

17. LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

17.1 University requirements related to legal and regulatory compliance

17.1.1 It is a fundamental underpinning of good research practice that researchers operate within the law and regulation. The Concordat to Support Research Integrity makes clear that researchers are responsible for ensuring that they have up-to-date knowledge in this respect, whilst recognising that this landscape will change over time:

'Research is governed by a range of ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards. The frameworks that regulate research practice will change over time. Ethical concerns also change over time, and new legal obligations and professional standards will be introduced. All parties have a responsibility to ensure they have up-to-date knowledge of the frameworks, standards and obligations that apply to their work.'

17.1.2 The University requires all staff and students to make themselves aware of, and comply with, the law and regulation, and will support researchers in doing so. A failure to operate within the law and regulation may be considered as misconduct, and/or research misconduct, and/or be subject to criminal proceedings. Advice can be obtained via the Research Governance Manager.

17.2 Exemplars of key legislation

As the Concordat suggests, it is not possible, nor even sensible, to be prescriptive in relation to the many legal and regulatory frameworks, codes and standards that researchers are expected to comply with across different areas of research.

However, some key legislation and regulation for research is as follows:

- Legislation relating to children
- Clinical trials legislation
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Legislation and regulation relating to Dual Use research and Export Controls
- Equality Act 2010
- Freedom of Information Act 2000
- Legislation and regulation related to Genetically Modified Organisms
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- Human Tissue Act 2004
- Intellectual Property legislation
- The Mental Capacity Act 2005

- Radiation legislation
- Safeguarding/DBS requirements/Prevent Duty
- Legislation relating to animals and animal by-products
- Legislation relating to the environment
- The Nagoya Protocol (Access and Benefit Sharing regulation)

Further detail in relation to this legislation is outlined in [Annex 6](#).