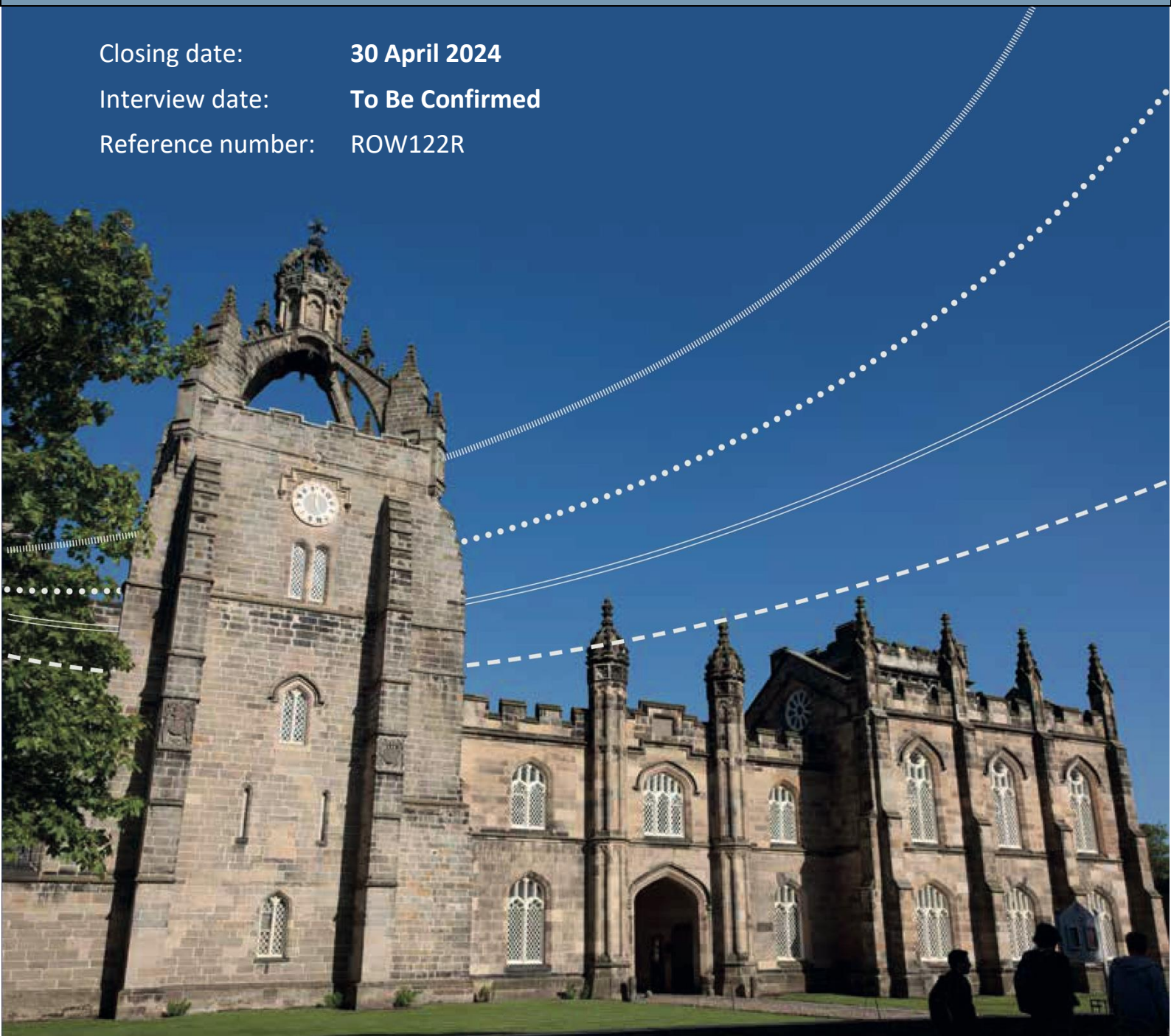


Research Fellow in Nutrition

*ROWETT INSTITUTE,
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, MEDICAL SCIENCES & NUTRITION*

Closing date: **30 April 2024**
Interview date: **To Be Confirmed**
Reference number: **ROW122R**



INTRODUCTION

Obesity and related diseases are amongst the most important health issues of the 21st century. Obesity incidence is increasing fast in children and teens in particular who can develop disease early in life that persists into adulthood. One of the main causes of obesity, diabetes and related diseases is the overconsumption of highly palatable energy-rich foods. An understanding of the long-term impact on brain and behaviour, especially on the control of feeding and food choice is essential for a better understanding of the effect of the modern lifestyle on feeding behaviours and health.

The University of Aberdeen has a 100-year history of ground-breaking science in nutrition and health, principally led by researchers within the Rowett Institute (RI). Dr Fabien Naneix is Lecturer in Neuroscience and group leader at the RI. The overall aim of his research is to understand the development and the vulnerability of brain circuits underlying food-seeking and other motivated behaviours. For this the lab combines state-of-the-art techniques to target, record and manipulate specific brain circuits.

JOB DESCRIPTION

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE ROLE:

We are seeking to recruit a highly motivated post-doctoral fellow to join the Naneix group to drive cutting edge research in the field of reward-related behaviours and nutrition. Specifically, you will investigate how dietary habits during adolescence impact food-seeking, food choices and their related neurobiological circuits. The role will involve performing behavioural experiments in mice in combination with in vivo recordings (fibre photometry) and manipulation (chemogenetics/optogenetics) of specific brain circuits.

It is essential that you hold a PhD/D.Phil in Neuroscience, psychology, biomedical sciences or related field. Applicants should have a strong record of graduate research, including first-author publications in neuroscience and/or behavioural science journals. You will also have experience in histochemistry and/or molecular biology. Previous experience in surgical in vivo techniques or programming will also be highly valued.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Taking a leading role in planning and conducting research in line with the research project including behavioural experiments, neural circuits recordings and ex vivo analyses
- Data analysis of behavioural and photometry data for presentations and publications
- Assist with the general running and organisation of the research laboratory.
- Take a leading role in the preparation of research papers for publication and presentation at conferences.
- Keep up-to-date with the current and relevant literature and methodologies in order to gain expert working knowledge of the topic under study and developing their independent research.
- Assist with the writing of papers/grants
- Assist with the supervision of UG and PG students.

CANDIDATE BACKGROUND

Knowledge

- PhD in Neuroscience or related subject
- Background in behavioural neuroscience and standard neuroscience techniques is required
- Knowledge in the fields of feeding and motivation and/or drug addiction

Skills

- Good communication skills, both written and oral.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team, as required.
- Proven analytical and technical/scientific problem-solving capability.
- Ability to think critically.
- Good background in neuroscience and statistics.
- Effective planning and organisational skills.
- Skills in the relevant research techniques.
- Previous experience in supervising students is desirable.
- Previous experience in presenting results at national/international meetings is desirable.

Experience

- Experience in standard techniques of circuit neuroscience and/or behaviour
- Experience in surgical techniques in rodents
- Experience with in vivo recordings, especially fibre photometry is desired.
- Experience in microscopy and confocal imaging.
- Evidence of research productivity (e.g. research publications in peer reviewed journals, presentations at scientific conferences).
- Ability to organise own workload and coordinate with other team members
- Previous experience with programming using Python is desirable

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

Salary will be at the appropriate point on the Grade 6, £37,099 - £39,347 per annum, pro rata and negotiable with placement according to qualifications and experience.

Any appointment will be made subject to satisfactory references and probation period.

For further information on various staff benefits and policies please visit
www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here

This role is based in the UK and as such the successful candidate will be required to live and work in the UK.

Should you require a visa to undertake employment in the UK you will be required to fulfil the minimum points criteria to be granted a Certificate of Sponsorship under the requirements of the Skilled Worker visa. At the time an offer of appointment is made, you will be asked to demonstrate that you fulfil the criteria in respect of qualification and competency in English. For research and academic posts, we will consider eligibility under the Global Talent visa. Please do not hesitate to contact Grant Rae, HR Adviser (e-mail: grant.rae@abdn.ac.uk) for further information.



AT A GLANCE

SALARY:

Grade 6

£37,099 - £39,347 per annum

HOURS OF WORK:

Full-time, 37.5 hours per week

CONTRACT TYPE:

Funding-limited from 3 June 2024 to 31 May 2027

LOCATION:

Aberdeen

PERSON SPECIFICATION

	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Education/Qualifications Academic, technical and professional education and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PhD in a relevant subject area (e.g. Neuroscience, Psychology, Biomedical sciences or related fields). 	
Work and Other relevant experience (including training) e.g. Specialist knowledge, levels of experience, supervisory experience, research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge in behavioural neuroscience research in rodents Stereotaxic neurosurgery in rodents. Experience with histochemical and biochemistry techniques. Experience with microscopy and confocal imaging. Track record of scientific publishing Experience in presenting at scientific conferences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fibre photometry recordings experience Programming and analysis of complex data (Python)
Personal qualities and abilities e.g. initiative, leadership, ability to work on own or with others, communication skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent written and oral communication skills. Ability to work independently and as part of a team. Ability to think critically. Ability to plan workload. Ability to lead, manage and train staff. Ability to oversee the use and upkeep of equipment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A highly motivated, ambitious individual. Enthusiastic team worker. Ability to obtain research funding. Motivation to develop their own research interests.
Other e.g. special circumstances (if any) appropriate to the role such as unsocial hours, travelling, Gaelic language requirements etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occasional requirement to work outside of normal working hours including weekends. Travel to present results at conferences or scientific meetings, which may require overnight stays. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK Home Office Personal Licence for animal experiments

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

open to all and dedicated to the pursuit of truth in the service of others

The University of Aberdeen is a broad based, research intensive University, and we put students at the centre of everything we do. Outstanding in a wide range of discipline areas, Aberdeen is credited for its international reach and commercialisation of research ideas into spin out companies. The University has over 16,000 matriculated students and 3,600 staff representing 130 nationalities. We encourage bold thinking, creativity and innovation, and we nurture ambition with many opportunities for professional and personal development in an inclusive learning environment which challenges and inspires.



CURRENT CONTEXT

The University continues to uphold the principals of the foundational purpose. We remain committed to delivering positive change both locally and globally. We work together and with our partners in an interdisciplinary way, catalysing world-leading research in our areas of strength: Energy Transition; Social Inclusion and Cultural Diversity; Environment and Biodiversity; Data and Artificial Intelligence; and Health, Nutrition and Wellbeing. We are investing in our future and have committed £100m to upgrading our campus, including the new fully digitised Science Teaching Hub, the regeneration of the historic King's Quarter and a new Business School building. Our commitment to our students, campus and community has led to us being named a Top 20 UK institution in two major league tables¹ and 4th in the UK for overall student satisfaction².

¹ The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2023 and the Guardian University Guide 2023

² National Student Survey (NSS) 2022

ABERDEEN 2040

On our 525th anniversary as a University we launched [Aberdeen 2040](#), our strategic vision for the next 20 years. Four strategic themes will shape our learning and discovery, underlined by 20 commitments we have made against each theme:

- **Inclusive**
We welcome students, staff and partners from all backgrounds, organisations and communities. We value diversity.
- **Interdisciplinary**
We innovate in education and research by generating, sharing and applying new kinds of knowledge. We learn together.
- **International**
We connect with others and extend our networks and partnerships around the world. We think across borders.
- **Sustainable**
We understand and nurture our environment, and take care of our resources, including our people and finances.

We work responsibly.

OUR EDUCATION

Recognised as the Scottish University of the Year in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019, we remain true to our roots as an ancient Scottish university, combining breadth and depth in our degree programmes and drawing strength from the quality of our research. Our flexible curriculum encourages students to grow as independent learners and therefore to thrive as graduates in the diverse workplaces of the future. Our education is open to all and we are setting ambitious targets to further widen access.

OUR RESEARCH

Researchers at the University of Aberdeen have been at the forefront of innovation and excellence throughout the centuries, generating insights in medicine, science, engineering, law, social sciences, arts and humanities. This research has contributed to five Nobel prizes as well as other awards such as the Queen's Anniversary prize. Our research is intellectually rigorous working within our established areas of excellence as well as new methods of enquiry. We will continue to generate new knowledge addressing economic and societal issues with ambition and imagination, ensuring that it is globally excellent and locally relevant.

INTERNATIONAL

Aberdeen is increasing its international presence, positioning the University as a global organisation and building on established global partnerships around the world, including Qatar, China, North America, Europe. We feature in the top 50 institutions worldwide for international students³.

³ Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2021



IMPACT

In 2020 the University signed the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals accord, solidifying our commitment to developing the world in a sustainable way. In 2022 we were listed in the global Top 100 for 8 of these goals⁴.

Our highly cited work in zero-carbon technology and global outlooks makes us Scotland's best institution for environmental research⁵.

⁴ Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2022
⁵ QS World University Rankings 2022

THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, MEDICAL SCIENCES & NUTRITION

The School (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/smmsn/index.php>) encompasses all of the disciplines that underpin today's medicine, including biomedical sciences, health sciences, nutrition and medical, medical science and dental education and these are organised into five Institutes. The largest school in the University, the SMMSN has five Institutes: the Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS), the Institute of Applied Health Sciences (IAHS), the Rowett Institute, the Institute of Education in Healthcare and Medical Sciences (IEHMS) and the Institute of Dentistry, comprising all of our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and our own graduate entry Dental School.

Staff are line managed and research opportunities are supported through our institutes which work together in an integrated and coordinated way to deliver research and teaching across the School, details of which can be found on their websites as below.

- The Institute of Applied Health Sciences <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/iahs/>
- The Institute of Medical Sciences <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/ims/>
- The Rowett Institute <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/rowett/>
- The Institute of Education in Healthcare and Medical Sciences <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/IEHMS/>
- The Institute of Dentistry <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/dental/>

Within the IMS, our scientists are working towards the creation of effective therapies for patients with a range of debilitating and life-threatening conditions. Current research areas include: arthritis and musculoskeletal medicine; cell developmental and cancer biology; immunity, infection and inflammation; metabolic and cardiovascular health; microbiology and translational neuroscience.

Within the IAHS, research is focused on improving health and health care delivery. It is home to a multidisciplinary grouping of around 100 university academic staff who conduct population and clinically-orientated health research and hosts the Health Services Research Unit (HSRU) and Health Economics Research Unit (HERU), both funded by the Chief Scientist's Office (CSO) of the Scottish Government.

As well as being the organisational home to the teaching scholarship staff and responsible for oversight of the UG and PGT programmes offered by the School, the IEHMS promotes and supports excellence in medical education through research and development, with a focus on conceptually and theoretically robust research and development which has strong potential for reaching international recognition. The highly regarded University of Aberdeen MBChB programme and several postgraduate programmes including a Masters in Clinical Education are delivered by IEHMS.

The Dental Institute runs an undergraduate BDS programme and a growing suite of masters programmes for professional development.

We have a number of specialist Centres representing areas of particular research strength and capacity within the School all of which are willing to support colleagues on projects in their areas. More information is available at the following websites.

- The Centre for Healthcare Education Research and Innovation (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/cheri/>)
- The Centre for Health Data Science (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/achds/>)
- The Aberdeen Cardiovascular & Diabetes Centre (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/acdc/>) and
- The Aberdeen Centre for Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Health (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/acamh/>)

The School is home to over 800 staff and 2000fte students. It is located on the Foresterhill site, shared with our main clinical partner, NHS Grampian, with whom we work in close collaboration at primary and secondary care levels.

This is one of the largest integrated healthcare delivery, training and research sites in Europe and has rich assets including state-of-the-art academic (research and teaching) and clinical buildings. Excellent infrastructure is also provided through core facilities for biomedical science including flow cytometry, proteomics, microscopy and genome sequencing, support for data health science projects and clinical trials.

The last major academic capital development was the opening of the Rowett Institute, occupied in March 2016, whose staff undertakes nutrition research to help improve people's lives through the prevention of ill-health and disease. Their new £40M building has provided the University of Aberdeen with a facility with unique capabilities for human nutrition and metabolic research.

ABERDEEN AND ABERDEENSHIRE

Scotland's third largest city, Aberdeen sits on the coast between the mountains of Aberdeenshire and the stunning North Sea coastline. The Aberdeen City region is a can-do place that is actively investing, at scale, in its future.

Renowned as a Global Energy Hub, Aberdeen is a vibrant, entrepreneurial region, home to a unique mix of business opportunities and specialist skills across various sectors including energy, technology, life sciences and food & drink. More than 20% of Scotland's top businesses are located in this region which is taking great strides to ensure that it continues to compete on a world stage. Investments of more than £10 billion of public and private infrastructure is due to be delivered before 2030, marking an exciting time to be part of a genuine world-class location.

Built from sparkling local granite Aberdeen has earned the name of the Silver City. As the energy capital of Europe, Aberdeen nevertheless retains its old-fashioned charm and character making it an attractive place in which to live, work and study. Due to its global business and international energy industry credentials, Aberdeen is well served by local and national transport infrastructure with excellent rail networks that run both North and South of Scotland and the rest of the UK. It also acts as an international travel hub. Flying time to London is just over one hour with regular daily flights and serves international travel to European centres such as Amsterdam (Schiphol) and Paris (Charles de Gaulle) as well as flights to other European destinations.

The City and the surrounding countryside provide a variety of urban, seaside and country attractions. Aberdeen has first class amenities including [His Majesty's Theatre](#), [Music Hall](#), [Art Gallery](#), [the P&J Arena](#), [Museums](#), and [Beach Leisure Centre](#). The City is framed by its accessible beach front which is within a short walk of the city centre and there are an array of activities available across the region such as hill walking; mountaineering; sailing; surfing; salmon, trout and sea fishing; golf; sailing; surfing and windsurfing. The surrounding countryside, known as Aberdeenshire, is also one of Scotland's most appealing regions. Royal Deeside and the Cairngorms National Park are within easy access of the city, and there are a variety of towns and villages scattered along the coastline.

The city and the surrounding area have ranked consistently highly in nationally recognised quality of life surveys, coming out top 10 as one of the best places to live in Scotland in 2020 in the annual Bank of Scotland survey.

To find out more visit www.visitabdn.com

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

The University values and celebrates a diverse working and learning environment and recognises the richness this brings, both in terms of contributing to the success of the University and creating safe and inclusive cultures. The University welcomes applications from individuals with diverse lived experiences.

The University supports flexible working, including hybrid working arrangements, and has policies in place to facilitate this where it is appropriate. The policies can be found at <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here/flexible-working--5607.php>.

The University is committed to progressing gender equality across all its functions and has been a proud member of the Advance HE Athena Swan Charter, achieving an institutional Bronze award, one Silver departmental award for the School of Psychology and eleven departmental Bronze awards. LGBTQ+ equality is championed through the University's membership of the Stonewall Diversity Champions Programme, where the University has achieved a Silver award in the Workplace Equality Index. The University is on a continual journey to respond to, and combat, GBV in our community and beyond. We are proud to be working towards the EmilyTest Charter, in partnership with the charity, EmilyTest. We all have a role to play in knowing how to signpost colleagues and students to support for gender-based violence, and training and support is available to all staff on this topic.

The University is signed up to Advance HE's Race Equality Charter, affirming the University's commitment to the Charter's aim of improving the representation, progression and success of staff and students who identify as belonging to a racialised group. The University launched its Antiracism Strategy in 2022, representing a bold framework for progress on race equality. Recognising the importance of addressing the under-representation of racialised groups in the senior team, the University's new Recruitment and Selection Policy embeds specific positive action measures to address this.

The University is delighted to be accredited as a [Disability Confident](#) employer and strives to ensure that disabled staff and students have the opportunity to work and study in an inclusive, accessible and supportive environment. The University's Wellbeing Strategy commits it to progressing work to tackle stigma related to mental health and action to promote and improve health and wellbeing for staff and students. Candidates who are British Sign Language (BSL) users can contact us directly by using [contact SCOTLAND-BSL](#)

The University's work on equality, diversity and inclusion is supported by a range of networks and engagement activities, designed to provide safe spaces and raise awareness of the support available and the steps everyone can take to create inclusive campuses.

www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/governance/equality-and-diversity-277

HOW TO APPLY

Online application forms are available at www.abdn.ac.uk/jobs

The closing date for receipt of applications is **30 April 2024**

Should you wish to make an informal enquiry please contact:

Dr Fabien Naneix, Lecturer

Fabien.naneix@abdn.ac.uk

Please do not send application forms or CVs to Dr Naneix.

Please quote reference number ROW122R on all correspondence