

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

ETHICS ADVISORY GROUP

REMIT & MEMBERSHIP 2024/25

Ethics Advisory Group

The Ethics Advisory Group exists to further the overall aims of the institution's ethics and governance policies and processes, to oversee the activities of individual ethics review boards ensuring the highest ethical standards in research practice; to protecting the safety, dignity, welfare and wellbeing of research participants; to protect researchers from harm and unjust criticism; to take account of legitimate interests of individuals, groups and communities in our research as they relate to ethics and governance; and to provide reassurance to the public of the integrity of our research.

Remit:

- Oversight of institutional ethics and governance processes and activities of review boards, including their establishment
- Share best practice in the ethical review process and associated activities (including technical aspects of the review process)
- Oversight of School Ethics Healthchecks and development of improvement and/or successor exercise
- Oversight of development of institutional ethics processes and implementation of online approval systems
- Arbiter in cases where review boards fail to reach a decision on individual ethics applications
- Monitoring external policy landscapes and good practice elsewhere
- Reporting emerging policy issues to University Research Committee (URC)
- Receiving reports on ethics and integrity training from Schools/Postgraduate Research School; review and provide feedback on training offered by the University of Aberdeen
- Develop an appeals process and consider appeals against decisions taken by ethics boards
- Development of auditing/monitoring processes of projects that have received ethical approval; develop Terms of Reference and set up Ethics Audit and Monitoring Group
- Consideration of reports from Ethics Audit & Monitoring Group
- Reporting to URC quarterly (or as required)
- Any other activities/tasks related to ethics and governance as directed by the Vice Principal Research

Frequency of meetings:

Quarterly

Chair: Dean for Knowledge and Understanding (Professor Nir Oren)

Members: Chair of Arts & Social Sciences Ethics Review Board (Dr Liz Curtis)
Chair of Medicine & Medical Sciences Ethics Review Board (Professor Gareth Jones)
Chair of Rowett Ethical Review Board (Professor Alex Johnstone)
Chair of Psychology Ethics Review Board (Dr Rama Chakravarthi)
Chair of Biological Sciences Ethics Review Board (Dr Thomas Bodey)
Chair of Physical Sciences & Engineering Ethics Review Board (Professor Maria Kashtalyan)
Chair of AFG College Research Ethics Committee, Qatar Campus (Dr Alessandro Ala)
Lay member (Mr Nick Cargill)

In attendance: (Vacancy), Research Policy and REF Manager
Mr Dean Phillips Assistant Director (Relationship Management), DDIS
Miss Louise King, Research Governance Manager, Foresterhill
Dr Mark Williamson, Research Ethics & Compliance Officer
Mrs Dawn Foster, Research Policy & Governance Officer (Clerk)