



Research Integrity Annual Statement 2016 – 2017

University Research Integrity Committee

Background

The Concordat to Support Research Integrity was published in July 2012 and is a comprehensive national framework for good research conduct and governance. The Concordat's fifth commitment requires a Research Integrity Annual Statement that:

1. Provides a summary of actions and activities that have been undertaken to support and strengthen understanding and application of research integrity issues;
2. Provides assurances that the processes they have in place for dealing allegations of misconduct are transparent, robust and fair, and that they continue to be appropriate to the needs of the organisation;
3. Provides a high level statement on any formal investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken.

Introduction

The University Research Integrity Committee met four times in the academic year 2016/17; 20th September 2016, 8th November 2016, 24th January 2017 and 2nd May 2017.

The University Research Integrity Committee reports to the University Research and Innovation Committee and helps develop university-wide practices and policies.

Each school have their designated Research Integrity Committee and Convenor to deal with research ethics at local level and approve ethical applications. The work of each committee is reported to the University Research Integrity Committee where number of applications submitted, how many were approved, rejected or referred are recorded. There is also a cross-university ethical approval process that deals with applications where research is conducted across the University or where the researchers are from two or more schools.

Allegations of Research Misconduct

There has been three cases of alleged misconduct in 2016/17. All were investigated in accordance to the University's Misconduct policy and RCUK Policy, the Code of Conduct on the Governance of Good Research Conduct and UKRIO Procedure for the Investigation of Misconduct in Research. The cases have been resolved and deemed no case to answer and no further action has been taken. Recommendations have been made in each case to raise awareness of research integrity matters and these will be taken forward by the Convenor of the University Research Integrity Committee.

Major Initiatives and Developments

In the academic year 2016/17, the following initiatives were addressed and completed:

1. Ethics Training

One important aspect of maintaining a culture of research integrity is increasing awareness, therefore ethics training facilitated by AREC's Margaret Rees took place on Wednesday 18th January 2017.

This was focused training for members of School RI Committees and Gatekeepers. Seventeen people from across the University attended in total and the session was viewed favourably. The University Research Integrity Committee will now explore how future training can be rolled out across the University for all academics and students undertaking research.

2. Parliamentary Consultation on Research Integrity

The University Research Integrity Committee has also responded to the [Parliamentary consultation on Research Integrity](#) on the behalf Edinburgh Napier University. Edinburgh Napier was the only modern university to respond to the consultation and has recommended that there should not be a governing body for Research Integrity. This is similar to the Russell Group response. Full response can be found attached.

3. Health and Safety

A case from Northumbria University regarding a breach of health and safety in an experiment that resulted in two patients being hospitalised highlighted the need for robust health and safety procedures with sufficient information, instruction and training for foreseeable risk. There is also a need for sufficient risk assessments and adequate checks to ensure procedures are being followed.

These have already been devised by the Health and Safety team and by collaborating with the research integrity committee, the advice and guidance will continue to be disseminated to researchers.

4. Adverse Events

The School of Health & Social Care have been developing a policy to put mechanisms in place to allow Edinburgh Napier University to respond and report adverse events in research.

Elaine Lambie
Clerk to the University Research Integrity Committee
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