Annual statement from the **Medical Research Council** on Research Integrity and Scientific Misconduct for the period 1st April 2014-31st March 2015

1. Summary of actions and activities that have been undertaken to support and strengthen understanding and application of research integrity issues

* In January 2015, staff from MRC Head Office delivered a training course on the importance of Good Research Practice at the MRC Toxicology Unit, attended by the majority of scientific and technical staff.
* An on-line introductory e-learning module based on the MRC’s Good Research Practice Guidance was published in December 2014 and is available to anyone via the training section of the [MRC Regulatory Support Centre web site](http://www.mrc.ac.uk/research/facilities/regulatory-support-centre/).
* A new policy and guidance on declarations of interest for MRC staff has been developed in consultation with the MRC Trade Union Side[[1]](#footnote-1).
* An updated version of the MRC’s guidance document “Human Tissue and Biological Samples for Use in Research: Operational and Ethical Guidelines” was published in November 2014.

1. Assurances that the processes employers have in place for dealing with allegations of misconduct are transparent, robust and fair, and that they continue to be appropriate to the needs of the organisation.

* The MRC’s ‘Scientific misconduct policy and procedure’ has been updated and the new version entitled [MRC Policy and Procedure for investigating allegations of research misconduct](http://www.mrc.ac.uk/research/research-policy-ethics/allegations-of-research-misconduct/research-misconduct-policy/) was published in November 2014 following consultations with the MRC Trade Union Side.

As yet we have no experience of dealing with allegations using the updated procedure.

1. High-level statement on any formal investigations of research misconduct/Statistics

The following information concerns allegations made against current or former MRC employees or PhD students in MRC establishments.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Number of investigations that were underway during the year | 0 |
| Of these the number that started during the year | 0 |
| Number of investigations completed during the year: i) upheld  ii)not upheld | 0 |
| 0 |
| Number of allegations that did not proceed to a full investigation\* | 0 |

As an indicator of scale, the number of MRC employees as at 31/3/15 was 2531[[2]](#footnote-2).

[However, of course this does not represent a true denominator as it includes many staff unlikely ever to be in a position to commit research misconduct].

1. In effect from May 2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This does not include locally employed staff in the MRC Units in The Gambia and Uganda [↑](#footnote-ref-2)