



## **UKRIO Webinar – Experiences of Engaging with and Implementing Trusted Research**

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[www.cranfield.ac.uk](http://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.



## An Abundance of Resource & Support

- 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.



**2<sup>nd</sup> HEECA Annual Conference – In person event – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> 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> – Sign Up to Register your attendance.