



Ministry
of Defence

Annual Statement of Compliance with the Concordat to Support Research Integrity (2024-25)

Key Contact Information

Responsible Owners of Research Integrity:

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Introduction

Over the next 2 years, [Defence spending is set to increase to 2.5% of GDP](#), the largest sustained increase since the Cold War. This significant investment will drive research and development and innovation across the UK for Defence. Defence research and development incorporates cutting edge science to help harness the latest capabilities and best results for our armed forces, including utilising AI and autonomous systems, developing next-generation capability and improved protection, military medical research and important social research.

Placing high quality science, analysis, research and evidence at the heart of Defence is critical to us making the right decisions and protecting the UK, its territories and its allies. As part of this, the MOD commits to good research practices in all the work it does. The MOD continues to build on and cohere the existing policy, procedures and good practice across Defence. In 2024-2025, the MOD internally published JSP 732 Part 2 to provide further guidance in supporting the implementation of research integrity principles and governance within Defence.

The Concordat to Support Research Integrity and the related GO-Science guidance to implement the concordat within government sets out 5 core research integrity principles: honesty, rigour, transparency and open communication, care and respect, and accountability. The MOD commits to uphold the Concordat to Support Research Integrity and the 5 core research integrity principles.

Promoting good Research Integrity

The MOD has developed and published JSP 732 to support and strengthen research integrity and promote a healthy, inclusive research culture. JSP 732 Part 1 outlines the principles of research integrity that the MOD has agreed to and sets out clear responsibilities to support the implementation and practice of these principles across Defence. JSP 732 Part 2, internally published in 2024, provides guidance to support the implementation of the research integrity principles and responsibilities laid out in Part 1, within a Defence environment. JSP 732 also coheres existing policies and guidance relevant to the principles of research integrity and supports the application of these within Defence.

The Research Champion role, set up in 2022, aids the implementation of research integrity for each area within Defence. Research Champions are (Deputy Director or equivalent) representatives for an area or organisation within Defence that support those in scope to deliver their research in line with the principles of research integrity. The Research Champion network meets tri-annually to share good research practice and practical guidance for embedding research integrity principles. Research Champions also provide assurance that the research conducted, sponsored or funded by their area meets the principles set out in the JSP 732.

The Government Science and Engineering (GSE) Profession Career Framework, which outlines the skills, knowledge and experience required to be an effective scientist or engineer in government, lists understanding and application of the Concordat to Support Research Integrity amongst the key technical skills. For analysts in government, there are a range of professional groups and learning and development connected to sound research. Key guidance is provided within “The Government Social Research Technical Framework”. The MOD also looks to learn from other government departments on

implementing best practice for research integrity.

The MOD is a subscriber of the UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO), an independent charity that provides guidance, training, and advisory services to promote and further good research practice. The MOD's subscription has been upgraded in 2024 to cover the entire department, extending access to UKRIO's training and support provision for research integrity. The training offer includes expert webinars and roundtable discussions to promote implementation of good research practice. The MOD will look to continue its subscription to UKRIO in 2025.

As referred to in JSP 732, the MOD recognises it must be as open and transparent as possible with publicly funded research, whilst remaining mindful of security. This research should be free to access wherever possible, and released promptly and in a way that promotes public trust. When research is conducted, funded, or sponsored, open science principles should be adhered to, as much as is consistent with security considerations, across the entire research lifecycle. While there is no formal agreed set of open science principles across all of research, they are generally about increasing the rigour, accountability, and reproducibility of research, as well as working to promote inclusion, collaboration, and information-sharing. JSP 732 Part 2 provides further guidance on research security and consideration for open research principles and research publication across Defence.

Research Misconduct

Maintaining the highest standards of research integrity requires the right environment. The MOD is committed to the ongoing development of a culture that supports and nurtures such standards.

Research misconduct is characterised as behaviours or actions that fall short of the standards of ethics, research and

scholarship required to ensure that the integrity of research is upheld. Research Champions are responsible for ensuring the appropriate systems are in place in their area, as per commitment 4 of the research integrity concordat, through clear, well-articulated policies to address confidential reporting for allegations of research misconduct, investigating infractions and handling disputes.

Where misconduct hasn't taken place but there are honest errors or differences in, for example, research methodology or interpretations, these should be responded to, where appropriate, with training and cooperation from supervisors rather than through misconduct procedures.

The MOD also has robust procedures in place for experiments that include specific research topics, for example human participation research through the [Ministry of Defence Research Ethics Committee](#) (MODREC). The MOD will work to ensure that across all research misconduct is appropriately addressed and systems are simplified and coordinated wherever appropriate.