NOTICE OF BID FOR SUBMISSIONS : KESS 2017-18

The Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS) is annually delivered by the Assembly's Research and Information Service (RaISe) and its local university partners - Queen's University of Belfast (QUB), Ulster University (Ulster) and The Open University (OU).

KESS aims to encourage debate and improve understanding by providing a forum – a "safe space" - in which academic research findings are disseminated in a straightforward format, on issues that are relevant to the policy and law-making relating to Northern Ireland. It seeks to bring these findings to the attention of key participants and decision-makers, as well as the wider public sector; importantly providing a “pathway” for later, more, in-depth engagement. KESS does not support or promote perspectives or messages stated at seminars.

This notice is to advise that the bid for submissions for the 2017-18 KESS annual programme opens at 3pm on 26 April 2017 and closes at midnight on 25 May 2017.

The KESS Panel, which includes representation from both the Assembly and the partner universities, actively promotes this bid through the internal communication channels and social media at each university partner. The opportunity to apply is open to all academics at QUB, Ulster and The OU, by making either a single or joint submission. Joint submissions may include academics from non-partner institutions; but the “lead academic”, i.e. the person making the submission on behalf of all the academics named on the application, must be from one of the university partners.

Submissions from academics of all perspectives are encouraged and welcomed, assuming those submissions are: objective/non-partisan; evidence-based; robust; reliable; relevant to policy and law-making in Northern Ireland; and, accessible.

Information about this bid can be obtained from the designated KESS Panel member at your university: she is responsible for: (i) disseminating the bid amongst academics at your university via internal communication channels and social media; and, (ii) receiving all submissions via email by the stated deadline:

- QUB - Claire Dewhirst  c.dewhirst@qub.ac.uk
- Ulster - Ann Marie Gray  AM.Gray@ulster.ac.uk
- OU - Frances Morton  frances.morton@open.ac.uk