

**29 NOVEMBER 2019****ANNUAL STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONCORDAT FOR RESEARCH INTEGRITY 2018/19****Background**

The Universities UK Concordat to Support Research Integrity provides a comprehensive national framework for good research conduct and its governance. Compliance with the Concordat requires that organisations present to their governing body a short annual report that provides:

- a summary of actions and activities that have been undertaken to support and strengthen understanding and application of research integrity issues;
- assurances of processes in place for dealing with allegations of misconduct, processes which are transparent, robust, fair, and of continued appropriateness for the needs of the organisation;
- a high-level statement on any formal investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken.

The Statement will be publicly available on the University's Research Governance web page to provide assurance that measures are being taken to support consistently high standards of research integrity. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research and Knowledge Exchange is responsible for research governance within the University.

**Statement for 2018/2019**

During 2018/2019, the University has undertaken the following actions and activities to support and strengthen the understanding and application of research integrity:

**Faculty-based Support for Research Ethics and Governance**

The University's Research and Knowledge Exchange (RKE) Directorate has recently been restructured to ensure a full service and connected support provision. This has enabled a far higher number of appropriately trained staff to take responsibility for supporting ethics and governance activities within faculties. This important development has further strengthened the University's commitment to promoting, developing and ensuring research integrity.

**Procedure for Managing External Requests for Research**

The University procedure for managing external requests for staff and students to participate in research projects was reviewed and updated in light of experiences during the past year. The revisions ensure that all research taking place in, or involving the University, is reviewed and assessed for compliance with research integrity standards.

## **Data Protection**

The RKE Directorate has continued to review and update processes and guidance on data protection. Work has included updating privacy statements and the Adult Participant Information Sheet for Research. The RKE Directorate has also reviewed and updated the content of the Online Ethics System (EthOS) to enhance support to applicants.

## **Research Data Storage Project**

The RKE Directorate is working with Information Systems and Digital Services (ISDS) to deliver a data storage and management infrastructure that supports the full research project lifecycle from development to long term archiving. The first phase of this project, launched this year, provides a secure mechanism for sharing data with partners. Phase two will provide a readily accessible research data storage platform to support large capacity data storage for active research projects. This platform has been designed to be highly resilient, providing an enterprise level of encryption and site failure protection. It will be supported 24 hours a day.

The RKE Directorate and Legal Services are in the process of reviewing data retention guidelines for staff and student research.

## **Review of Research Integrity Training**

In response to recent legislative and University procedural changes, a complete review of the University's online research integrity training has been undertaken, and, consequently, a new version of the University's research integrity training will be released in 2019. The revised training modules will continue to be thorough and accessible for all research staff and students, but will also address variation in approaches between different disciplines.

## **Revised Governance Structure Relating to the Human Tissue Act (HTA)**

In order to continue to ensure compliance with the Human Tissue Act (2004) and the Human Tissue Authority's regulatory requirements, the University has:

- conducted training on 'relevant material' that falls within the requirements of the Act;
- reviewed and revised existing supporting documents and legal agreements in relation to HTA material;
- identified 'Persons Designated' as a points of contact for staff across using relevant material.

In addition, a new Human Tissue Act Committee (HTAC) has been established which acts as a Sub Committee of the Research Ethics and Governance Committee within the existing Academic Board and Research Committee structure.

## **Nagoya Protocol on Access to Benefit Sharing**

The RKE Directorate has reviewed, and is in the process of revising: existing procedures; guidance; and linked documentation, to ensure compliance with the Nagoya protocol.

## **Formal Investigations of Research Misconduct**

Following the Procedure for the Investigation of Misconduct in Research:

- One staff allegation of research misconduct was considered during 2018/19. The allegation proved unsubstantiated and did not warrant investigation.
- One joint staff and PGT student allegation underwent preliminary investigation and was resolved through additional training and corrective action.

## **Research Integrity Statement 2019-20**

The next Annual Statement will be published in November 2020.

## **Conclusion**

Based on the evidence presented, we believe that Manchester Metropolitan University complies with the Concordat to Support Research Integrity.