

Peer review and quality management

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ESF MOForum
on Peer Review,
Mar 08



About EPSRC

- £740m (€ 960m) annual budget
- Broad range of science: maths, engineering, ICT etc

Mission:

- Support high quality basic and applied research
- Advance knowledge and technology to contribute to economic competitiveness

Scale of EPSRC operations

- 7000 grant applications
- 22000 review requests
- 150 panel meetings
- 5000 live grants
- Success rates = 33%
(per annum)

Principles of Peer Review

Transparency

Prioritisation

Appropriateness

Right to Reply

Managing Interests

Separation of
Duties

Confidentiality

No Parallel
Assessment

Expert Assessment

What is quality?

“The degree to which a set of characteristics fulfils a need or expectation”

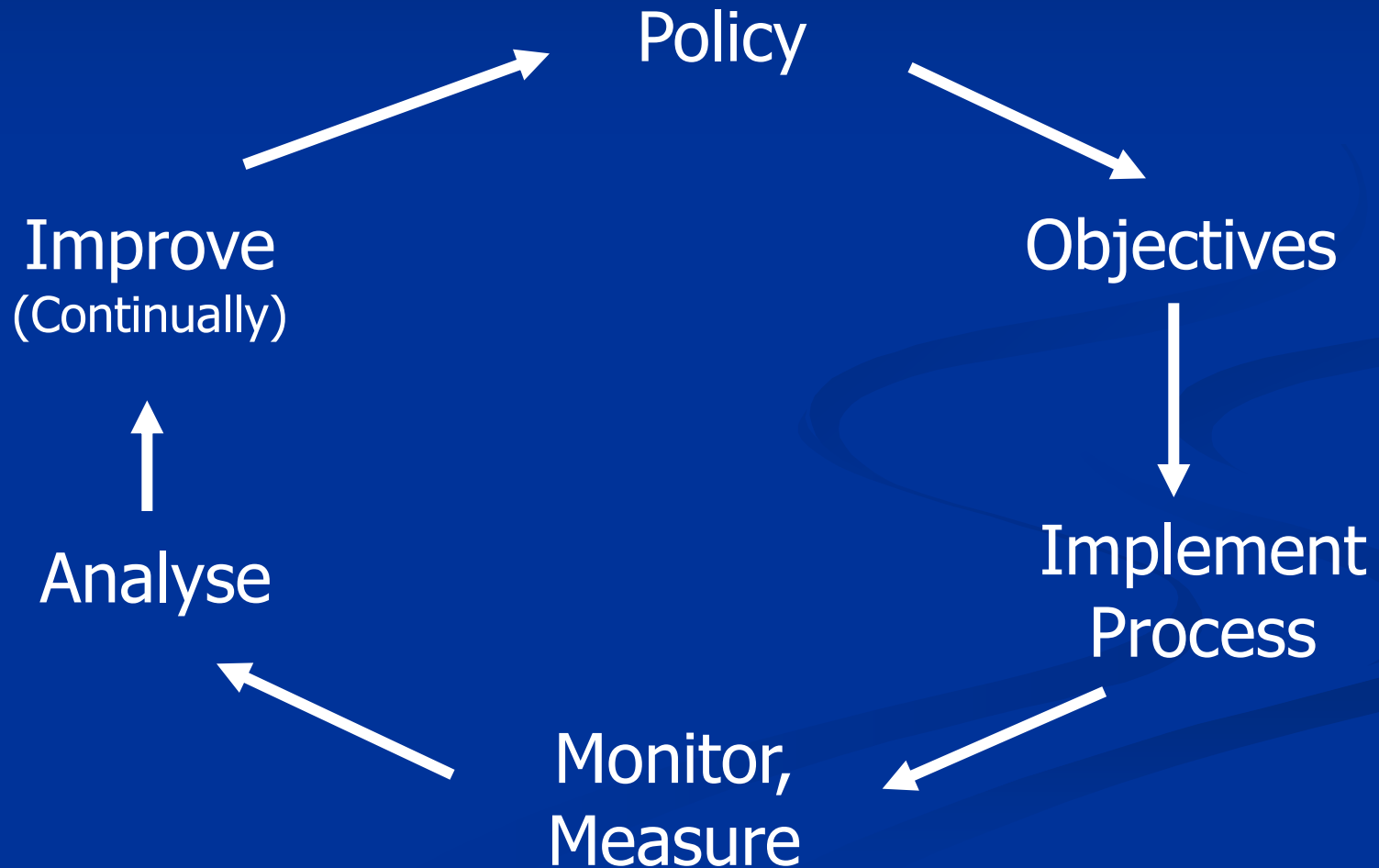
Quality principles

- Customer focus
- System approach to management
- Continual improvement
- Factual approach to decision making
- Mutually beneficial supplier relationships

Quality Management at EPSRC

- Applies to grant applications
- Covers processes and infrastructure
- Stakeholders: applicants, peer reviewers, research organisations
- Suppliers: IT, internal expertise, college

Quality Management System



ISO 9001 accreditation, Jun 2006



What we do:

- Audits (internal and external)
- Control of documents
- Measurement/Data analysis
- Surveys of stakeholders
- Quality Management Reviews

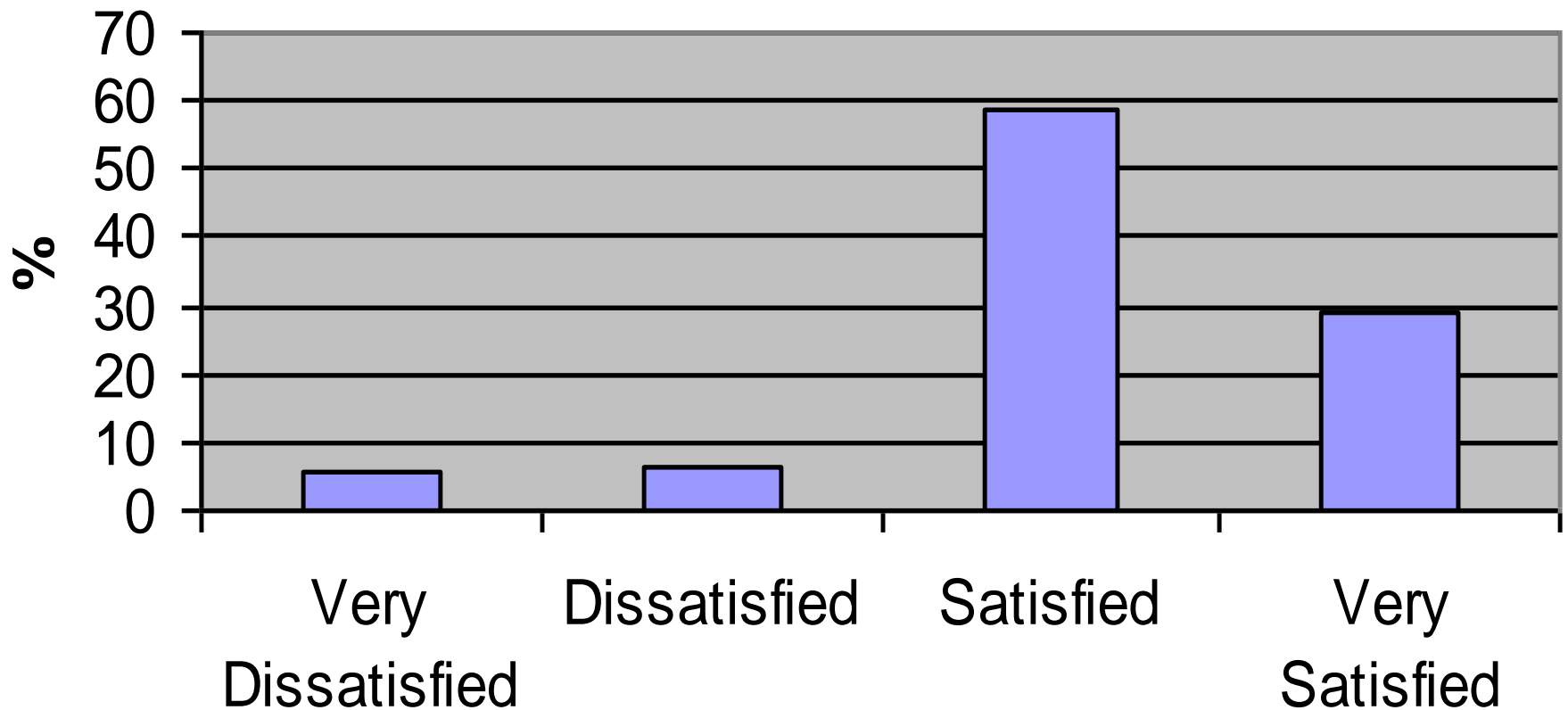
Benefits of quality management

- Assurance that peer review leads to better science (improved decision making)
- Increased satisfaction from stakeholders
- Improved performance:
 - More proactive approach
 - Holistic approach to peer review

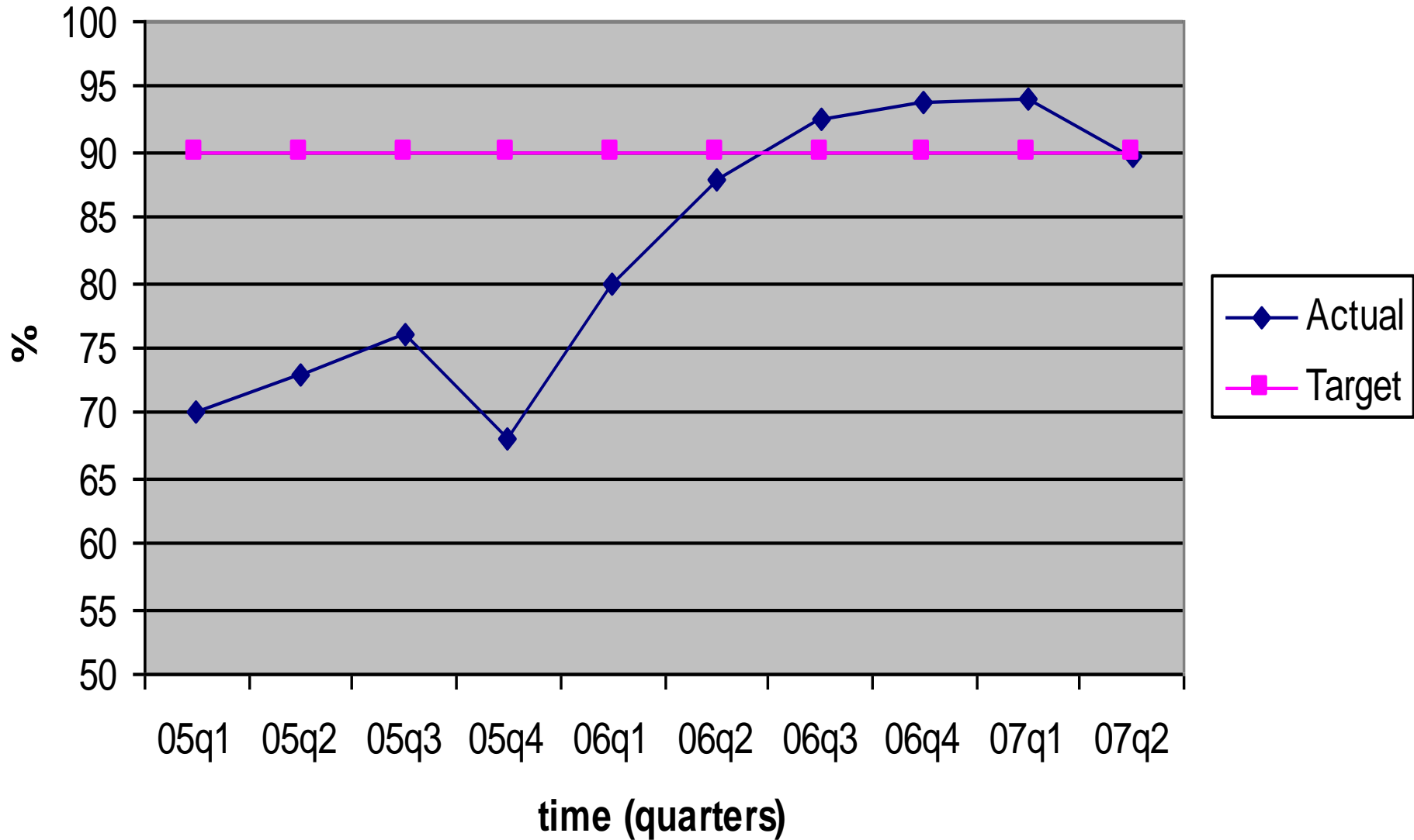
Summary

- Quality management is a useful tool
 - Builds in feedback
 - It works well in a public sector, service organisation
 - Helps identify the most crucial factors of peer review

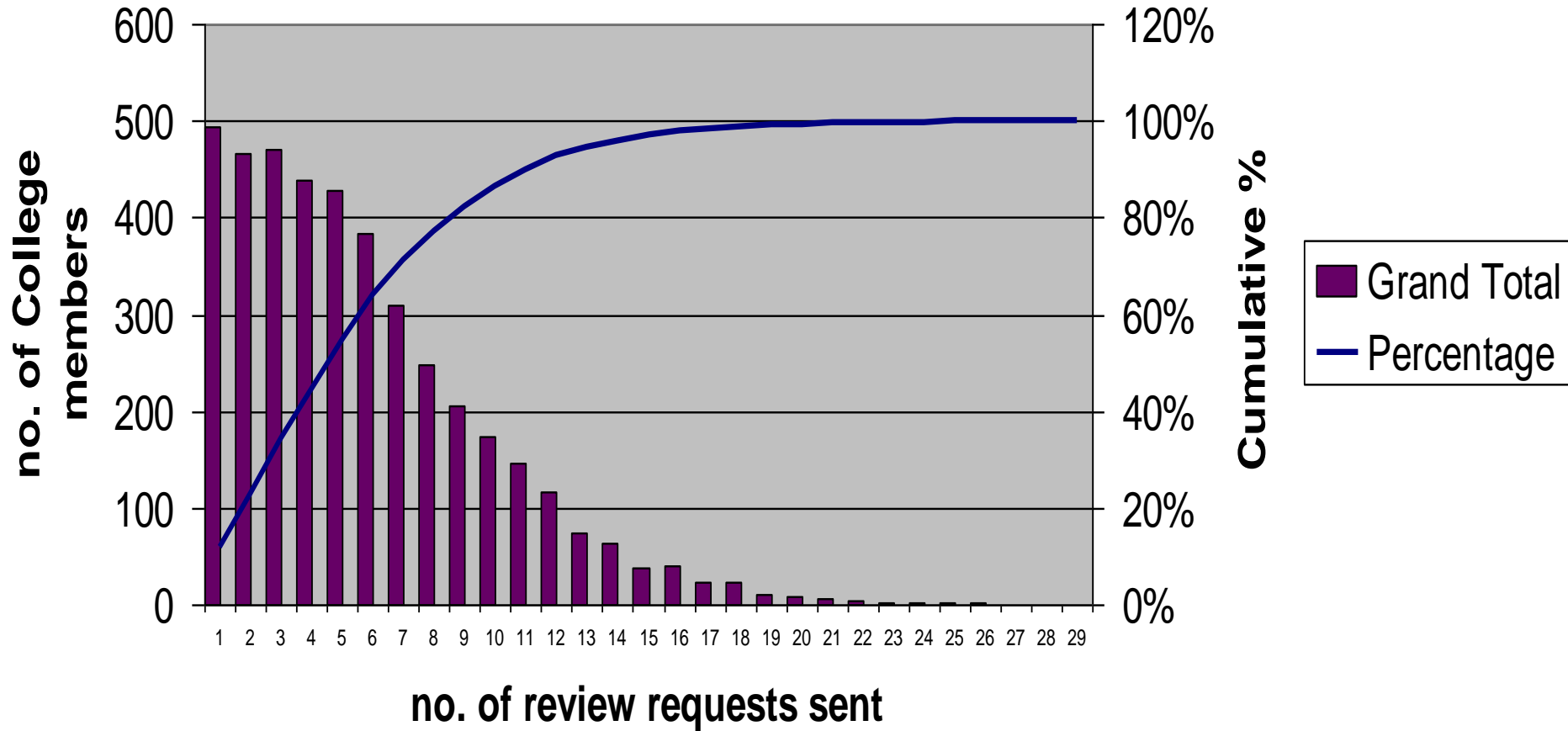
How satisfied were you that your proposal was processed in accordance with our stated processes? (Applicant survey 2007)



% of proposals processed under 26 weeks



Current College usage



Summary of peer review process

