

PROF. GEOFFREY CROSSICK

My presentation will focus on the institutional structure within which research is organised in the United Kingdom and on the main contributors to its international success.

Independent research institutions are not common in the UK, where the great majority of public research takes place in universities. I shall consider the benefits of that university setting in the context of the international standing of UK research. There are some independent research institutes in the UK, mostly funded by Research Councils, and I shall reflect upon the conditions for their success and failure. A variety of secondary themes will be highlighted in recognition of the fact that there is no simple answer to the question of whether independent research institutes are beneficial or detrimental to successful research performance. These will include cross-disciplinarity, competition, strategic planning and resource allocation, the role of research in a teaching environment, retention of academics, and the diversification of mission within UK universities.

I shall draw on my experience in the senior management of major research universities and Research Councils, as well as my role in national policy debates over research.