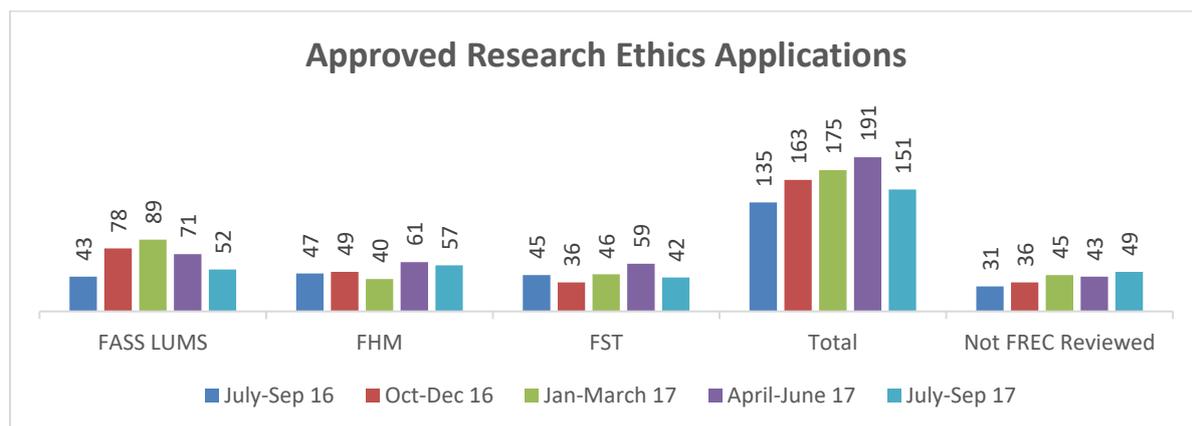


Research Integrity Report 2016/17

An on-going culture of research integrity across the university has been supported during 2016-17 by: (i) training sessions provided by Research Services for researchers with the university's Organisational and Educational Development unit; (ii) for the Library's 'Research Bites' series; and (iii) [via a Research Integrity Moodle](#). One-to-one training for ethical reviewers was also provided as well as an away day for some Faculty Research Ethics Committees (FRECs) to discuss relevant issues and FREC surveys to gather feedback on processes from university researchers. Ethical considerations continue to be an embedded part of some post-graduate researcher training, and is promoted via guidance on central and faculty webpages.

A devolved Faculty Research Ethics Committee (FREC) structure was introduced in July 2016 and has been successfully running for a full academic year, with FRECs reporting to the University Research Ethics Committee (UREC). The FRECs are supported by an academic Chair, academic reviewers from within the appropriate faculty and the Research Services Integrity, Ethics and Governance team. The FREC structure has enabled faster processing of ethical approval applications. The total number of FREC approved applications is shown in the graph below. Figures are also included for those funded projects which are identified by the researcher as not needing ethical review via the ACP costing tool governance checklist.



Further improvements to research ethics processes will be brought in by the end of 2017/18 as a digital review system will be developed and introduced. This will bring further efficiencies to applicants, reviewers and administrators, allowing the Research Services Integrity, Ethics and Governance team to further improve training, guidance and compliance monitoring.

Four research misconduct complaints were raised in 2016/17. Three of these were dismissed by the investigation panels and one was upheld with mitigating circumstances. The university's research misconduct process was amended in 2016/17 to widen the pool for constituting misconduct investigation panels; Research Services will further update the process during 2017/18.

Academic Year	Formal Complaint Raised	Investigation Completed	Allegations Upheld (whole or in part)
2012-13	1	1	0
2013-14	0	0	0
2014-15	0	0	0
2015-16	1	1	0
2016-17	4	3*	1

*The fourth complaint was reviewed by an investigation panel but deemed to not be research misconduct, and this decision was supported by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Enterprise.