



Department for the
Economy

FAO Chair of the Concordat Strategy Group

3rd September 2019

Letter of Commitment to the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers

I, Trevor Cooper, Director of Higher Education Division, on behalf of the Department for the Economy, Northern Ireland (DfENI), confirm our commitment to the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers.

DfENI fully supports the Principles of this revised Concordat and we intend to uphold our obligations and responsibilities as a signatory. We recognise the key role that Researchers play in helping deliver the Industrial Strategy of Northern Ireland through both the skills pipeline and new research development. We particularly welcome the strengthening of Concordat's Principles, and clarity over those responsible for supporting academic research careers. At the institutional level we expect that this will help our universities to develop the governance and implementation of ways of working which will demonstrate commitment to academic research careers. In turn, we look forward to our own reinforced role supporting the ongoing work across the sector as a whole across the UK.

As a member of the Concordat Strategy Group, we will continue to work collectively and engage with initiatives to address systemic challenges in progressing towards a UK research system where researchers work in healthy and supportive environments. We agree that researchers should be recognised and valued for their contributions in research and beyond, supported in their professional and career development, and equipped and empowered to succeed in their chosen careers.

Yours sincerely,

Trevor Cooper

Director of Higher Education

Department for the Economy, Northern Ireland