

ANNUAL STATEMENT ON RESEARCH INTEGRITY 2020

INTRODUCTION

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

CONTINUED ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONCORDAT

- 2 In September 2019, the Research, Enterprise and Scholarship Unit conducted a review of the University's research integrity arrangements in order to assess institutional compliance with the Universities UK Concordat to Support Research Integrity. The review confirmed that the University met the requirements set out in the Concordat, and this was reported to the Research Committee (RC-2019-05-13). This information has been passed to the Chief Auditor for inclusion in the annual assurance statement to regulatory bodies.

GOOD PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT

- 3 The Research, Enterprise and Scholarship Unit continues to work with the OU's Academic Professional Development team and the OU Graduate School to ensure that there is training provision for researchers, including postgraduate research students and supervisors, on the principles of research integrity and ethics. Faculties are continuing to raise awareness of research integrity principles amongst staff and students.
- 4 The University will update its policies and procedures to align with the revised, 2019 Universities UK Concordat to Support Research Integrity, and monitor sector developments closely to identify any further actions needed to optimise its research integrity framework.

FORMAL INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT 1 AUGUST 2018 – 31 JULY 2019

- 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 a 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 2018/19, no new allegations of research misconduct were formally notified to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research, Enterprise and Scholarship), although investigations into an allegation first raised in 2017/18 continued in accordance with the University's Procedure for dealing with allegations of research malpractice or misconduct.

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