



Confidential

9 June 2020

Mr Rory Robertson

Via email: strathburnstation@gmail.com

Dear Mr Robertson

I refer to my correspondence of 28 April 2020 in which I advised that I would be in contact once I had a response from the University of Sydney (the University). I have since received an update from the University, advising that their review is complete and that you have been notified of the outcome.

In light of this development, I have decided to accept your request for an ARIC review and I am now seeking confirmation of a number of matters.

Decision to proceed

If you are satisfied with the outcome of the University's review and have decided that you no longer wish to proceed with your request for an ARIC review, please let us know. Otherwise we will proceed with your request as set out below.

Basis for review

The [Australia Research Integrity Committee \(ARIC\) Framework](#) allows ARIC to undertake reviews of institutional processes used to manage and investigate potential breaches of the [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#) (the Code). ARIC's focus is accordingly on the rigour and fairness of the process that has been implemented, rather than the merit of the allegations themselves.

To ensure that ARIC is clear on the grounds for your request, we have sought to summarise the procedural aspects of your complaint, as outlined in your emails to ARIC dated 10 and 31 March 2020. ARIC asks that you read the following summary and confirm whether this adequately describes your allegations:

- you have not been treated fairly by the University
- the investigator and decision makers involved in the initial inquiry (Professors Ivison and Garton) were not impartial in that they did not honestly assess the evidence provided
- the University hid evidence, then fabricated evidence and dishonestly contrived a false finding in order to exonerate Professor Stephen Simpson of serious research misconduct
- Professor David Sinclair's authorship was not genuine and these concerns were not addressed or recklessly dismissed by the University
- the University has not produced a robust preliminary assessment able to withstand scrutiny



- the preliminary assessment was not timely, effective and in accord with procedural fairness
- there has been institutional delay and/or inaction from the time that the University commenced action after receiving notification of the complaint to the completion of the review.

It would assist us if you could keep any additions or changes to this summary brief and confine them to describing how the institution has not observed procedural fairness in accordance with the Code, [Guide to Managing and Investigating Potential Breaches of the Code](#) and/or with institutional policy and procedures. In doing so, please refer to relevant sections the Code and other policies where applicable.

I would be grateful for your response to the above matters by **23 June 2020**. ARIC will then contact the University on the basis of your response, unless you have indicated that you do not wish to proceed with the request.

Please note that ARIC is an advisory committee to the NHMRC CEO and as such any advice you receive on the outcome of this review will be at NHMRC's discretion.

If you have any questions, please email aric@nhmrc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Patricia Kelly'.

Patricia Kelly PSM
Chair, Australian Research Integrity Committee