Solent University Annual Statement on Research Integrity 2019-2020

1. The University Research Ethics Committee undertakes an annual review of the research integrity training provision as part of its annual programme of work. In 2019-20, the University reviewed and updated its [research integrity webpages](#) to include information in response to the effects of Covid-19 on research projects, and delivered its mandatory research integrity training for doctoral students in two online seminars delivered in April and May. During the summer, further planning was undertaken to develop online asynchronous training resources accessible to both academic staff and students for delivery in 2020-21.

2. During 2019-20 the University Research Ethics Committee reviewed its working document mapping its policy, processes and activities to the commitments within the Concordat to Support Research Integrity. This is a live document which is subject to regular review by the committee and oversight of identified actions is maintained by the committee. The paper was presented to the May 2020 meeting of the committee (20/UREC/07) and will be updated during 2020-21.

3. The University was notified of one case of research misconduct during 2019-20, relating to data in a co-authored publication which did not meet expected standards. A staff member self-reported the shortcomings in the data provided by an external co-author. They notified all co-authors, requesting a retraction by the publisher and informed their manager and the Chair of the Research, Innovation and Enterprise Committee (RIEC), named as responsible for investigations of research misconduct in the University's Research Misconduct policy. The Chair of the RIEC was satisfied that the case did not require formal investigation and that the member of staff had both acted in good faith and taken useful learning from the experience.

4. In light of the case above, the Chair of RIEC recommended a review of the Research Misconduct Policy to embed clearer guidance around proportionate investigation and responses to research misconduct, recognising where support to address inexperience or in recognising genuine mistakes would be an appropriate outcome, particularly to support development for early career researchers.

5. The University will undertake this review guided by the principles of robustness, transparency and fairness, to further embed an approach which reinforces opportunities to learn and develop through the University's training provision, while retaining clear consequences where investigations identify intent to mislead or other failure to follow good research practice.

6. Measures to disseminate the updated policy and procedures across faculties will include Faculty Research and Knowledge Exchange Leads, Faculty Research Groups and the Doctoral training programme.

7. The University publishes named contacts for research integrity and for whistleblowers along with the relevant policies on its [research integrity webpages](#) and emphasises best practice and the University's support for staff reporting research misconduct.