

7th April, 1961

NI/GP/61/18

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN NUCLEAR SCIENCE

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Delegation of Approval Powers

Note by the Secretary

1. The present delegation of power of financial approval, set out in paper NI/GP/59/34 and approved by the Committee on 22/10/59 is very broadly as follows:-

Director, Rutherford Laboratory Up to £1,000
(Higher limits on parts of approved projects, in particular:-

Director, Rutherford Laboratory on the recommendation of the Nuclear Equipment Project Committee or the Rutherford Laboratory Building Committee within approved schemes managed by them £20,000

The Chairman of the Nimrod Project Committee within the Nimrod Project £25,000

Southern Works Organisation within approved schemes £25,000

Director, Rutherford Laboratory, after consulting the Chairman Up to £10,000

G.P.C. Up to £25,000

2. With the progressive taking over of services previously provided by the AERE Harwell, and the growth of the Rutherford Laboratory the number of approvals needed has grown so that it is now desirable to seek approval for a simplified system providing for increased local powers. The new proposals are set out below.

3. General Safeguards

- (a) Contracts are only placed through the AEA contracts section, which provides the assurance that established contractual procedures are followed.
- (b) All schemes and capital items estimated to cost £25,000 or over will continue to be referred to the General Purposes Committee and to the London office of the AEA.
- (c) Regardless of any specifically delegated approval levels, any scheme or demand of an exceptional or controversial nature will be referred to the Chairman.
- (d) Lists of new items and schemes committed under delegated powers and under specific approvals will continue to be included in the General Financial Statement.
- (e) Amenity projects of over £1,000 must be referred to the Chairman, and at his discretion to the General Purposes Committee.

- (f) Amendments to previous approvals below £25,000 may normally be made on the authority appropriate to the value of the amendment, but not if the result would be to raise the cost above the approval powers of the original signatory.

4. It is proposed that powers should be delegated as follows:-

(a) Approvals of capital schemes and individual capital items

Up to £1,000	As delegated by the Director, R.H.E.L.
Up to £5,000	Director, R.H.E.L.
Up to £25,000	Director, R.H.E.L. after consulting the Chairman.

(b) Approval of capital expenditure forming part of a scheme approved by the G.P.C.

Up to £2,000	As delegated by the Director, R.H.E.L.
Up to £25,000	* (i) Director R.H.E.L.
	(ii) Southern Works Organisation, UKAEA, within instructions to Proceed issued to them
	(iii) The Chairman of the Nimrod Project Committee within the Nimrod project or as delegated to the Director, R.H.E.L.

*The Director R.H.E.L. will continue to be advised by the N.E.P.C. and the R.L.B.C. on major schemes.

(c) Non-capital purchases, and demands on workshop services Stores etc.

Up to £2,000	As delegated by the Director, R.H.E.L.
Over £2,000	(without limit) Director, R.H.E.L., (but see para. 3(c))

(d) E.M.R. and University Agreements

Up to £5,000 p.a. for not more than three years.	Director, R.H.E.L.
Up to £25,000 in total	Director, R.H.E.L., after consulting the Chairman N.I.R.N.S.
Over £25,000 in total	G.P.C.

(e) Expenditure in Foreign Currency

Up to £1,000	As delegated by the Director, R.H.E.L.
Up to £2,000	Director, R.H.E.L.
Up to £5,000	General Purposes Committee
Over £5,000	Referred to U.K.A.E.A.

(f) Travel and Subsistence

(i) Within the United Kingdom	- As delegated by the Director R.H.E.L.
(ii) Overseas - NIRNS staff, visits estimated to cost less than £2,000	Director R.H.E.L.

(iii) Overseas - NIRNS staff
Visits estimated to cost
more than £2,000

Director R.H.E.L. after
consulting the Chairman
N.I.R.N.S.

(iv) Overseas - University staff

Director R.H.E.L. after
consulting the Chairman
N.I.R.N.S.

The G.P.C. may wish to set a limit on the total cost of overseas visits
i.e. (ii) (iii) and (iv) above each year.

5. Approval is requested for the new powers, proposed in this paper, and
for a total of £15,000 for overseas visits in 1961/62,

Rutherford High Energy Laboratory,
Harwell

Circulation: to Members of the G.P.C.
to Members of the Governing Board for information.