2. THE UNIVERSITY’S RESEARCH ETHICS AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES

2.1. Institutional Arrangements for Research Ethics and Governance

At institutional level, Research Policy Committee has overarching responsibility for managing the University’s research ethics and governance arrangements. The Research Policy Committee is a Committee of Court and Senate and reports to the University’s senior management group and Operating Board and Court. The Research Policy Committee provides overarching guidance on the scope and operation of research governance responsibilities across the University to ensure rigour and consistency in its research governance and ethical review arrangements.

The wider remit of the Research Policy Committee includes the following:

(i) To develop and maintain institutional policy and guidance on research governance and ethical issues, and promote best practice across the University;

(ii) To have oversight of all research-related ethical issues within the University and to ensure that appropriate structures are in place to encourage best practice;

(iii) To receive regular reports from each Research Ethics Board/Committee relating to ethical performance within Schools and any key issues relating to research governance;

(iv) To maintain an interaction with the National Research Ethics Service (NRES) Committee North of Scotland (formerly the NHS Grampian Research Ethics Committee);

The Committee will monitor the University’s research governance and ethical performance regularly to ensure that it remains consistent with the requirements of the various funding bodies, and will promote best practice across the institution. It will also co-ordinate the annual return of the Research Council UK (RCUK) Research Conduct Survey.

The Committee will also consider ethical questions of principle and difficult cases, and provide policy and quality assurance guidance, or delegate such consideration to a sub-group. Any serious research-related ethical concern that is not covered by the remit of local ethical review groups / arrangements should be referred to the Committee.

The full remit and composition of the Research Policy Committee is available here [link]