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UKRIO welcomes the publication of ‘The Concordat to Support Research Integrity’

The UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) welcomes the publication today of ‘The Concordat to Support Research Integrity’. We see it as an important step in the journey towards improving research integrity and enhancing the UK’s world-class reputation for conducting exceptional and innovative research.

Devised by Universities UK, Research Councils UK, the National Institute for Health Research and other key stakeholders, the Concordat sets out five commitments that those engaged in research should make to help ensure that the highest standards of rigour and integrity are maintained.

Professor Sir Ian Kennedy, Chair of UKRIO, said: ‘UKRIO has long championed many of the commitments of the Concordat. We are pleased to be part of the powerful consensus that this Concordat documents. UKRIO is committed to working with other organisations that take these responsibilities seriously. We look forward to exploring with researchers, employers, funders and regulators how the Concordat might be implemented for the public benefit and how it might complement wider efforts to sustain research integrity in the UK.’

James Parry, Chief Executive of UKRIO, added: ‘UKRIO’s services are being used more than ever. We are encouraged that the research community is uniting to do more to promote research integrity and sustain the strong professional ethos which, thankfully, drives most research here. We welcome the incorporation of our views into the Concordat and its recognition of UKRIO as a key part of the architecture for the future.’

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Notes for Editors

1. The UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) is an independent charity which provides expert advice and guidance about the conduct of academic, scientific and medical research, whether promoting good practice or addressing misconduct. We cover all subjects and help all involved in research, from research organisations, including universities and the NHS, to individual researchers and members of the public.
2. UKRIO received more than 60 formal requests for assistance in both 2010 and 2011 and use of our services continues to grow each year. Our publications have been used by many leading research organisations, including over 50 universities. Advice from UKRIO is not mandatory but reflects and reinforces best practice. Our work goes beyond what can be achieved through contractual standards and complements the work of regulatory, professional and funding bodies. UKRIO’s services are in-depth but light-touch: practical without additional burdens.
3. Additional information on ‘The Concordat to Support Research Integrity’ and an electronic version of the publication can be found at: <http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/PolicyAndResearch/PolicyAreas/Research/Pages/Researchintegrity.aspx>
4. For further information please contact the UK Research Integrity Office, Sussex Innovation Centre, Science Park Square, Falmer BN1 9SB. Tel: +44 (0) 1273 234 697, email: info@ukrio.org, web: www.ukrio.org .