



Our University  
Our Future:  
Connected

# Enriching engagement with ethics review processes

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UNIVERSITY OF  
**BATH**

# AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CHANGE

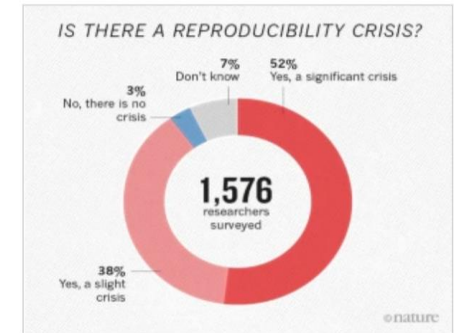
**Independent Review of Research Bureaucracy**  
Final report makes recommendations on cutting unnecessary bureaucracy in the research sector



**THE CONCORDAT TO SUPPORT RESEARCH INTEGRITY**



<b>2010</b> Bronze institutional Athena Swan Concordat to support the career development of researchers	<b>2011</b> HR in Excellence Award Open Access Mandate	<b>2012</b> Signed Manifesto for Public Engagement Concordat to Support Research Integrity	<b>2014</b> Research Data Policy	<b>2015</b> Promotion track for research staff	<b>2017</b> Principles of Research Assessment and Management Code of Good Practice in Research Integrity	<b>2019</b> Technician Commitment signed Concordat to Support Research Integrity renewed	<b>2020</b> Acknowledgment Guidelines for Technical Staff	<b>2021</b> KE Concordat action plan Silver institutional Athena Swan	<b>2022</b> Joined UK Reproducibility Network
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# PROBLEMS

Inefficient, slow,  
opaque limited  
future needs

Disengagement  
poor ethics literacy

Negative feedback  
poor comparative  
experience

# SOLUTION

New governance  
New process  
New digital system  
New team

# BENEFITS

Streamlined,  
effective,  
transparent &  
future-ready

Improved flow,  
decision-making &  
record keeping

Streamlined, good  
user & stakeholder  
experience

# What changed?

New University wide inter-disciplinary **Research Ethics Committees (RECs)**

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New **digital system** and **coordination of ethics review processes**

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**New central team** to provide guidance, training, advice on policies, processes and strategy

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Opportunities for **improved ethics literacy**: guidance, portal, open house, ownership of the system

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Anticipation of and response to **new challenges**: AI, social media, geo-politics, etc



## What stayed the same?

The requirement to uphold the **highest standards** of research integrity for all **research STAFF and STUDENTS**

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The requirement to seek **Committee-level review** for any application involving **humans, their data/tissue or animals**

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Compliance with external **regulatory frameworks**





**Academic Ethics & Integrity Committee**



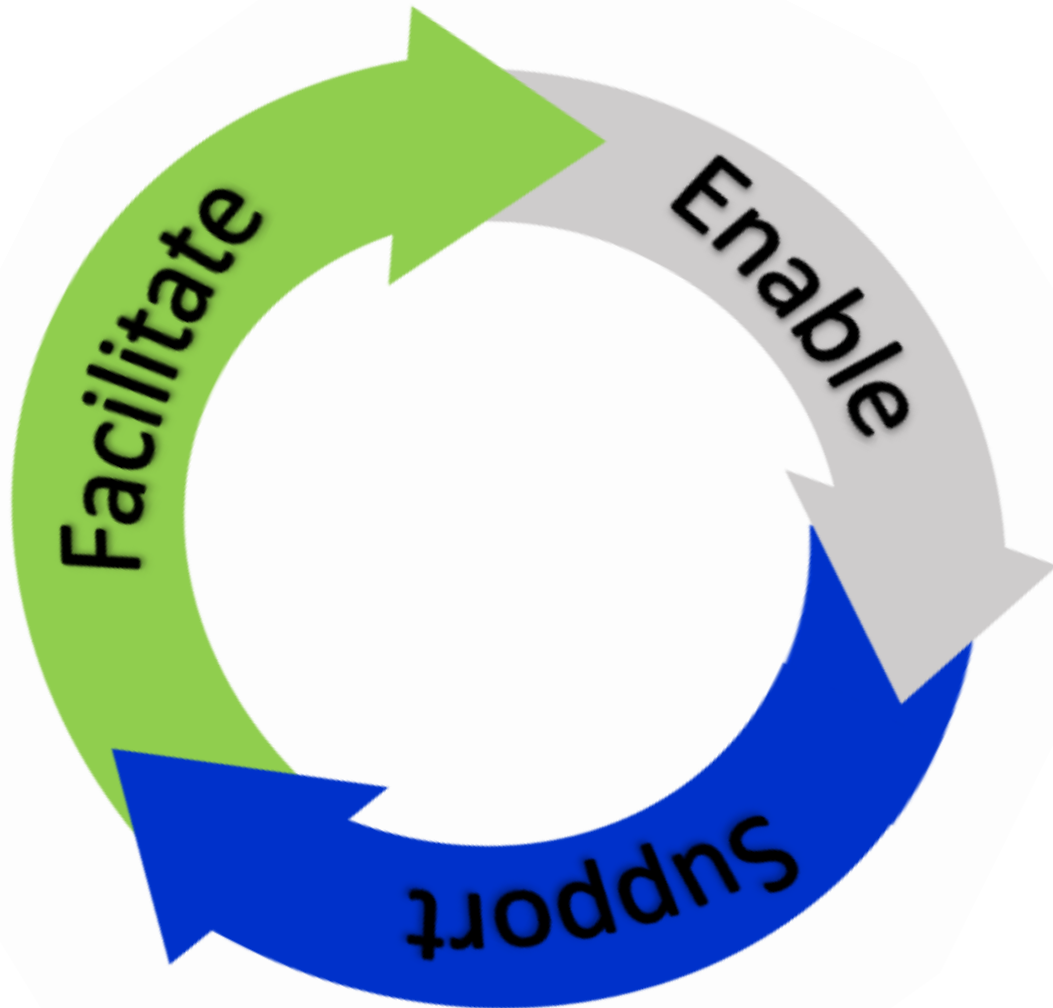
**5x Research Ethics Committees & Chairs**



**Departmental Research Ethics Officer**



**Research Governance and Compliance Team**



### **Ethics system**

- fully customisable
- smart forms
- comments/ guidance (literacy)

### **Practices**

- monitoring and evaluation
- ethics newsletter

### **Policies**

- in-system data (risk and new developments)



## Advice

in-system comments  
reviewer feedback

## Guidance

ethics portal  
website materials

## Training

open houses,  
inductions/on-request





## Assurance

monitoring and audit

## Compliance

in-system data

## Research integrity

Nagoya Protocol

export control

climate implications

trusted research

# Remit of Research Ethics Committees

## Animal

Licensable and  
non-licensable

## Biomedical

Human  
participation  
(excl NHS)

## Social Sciences

Human  
participation

# Remit of Research Ethics Committees

## Data & Digital

Social media  
Large data  
AI, machine learning  
etc

## External & Sponsorship

Review from  
somewhere else  
NHS, MoD (where UoB  
is a sponsor)

# BENEFITS OF NEW SYSTEM



- Smart forms
- Able to track status
- Able to access information
- Prompts and checklists
- Increased efficiency - saves time



- One file
- Can make comments on applications
- Record of applications reviewed
- Increased efficiency - saves time



- Robust system compliance
- Better standards
- Research culture
- Addressing gaps
- Demonstration of commitment
- Evaluation/monitoring
- Better use of staff time

# THANK YOU FOR LISTENING



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