



**For immediate release - Tuesday 7 September 2010**

## **UK Research Integrity Office response to the final report of the UK Research Integrity Futures Working Group**

The UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) has responded to the publication of the final report of the UK Research Integrity Futures Working Group, chaired by Professor Dame Janet Finch. The Group was established in the spring of 2009 to consider the existing arrangements for research integrity support in the UK and the nature of any new arrangements from 2010.

James Parry, Acting Head of UKRIO, said: "UKRIO welcomes the publication of this report. We are grateful that the Research Integrity Futures Working Group has considered the issues so carefully and appreciate the valuable contribution it has made to the support of good research practice in the UK.

"We were especially pleased to note that the Group's report recommends a very similar model of support for research to that which UKRIO currently operates: an independent advisory body offering confidential and expert support to institutions, researchers and the public. The proposed programme of work is also very similar to that undertaken by UKRIO, as is the emphasis on support that is appropriate and proportionate, rather than burdensome and bureaucratic.

"It is vital to promote integrity in our research, for several reasons: to retain the public's trust; to enhance this country's international reputation; and, not least, to secure the best return on public funds. This consensus on how to support the UK research community is a very welcome development. We feel that the model of support and the programme of work recommended by the Group, and already operated by UKRIO, are particularly important given the Government's aims to help the sector to save money and further improve its international reputation. It is also in accordance with the Government's emphasis on relying on professional responsibility and reducing unnecessary bureaucracy.

"UKRIO is the only body which has offered dedicated support to the UK research community across all subjects in the field of research integrity. No other organisation has comparable experience in providing such support. Since its inception in 2006, the number of requests for assistance received by UKRIO has risen year-on-year, demonstrating that organisations and individuals are willing to come forward and seek guidance on difficult issues from a non-regulatory body and value UKRIO's confidential support."

Professor Sir Ian Kennedy, Chair of the Board of UKRIO, said: "Over the past four years UKRIO has established the service that it set out to provide: confidential, independent and expert support to researchers, research organisations, employers and the public where there was none. The level of cases that UKRIO is addressing clearly shows that there is an important need to be filled and vital work to be done.

"UKRIO has always recognised that it will need to further evolve as the needs of the research community change. We are firmly of the view that we should build on UKRIO's successes and continue to supply and develop the support that we currently provide, reflecting and reinforcing the core values and mission of UKRIO."

**ENDS**

## Notes for Editors

1. The Research Integrity Futures Working Group, chaired by Professor Dame Janet Finch, was established in the spring of 2009 to consider the existing arrangements for research integrity support in the UK and the nature of any new arrangements from 2010 on behalf of all major stakeholders and funders. The 'Group was established because of the increasing awareness of research integrity, in part occasioned by some recent high-profile cases of failure and the threat that any similar failures might pose to the UK's international reputation. The final report of the 'Group is available from Research Council's UK's website [www.rcuk.ac.uk](http://www.rcuk.ac.uk) .
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, used by NHS Trusts 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. UKRIO welcomes enquiries on any issues relating to the conduct of research, as well as requests for assistance with allegations of misconduct. 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) .