

Balancing Accountability and Simplification



Promoting Good Research Conduct

Dr Ian Carter

Director of Research and Enterprise

Accountability Workshop, Brussels

22 June 2011

Agenda

- Standards of practice
- Thoughts on promoting good practice
- A short test

The good, the bad, and the ugly

- What proportion of research conduct is good, bad or indifferent?
 - Fanelli (2009): 2% admitted FFP
- What does this mean more generally?
 - <5% bad
 - <5% bad \neq 95% good
 - 34% admitted questionable research practices
- Reduce, identify and deal with the bad
- Reduce questionable research practices

Methods of Promoting Good Practice (1)

- Guidance, in various forms
 - Policy
 - Project design templates
 - “How to” guides
- Embedding good practice checks in processes
 - Internal review mechanisms
 - Appraisal
- Cultural approaches
 - Role models
 - Leading from the top
- Training
 - When should it be mandatory?

Methods of Promoting Good Practice (2)

- Audit
 - Ensuring it is a constructive process
- Performance indicators
 - What KPIs promote good practice?
 - Use of balanced scorecard?
 - Visibility of the metrics: institution, school, department; internally and externally?
- Control measures
 - Complex rules begat avoidance / evasion
 - Generates overhead cost

- Are there some common, agreed standards of good practice?
 - At a practical level
 - Variations between subject areas
- What can funders along with institutions do to highlight and promote good practice as part of their assurance and communication processes?

Who is Whom?

- Scene from a location near Swindon
- Watch the [video](#), and decide:
 - Who is the researcher
 - Who is the funder
 - Who is the institution
 - Who / where is the IRB

Questions and Discussion