

RCUK Research Integrity
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Why RCUK Interest

- Main public investors in fundamental research in the UK
- Public funding mainly via the Science Budget:- around £2.8 billion in 2006/07
- Seven Research Councils Across All Areas of Research All Working Together
- Accountable to Parliament, via the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills
- Collaborating with other Stakeholders in Universities and the Research Funding World

From Scientific Misconduct to
Research Integrity –
Ensuring the Licence to
Research



The Major Issues

The Big Scandals

- Hwang Woo-Suk (Fabrication of Data)
- Jan Hendrik Schön (Co-Authorship)
- Sir Cyril Burt (Plagiarism?)
- Jon Sudbø (Fabrication)

But these often arise from minor infringements or misdemeanours which go undetected or inadequately addressed

.....And the Minor?

- In 2004 the BBC estimated that 25% of students admitted some form of plagiarism, and 16% admitted multiple offences
- So does it not happen at postgraduate and researcher level?
- Reliable data difficult to obtain.
- Does this mean that cases get pre-sifted, identified and resolved before they are seen to be serious cases
- Or Unsifted?

International developments

- US and Germany
- OECD and UNESCO
- New Codes in India
- EU Presidency Concerns and new Codes e.g. on Nano-Technology
- Implications for the UK

Purpose of the Conference

- A Robust Discussion
- Clarity in Requirements and Direction
- Taking the Agenda Forward
- Ensuring the UK is at the Forefront not the Rearguard
- But Not Overburdening the System for No Sound Purpose