



## UK Research Integrity Office

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### **UK Research Integrity Office response to Research Councils UK's consultation on *Integrity, Clarity and Good Management – Code of Conduct and Policy on the Governance of Good Research Conduct***

The UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) welcomes the publication of this consultation document and is encouraged that Research Councils UK (RCUK) understands the significance of this issue and the responsibility of all parts of the research community to contribute towards it.

UKRIO was set up to promote high standards of research integrity and provide practical support to employers and the research community in the prevention and effective management of research misconduct and, as such, has a strong interest in this subject. We welcome RCUK's recognition of the work that UKRIO has already carried out on this area and RCUK's commitment to work collaboratively with us to develop and integrate our respective programmes of work.

Research and regulation is a complex issue and initiatives around it should aim to simplify systems and promote clarity. Many organisations have a legitimate interest in this issue and a wide variety of guidance and requirements are already available, so there is a risk of duplicating effort – UKRIO therefore remains open to working with relevant partners, including RCUK.

Guidance on the conduct of research must be comprehensive and legally robust, yet flexible enough to accommodate the diverse needs and requirements of different subject areas and different types of research organisations. It is essential that such guidance takes full account of employer responsibilities across universities, the health service and the private sector.

Approaches to addressing allegations of misconduct must clearly demonstrate to all parties involved that investigations will be thorough and fair, and carried out with sensitivity and confidentiality. Any agreed standard process must be able to accommodate the varying circumstances of individual cases and different subject areas. UKRIO's recent Procedure for the Investigation of Misconduct in Research was developed to fulfil these requirements, among others.

We look forward to further joint discussions with RCUK after the completion of this consultation exercise. UKRIO hopes to work closely with RCUK on areas of common interest, to ensure a clear, simplified and unified approach to the promotion and governance of good research conduct.

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## **About the UK Research Integrity Office**

The UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) is an independent advisory body, hosted by Universities UK. Launched in 2006, it offers support to both research organisations and individual researchers in order to further the good governance of research and to share and promote best practice in addressing misconduct in research.

UKRIO has the support of: the four UK Departments of Health, the four UK Higher Education Funding Councils, the Academy of Medical Sciences, the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, the Association of UK University Hospitals, the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, the Committee on Publication Ethics, the Council of Heads of Medical Schools, the General Medical Council, the Medical Research Council, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, Research Councils UK, the Royal College of Physicians, the Royal College of Physicians Edinburgh, the Royal Society, Universities UK and research charities including the Wellcome Trust.

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