

Annual Statement of Compliance with the Research Integrity Concordat for Financial Year 2022 – 2023

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This is the National Police Chiefs' Council's (NPCC) first statement of compliance with the UK Government's Research Integrity Concordat ('Concordat'). The Concordat, available in full [here](#), provides a framework for good research conduct and its governance. This statement describes the steps and actions taken by the NPCC to meet the Concordat's values.

Implementation of the Principles of the Concordat

The Government Chief Scientific Adviser (GCSA) and departmental Chief Scientific Advisers (CSA) have signed up to the principles of the Concordat for all scientific research undertaken within and for their areas of business. The Policing CSA, Professor Paul Taylor, is the senior member of staff responsible for ensuring research integrity for policing.

NPCC Point of Contact

Any parties wishing to raise concerns about the integrity of research conducted or commissioned by the NPCC are invited to contact, in the first instance, the Policing Chief Scientific Adviser at: openscience@npcc.police.uk

Introduction and Summary of Actions and Activities

The NPCC brings together the leadership of the police services of the United Kingdom to set direction in policing and drive progress for a better public service. As articulated in Pilar 4 of the [NPCC Strategic Plan 2021-2025](#), science and technology are integral to this mission. The first [NPCC Science and Technology Strategy](#) describes how we catalyse an inclusive, collaborative research community to undertake research that is ethical, transparent, and lawful. We recognise that Research Integrity is fundamental to the public trusting and having confidence in what we do.

Both synthetic and original research occurs in the 43 police forces of England and Wales, Police Scotland, PSNI, the National Crime Agency and the College of Policing. Each of these organisations operates independently, with research undertaken by internal staff and with collaborators in industry and academia. The protocols of our research are reviewed by force ethics committees and, where relevant, by specialist committees (e.g., for forensics and data science). The forces come together at regional and national science and technology boards (see below). The independent Police Science Council provides further assurance that our activities meet the principles of the Concordat.

The Office of the Police Chief Scientific Adviser (OPCSA) is a contributing member of the cross-government Concordat Working Group (CWG), which meets monthly to share best practice and discuss the practical steps of implementing the principles of the Concordat. An external facing website has been developed (awaiting formal launch) that will hold links to all CSA research integrity policies and contact details for the named person for receiving allegations of misconduct.

Supporting our Protocols and Culture

The [NPCC Science and Technology Strategy](#) sets the vision and mission in delivering an end-to-end science system. All stages of the system will exemplify core policing values, ensuring we are ethical, open, and transparent.

The strategy is supported by a network that comprises Research and Innovation Leads, known as RILs, in each force. RILs are responsible for understanding and coordinating research and innovation activity in their force. They act as a community to support one another's initiatives and work actively to ensure Research Integrity is central to project planning and delivery. The RIL network met at an annual Science and Technology Conference in March 2023. The regional leads of the RIL network meet every four months in the national science and technology board, where research and innovation culture is a standing item.






Open Science

The NPCC is committed to Open Science, supporting police forces in their efforts to make research findings and underpinning data freely available online in an accessible format. There are some circumstances where releasing the finding or data may need to be restricted or anonymised for reasons of commercial and/or personal sensitivities. These cases are considered on individual merit.

The NPCC pursues Open Science in three tiers:

1. CSA-led science that is funded or undertaken by the Office of the Policing Chief Scientific Adviser (OPCSA). We lead by example.
2. Force-led science that is funded by a force or force-based capability, this is subject to NPCC best practice principles and CSA support.
3. Collaborator-led science that is undertaken by academia, third sector or industry partners. This is shaped by wider community norms with the OCSA encouragement.

We pursue five Open Science pillars: open access, open data, open materials, pre-registration, and citizen science. We have commenced a programme of work, led by OPCSAs Head of Research Dr Carolyn Lovell, which is summarised in the following table.

	Tier		
	OPCSA S&T	Force S&T	Collaborative S&T
	Research published on www.science.police.uk Undertaking retrospective work on STAR to OA where possible Exemptions logged. Direct email provided. Established searchable database supporting FOI.	Variable across forces. Large-scale S&T trials typically published. Gathering outputs for a directory on www.science.police.uk Support in-house journals – e.g., Going equipped	UKRI and EU collaborations covered by existing agreements. Potential for gathering the MSc and PhD thesis outputs of officers (COP central repository)
	Ongoing. To be published on science.police.uk or via NCJL Crime data on https://data.police.uk	Operational data made available in <i>ad hoc</i> cases, e.g., as Impact Labs Core capabilities share some data.	UKRI and EU collaborations covered by existing agreements. ESRC-NPCC initiative to re-visit closed projects to address impact and visibility
	Ongoing. To be published on science.police.uk CoP What Works centre publishes a range of background materials	Good compliance in relation to protocols and code in key areas, such as forensics and evidence-based policing. Specialist community groups publish open materials	UKRI and EU collaborations covered by existing agreements. Regular bilateral sharing of materials for independent assessment (noting this is not OS)
	Utilisation of OSF Work needed to create a standard for pre-registration. Intent to build into force and national ethics committee standards. Intention to build into STAR research proposals	Public trials typically pre-registered Greater uptake required. Insufficient evaluative work recognised by the GoS crime prevention review.	Actively encourage pre-registration (some of our centres of excellence insist on it) Supporting relevant HEI initiatives Supporting Knowledge Transfer partnerships
	STAR funding reviewers were >200 scientists from Gov, Police, and academia. ARIs, SAC, UKRI conference series and science.police.uk promote engagement	National networks (e.g., innovation) ensure wide engagement. https://knowledgehub.group Established CSA event series and annual S&T conference	Range of collaborative conferences- e.g., SEBP Early work with social science disciplines where Open Science is less familiar

Publications of Research

As outlined above, OPCSA will share research outputs, publish case studies, and establish links across the science system via the www.science.police.uk website in accordance with the guidance. OPCSA funds costs associated with making a journal article Open Access.

We are committed to going beyond sharing research papers to providing accessible content for the public with varying levels of technical detail. This wider knowledge exchange reflects our desire to allow all who wish to do so to scrutinise our objectives, approach, findings, and conclusions.

Training and Awareness Raising

OPCSA has increased awareness of its work to meet the requirements of the Concordat internally, through discussions, teach-in sessions (e.g., for Chief Officers), inclusion of Research Integrity in national training, and by one-to-one mentorship of project leads.

A dedicated webpage has been established for open science/research integrity where the annual statements will be published, which will include the points of contact for reporting research misconduct.

All forces work closely with academia, both in terms of postgraduate study and joint research. OPCS promotes such activities as integral to organisational learning about research quality. Students are encouraged to publish their dissertations/thesis wherever possible. The College of Policing's [Research Map](#) captures these efforts and those of the wider community.

The UK Research and Integrity Office (UKRIO) also provides training workshops which we promote to support the policing network.

We aim over the forthcoming year to develop a professional framework to help officers and staff identify and access the development opportunities within the science system that supports them in undertaking reliable, reproducible, and transparent research, so that their research is trusted as meeting the highest standard of rigour.

Research Misconduct

No cases of research misconduct have been reported during financial year 2022 – 2023.