

1 **Supplementary Information**

2

3 **Article S1: Study questionnaire with brief explanatory notes.**

4

5 **Initial statement**

6 The following introduction was given at the beginning of the questionnaire and a similar
7 introduction was provided to heads of departments and senior administration managers. By
8 continuing the survey consent was implied.

9

10 “Welcome to my survey looking at ethical behaviour in academic research. This survey is part
11 of a research project towards my MA in Higher Education, therefore your completing this
12 survey is very much appreciated. As the title suggests, the questionnaire is looking at the
13 ethical behaviour of those undertaking research in academia, specifically those that hold
14 academic positions. The questionnaire is completely anonymous and should take no more
15 than 3-4 minutes of your time.”

16

17 **Unmatched-count technique list of statements including one sensitive statement**

18 **(highlighted in italics) for each of the five sensitive statements under investigation; the**
19 **control lists being the same as the treatment minus the sensitive statement. Participants**
20 **were asked to provide a value between 0 and 7 for the control or 0 and 8 for the**
21 **treatment.**

22

23 1) How many of the following statements do you agree with/have done?

24

- I conduct research myself

25

- Last year I published fewer than 3 papers

- 26 • Last year I received funding from one of the UK Research Councils
- 27 • *I have plagiarised other peoples' work*
- 28 • My university provides training specifically on Ethics in Research
- 29 • Most of my research is lab-based
- 30 • I have attended a training session in research ethics
- 31 • Before submitting a grant proposal it has to be passed by an ethics committee

32

33 2) How many of the following statements do you agree with/have done?

- 34 • I have a senior admin role within the school/dept
- 35 • My admin role does not impact on my research
- 36 • I always get a colleague to independently read over my grant proposal
- 37 • I currently supervise fewer than 5 PhD students
- 38 • All our PhD students must have at least 2 supervisors
- 39 • UK Border Agency has not had a negative impact on postgraduate research
- 40 • *I have over-sold the results in a paper*
- 41 • As part of postgraduate research training all students are required to complete a course
- 42 on research ethics

43

44 3) How many of the following statements do you agree with/have done?

- 45 • I convene a postgraduate module
- 46 • I generally do not accept students who come to me with their own research projects
- 47 • *I have been a co-author on a paper when I have done little to warrant my inclusion*
- 48 • I feel like I have little time to undertake research
- 49 • The move by research councils to large consortium grants is a positive step
- 50 • I hold formal meetings with my research group at least every two weeks

- 51 • I do not find it difficult to juggle work/private life balance
- 52 • I subscribe to Times Higher Education
- 53
- 54 4) How many of the following statements do you agree with/have done?
- 55 • Most of my research students have come to work with me through contacts rather than
- 56 through a response to adverts
- 57 • I am happy with the level of funding the government puts into scientific research
- 58 through the Research Councils
- 59 • I do not believe it is becoming more difficult to get research papers accepted by peer-
- 60 reviewed journals
- 61 • I believe the loss of NERC's small grant rounds will have a negative impact on my
- 62 own research
- 63 • My research field sites are mainly outside the UK and EU
- 64 • I have at least one post doc in my research group
- 65 • *I have fabricated data and then published the results*
- 66 • I am worried that the Freedom of Information Act will impact my research
- 67
- 68 5) How many of the following statements do you agree with/have done?
- 69 • I am a member of the NERC review college
- 70 • I do not believe it is becoming more difficult to get research grants from UK Research
- 71 Councils
- 72 • I believe all research papers should be open-access
- 73 • I believe all data should be made available online within 6 months of a paper being
- 74 published
- 75 • I have been on a media training course

- 76 • *I have taken a research idea I heard at a meeting or conference and published it as my*
77 *own?*
- 78 • Young investigators require more funding opportunities from the UK Research
79 Councils
- 80 • I always try to include junior investigators on grant applications as co-PIs to help their
81 career

82

83 **Crosswise-model questions containing one non-sensitive question with a known**
84 **frequency (indicated in brackets after the question but not provided to the participants)**
85 **and one sensitive question.**

86

87 1) Please read the following two questions

88

89 Q1: Is your birthday in January, March or April? (0.247)

90 Q2: Have you ever plagiarised other peoples' work?

91

92 Now select your response

93 () My response is NO to both questions OR YES to both questions

94 () My response is YES to one of the question AND NO to the other

95

96 2) Answer the following two questions

97

98 Q1: Is your birthday in August, November or December? (0.249)

99 Q2: Have you ever over-sold the results in a paper?

100

101 Now select your response

102 My response is NO to both questions OR YES to both questions

103 My response is YES to one of the question AND NO to the other

104

105 3) Answer the following two questions

106

107 Q1: Is your birthday in January, April or September? (0.250)

108 Q2: Have you ever fabricated data and then published the results?

109

110 Now select your response

111 My response is NO to both questions OR YES to both questions

112 My response is YES to one of the question AND NO to the other

113

114 4) Answer the following two questions

115

116 Q1: Is your birthday in June, August or December? (0.252)

117 Q2: Have you ever been a co-author on a paper when you have done little to warrant

118 inclusion?

119

120 Now select your response

121 My response is NO to both questions OR YES to both questions

122 My response is YES to one of the question AND NO to the other

123

124 5) Answer the following two questions

125

126 Q1: Is your birthday in February, June or November? (0.241)

127 Q2: Have you ever taken a research idea you heard at a meeting or conference and published
128 it as your own?

129

130 Now select your response

131 () My response is NO to both questions OR YES to both questions

132 () My response is YES to one of the question AND NO to the other

133

134 **Questions asked in the study to gain and understanding of the participant's position**
135 **within academia, research and their engagement with research ethics.**

136

137 1. In what year were you born?

138 2. In which country did you do your first degree (e.g. BSc)? (selected from a list of
139 countries)

140 3. What is your current position? (selected from Post doc/Research Fellow, Lecturer,
141 Senior Lecturer, Reader, or Professor)

142 4. In which year did you publish your first peer-reviewed paper?

143 5. How many papers do you publish each year? (selected from 2 or less, 3-5, 6-9, 10-14,
144 15 or more)

145 6. Does most of your funding come from UK Research Councils? (selected from yes or
146 no)

147 7. Does your university or institute provides training specifically on Ethics in Research?
148 (selected from yes, no or don't know)

149 8. Have you attended a training session on research ethics? (selected from yes or no)

150 9. Before submitting a grant proposal are you required to have it be passed by an ethics
151 committee? (selected from yes or no)

152

153 **Direct questions.**

154

155 Have you ever... (select all that apply)

156

157 • plagiarised other peoples' work?

158 • over-sold the results of a paper?

159 • fabricated data and then published the results?

160 • been a co-author on a paper when you have done little to warrant inclusion?

161 • taken a research idea you heard at a meeting or conference and published it as your
162 own?

163