

Minutes of the UK Committee on Research Integrity Business meeting 22 January 2026

Time: 3pm – 4pm

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

| Attendees | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Rachael Goberman-Hill (Co-chair) | Jil Matheson |
| Miles Padgett (Co-chair) | Jeremy Watson |
| Nandini Das | Tolulope Ayanbola, UK Committee on Research Integrity Strategy Advisor |
| Louise Dunlop | Irene Fernow, UK Committee on Research Integrity Secretariat Lead |
| Ian Gilmore | Elizabeth Saunders, UKRI Senior Strategy advisor |
| Chris Graf | Rebecca Veitch, UKRI Head of Research Integrity Strategy |

1. Welcome

- 1.1. The UK Committee on Research Integrity was welcomed to the business meeting. Member apologies were noted from Jane Alfred, Maria Delgado and Ralitsa Madsen. The meeting remained quorate. Secretariat apologies were noted from Claire Henderson.
- 1.2. Members were invited to declare any interests in relation to items on the agenda. None were raised.
- 1.3. The meeting objectives were to:
 - discuss and approve next steps for workstreams
 - ratify next steps for committee's 2026 annual statement
- 1.4. The minutes of the 1 October 2025 committee meeting were approved. The action log was reviewed.

| Assigned to | Action | Status |
|-------------|--|-----------|
| Secretariat | Secretariat to revise Terms of Reference and recirculate to the committee for approval | Completed |
| Secretariat | Secretariat to make the revisions to the risk register in addition to those presented, including the inclusion of a new risk relating to secretariat resource and the increase of impact scores for both resource risks. | Completed |

2. Next steps for workstreams

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- 2.1. The working group shared that a commissioned analysis on HEI AI policy informed a workshop in November 2025. This workshop brought together a broad cross-section of the community to gather feedback on the analysis findings and its dissemination.
- 2.2. The working group is engaging with stakeholders, including government, to explore the use of AI in research and will develop recommendations, including a proposal that a set of high-level principles should be established. These will be brought back to the committee for review and approval once developed.
- 2.3. The group is also considering where these principles and recommendations should be positioned within the wider research integrity and governance landscape.

Change Agents

- 2.4. The working group have developed a framework considering how different stakeholders influence the research system.
- 2.5. The framework will inform the committee's communications and engagement work.

Value of Research Integrity

- 2.6. The working group has undertaken targeted engagement with key stakeholders. A project to develop case studies articulating the value of research integrity, including to industry, is in development with the Innovation Research Caucus.
- 2.7. Outputs from the workstream will return to the committee at appropriate points for review and approval.

Models for Building Trust

- 2.8. The working group provided an update on progress and outlined the key themes emerging from a roundtable held in November 2025, which explored models of trust, how they function within complex systems, and the factors that enable them to endure.

Gap Analysis

- 2.9. Working group members shared that outputs from the gap analysis workstream will be unpacked into key thematic areas and will feed into wider committee work.

Model Development

- 2.10. A model for the future of UK research integrity is a key priority in the committee's second term.
- 2.11. Proposed model(s) will draw on work and evidence collated by the committee to date. Members reflected on emerging thinking and agreed that the proposed approach would incorporate insights from all committee work packages.
- 2.12. The working group is planning to consult on a set of model options later this year.

Annual Statement Analysis

- 2.13. In July 2025, the committee published an analysis of annual statements on research integrity produced by [higher education institutions \(HEIs\), government departments, and independent research organisations](#). The analysis, undertaken by Research Consulting and commissioned by the committee in collaboration with the RICS Group, found that 75% of HEIs had published an annual statement in 2023/24.
- 2.14. In January 2026, following a committee review of institutional websites, co-chairs of the committee reached out to twenty universities with non-findable 2023/2024 annual statements. Following this search and outreach, the proportion of available 2023/24 annual statements as reflected in the 2025 annual statement analysis increased from 75% to 90%.
- 2.15. Members noted this as a positive finding and discussed the need for future analyses to better account for the time required for institutional approval and publication of annual statements, and to ensure outreach approaches are sufficiently comprehensive to capture statements from all universities.

Research Integrity Concordat Signatories (RICS) Group

- 2.16. Members were informed that the RICS group is continuing work to refresh the annual statement template to improve its usefulness as evidence for sector analysis, supporting funder assurance processes and increasing participation and sharing of best practice.
- 2.17. It was agreed that the committee will share the draft proposed structure for future research integrity operating models with the RICS group in due course.

3. Next steps for research misconduct workstream

- 3.1. The committee reflected on findings from the Research Misconduct in the UK study and agreed these should inform the model options work and underpin the committee's system recommendations.

- 3.2. The committee agreed to use the February monthly meeting to further reflect on the findings and implications of the study and development of recommendations.
- 3.3. The co-chairs of the working group were thanked for their leadership in this project. Appreciation was also extended to the wider working group and the secretariat for their contributions.
- 3.4. Copy-editing of the reports and refinement of the executive summaries are underway to ensure publications are clear and accessible.

Action:

- **Committee members** to review Research Misconduct in the UK study outputs and consider emerging findings.
- **Secretariat** to oversee the copy-editing of Research Misconduct in the UK study outputs.

4. Annual statement 2026

- 4.1. The committee reviewed a provisional contents list and evidence sources for the 2026 annual statement, noting the aim to produce an annual statement that reflects the breadth of the UK research integrity system. The co-chairs agreed to revise the contents list to reflect the points raised during the discussion.
- 4.2. The committee agreed to publish the annual statement in Autumn 2026.

Actions:

- **Secretariat** to develop a publication schedule, considering resource constraints.
- **Co-chairs** to revise the provisional contents list to reflect discussion.

5. Any other business

- 5.1. Members noted the important work being undertaken by the RICS Group and agreed to reflect on future opportunities for engagement.

6. Standing items

6.1. Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) considerations

- **Models' development work:** Members noted the ongoing work on model development and emphasised the need to undertake an equality impact assessment as this work progresses.
- **Ongoing programme of work:** Members reflected on the diverse range of engagement within the research misconduct workstream, which has provided valuable perspectives. The strong focus on equity within the AI-related work was further noted. Members reiterated their commitment to undertaking wide engagement on ongoing programme of work.

6.2. Communication matters arising

- The secretariat provided an update on ongoing communications and engagement activity, including a live tender to refine the committee's key messages and develop a targeted communications and engagement strategy.
- Members also shared engagement being undertaken individually and across the various workstreams.

6.3. Reflections on the meeting, ways of working

- Members reflected on the wide-ranging and constructive discussions throughout the day and expressed their appreciation for the generosity and collaboration across the working groups, recognising the realities of working concurrently across multiple strands and in parallel. The secretariat was also thanked for its continued efforts.

7. Close, and date of next meeting

- 7.1. The chairs thanked committee members for their time and contributions. The next committee meeting would be held on 29 April 2026. Members were invited to suggest locations for the next meeting to the secretariat.

Actions

- **Committee members** to review Research Misconduct in the UK study outputs and consider emerging findings.
- **Secretariat** to oversee the copy-editing of Research Misconduct in the UK study outputs.
- **Secretariat** to develop a publication schedule for annual statement 2026 and ongoing programme of work, considering resource constraints.
- **Co-chairs** to revise the provisional contents list of annual statement 2026 to reflect discussion.