

An invitation to provide your views about the content of the UK Concordat to Support Research Integrity

Introduction

The Signatories Group of the UK Concordat to Support Research Integrity ('the Concordat') are pleased to announce the launch of their review of the Concordat.

The Concordat provides a vital national framework for practice and governance of research integrity in the UK. In 2024, the Concordat is due to undergo its five-year review, which comprises revisions and updates to the content of the Concordat and not to governance arrangements or structures that surround it.

To ensure that the review reflects the views of diverse stakeholders, the Signatories Group invite participation in the consultation.

Your responses will help to shape any revisions to the Concordat so that it is fit for the future and continues to safeguard research integrity.

Please share news of the consultation widely, all responses are welcome. The consultation is open from Thursday 30 May 2024 to Monday 22 July 2024.

About the Concordat to Support Research Integrity

The Concordat provides a vital national framework for the practice and governance of research integrity in the UK. The Concordat is the reference document for research governance. Current signatories of the Concordat include research funders. In Government, departmental Chief Scientific Advisors have signed up to the principles of the Concordat. Internationally, other countries and regions with mature research systems have research integrity frameworks that are equally prominent.

The 2024 review is focused on the **content** of the Concordat rather than governance arrangements for the Signatories Group.

The revised Concordat will be released in the last quarter of 2024. To provide a lead in time to enable familiarity with the revised Concordat, future reporting on the content of the Concordat would start in annual narrative statements produced from January 2026 onwards.

Why the review is being carried out

Revision of the content of the Concordat will ensure that it is fit for the future and continues to safeguard research integrity.

To ensure that the Concordat meets the needs of those who make use of it and is fit for the future, the Signatories group is carrying out the review so that:

1. The Concordat appropriately reflects recent developments in research nationally and internationally, including technological advances
2. The Concordat is appropriately aligned with international frameworks for research governance to support research carried out in international contexts
3. So that that the Concordat is as useful and practical as possible.

How the review will be carried out

The Concordat defines research integrity and contains a set of commitments to be met by researchers, employers, and funders of research. In 2019, Concordat signatories committed to review of the Concordat in 2024. To do so, the signatories of the Concordat are carrying out their update of the Concordat through a review group and consultation process. The review group comprises representatives of signatories and the group is chaired by the UK Committee on Research Integrity.

Your views will be collated and analysed by UKRI and then shared with the Concordat to Support Research Integrity signatories review group. The signatories are:

- Cancer Research UK
- Department for the Economy, Northern Ireland

- GuildHE Research
- Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
- National Institute for Health Research
- Scottish Funding Council
- The British Academy
- UK Research and Innovation
- Universities UK
- Wellcome Trust

You will be asked at the end of the survey if you are happy for someone from the group to contact you via email to invite you to further consultation. Any future publications documenting the consultation process will not contain any personally identifiable information. We ask some questions so that we can assess the balance of our engagement.

Who is invited to take part in the consultation?

Everyone is welcome to contribute to the consultation.

The review group is particularly keen to hear from across the research sector to inform revisions to the Concordat. This includes researchers and colleagues working in research at all career stages and in all roles; funders of research; research performing organisations; organisations that support research and researchers; and those who commission research.

What is happening in the consultation?

To enable stakeholders to provide their views, a series of consultation exercises will take place in 2024. First, an online survey will be open from May to July 2024. Next, workshops will present possible changes and ask for feedback. Finally, the revised Concordat will be launched in the final quarter of 2024.