



Implementation of The Concordat to Support Research Integrity: Lessons learnt by UKRIO

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The Concordat to Support Research Integrity

- The Concordat to Support Research Integrity sets out five broad commitments on research integrity for researchers, employers and funders.
 - Draft version viewed as quasi-regulatory by many.
 - Final version supported by many organisations.
 - Compliance made a condition of grant by funding bodies.
- The Concordat will only make a difference if its implementation is strongly promoted and supported.
- Stakeholders have said they will provide support.
- UKRIO will help its subscribers to implement the Concordat.



Is compliance straightforward?

- The Concordat sets out broad expectations rather than specific requirements.
 - Benefit: allows for institutional autonomy / variation in implementation.
 - **Problem:** lack of clear, defined benchmarks for compliance has caused many to express concerns to UKRIO.
- We understand that research funders will not insist on a single, rigid model of compliance.
 - Institutional autonomy will be recognised.



Challenges for institutions

- The Concordat builds upon existing guidance: its content will be familiar to many.
- Something new: underlying theme of a more sustained and visible approach to promoting research integrity.
- **Sustained:** a more joined-up, proactive approach, and one across all disciplines.
- **Visible:**
 - More transparent, both within an institution and externally
 - When asked, able to say: we are doing the following *and this is how well it has been working*. This is not always clear-cut...



Approaches to implementation

- Have measurable actions for each Commitment.
- Some Commitments are open-ended and long-term.
- Recognise that Commitments overlap, so can actions.
- The most valuable elements of the Concordat require cultural change. How to do this?
 - Difficult – but help available!
 - A coming together of different factors, drivers and actions.
 - Top-down and bottom-up.
 - ‘Ownership’ of research integrity needs to be more mainstream.
 - Do not re-invent wheels - learn from each other, share experiences.