Good Research Conduct and Research Integrity

UKRI is in the process of updating its Policy on the Governance of Good Research Conduct. The policy should be considered in conjunction with the Universities UK Concordat to Support Research Integrity, to which RCUK and HEFCE were founding signatories. The policy, guidelines and the Concordat are available via the UKRI good research resource hub. NERC directly supports cross UKRI policy development and research integrity initiatives.

NERC, as an employer of researchers, is required under the terms of the Concordat to publish its own annual narrative statement, which is agreed by the NERC Management Board annually.

NERC Report 2020/21

As a constituent council within UKRI, which is a publicly funded body, NERC recognises and embraces its responsibility to promote ethical behaviour and good conduct in research. Together with other UKRI councils, and the UK research community more broadly, we are committed to national leadership in this area: identifying, articulating and implementing best practice. We aim to go beyond existing legislative requirements, to minimise harm and maximise benefit as set out in the NERC’s Responsible Business Statement which sets-out four priority areas:
1) Environmental sustainability
2) Social responsibility
3) Responsible decision making
4) Responsible research

Through the ‘responsible research’ priority area we are committed to carrying out research to the highest standards - research with integrity, carried out by a diverse and outstanding body of researchers. NERC supports its research centres to promote a positive research culture through investment, support for training and development and the Research Culture Forum. Research integrity is also core to the NERC centre assurance process.

The UKRI policy on “Investigating Allegations of Misconduct in Research” applies to NERC and is held on the Oracle Knowledge Base and UKRI good research resource hub; this is accessible by all staff. As employers, NERC’s Research Centres include Good Research Conduct and Misconduct as part of induction and training programmes for staff and local policies.

For the year 2020-21 there were no allegations of misconduct in research that were investigated under this policy.

Previous Reports (17-18 to 19-20)

There were no allegations of misconduct in research that were investigated under this policy in previous three reporting years. Concerns relating to the conduct of NERC-funded research or researchers should be directed to:

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