Assurance of Compliance with the Concordat to Support Research Integrity

1. The University is required to make an annual declaration to HEFCE about its compliance with the Concordat to Support Research Integrity which was published in July 2012. All those engaged with research have a duty to consider how the work they undertake, host or support impacts on the research community and on wider society. The concordat helps to ensure that research produced by or in collaboration with the UK research community is underpinned by the highest standards of rigour and integrity. Commitment to the principles set out in the concordat helps demonstrate to government, business, international partners and the public that they can continue to have confidence in the research produced by the UK research community. It provides assurances of the standards expected of all stakeholders, identifying five commitments that all those engaged with research should be able to make.

2. The Concordat recommends that employers of researchers should present a short annual statement to their governing body that:
   - provides a summary of actions and activities that have been undertaken to support and strengthen understanding and application of research integrity issues.
   - provides assurances that the processes for dealing with allegations of research misconduct and that they continue to be appropriate to the needs of the organisation
   - provides a high-level statement on any formal investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken.

3. Research Committee received a detailed report of the University’s policy and procedures to meet each of the five commitments, together with the actions and activities that have been undertaken to support and strengthen understanding and application of research integrity issues. It was noted that the University has in place processes for dealing with allegations of research misconduct and that these are to be reviewed and revised to ensure that they are transparent, robust and fair, and that they continue to be appropriate to the needs of the organisation.

4. The University did not undertake any formal investigations of research misconduct during the academic year 2016/17.

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