STATEMENT FROM NATURE PUBLISHING GROUP

19 June 2012

Nature Publishing Group welcomes Finch Working Group report
Statement on ***Accessibility sustainability, excellence: how to expand access to research publications*** (Published 19 June 2012)

Nature Publishing Group welcomes the balanced approach of the **Finch Working Group report**, and its recognition of the need for a mixed economy, of licensing subscription content, self-archiving and open access publication. This is in line with NPG's own views – as evidenced by our self-archiving policies, licensing terms and increasing offering of open access options and journals.

We agree that a transition to open access will take time; will incur extra costs in the interim; and requires close collaboration between government, funders, universities and publishers. We are pleased to see acknowledged the challenges for highly selective journals such as *Nature* and the Nature research journals, and the key role of journals in the "complex ecology of research". The relatively small number of papers published in these highly selective journals will require higher article processing charges than is widely acknowledged. As the Finch Group states, submission fees do not provide a simple solution to this.

We welcome calls for the UK government to set policy to fund article processing charges for open access publication, and that funds must be found to extend and rationalise current licenses to enhance access in the UK. NPG agrees that any policy in the UK needs to be in the context of similar moves internationally – recognizing the international nature of research, and the publishing services that support its communication.

NPG **encourages self-archiving** of the author's accepted manuscript six months after publication, and has done so since 2005. Since 2008, NPG's free **deposition service** has deposited over 3000 manuscripts in PubMed Central on behalf of authors. NPG's January **2011 position** statement on open access remains representative of our views. In recent years, open access has been the focus of our business development, including the launch of *Nature Communications* in 2010, *Scientific Reports* in 2011, and the introduction of open access options on more than 90% of our academic and society journals. We offer a choice of **Creative Commons** licenses on open access articles, and authors of original research articles retain copyright.

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