby contributing to the economic
competitiveness or Our United Kingdom, the effectiveness of public
services and policy, and the quality of life;

(c) to provide advice on, and disseminate knowledge and promote public understanding of, the social sciences.

(2) The Council may pursue its objects in Our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or elsewhere.

3. All moneys and property howsoever received by the Council, including any moneys voted by Parliament, shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Council and no portion thereof (except as otherwise provided in this Our Supplemental Charter) shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly to members thereof.

4. (1) The Council shall consist of a Chairman, a Chief Executive and Deputy Chairman, and not less than ten nor more than eighteen other members, at least half of whom shall be appointed by reason of their qualifications in the social sciences.

(2) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (3) of this Article, the chairman, Chief Executive and Deputy Chairman, and other members shall be appointed and the terms of their appointment or the revocation of any appointment determined by Our Chancellor

(3) (a) Before appointing any member including the Chairman and Chief Executive and Deputy Chairman, on account of his qualifications in the social sciences, Our Chancellor shall consult the President for the time being of the British Academy.

(b) Before Appointing any member, including the Chairman and the Chief Executive and the Deputy Chairman, Our Chancellor shall consult the Chairman for the time being of the Council, who may consult other members of the Council as he shall see fit.

(4) Every member, including the Chairman and Chief Executive and Deputy Chairman, shall hold and vacate his office solely in accordance with the terms of his appointment, and shall, on the expiry of his term of appointment, be eligible for re-appointment but

(a) a member shall not be appointed for the term of more than four years;

(b) a member who is re-appointed on ceasing to be a member shall not again be eligible for re-appointment before the expiration of one year from the end of the period for which he is re-appointed: provided that this sub-paragraph shall not apply to a person appointed to serve as Chairman and Chief Executive and Deputy Chairman; and

(c) a member may at any time by notice in writing to Our Chancellor resign his office.

- (5) Except as provided in paragraph (7) of this Article, the Council shall in the case of any such member as Our Chancellor may determine
 - (a) pay to him such remuneration and allowances as may be so determined in his case, and
 - (b) pay to or in respect of him such pension allowance or gratuity on his retirement or death, or make such payments towards provision for such a pension, allowance or gratuity as may be so determined in his case.
- (6) If a person ceases to be a member of the Council otherwise than on the expiration of his term of office, and it appears to Our Chancellor that there are special circumstances which make it right that that person should receive compensation, the Council shall make to that person a payment of such amount as Our Chancellor may determine.
- (7) The Council shall not in any circumstances or at any time make to or in respect of any person in his capacity as a member of the Council any payment of any kind whatsoever for or in respect of any period when he is also a member of Our Commons House of Parliament, other than a payment by way of reimbursement to him of actual out of pocket expenses previously and necessarily incurred by him in the performance of his duties as such a member of the Council.
- (8) The provisions of paragraphs (5) and (6) of this Article shall not apply to a member who is an officer of a Department of Our Government.
5. (1) The Council may act notwithstanding a vacancy among the members thereof and the validity of any proceedings of the Council shall not be affected by any defect in the appointment of a member thereof.
 - (2) The quorum of the Council shall be six members personally present or such greater number as the Council may from time to time determine.
6. Subject to the provisions of this Our Supplemental Charter the Council may regulate its own procedure.
7. (1) The Council may appoint Committees to exercise, or advise it on the exercise of, any of its functions and may
 - (a) appoint to any such committee persons who are not members of the Council; and
 - (b) at any time revoke the appointment of any member of any such Committee.
- (2) Where the Council appoints to any such Committee any person who is not a member of the Council it may, with the approval of Our Chancellor, pay to that person such remuneration and allowances as may be so determined in his case, but Article 4(7) of this Our Supplemental Charter shall apply to any such person as though he were a member of the Council.

8. (1) The Council may appoint such officers and take into their employment such other persons as the Council may determine
- (2) The Council may
- (a) pay to its offices and to other persons employed by them such remuneration and allowances as the Council may, with the approval of Our Chancellor, from time to time determine; and
 - (b) as regards any officers or other persons employed by the Council or by any institution or department or an institution which is supported by grants made under the provisions of Article 2(1)(a) of this Our Supplemental Charter, in whose case it may be determined by the Council with the approval of Our Chancellor so to do, pay to or in respect of them such pensions and other benefits or compensation (including gratuities), or provide and maintain for them such pension, benefit or compensation schemes (whether contributory or not) as may be so determined.
- (3) Where the holder of an office or employment, whether with the Council or with institutions or departments of institutions which it supports by the making of grants under the terms of Article 2(1)(a) of this Our Supplemental Charter, being a participant in any pension, benefit or compensation scheme applicable to the office or employment, is or becomes a member of the Council he may be treated for the purposes of the pension, benefit or compensation scheme as if his service as a member of the Council were service in an office or employment with the Council, and his rights under the scheme shall not be affected by any provision of this Our Supplemental Charter which requires that pensions, allowances, gratuities, benefits, compensation or payment towards the provision of them payable in the case of members of the Council shall be determined by Our Chancellor.
9. The application of the Seal of the Council shall be authenticated by the signatures of the Chairman, or of some other member of the Council authorised generally or especially by the Council to act for that purpose, and of one such officers of the Council as may be so authorised by the Council so to act.
10. The Council may by resolution in that behalf passed at a meeting of the council by the majority of not less than three-quarters of the members present and voting (being an absolute majority of the whole number of members of the Council) add to amend or revoke any of the provisions of this Our Supplemental Charter, and such addition, amendment or revocation, when allowed by Us, Our Heirs or Successors in Council, shall become effectual, so that this Our Supplemental Charter shall thenceforward continue and operate as though it had been originally granted and made accordingly: and this provision shall apply to this Our Supplemental Charter, as added to, amended or revoked in manner aforesaid.

11. In this Our Supplemental Charter references to Our Chancellor are to Our Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and words importing the masculine gender shall include the feminine.

IN WITNESS whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.

WITNESS Ourselves at Westminster the thirty-first day of March in the forty-third year of Our Reign.

BY WARRANT UNDER THE QUEEN'S SIGN MANUAL