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**SCIENCE COUNCIL**

**Terms of Reference**

1. The ICHEC Science Council is responsible for assessing the scientific merit of applications from Irish researchers for access to ICHEC's national high-end computing services and is solely responsible for decisions on acceptance or rejection of particular applications.
2. In reaching its conclusions, the Science Council shall employ a peer review process appropriate for the Class of service requested and as set put in Annex 1 (not included on web page).
3. The main criterion for access to ICHEC services is the quality of the research it facilitates, where quality is determined in the main by the anticipated scientific impact of the projected research outcomes.
4. The membership of the Science Council shall be drawn from all of the main disciplinary areas that require high-end computing *viz.*:
	* Physical and Chemical sciences
	* Life sciences
	* Environmental sciences, and
	* Engineering

In general, each of these areas shall be represented by at least two members, except where the number of users in a particular area greatly exceeds the number in other areas. In the case of the latter, three or more representatives may be appointed as appropriate. Membership of Council is personal and not institutionally representative. The number of members of the Council will be not less than 9 and not more than 18.

1. One third of the Membership of the Council shall be replaced at the beginning of each calendar year. By the first Friday of November each year, in consultation with members of the existing Science Council, the Director of ICHEC will bring forward a list of nominations, to replace retiring members of Council at the start of the next calendar year, and for a Chairperson of the Council for the next calendar year. These nominations will be considered for approval of the ICHEC Advisory Board by the second Friday of December. Members shall normally serve for three years. The Chairperson may be re-appointed each year for up to three years.
2. The Science Council shall meet to consider applications according to the schedule laid out in Annex 1 (not included on web page). Where appropriate, and as detailed in Annex 1 (not included on web page), e-meetings may be convened to consider applications.
3. A member of the ICHEC Executive (normally the Head of User Support) shall attend all meetings of Council, but shall not have a vote. H/she shall keep the ICHEC Executive informed of Council's deliberations Secretarial support will be provided for the Council.
4. DECI Project Evaluation: the Terms of Reference and operation of the Science Council satisfy the requirements of PRACE for its tier-1 DECI access programme. On foot of this PRACE has requested that following technical evaluation by ICHEC staff the Council would perform the scientific evaluation of Irish DECI applications. PRACE provides guidelines for this process. The main objectives are to rank the applications in order of scientific merit and provide recommendations for the fraction of requested compute time to award. The guidance of the Council is then taken into close consideration when compute time on various European tier-1 systems is allocated. This process is undertaken twice each year.
5. These Terms of Reference may be varied from time to time by the Advisory Board.