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

CONTINUED ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONCORDAT
2 In July 2018 the Research and Academic Strategy Unit conducted a review of the University’s research integrity arrangements in the light of the requirements of the Universities UK Concordat to Support Research Integrity, in order to assess institutional compliance. The review confirmed that the University met the requirements set out in the Concordat, and was reported to the Research Committee (RC-2018-06-11). This information has been passed to the Chief Auditor for inclusion in the annual assurance statement to regulatory bodies.

GOOD PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT
3 A short video about the University’s research integrity framework presented by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Research and Academic Strategy, was published in September 2018. Research and Academic Strategy Unit continues to work with Academic Professional Development and the Graduate School to ensure that there is training provision for researchers, including research students and supervisors, on the principles of research integrity and ethics. Faculties are continuing to raise awareness of research integrity principles amongst staff.

4 The University will revise its policies and procedures to align with the forthcoming updated Universities UK Concordat to Support Research Integrity, and monitor sector developments to ascertain whether any further action is need to update its research integrity framework.

FORMAL INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT
1 AUGUST 2017 – 31 JULY 2018
5 Allegations of research misconduct or malpractice are a fairly uncommon occurrence at the University. Where they do arise, it is sometimes the case that they are result of misunderstanding and poor communications, which can be resolved without recourse to the formal process, to the satisfaction of all parties concerned.

6 In 2017-18 one allegation of research misconduct was formally notified to the Pro-Vice Chancellor, Research and Academic Strategy, and investigated according to the University’s Procedure for dealing with allegations of research malpractice or misconduct.

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