ANNUAL STATEMENT ON RESEARCH INTEGRITY 2018

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 2017 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 all the requirements set out in the Concordat, and was reported to the Research Committee (RC-2017-03-10). This information has been passed to the Chief Auditor for inclusion in the annual assurance statement to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

BEST PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT

3 Research and Academic Strategy Unit continues to work with Academic Professional Development to enhance understanding of research integrity amongst the research community. It is also working with Communications to implement a University wide communication plan, inclusive of a short video on research integrity to be presented by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Academic Strategy).

FORMAL INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT 1 AUGUST 2016 – 31 JULY 2017

4 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.

5 In 2016-17 no allegations of research misconduct were formally notified to the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research and Academic Strategy).

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