Good Research Conduct and Research Integrity

UKRI is considering the need for new research integrity policies; policies and processes of the former RCUK and HEFCE relating to research integrity continue to apply until further notice. The policies should be considered in conjunction with the Universities UK Concordat to Support Research Integrity, to which RCUK and HEFCE were founding signatories. The RCUK Policy and Guidelines and the Concordat are available via the UKRI website.

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.

NERC Report 2018/19

As a constituent council within UKRI, which is a publically 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 our environmental impact, and to promote equality and diversity. NERC’s Corporate Responsibility (CR) Statement ‘Responsible Business’ sets-out four priority areas:

1) Environment: Living our values in the environment in which we work.
2) Transparency: Transparent business practices, with partners that share our values.
3) Community and work place: Engaging and supporting our community, internally and locally.
4) Standards: Research with integrity, carried out by a diverse, representative and outstanding body of researchers.

Under the ‘Standards’ priority area we are committed to carrying out research to the highest standards, with integrity, and by a diverse, representative and outstanding body of researchers. The UKRI policy on “Investigating Allegations of Misconduct in Research” applies to NERC and is held on the Oracle Knowledge Base, accessible by all staff. As employers, NERC’s Research Centres include Good Research Conduct and Misconduct as part of their induction programmes for new staff.

For the year 2018-19 there were no allegations of misconduct in research that were investigated under this policy.

Previous Reports (2013-14 to 2017-18)

There were no allegations of misconduct in research that were investigated under this policy in previous reporting years.

Concerns relating to the conduct of NERC-funded research or researchers should be directed to:

Dr Avril Allman
NERC Head of Research and Funding Operations
01793 411665, avril.allman@nerc.ukri.org