Freedom of Information

Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine

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Liverpool

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UK

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Reference LSTM/FOI/14-019

16th January 2015

Dear Requestor,

Many thanks for your request received on 18th December 2014 regarding research misconduct and the concordat. Please find below the response to your enquiry:

**Question 1**: Please confirm if your institution has signed the concordat and is following the commitments outlined in the concordat.

**Response to question 1**:

The Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine has registered with Universities UK to confirm its commitment to the principles laid down in the concordat and will continue to apply the highest standards of governance across our research portfolio.

**Question 2**: If your institution has signed what impact has this had on the research conducted at your university?

**Response to question 2:**

The impact has been to strengthen our governance structures in line with the concordat and to implement process and reporting mechanisms to be able to respond to the requirements in line with our commitment as a HEI. We have also signed up to the US ORI assurance programme and are looking to dovetail these processes alongside the research governance framework and ICH-GCP guidelines.

**Question 3:** Has this reduced the number of instances of research misconduct? This includes instances of:

* Fabrication or falsification of data, information or processes
* Plagiarism /fraud
* Deception (providing false information)
* Impersonation / misrepresentation
* Violation of ethical standards regarding human or animal experiments including failure to obtain ethical approval
* Ghost writing
* Copyright violations

**Response to question 3:** We have no recorded cases of research misconduct, but are working consistently to improve our governance structures as outlined in the response to question 2 above.

**Question 4**: Please provide the number of instances of research misconduct before the signing of the 2012 Concordat to Support Research Integrity (3 years before) as well as the number of instances after signing.

**Response to question 4:** There were no instances of research misconduct at LSTM in the years 2011 – 2012 and we do not have data for the years preceding that.

**Question 5:** Please provide a full copy of any databases/spreadsheets from which information was extracted in response to this request.  In the event that these records contain columns that hold personal information covered by data protection provisions, please simply delete the offending columns and send the rest of the data without them.

**Response to question 5:** Not applicable, see answer to question 4**.**

**Question 6**: If your institution has not yet signed the concordat do you plan on signing it? If so when?

**Answer to question 6:** Please see above (answer to question 1).

Should you be dissatisfied with our response, please contact us within a reasonable time (within 2 months of this response) to library@lstmed.ac.uk.

If you remain dissatisfied, you may appeal this decision to the Information Commissioner. The contact details for the Information Commissioner are Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF, or via the website www.ico.gov.uk.

Should you require any further information or assistance in this matter, please don’t hesitate to contact me at the above address.

Yours sincerely,

Julia Martin

Head of Information Services