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Our ref: [epsrc_smc_01_2015](#) - SALi
Your ref:

Dear Dr Courtney,

I write further to our request to the University of Manchester to re-examine their investigation of your allegations concerning the PedSALi project, and to the University's response to that request as set out in a letter to me dated 9th September from Prof. Luke Georgiou, Vice-President for Research and Innovation at the University, which was copied to you on 10th September.

We take allegations such as yours very seriously; our policy is described in RCUK Policy and Code of Conduct on the Governance of Good Research Conduct, and we subscribe to the UUK Concordat to support research integrity - the comprehensive national framework for good research conduct and its governance. However, it is important to note that we, as a research funder, have no direct jurisdiction in disputes between Research Organisations and their employees or their research collaborators.

We have carefully considered the University's response; in particular we note that the investigation panel member nominated by the UK Research Integrity Office has confirmed that in his independent opinion the investigation was properly conducted.

In the circumstances we do not feel that it is now appropriate to continue to press the University to further investigate your allegations – to do so would be to call into question the impartiality and integrity of the independent panel member, for which there is no evidence or justification.

As a result, and having sought independent legal advice in relation to our decision, we have decided to accept the University's response as final. I fully appreciate that you may be disappointed by our decision, but I regret that we must now consider this case closed.

Yours sincerely,



Ben Ryan
Senior Manager, Research Outcomes

