ANNUAL STATEMENT ON RESEARCH INTEGRITY 2017

INTRODUCTION

1 This annual statement is provided in order to reassure Council that research at the OU continues to meet the highest standards of integrity.

CONTINUED ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONCORDAT

2 In July 2016 the Senior Manager, Research Governance, Research and Academic Strategy Unit conducted a review of the University’s current research integrity arrangements in the light of the Concordat requirements in order to assess current institutional compliance. She reported to Research Committee (RC-2016-02-5) that the University continues to meet all the requirements set out in the Concordat. This information has been passed to the Chief Auditor for inclusion in the annual assurance statement to HEFCE.

BEST PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT

3 Research and Academic Strategy Unit continues to work with Faculties to improve training provision for academics and researchers in this area, including incorporating aspects of research integrity into academic mentoring, and developing and implementing a University-wide communications plan.

FORMAL INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT 1 AUGUST 2015-1 JULY 2016

4 Allegations of research misconduct or malpractice are a fairly uncommon occurrence at the OU. Where they do arise, it is sometimes the case that they are the result of misunderstanding and poor communications, which can be resolved without recourse to the formal process, to the satisfaction of all parties concerned.

In 2015-16 one allegation was formally notified to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Research and Academic Strategy. The circumstances were investigated using the formal Stage One procedure. The conclusion of the investigation was that although there was some substance to the allegation, there had been no intent to deceive. Recommendations were made to the Faculty concerned to instigate measures to improve researcher practice and reduce the risk of a similar case happening in future.

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