UKRI O Webinar – Experiences of Engaging with and Implementing Trusted Research

Chris Buckland, Security Commercial Director

19th April 2023

www.cranfield.ac.uk
Introduction

- My origin story and Cranfield.

- Institutional diversity and autonomy.

- Presentation is a reflection of transferable insights into engaging with the Trusted Research agenda rather than how Cranfield manages this.
What I wish I’d known before we started the journey

• Understand and reflect on what your message is, who your audience is (ECR, students, PS staff, leadership, academic), the complexity of content and the intended communication tools/strategy - *Practice & contextualise the message*

• Sounds like another administrative and procedural burden on top of everything else I have to be ‘consciously aware of’. Enabling vs Assuring. Accountability & Responsibility Fatigue.

• A natural tension with the government agenda of being a ‘science superpower’

• Sign posting – ensure internally available resources are transparent, up to date and available at the point of active communication and promotion of your institutions approach along with named points of contact.

• Trusted Research (NPSA & UKRI) – Teaching intensive staff tended to think it doesn’t apply to them, commercialisation, knowledge exchange etc. reflect on your scope and language

• Whilst linked this is a separate standard and process to the National Security Vetting (NSV) and the Industry Personnel Security Assurance (IPSA) Reliability Framework.

• There are sensitivities around international student and staff populations and specific countries of concern when talking about this subject. Address this at the outset.

• Do we have the systems, understand the data capture requirements and have the resource to effectively manage and deliver this?

• These obligations exist throughout the lifecycle of all activities and don’t only apply to funded activities.
Trusted Research and Education

- Messaging is critical - A collaborative approach where staff and students are supported by Professional Service subject matter experts in a proportionate and agile manner whilst ensuring we meet our duty of care to staff and students. A collaborative responsibility.

- Endorsement from University Executive was vital in driving a recognition across the various University communities this was an important message and there must be a conscious awareness and consideration of these aspects in our day-to-day activities. We are not expecting everyone to become subject matter experts.

- Contextualise communication to the audiences and utilise relatable, real UK or institutional examples to help the content resonate.

- Visualisation in the context of security & risk considerations – its too difficult and complicated is a common response.

- Acknowledge the elephants in the room – This is a journey funding bodies, government and the sector as a whole are grappling with. Who doesn’t shudder at the thought of 2 hours on legislative and compliance topics whilst in parallel talking about initiatives to reduce bureaucracy.

- Managing expectations via a triage approach and a transparent understanding of potential timeframe impacts. Ongoing annual programme of education and training activities to promote awareness and enable focus on the component parts – rather than all at once.
• It can appear overwhelming. This is a new professional function/role which will be institutionally implemented in a variety of ways. The UUK Guidance helped fuel the conversation in conjunction with other Trusted Research initiatives (i.e. UKRI, NPSA, ECJU). The recently published ARMA Complex Collaborations Report.

• The majority of staff are conscious of the changing global environment we operate in and want to act compliantly but need appropriate guidance materials and support infrastructures.

• Utilise and proactively engage with new sector led initiatives such as the Higher Education Export Control Association (HEECA) to share and access best practice tools and information - https://heeca.org.uk

• We are still in the throws of a cultural journey where we need to be proactive and operate collaboratively across the sector rather than individually or selectively.
2nd HEECA Annual Conference – In person event – **Tuesday 11th July 2023 10:00 – 16:00 in London** at the **Woburn House Conference Centre**.

Bringing together UK HE export control and Trusted Research professionals in collaboration with government (RCAT, ECJU, NPSA), key community stakeholders (UUK, UKRI) and our international partners (EECARO, AUECO) to discuss the key challenges and opportunities facing the sector. The agenda will include:

- UK Export Control
- US Export Control
- National Security & Investment Act; and
- Trusted Research

Events tab on the HEECA website – [https://heeca.org.uk](https://heeca.org.uk) – Sign Up to Register your attendance.