



Author: Claire Henderson

Minutes of the UK Committee on Research Integrity Business meeting, 27 June 2024

Time: 3pm to 4pm

Location: Dalhousie Building - 2S13, University of Dundee, Old Hawkhill, Dundee DD1 5EN

Attendees	
Andrew George (Co-chair)	Jeremy Watson (virtual)
Rachael Goberman-Hill (Co-chair)	Nandini Das (3pm to 3:30pm)
Maria Delgado	Tolulope Ayanbola, UK Committee on Research Integrity Strategy Advisor
Louise Dunlop	Teeah Blake, UKRI Project Manager (virtual 3pm to 3:30pm)
Ian Gilmore (virtual)	Irene Fernow, UK Committee on Research Integrity Secretariat Lead
Miles Padgett	Claire Henderson, UK Committee on Research Integrity Senior Advisor (virtual)
Chris Graf (virtual)	Elizabeth Saunders, UKRI Senior Strategy Advisor
Ralitsa Madsen	Rebecca Veitch, UKRI Head of Research Integrity Strategy
Jil Matheson	

1. Welcome

- 1.1. The UK Committee on Research Integrity was welcomed to the business meeting.
- 1.2. There had been apologies received from Jane Alfred. Committee members, Nandini Das, Ian Gilmore, Chris Graf, and Jeremy Watson, attended the meeting virtually. Claire Henderson from the secretariat team and Teeah Blake from UKRI's project management team also attended the meeting virtually.

- 1.3. The meeting objectives were to:
- approve the minutes of the last meeting
 - approve the indicators of research integrity report
 - review the committee’s terms of reference
 - agree next steps for future priorities
 - approve the committee’s communications plans.

1.4. The meeting minutes from the April committee meeting were approved without corrections. The action log was reviewed.

Secretariat	To include additional criteria suggested by members to the draft principles and heuristics for the committee support document and share the final document with the members.	Complete
Secretariat	To confirm the status of the alignment of the Concordat and The European Code of Conduct and status of the mapping.	In progress
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.	Complete
All members	To reflect on and consider how the committee should tailor its communications. This is to be discussed at the June 2024 meeting.	Complete

2. Annual review of the Terms of Reference

- 2.1. The committee discussed the terms of reference, noting that during the last review in July 2023, they had been approved without revision.
- 2.2. The secretariat highlighted that there were a number of references to obsolete or superseded UKRI policies and that these links would be removed or updated as appropriate. The committee approved the terms of reference subject to the update of the policy links.

Action: Secretariat to update links in the terms of reference and add a note to the document of when they were reviewed.

3. Indicators of Research Integrity

- 3.1. The committee acknowledged the substantial work that had gone into the project and thanked the project working group members, and specifically the chair of the working group, for their leadership.

- 3.2. The committee approved the report, subject to minor editorial suite changes. The committee agreed that the secretariat would implement these changes and the committee co-chairs would sign off the amendments.
- 3.3. Members suggested it would be useful to consider how the report could be applied beyond the higher education sector. The report provides an opportunity to open engagement with stakeholders outside of higher education to discuss which indicators resonate most with them and how they could be applied in their research settings.
- 3.4. The committee agreed it would encourage the sector to use the report and share progress and evaluation of indicators.

4. Committee communications planning

- 4.1. The committee discussed and approved the communications and engagement plan to accompany its recent and forthcoming publications. A tailored approach to key stakeholders was welcomed.
- 4.2. Important messaging and key lines had been presented to the committee to support stakeholder engagement. Members were requested to reflect on these and send additional comments to the secretariat team by 10 July 2024.

Action: Committee members to provide comments on key comms lines to the secretariat by 10 July 2024.

5. Future priorities

- 5.1. Committee members were cognisant that much of their work to date had taken a focus on the research taking place in higher education institutions. However, the committee expressed an enthusiasm for promoting research integrity in the diversity of spaces that research takes place around the UK. The committee would welcome the opportunity to work with a greater focus on industry and government research in the coming months and discussed how the current work programme and forthcoming publications would be applicable to research in other settings.

6. Any other business

- 6.1. The committee expressed their thanks and appreciation for all of Claire Henderson's contributions across the last few years, wished her well and offered huge congratulations on her upcoming additional family member.

7. Standing items

7.1. Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI)

The committee noted the following EDI considerations:

- *Relating to the indicators of research integrity workstream* – The committee reflected on the close attention that was given by the project working group to potential unintended consequences of research integrity indicators.
- *Relating to artificial intelligence (AI)* – The committee reflected on its discussions about ethics when using AI and awareness of biases in the literature.
- *Relating on the committee's contributions to the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2029 consultations*: The committee reflected on potential impacts of the REF on the diversity of colleagues across the sector.
- *Relating to the research misconduct workstream*: The committee reflected that due care and attention to integrity is important because of how it impacts on the people in the research system.
- *Relating to the committee meeting*: The committee reflected on how valuable it is for the committee to travel across the UK for its meetings to enable it to hear from a diversity of people actively involved in the research system.

7.2. Communication matters arising

The committee agreed it would be beneficial to provide more regular external progress updates against the workstreams.

7.3. Reflections on the meeting and ways of working

The committee thanked University of Dundee for the generous hospitality.

The committee was grateful for the thought-provoking conversations that had taken place at the meeting and the fascinating tour of the MRC Protein Phosphorylation and Ubiquitylation Unit at the School of Life Sciences, University of Dundee.

8. Close, and date of next meeting

8.1. Members of the committee were thanked for their time and contributions. The next committee meeting will be held on 1 October 2024 hosted at Springer Nature's offices in London.

8.2. The co-chairs thanked members for their engagement, energy, and contributions and drew the meeting to a close.

Actions

- Secretariat to update links in terms of reference and add a note to the document of when they were reviewed.

- Committee members to provide comments on key comms lines to the secretariat by 10 July 2024.