



**For immediate release - Wednesday 7 July 2010**

## **UK Research Integrity Office response to Sir Muir Russell's Independent Climate Change E-mails Review**

The UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) has responded to the publication of the Independent Climate Change E-mails Review, chaired by Sir Muir Russell. The Review was established in December 2009 after approximately 1,000 emails from the Climatic Research Unit of the University of East Anglia were published online without authorisation.

James Parry, Acting Head of the UK Research Integrity Office, said: "the research community has long been concerned about research misconduct, which can have wide-ranging and damaging consequences. The UK rightly has a world-class reputation for conducting exceptional and innovative research and for producing researchers of the highest calibre. For some years, the UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) has supported these efforts through providing independent and expert advice to researchers, organisations and the public on promoting good practice in research and addressing misconduct.

"UKRIO does not comment on whether any particular individual or institution has or has not approached us for assistance; however, we note that the review found that the rigour and honesty of scientists at the Climatic Research Unit (CRU) of the University of East Anglia are not in doubt and that their behaviour did not prejudice the balance of advice given to policy makers.

"In our published guidance on investigating alleged research misconduct, we state it is essential that the process is transparent and the investigation objective, thorough, and fair to all concerned. We are pleased that the allegations made concerning the CRU have been investigated rigorously and objectively, and welcome the decision to conduct the review as openly and transparently as possible.

"We note that the review identified failings relating to openness, including compliance with requests made under the Freedom of Information Act. The review's findings contain vital lessons for the research community. All involved in research must consider the wider consequences of their work and engage critically with the practical, ethical and intellectual challenges that are inherent in the conduct of high quality research.

"UKRIO's *Code of Practice for Research*, which is cited in the review's report, states that organisations and researchers should strive for excellence when conducting research and aim to produce and disseminate work of the highest quality. They should promote and maintain an environment which fosters and supports research of high ethical standards, mutual co-operation, professionalism and the open and honest exchange of ideas.

"It is vital to promote integrity in research, not least to retain the public's trust. UKRIO is increasingly giving support to universities and NHS Trusts who recognise that research misconduct and questionable practices can tarnish the UK's well-earned reputation as a centre of excellence in research. We provide confidential, independent and expert advice *pro bono* to all involved in research: organisations, researchers and the public. UKRIO welcomes enquiries on any issues relating to the conduct of research, as well as requests for assistance with allegations of misconduct."

**ENDS**

## Notes for Editors

1. The independent Climate Change Email Review, led by Sir Muir Russell, was announced in December 2009 after emails from the University of East Anglia's Climatic Research Unit were published online without authorisation. For more information on today's final report from the Independent Climate Change E-mails Review, visit: [www.cce-review.org/](http://www.cce-review.org/)
2. The UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO), established in 2006, is an independent body which offers confidential and expert advice and guidance to research organisations, individual researchers and members of the public about the conduct of research, covering all subject areas. UKRIO also publishes guidance on good research practice and investigating alleged misconduct and operates a help-line service where concerns can be reported in complete confidence. UKRIO is not a regulatory body and has no formal legal powers. The advice and guidance it offers is not mandatory but reflects best practice in the conduct of research and addressing misconduct. Further information about UKRIO is available from its website: [www.ukrio.org](http://www.ukrio.org)
3. Last year, UKRIO launched its *Code of Practice for Research: promoting good practice and preventing misconduct*, which contains strong principles and standards for the conduct of research. UKRIO's publications have been adopted by universities and endorsed by funding bodies and it has become clear that institutions are willing to come forward and seek guidance on difficult issues. The Code of Practice for Research can be downloaded at: <http://www.ukrio.org/resources/UKRIO%20Code%20of%20Practice%20for%20Research.pdf>
4. For further information contact the UK Research Integrity Office, Woburn House, 20 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HQ. Tel: +44 (0)20 7419 5499, email: [RIO@universitiesuk.ac.uk](mailto:RIO@universitiesuk.ac.uk), web: [www.ukrio.org](http://www.ukrio.org) .