

RVC Statement on the Principles of Research Assessment and Management, including Responsible Use of Research Metrics

The Royal Veterinary College undertakes research assessment at a variety of different levels, from the institution to the individual. The College wishes to promote good practice in this area, in keeping with the Leiden Manifesto¹ on research metrics and related guidance issued by funding bodies such as UKRI and the Wellcome Trust. As such, RVC commits to abide by the following principles and practices:

1. The College will use expert judgement based on peer review, rather than relying on journal-based metrics, such as Journal Impact Factors or Hirsch (*h*-)indices, in funding, appointment and promotion considerations.
2. The College will assess research on its own merits. This assessment will not be confined to journal-based publications but will consider a range of research outputs – such as data-sets, reagents and software; know-how and patents; and mentoring of highly trained early career scientists – alongside research articles and other published works.
3. Expert judgement of research may be informed by a range of different quantitative indicators chosen according to the particular context and purpose of the assessment. These indicators will be underpinned by reliable data from an identifiable source(s) and made available on request to those being assessed. The use of these indicators will be appropriate to the scale at which the assessment takes place, e.g. department, research group or individual researcher.
4. The College recognises the value of data sharing and other open science practices, e.g. use of researcher identifiers such as ORCID. The RVC encourages the transparent reporting of all research, including negative results. In regard to research data, RVC supports the FAIR² (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Re-usable) principles of data sharing and stewardship. In furtherance of transparency, researchers at RVC are encouraged whenever possible to publish their research protocols, data analysis plans, data, software code and materials.
5. All members of staff involved in research assessment agree to abide by the College's guidelines on Good Research Practice (Research Integrity), available on the RVC Intranet; and the principles set out in its Equality and Diversity Policy (see: <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/Media/Default/About/Human%20Resources/Documents/Equal%20opportunities%20Policy-1.pdf>).

Owner: Research Strategy Committee

Approved by: Academic Board

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¹ Hicks, D., Wouters, P., Waltman, I., de Rijcke, S. and Rafols, I. (2015). "Bibliometrics: The Leiden Manifesto for research metrics". *Nature* 520, 429-431. doi:10.1038/520429a <https://www.nature.com/news/bibliometrics-the-leiden-manifesto-for-research-metrics-1.17351>

² Wilkinson M.D., Dumontier I.J., Aalbersberg G., Appleton M., Axton A., Baak N., et al. (2016). "The FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship". *Sci. Data* 3923(1):160018. doi:10.1038/sdata.2016.18. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/sdata.2016.18>