

A3 - The Hitchhikers Guide to the Lambert 2 Toolkit

The Lambert 1 Toolkit was created to improve collaboration between Universities and Business through a series of model agreements. The revised Lambert 2 Toolkit which was launched in October 2016 is meant to address some of the usage issues previously identified with Lambert 1 as well as refreshing the model agreements. This session, chaired by Professor Malcolm Skingle CBE RTTP (GSK) who chaired the Lambert 2 Working Group, was aimed at informing people of the changes and stimulating a discussion on people's experiences with the Toolkit.

Working Group members Christine Reid (Northwood Reid) and Geoff Archer (Teesside University) gave an overview of the seven collaboration agreements (1 -6 and 4A) and four consortium agreements (A-D). They were followed by Professor Seshadri Vasan RTTP (Public Health England and University of York) who co-drafted the fast track model agreement which is also part of this Toolkit. Finally, Jenny Vaughan summarised the views of the Intellectual Property Office which is hosting the Toolkit.

The conference session stimulated a number of questions and observations from the audience. In a quick straw poll most of the audience were already aware of the Toolkit and had some experience of using one or other of the model agreements. This is encouraging. The decision tree was praised as a useful tool but was acknowledged as not being fit for all scenarios. A few specific examples were raised where some people felt the fit is not appropriate. This is perhaps not surprising since as a generic toolkit it is not designed for all situations.

And perhaps this was the most important message from the session as a whole – in very many situations the Lambert Toolkit can be a great help for both sides in negotiating a collaboration agreement more effectively. However, caution is needed in trying to approach its use for all situations.