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| **Agenda item:** | **13** |
| **Attachment:** | **G** |

**HRA BOARD COVER SHEET**

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| **Date of Meeting:** | 13/09/2017 |

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| **Title of Paper:** | Update to the Governance Arrangements for Research Ethics Committees (GAfREC) |
| **Purpose of Paper:** | To seek Board approval to delegate authority for sign off of the new draft of GAfREC to the Chair. |
| **Reason for Submission:** | For approval to sign off under Chair’s action. |
| **Details:** | A revised version of GAfREC has been drafted and will be circulated out of session to the Board in due course.  The document revises and replaces the harmonised (UK-wide) edition issued in 2011.  The revisions are primarily minor updates to take account of changes in hyperlinks, references, organisations’ names and branding, as well as legal, policy and operational developments since 2011.  There is one policy change, following public consultation by the Human Tissue Authority, to include research involving human DNA extracted from acellular material.  We have also taken the opportunity to make some clarifications in light of feedback from applicants, research ethics committees and staff.  Whilst the document is not available for circulation to the Board in time for review at the meeting on 13 September, the Board is asked to agree at the meeting to delegate authority for sign off under Chair’s action. This will allow the document to be reviewed and approved for use UK wide by the United Kingdom Research Ethics Authority (UKECA) at its next meeting on 26 September. |
| **Time required for item:** | 10 |

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| **Recommendation / Proposed Actions:** | **To Approve** | | **x** |
| **To Note** | |  |
| **For Discussion** | |  |
| **Comments** |  | |

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| **Name:** | Bill Davidson |
| **Job Title:** | Joint Head of Policy |
| **Date:** | 07/09/2017 |