

UKRIO's theory of change



How we make a difference

UKRIO plays an important role in helping practitioners and organisations safeguard and advance research integrity. But we recognise that integrity is shaped not only by individual actions or organisational policies – it is also influenced by the wider research system, where pressures, incentives, norms, and cultures all play a part.

A core principle of our five-year strategy is therefore to look beyond supporting the community when issues occur. We will also work to understand and address the underlying conditions that allow those issues to emerge.

Our vision is for a UK research community that produces work that is honest, reliable, and ethical.

We will contribute to this by:

Empowering individuals

Research integrity relies on the actions of everyone involved: from researchers to technicians; governance staff to senior academics. We will work to ensure all have the knowledge, tools, and support to embed integrity into their everyday practice.

Strengthening organisations

Organisations undertaking, funding, or publishing research all have a key role in promoting good research practice and preventing misconduct. Our aim is to help every organisation embed integrity into its ways of working and to create the conditions and environment to support responsible practice.

Influencing the system

The policies, incentives, and norms of the wider research system strongly influence behaviour. We will advocate for a system that enables honest, reliable, and ethical research.

Our theory of change

Level	What we do	Our intended outcomes	Our vision
Systems	- Act as a recognised and trusted voice on key research integrity issues affecting organisations and individuals - Advise on how policy may translate into practice - Provide thought leadership and policy recommendations - Advocate for collective action to address research integrity issues at the systems level	- Research integrity remains a priority on the national and international agenda - Policymakers consider and address key and emerging research integrity issues - The research ecosystem enables and promotes a culture of integrity - Research is utilised for societal benefit/the public good	The UK research community produces work that is honest, reliable and ethical
Organisations	- Provide information, advice and guidance to support organisations promote good research practice and prevent research misconduct - Convene actors from across the research ecosystem to consider and act on key and emerging research integrity issues together - Identify and facilitate the sharing of good practice to minimise duplication of work and promote consistency and rigour	- Research employers have the knowledge, tools and support promote/adopt good research practice and prevent research misconduct - Research funders and publishers recognise and utilise their role in enabling and advancing research integrity	
Individuals	- Provide independent and confidential advice and guidance on research integrity issues - Offer high quality training, events and educational resources to support practitioners put research integrity in practice - Provide opportunities for individuals to network, collaborate, and share good practice	- Individuals have the knowledge, tools, and support to promote and adopt good research practice - Individuals have the ability to avoid, prevent and address potential breaches of research integrity	