



31 January 2020

FAO Chair of the Concordat Strategy Group

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

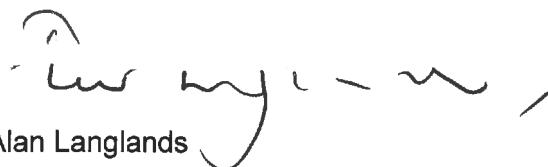
I, Sir Alan Langlands, Vice-Chancellor, on behalf of the University of Leeds, confirm our commitment to the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers.

The University of Leeds fully supports the Principles of this revised Concordat and we intend to uphold our obligations and responsibilities as a signatory.

The University of Leeds has a sustained institutional commitment to provide an excellent working environment, which enables our research staff to fulfil their potential. Our ongoing work to embed the principles of the Concordat has been recognised by our retention of the HR Excellence in Research Award at the eight-year external review. We have an ambitious action plan, developed in partnership with our researchers, which aims to have a positive impact on both our research staff and the institution. To demonstrate the importance we put on personal, professional and career development, we have implemented the recommendation of 10 days per annum of protected time for development in our research staff contracts, making Leeds one of the few institutions that have formalised this beyond a mere recommendation.

We agree 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 commit to ensuring that researchers are 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 faithfully



Alan Langlands