1. The subpanel intends no change in the scope of submissions that can be returned to UoA 11 (compared with 2014). We would like to reassure colleagues who have interpreted the text as narrowing scope, that the subpanel recognises the breadth and diversity of computer science and informatics, and the importance of interdisciplinarity, as key features of the field. Specific concerns have been expressed regarding the unit descriptor and output taxonomy. The unit descriptor (taken in context) is intended to define the scope of submissions expected by the subpanel, and is deliberately inclusive. The purpose of the taxonomy is solely to allow outputs to be allocated to reviewers with appropriate expertise; it is not intended to define the scope of submissions.

2. The unit descriptor is intended to describe the main focus of the research domain (solely for REF purposes) and the principal areas of competence of the subpanel. The second paragraph makes clear that submissions which overlap with other UoAs are welcomed. The subpanel recognises and values the interdisciplinary nature of much of the research carried out in units likely to submit to UoA 11, has substantial interdisciplinary expertise, and is committed to assessing all outputs submitted on an equal basis.

3. The unit descriptor should be read in conjunction with the overarching principles of assessment set out in the Panel Criteria and Working Methods (paragraphs 166-282), in particular paragraphs 174-175 (Pedagogic research) and paragraphs 166-172 (Interdisciplinary research and work on the boundaries between UoAs). These make it clear that research on computer science and informatics pedagogy within higher education, and research that also contributes to other disciplines may be submitted to UoA 11 and will be assessed fairly. Substantial bodies of work on pedagogy in other sectors should be submitted to UoA 23, but the subpanel recognises there may be some important contributions in this area from submitting units, and welcomes limited submission to UoA 11.

4. The unit descriptor defines the main focus of the research domain in terms of the ACM Computing Classification System (CCS), including all categories except Social and Professional Topics. The areas listed under that category overlap with the remit of UoAs 17 (Business and Management Studies), 23 (Education), 28 (History) and possibly others (eg 19: Politics and International Studies). For this reason we did not list them as a primary focus for Computer Science and Informatics but, as outlined above, outputs in these areas can be submitted with confidence to UoA 11. For such outputs, it may be appropriate to use the interdisciplinary research identifier to trigger a case-by-case evaluation of the most appropriate approach to assessment. It may also be appropriate to request cross-referral, but generally the subpanel will aim to assess outputs submitted to the UoA itself. It is also worth noting that many social and policy aspects of the discipline are covered under other topics in the ACM CCS.

5. It is important to emphasise that the purpose of asking submitting units to assign each output to a topic from the UoA 11 taxonomy is solely to provide an objective basis for allocating outputs to reviewers. The taxonomy provided is based on the ACM CCS, flattened to provide topics of reasonably consistent granularity. As with any taxonomy, it will not always be straightforward to assign an output to a topic, the key is to select the **most relevant topic** (see the further guidance), remembering that it will be used to allocate reviewers. For example, an output on computing education could be labelled as 'Applied Computing – Education', even if it does not exactly meet the ACM definition, because that will ensure it is seen by a reviewer with relevant expertise. Similarly, an output on the history of computer architecture could be labelled as 'Computer Systems Organisation' to inform assignment to the most relevant expert.

6. The further guidance mentions an 'Other' category and the other sub-panels in Panel B provide this. For consistency, we will include an 'Other' category, but strongly recommend submitting units, wherever possible, to use the more specific topics provided, to optimise allocation to reviewers. Note that the assignment of outputs to topics is entirely at the discretion of submitting units, even where outputs have been indexed previously using the ACM CCS.

7. Colleagues have raised the issue of whether the 'change in scope' of the UoA might create anomalies regarding the eligibility of research underpinning impact case studies. This should not be a cause for concern because a) as outlined above, we envisage no change in the scope of submissions, b) the other eligibility criterion for the underpinning research is very broad: that it was 'produced by the submitting unit in the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2020'.