

Impact report

2024/2025

Research drives **progress**. We ensure it is done with **integrity**.

UKRIO is an independent charity that supports the research community to **uphold the highest standards of integrity**. We promote ethical, reliable, and honest research that delivers real benefits to society.

Our mission

- Be an **independent, trusted voice** on research integrity for all sectors and disciplines
- Provide high-quality **training, advice, and guidance**
- Lead and shape **national research integrity dialogue and initiatives**
- Serve as a **champion and critical friend** for researchers and institutions
- Foster a shared **culture of integrity**

The need for our work has never been greater. Challenges to research integrity are on the rise – including risks associated with the proliferation of AI, predatory publication practices, and financial pressures within sectors like higher education.

Now more than ever, researchers and organisations must be proactive in upholding good practice. We provide the resources, guidance, and support to help them do just that.

Guided by feedback from the research community, we have taken significant strides to **deepen our impact in 2024/2025** – offering support on emerging challenges, expanding training services, building cross-sector collaborations, and more.

Our year in numbers

155

subscriber
organisations
supported

9,400+

users registered for
our online training
courses

4

roundtable
discussions
held

120+

requests for
confidential advice
addressed

25+

outputs published –
including guidance,
tools, and reports

135

organisations trained
in research integrity
topics

3,600+

attendees hosted
at our events

9

collaborative cross-
sector projects forged

75,000+

users accessed
our website

Responding to the sector's most pressing challenges

After extensive consultation with stakeholders about the most pressing challenges they face – and gaps in existing support – we identified **four priority areas** to focus on in 2024/2025.

Research misconduct

- Advanced proposals from our 2024 report *Barriers to Investigating and Reporting Research Misconduct*
- Co-published guidance with Protect, the national whistleblowing charity, to support whistleblowers in research settings
- Advocated for terminology changes to improve research misconduct investigations

Artificial intelligence

- Published *Embracing AI with integrity*, a practical guide to help researchers use AI responsibly
- Hosted a public webinar on AI and research integrity with experts from the Royal Society and the University of East Anglia
- Facilitated a roundtable discussion with subscribers to review and improve our guidance on AI
- Delivered bespoke training on navigating AI-related issues in research settings

Authorship disputes

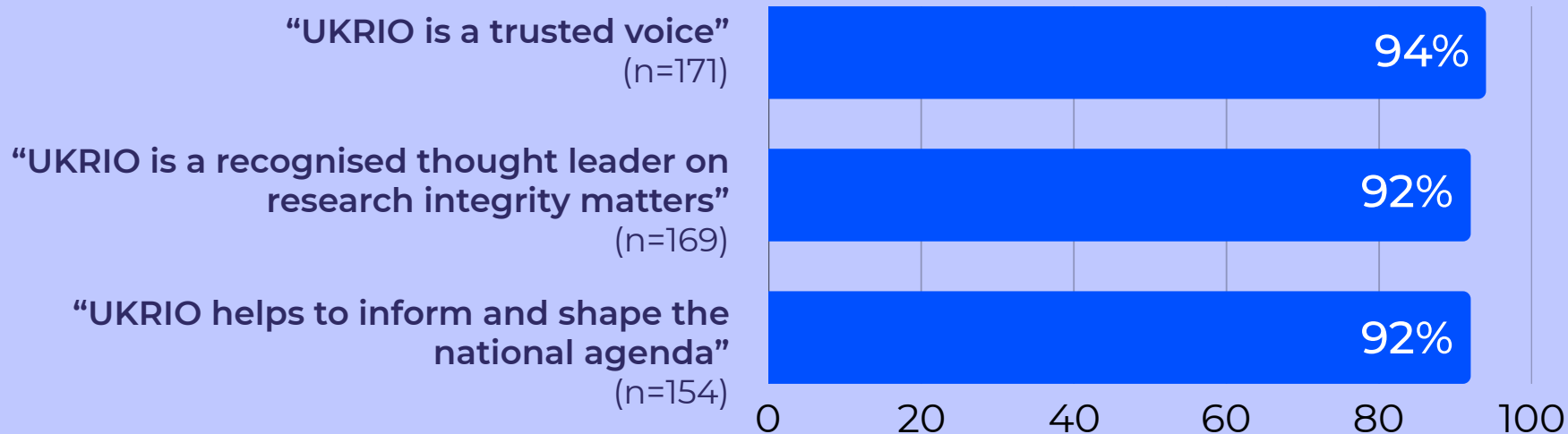
- Led a cross-sector project to improve authorship practices in the UK, convening 80+ stakeholders to develop new guidance and tools for public-use
- Held a roundtable discussion with subscribers on authorship practices in research publications

Research culture

- Delivered bespoke training to senior leaders on embedding integrity into organisational culture
- Hosted a public webinar on research culture with experts from Loughborough University and the University of Leeds

Responses to our 2024/2025 stakeholder consultation

Percentage of respondents who agreed with the following statements:



Empowering researchers to act with integrity

A recurring concern raised by stakeholders has been the limited availability of **high-quality, accessible support** to help research practitioners embed integrity in their work. This year, we focused on closing that gap.

Advisory service

Our longstanding advisory service continues to be a vital support system for the sector, offering expert, confidential advice on research integrity matters to institutions, funders, publishers, and the public. In 2024/25, we fielded **over 120 enquiries** on a range of topics, including authorship, research misconduct, research ethics, research data and IP.

Online training

Our new *Introduction to research integrity* course offers an engaging, accessible way for researchers to strengthen their work through the principles of research integrity. Refined through a year-long pilot, it provides practical guidance on applying integrity in real-world contexts, covering topics such as research ethics, conflicts of interest, data management, authorship, and AI. To date, **over 9,400 users have registered**.

Training and guidance

- Expanded our bespoke training offer to include **9 sessions** tailored to different audiences, including early career researchers, senior leaders, and research ethics committees
- Published **over 25 new resources** – including guidance, practical tools, and videos – on topics in research integrity

Building a culture of integrity

At UKRIO, we are firmly committed to cultivating a shared culture of research integrity.

This year, we engaged in **cross-sector initiatives** that brought together perspectives from across the research landscape to develop effective and collaborative solutions together.

“At a time when the sector is facing unprecedented financial challenges, UKRIO is a great example of how we can share resources and pool expertise to improve research.”

2025 stakeholder
consultation respondent

Our cross-sector initiatives in 2024/2025

- Convened **authorship workshops** with research organisations, publishers, funders, and government to develop tools to support good authorship practices
- Hosted our annual **subscriber symposium** with 180+ participants and leading voices from the research landscape, including MP Chi Onwurah, Chair of the Science, Innovation, and Technology Select Committee
- Partnered with the **European Network of Research Integrity Offices (ENRIO)** to map and compare research integrity definitions across Europe
- Contributed to the **Animal Materials Working Group**, led by the Sanger Wellcome Institute, to develop an ethical framework for sourcing materials from sentient animals
- Provided input as a member of **UKCORI's working group** examining the national systems for handling research misconduct and poor practice
- Contributed to the revision of **The Concordat to Support Research Integrity** prior to its publication in April 2025

Working with a growing network

At the heart of our work is a diverse and expanding network of organisations and individuals committed to enhancing research integrity practice.

UKRIO subscribers – over 150 organisations from across disciplines and sectors who actively support and engage with our work

Expert community – a group of 35 specialists from varied fields who ensure our guidance is accurate, relevant, and informed by real-world expertise

Our subscriber community, at a glance

- **Higher education institutions** – Russell Group universities; multi-disciplinary universities; and specialist institutions including University of the Arts London, and Rose Bruford College of Theatre & Performance
- **Independent research institutes** – including the Sainsbury Laboratory, CRUK Scotland Institute, and Plymouth Marine Laboratory
- **Public Sector Research Establishments** – such as the National Physical Laboratory, Ministry of Defence, Defence Science & Technology Laboratory, Rothamsted Research, National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB), UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, and the UK Health Security Agency
- **Charities and social enterprises** – including Health Data Research UK, RAND Europe, The Institute of Cancer Research, and the Health Foundation
- **Learned societies** – such as the Royal Society and the British Academy

Enhancing the **value** of our support

As challenges to research integrity evolve, we have strengthened our services for the research community, with a focus on the **in-depth support we provide subscribers**.

In addition to signaling a clear commitment to research integrity, organisations subscribing to UKRIO gain access to expert, long-term support tailored to their priorities.

"UKRIO's presence and offer has become a foundational resource for our university."

2025 stakeholder
consultation respondent

Our **benefits** for subscribers

- **Online training** – up to 1,000 designated places on our newly enhanced *Introduction to research integrity* course
- **Practical advice** – a dedicated UKRIO contact to support good practice and foster a positive organisational research culture
- **Research misconduct support** – assistance with systems for addressing and investigating alleged research misconduct
- **Policy review** – help reviewing organisational integrity-related policies and procedures
- **Training and events** – quarterly training webinars and roundtable discussions on a range of topics, discounts on bespoke training sessions, and access to our annual research integrity symposium
- **Exclusive resources** – guidance, tools, and case studies not available in our public catalogue
- **Professional network** – opportunities to connect with experts and request participants for projects and ethics panels

Acting on behalf of the **community**

Following valuable input from stakeholders in 2023/24, we enhanced our offer and expanded our role in addressing the evolving needs of the research community. Our latest consultation survey demonstrates **clear impact and positive progress** toward these goals.

Responses to our 2024/2025 stakeholder consultation

Percentage of respondents who agreed with the following statements:

“UKRIO is effective in supporting me and/or my organisation with our research integrity needs” (n=159)

87%

“UKRIO is effective in supporting the research community to promote good research practice and prevent misconduct” (n=165)

81%

“UKRIO effectively translates research integrity-related policy into practices for the research community” (n=155)

79%

0 20 40 60 80 100

Supporting policy and practice

87%

agree or strongly agree that
“UKRIO is effective in
supporting me and/or my
organisation with our research
integrity needs” (n=159)

"I find the organisation highly valuable in promoting and supporting research integrity across the UK. The guidance documents are clear, well-structured, and respected within the research community. UKRIO's advice service is also a unique and trusted resource, offering confidential, independent support."

"UKRIO is a leading source of information, training and support on research integrity, and has materials suitable for researchers and research-supporting staff at all career levels."

79%

agree or strongly agree that
“UKRIO effectively translates
research integrity-related
policy into practices for the
research community” (n=155)

Together, we can **strengthen research integrity**

At UKRIO, we are uniquely positioned as an **independent, trusted voice** on research integrity for all disciplines and sectors.

With the support of our stakeholders – including our subscribers and expert community – we provide practical guidance, convene cross-sector conversations, and help institutions embed integrity at the heart of their research culture.

But we can't do it alone.

Join us in championing high-quality research

Whether you're an individual dedicated to good research practice or represent an organisation aiming to strengthen its commitment to integrity, we'd love to hear from you. Get involved by:

- Becoming a **subscriber**
- Collaborating with us on **projects**
- Exploring our **information, advice, and guidance and training services**
- Using our confidential **advisory service**
- Contributing to our **expert community**



To start a conversation,
reach out at **info@ukrio.org**

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