We apologise for the delay in providing information about the Australian Research Integrity Committee (ARIC) for the UK House of Commons Select Committee inquiry into research integrity. Due to other demands, we have not been able to prepare a full submission; however, we have provided a response below to the specific questions that you outlined in your email of 5 March 2018.

- **What the legal basis of the framework is for ARIC - if any**

The Australian Research Integrity Committee (ARIC) was jointly established by the Australian Research Council (ARC), in consultation with its Minister, and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). The ARIC framework document ([http://www.arc.gov.au/sites/default/files/filedepot/Public/Policy%20&%20Strategy/ARIC/ARIC_Framework_17Aug15.pdf](http://www.arc.gov.au/sites/default/files/filedepot/Public/Policy%20&%20Strategy/ARIC/ARIC_Framework_17Aug15.pdf)) is not a part of any act of parliament and is not a legislative instrument.

The ARIC operates as:

- ARIC-NHMRC, established under s39 of the *National Health and Medical Research Council Act 1992*.
- ARIC-ARC, established by the executive powers of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the ARC under section 33Bb of the *Australian Research Council Act 2001*.

ARC funding agreements require administering organisations for ARC-funded projects ‘to provide to the Australian Research Integrity Committee (ARIC) upon request, any documentation and information concerning allegations of its mishandling of internal reviews into alleged cases of research misconduct, and/or non-compliance with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2007)’([http://www.arc.gov.au/discovery-program-funding-agreements](http://www.arc.gov.au/discovery-program-funding-agreements)).

- **Whether there has been any assessment of the success of this model**

ARIC commenced operation in 2011. No formal review or assessment of the success of ARIC has been undertaken.

The ARIC Framework will be updated in 2018-19 to align with the revised *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research* and the accompanying *Guide to managing and investigating potential breaches of the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research*, both of which are yet to be released. At this stage both documents are scheduled to be made public prior to the end of June 2018.

- **What the views of the Australian research community are on this model**

The views of key stakeholders in the Australian research sector informed the establishment of ARIC and its framework—ARIC was established to ensure in that research integrity issues within Australia are investigated fairly and without bias, and on that basis stakeholders have been broadly supportive of its role and cooperative in complying with its remit.

The recent call by some researchers within Australia for the establishment of a fully independent research integrity investigative body has not been a direct criticism of ARIC itself, but more of a request for Government to consider whether a more independent investigative process than is currently in place should be established (ARIC was not established to replace institutional investigations. Research institutions maintain their autonomy and are responsible for investigating allegations of research misconduct in the first instance).
In relation to ARIC and the way in which it has been designed to operate, further consultation will be undertaken as part of any process to review and update the framework to ensure ARIC’s compatibility with the revised *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research* and the accompanying *Guide to managing and investigating potential breaches of the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research*.

*April 2018*