

UK Research Integrity Office

The UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) is an independent charity, offering support to the public, researchers and organisations to further good practice in academic, scientific and medical research. We promote integrity and high ethical standards in research, as well as robust and fair methods to address poor practice and misconduct. We pursue these aims through our publications on research practice, the support and services we provide to organisations, our education and training activities, and by providing expert guidance in response to requests for assistance.

Who do we help?

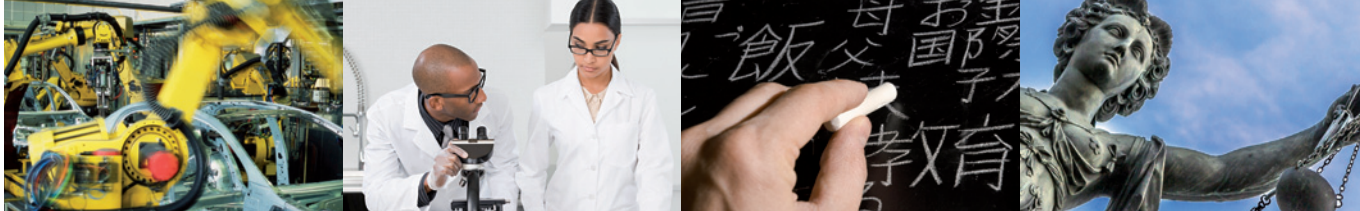
Since 2006, UKRIO has provided independent, expert and confidential support across all disciplines of research, from the arts and humanities to the life sciences. We help all involved in research: researchers, research organisations and members of the public, including patients and research participants. UKRIO covers all research sectors: higher education, the NHS, private sector organisations and charities - wherever the research affects the public good. No other organisation in the UK has comparable expertise in providing such support in the field of research integrity.

Support from UKRIO is appropriate, practical and proportionate, not burdensome or bureaucratic. The guidance we provide is not mandatory. It reflects and reinforces best practice. We promote common approaches to common situations and provide subject-specific expertise whenever necessary. We welcome enquiries on any issues relating to the conduct of research, whether promoting good research practice, seeking help with a particular research project or investigating cases of alleged fraud and misconduct.

Our role and remit

We are not a regulatory body and have no formal legal powers. UKRIO fills gaps between jurisdictions, where no overall regulation might apply, and helps to direct researchers, organisations and the public to regulatory bodies when issues fall within their jurisdiction. We help institutions achieve high standards when they have to manage challenges to research integrity and support individuals faced with bad practice. Our advice and guidance emphasises the good practice that runs across all research disciplines and all regulatory remits. In this way our role complements that of regulatory bodies for research and supports the work of Government and research funders.





The UK has a world-class reputation for conducting exceptional and innovative research and for producing researchers of the highest calibre. It is vital to promote integrity in our research to:

- Ensure that it is honest and accurate.
- Retain the public's trust.
- Enhance this country's international reputation.
- Secure the best return on public funds.
- Safeguard research participants and patients.

Our aim is the more systematic and visible promotion and demonstration of integrity in research. UKRIO's work goes beyond what can be achieved through contractual standards and complements the work of regulatory, professional and funding bodies. We provide proactive support tailored to the needs of employers, researchers and the public. UKRIO's services are in-depth and practical without additional burdens - enhancing UK research's international reputation and helping to protect the public by encouraging the strong professional ethos which drives research here.

UKRIO has provided a comprehensive programme in support of research integrity since 2006. Many leading research organisations, including over 50 universities, use our published guidance, which is endorsed by funding and professional bodies. Use of our services has continued to grow yearly and we received over 70 formal requests for help in 2012.

It has become clear that employers and individuals value our confidential, independent and expert service and are willing to come forward and seek guidance from UKRIO at times of need. Our aim is to be the organisation of choice for all institutions and people across the UK to come to for these purposes.

Key elements of our programme of work:

- **UKRIO's advisory service**, which provides independent, expert and confidential advice on the conduct of research, whether promoting good practice or addressing alleged poor practice and misconduct. The service is open to all and covers all subject areas. We welcome enquiries on general issues as well as specific projects and cases.
- **UKRIO's Code of Practice for Research (2009) and Procedure for the Investigation of Misconduct in Research (2008)**. UKRIO will publish supplementary guidance on particular aspects of research practice and notable issues and pitfalls.

- **UKRIO's Register of Advisors** - experts who are available to serve as external members on panels investigating or adjudicating claims of research misconduct.
- **Expert assistance to organisations** devising, implementing or revising systems to ensure good practice in research and address misconduct.
- **In-depth and long-term support** to help improve standards of research practice, research governance and research ethics in institutions.
- **Advice and support in developing and delivering training programmes** on issues of research integrity - from education about the responsible conduct of research to instruction for senior managers in the process of investigating allegations of research misconduct.
- **Raising awareness** of research integrity and related issues.
- **Informing the development of new UK and international initiatives**, using UKRIO's unique experience, expertise and data. The Consensus Statement on Research Misconduct in the UK strongly endorsed our work. The Concordat to Support Research Integrity was developed with the assistance of UKRIO and it recognises us as a key part of the architecture for the future.
- **Additional services for subscribing institutions**

Subscribing to UKRIO

As a charity, UKRIO helps all involved in research, whether individuals or organisations. We do not place barriers in the way of anyone with questions or concerns about the conduct of research. Our approach supports the UK's research community by improving the conduct of research and by bringing concerns to the attention of appropriate organisations, such as employers, when they would otherwise remain unaware of them until they hit the press.

Organisations involved in research can choose to subscribe to UKRIO and receive additional, long-term support and services. We do not provide a 'one-size-fits-all' service to our subscribers but tailor our activities to their particular needs. As well as the practical benefits, we feel that subscribing to UKRIO allows institutions to signal their commitment to support integrity and high ethical standards in their research.

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