

Forum for Tackling Bullying and Harassment in Research and Innovation (FTBH) Summary and Attendees Seventh Meeting (FTBH Min 07) July 2022

Agreement of minutes

The minutes were agreed by the Forum in October 2022.

Summary points for publication / wider communication

Item 1 Members and guests were welcomed to the meeting by the Deputy Chair who outlined the aims of the session and asked the members to consider during the discussions how the Forum continues to develop its position as a collective leadership group for tackling and preventing bullying and harassment the research and innovation system.

Item 2 Minutes of the 6th meeting were agreed.

Item 3 Sharing data in harassment cases was identified as a key challenge for universities by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) in their inquiry into racial harassment in higher education in 2019. Responding to this, Universities UK were tasked by the EHRC with working with the sector, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and data protection officers (DPOs) to develop sector guidance to increase understanding around when it is appropriate to share personal data when managing harassment complaints.

The resulting output was presented by representatives from Universities UK and Coventry University in the form of guidance (strategic and practical guides) that were developed for universities on sharing personal data in harassment cases. [Find the guidance here]. The Forum discussed the use of the guidance in practice and within their organisations.

Item 4 The Working Group convened to review the Forum's Terms of Reference and develop proposals for future ways of working shared recommendations for changes to the Forum Terms of Reference. These were agreed in principle and will be adopted at the next meeting in October.

Item 5 The Principles Working Group shared a proposal to deliver a set of guidance/principles on facilitating and enacting healthy research cultures to prevent bullying and harassment. The Forum welcomed the proposal and recommended the Working Group organises a workshop session with the Forum at its meeting in October to progress this work.

Item 6 Updates from members relating to any current activities, campaigns, work, or issues to raise.

Attendance

The seventh meeting of the FTBH was attended by the following organisations

Universities and Colleges Employers Association

Wellcome
Office for Students
National Science Foundation
Royal Society
National Institute for Health Research
Universities UK
Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy
British Heart Foundation
UKRI - Strategy
Royal Society of Chemistry
Leverhulme Trust