

## 2. THE UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH ETHICS AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES

### 2.1 Institutional Arrangements for Research Ethics and Governance

At an institutional level, Research Policy Committee has overarching responsibility for managing the University's research ethics and governance arrangements. The Research Policy Committee is a Joint Committee of Court and Senate (and formally reports to them) and is an advisory committee to the University's Senior Management Team (SMT). 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 North of Scotland Research Ethics Service, through the partnership with NHS Grampian (NoSRES) (formerly the NHS Grampian Research Ethics Committee).

The Committee monitors the University's research governance and ethical performance regularly to ensure that it remains consistent with the requirements of the various funding bodies and promotes best practice across the institution. It also co-ordinates the annual reporting of the University's research governance and conduct activities via the Annual Research Governance Statement.

The Committee also considers ethical questions of principle and difficult cases, and provides policy and quality assurance guidance, or delegates 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.

Please see here for the full remit and composition of the [Research Policy Committee](#).

### 2.2 Research Governance Statement

The University publishes an [annual statement](#) on the actions undertaken to sustain and further enhance integrity in its research. This statement is presented to the University Court and includes information on activities taken to strengthen the University's research governance arrangements.