

Research Integrity Funder Requirements Guidance Document: National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) – During Research

In addition to the below guidance, for existing grant holders, please also refer to the contract of your grant's terms and conditions for any additional or superseding potential requirements on these topics.

Bullying and harassment:

Please familiarise yourself with the policy: NIHR Policy on Bullying and Harassment V.0 12.02.2020 located here: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/nihr-policy-on-bullying-and-harassment/24041>

Of note it states: *"Expectations of organisations and individuals*
As a minimum standard, we expect all organisations in receipt of NIHR funding to have clear policies in place which detail their approach to bullying and harassment (including bullying and harassment via social media) and which ensure they are meeting the expectations set out within the Equality Act. These policies should be publicly available (e.g. published on their websites) and actively drawn to the attention of everyone within the organisation. Detailed procedures should be provided, including a named contact for anyone wishing to report a suspected incident, investigation protocols, and timeframes in which individuals can expect to have their concerns dealt with.

When expectations are not met

NIHR is not an employer so will not take responsibility for investigating claims of bullying and harassment. NIHR may, however, take action where it becomes apparent that organisations are consistently failing to comply with the Equality Act. It should be noted that the requirement for policies and procedures to be in place which ensure that organisations meet obligations under the Act is already a condition of NIHR funding for research and career development. NIHR plans to strengthen these conditions of contract in 2020."

Research Misconduct:

Please familiarise yourself with the policy located here: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/what-we-do/our-policies-and-guidelines/>

Of note it states: *"Research management and conduct*

The [UK Policy Framework for Health and Social Care Research](#) outlines the principles of good practice in the management and conduct of health and social care research in the UK. All NIHR-funded research must be completed in accordance with this framework. Any potential complaint relating to misconduct in research will be investigated and managed under the [UKRIO Code of Practice for Research.](#)"

The senior member of staff responsible for oversight of research integrity is Dr Mark Toal (Deputy Director of Research Systems at the Department of Health and Social Care; nihrpolicies@dhsc.gov.uk). The NIHR lead contact for research integrity is Quinton Newell (Director of Finance, Operation and Information Services at NIHR Central Commissioning Facility; quinton.newell@nihr.ac.uk)