

Annual Statement providing a high-level summary concerning formal research misconduct investigations carried out by the University – 2017/18

1. This report provides a high-level statement concerning any formal investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken by Leeds Beckett University. This statement will be made publicly available to ensure accountability with the Research Concordat to Support Research Integrity and provide assurances that measures are being taken by the University to support consistently high standards of research integrity.
2. The table below provides an overview of the number of formal investigations that have taken place over the last five years:

| Number of formal Investigations completed | | | | | Number of allegations upheld (in whole or in part) | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 17/18 | 16/17 | 15/16 | 14/15 | 13/14 | 17/18 | 16/17 | 15/16 | 14/15 | 13/14 |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

3. A summary of the outcomes of the above cases is provided below:

(a) Formal Investigation completed in 2017

In 2017 the University received an allegation of research misconduct against a member of Staff at the University. In accordance with the University's 'Policy & Procedures for Investigating Allegations of Misconduct in Research' the allegations were referred to the Secretary & Registrar.

Preliminary Adjudication Summary:

The Secretary & Registrar reviewed the allegations with reference to the University's definition of misconduct in research and determined that they were appropriate for consideration under the University's 'Policy & Procedures for Investigating Allegations of Misconduct in Research'. A preliminary adjudication was conducted by three Adjudicators appointed from the Directors of Research and the Professors across the University to determine whether there was sufficient evidence of misconduct in research to warrant a formal investigation of allegations made. The decision of the Adjudicators was that the allegations were sufficiently serious and had sufficient substance to warrant a Formal Investigation.

Formal Investigation Summary:

In accordance with the Policy & Procedures for Investigating Allegations of Misconduct in Research an Investigation Panel was appointed to undertake a Formal Investigation of the allegations.

Following review of the allegations the Panel was of the opinion that they fell under the following definitions of misconduct in research set out in paragraph 25 of the University's Policy & Procedures for Investigating Allegations of Misconduct in Research:

- *Piracy by the exploitation of the ideas of others without permission or acknowledgement, including the piratical use of material that has been provided in a privileged way for review, examination, assessment or appraisal;*
- *Plagiarism by the misappropriation of ideas, data or text without adequate acknowledgement or citation;*
- *Failure to declare or resolve a conflict of personal interest in research.*

During its investigation the Panel reviewed the evidence presented against the allegations taking into account the above definitions. Having considered all the evidence and representations, from Complainant(s), Respondent(s) and witnesses, the Investigation Panel reached the following conclusions:

- That on the balance of probabilities, the allegation of piracy by the exploitation of the ideas of others without permission or acknowledgement, including the piratical use of material that has been provided in a privileged way for review, examination, assessment or appraisal was **not upheld**
- That on the balance of probabilities, the allegation of plagiarism by the misappropriation of ideas, data or text without adequate acknowledgement or citation was **not upheld**
- That on the balance of probabilities, the allegation of failure to declare or resolve a conflict of personal interest in research was **upheld**

In relation to the allegation that was upheld the matter was referred to Human Resources who considered the matter under the University's Staff disciplinary procedures.

(b) Formal Investigation completed in 2014

In 2014 the University received an allegation of research misconduct against a member of Staff at the University. In accordance with the then 'Code of Good Practice and Regulations Relating to Misconduct in Academic Research' (which were replaced by the 'Policy & Procedures for Investigating Allegations of Misconduct in Research' in 2015) the allegation was referred to an Initial Enquiry Assessment Panel which determined that there was sufficient substance in the allegation to warrant a Formal Investigation.

An Investigation Panel was appointed to undertake a Formal Investigation of the allegations. During its investigation the Panel reviewed the evidence presented against the allegations and, having considered all the evidence and representations, from Complainant, Respondent and witnesses, reached the conclusion that the allegation of research misconduct would be dismissed as it was considered to be unfounded or mistaken.