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**Minutes of the UK Committee on Research Integrity Business meeting,
25 April 2024**

Time: 3pm to 4pm

Location: UK Research and Innovation, Caxton House, 6-12 Tothill St, London SW1H 9NA

Attendees	
Jane Alfred	Jil Matheson
Nandini Das	Miles Padgett
Maria Delgado	Jeremy Watson
Louise Dunlop	Tolulope Ayanbola, UK Committee on Research Integrity Strategy Advisor
Andrew George (Co-chair)	Irene Fernow, UK Committee on Research Integrity Policy and Committee Lead
Ian Gilmore	Claire Henderson, UK Committee on Research Integrity Senior Strategy Advisor
Rachael Gooberman-Hill (Co-chair)	Elizabeth Saunders, UKRI Senior Strategy Advisor
Chris Graf	Rebecca Veitch, UKRI Head of Research Integrity Strategy
Ralitsa Madsen	

1. Welcome

- 1.1. The UK Committee on Research Integrity was welcomed to the business meeting.
- 1.2. The meeting objectives were to:
- approve the minutes of the last meeting
 - discuss the draft of the annual statement
 - agree next steps for the workstreams
 - discuss the committee's role in the concordat refresh and progress to date
- 1.3. The meeting minutes from January were approved without correction. Committee members requested confirmation on the status of the alignment of the Concordat and The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity and in particular, the status of the mapping.
- 1.4. Updates to the conflicts of interest record were discussed. A member noted a potential conflict that may occur in the future due to being asked to join the Bristol Data and Integrity group.
- 1.5. The action log was reviewed.

Month of meeting	Assigned to	Action	Progress
January 2024	All members	Provide final comments on the draft enablers and inhibitors report by 7 February 2024.	Complete
January 2024	Secretariat and co-chairs	Develop criteria to support decision making for giving committee endorsement.	Complete
January 2024	Members attending WCRI	Schedule a meeting ahead of Athens.	Complete
January 2024	All members	Consider 3 EDI questions in relation to the workstreams and bring back reflections to the April meeting: 1. Who is involved in the workstreams? 2. Who might benefit from the outputs of the workstreams? 3. What negative unintended consequences might be generated from the workstreams?	Complete
January 2024	Secretariat	Create space on the April 2024 committee meeting agenda to discuss the workstream EDI questions.	Complete

2. Annual statement

- 2.1. The committee reflected on their draft annual statement for 2024. Members deliberated on how to address two key matters in the statement:
 - acknowledging the increased number of processes implemented globally by journals and publishers in recent years for addressing issues related to integrity and misconduct, and
 - recognising the trend of fact-checking, where individuals scrutinise published materials.
- 2.2. Members decided that both issues warranted inclusion in the annual statement.

3. Agreed next steps for workstreams

The committee discussed next steps for their workstreams.

- 3.1. **Research Misconduct:** The tender document is in the final stages of review and will be issued shortly. The timeline within the tender includes a draft report to be delivered early 2025, and the final statement expected by the middle of 2025.
- 3.2. **AI:** Several meetings and consultations with stakeholders are scheduled to take place in the coming months.
- 3.3. **Indicators:** The working group is continuing to analyse results from the stakeholder workshops and is aiming to deliver its report for review at the June 2024 committee meeting.
- 3.4. **REF:** Members will continue to champion attention to research integrity in the design and implementation of REF 2029 and plan to develop a response to the REF consultation on Open Access.

4. Concordat to support research integrity review

- 4.1. Members were reminded of the history of the Concordat and its review over the years, with review due this year, 2024. The committee was informed that all of the signatories provided oversight of the review, with a subgroup of signatories formed to lead on the process. The co-chairs informed the committee that they had been asked to chair this subgroup and they have accepted. Members were also informed that Universities UK had agreed to lead on the operational aspects of the Concordat review and that there would be a consultation process taking place.
- 4.2. Members discussed their interest in providing input into the consultation that will inform the review and how best to do so in light of the co-chairs' role. It was agreed

that the co-chairs would discuss this with the signatories, in all likelihood not participating in the committee's response to the consultation.

5. AOB

- 5.1. Members referred to discussions on the annual statement and noted the importance of discussing how environmental sustainability intersects with research integrity, such as responsibility and care. Discussions also included noting the environmental impact and cost of research as important themes in research integrity.
- 5.2. Following the last meeting, where the importance of guiding principles for committee endorsement of external initiatives or actions were discussed, the co-chairs introduced a draft document containing principles and heuristics to enable the committee to make decisions about endorsement. Members discussed the principles, noting how the committee's endorsement would interrelate with the committee's financial resource, goals, objectives, and also the importance of monitoring the value of any endorsements made.
- 5.3. Using the draft committee endorsement paper, members discussed and agreed to support a Foundation for Science and Technology research integrity event scheduled for July 2024.

6. Standing items

- 6.1. **Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI)**
At the January meeting, members were asked to consider how EDI impacted the various workstreams and bring their reflections to the April meeting. Members at this meeting noted that EDI continues to be reflected in their various committee workstreams.
- 6.2. **Communication matters arising**
Members were asked to consider how the committee ought to tailor its communications, with a discussion to be held at the June 2024 meeting.
- 6.3. **Reflections on the meeting and ways of working**
The committee thanked UKRI for their hospitality in hosting the committee workshop and meeting. They also conveyed their appreciation to the Government representatives from GO-Science and DSIT that attended the workshop session, noting the value that it added to their discussions about integrity across government.

Members further reflected on the importance of engaging with the Government and emphasised the importance of these relationships to the system.

In closing the meeting, members referred to and appreciated the committee's ways of working discussion held during the workshop session, which highlighted the importance of reflecting on unintended consequences of the committee's work as workstreams progress. They also discussed the significance of and appreciation for the open and thoughtful conversations in the work carried out.

7. Close, and date of next meeting

- 7.1. Members were thanked for their time and contributions. The next committee meeting will be held on 27 June 2024 and hosted by the University of Dundee with the Scottish Research Integrity Network invited as guests.
- 7.2. Members were informed that the committee would be holding a roundtable workshop for Early Career Researchers the day after the meeting at Dundee. It was further suggested that the roundtable would be an opportunity to hear insights from stakeholders to inform the research misconduct workstream.
- 7.3. The co-chairs thanked members for their commitment and contributions and drew the meeting to a close.

Actions

- **All members** to provide confirmation of their availability for the June 2024 meeting and Early Career Researcher session to the secretariat.
- **Secretariat** to include additional criteria suggested by members to the draft principles and heuristics for the committee support document and will share the final document with the members.
- **Secretariat** to confirm the status of the alignment of the Concordat and The European Code of Conduct and status of the mapping.
- **Co-chairs** to discuss with the concordat signatories' group how the committee can provide support and input into the review of the Concordat, bearing in mind the co-chairs' role in chairing the review subgroup.
- **All members** to reflect on and consider how the committee should tailor its communications. This is to be discussed at the June 2024 meeting.