

STRICTLY PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Professor George Banting
Dean of Biomedical Sciences

Professor Nishan Canagarajah
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise)
Vice-Chancellor's Office
Beacon House
Queens Road
Bristol BS8 1QU, UK
T +44 (0)117 42 83176
pvc-research@bristol.ac.uk
www.bristol.ac.uk

11th July 2018

Dear George

Research Misconduct Investigation – Dr Abderrahmane Kaidi

Thank you for taking part in this investigation and for supporting the individuals involved while the enquiry was in progress.

I have now received the panel's confidential report of the investigation setting out their findings and recommendations. I have accepted a finding in relation to Dr Kaidi of serious research misconduct by way of fabrication of research data. This finding will be referred to HR to be considered under the staff conduct procedures alongside the existing investigation into his behaviour towards members of his research group.

The panel recommended that further investigations be carried out into Dr Kaidi's published research and grant applications as a member of the University of Bristol. At this stage I am inclined to the view that there is sufficient evidence to justify staff conduct procedures without a further investigation into Dr Kaidi's published research. As for his grant applications, it is my understanding that at the time of the report, none had been successful. I do not consider it necessary to investigate any unsuccessful grant applications. However, you have recently brought to my attention that concerns have been raised about a more recent (and successful) application for grant funding and these concerns will be followed up.

In view of issues raised during the interviews with members of the research group, the panel recommended a Finance Office audit of Dr Kaidi's grant funding records to ensure that there has been compliance with grant funding requirements and University financial regulations. I have accepted this recommendation.

I have written to Dr Kaidi to inform him of the outcome of the investigation. I will also be contacting his research funders, previous academic institutions and his collaborator in Germany.

During the investigation, further allegations were made about Dr Kaidi's published research in the prestigious journals *Science* and *Nature* while at the Gurdon Institute, Cambridge University. These allegations have not been put to Dr Kaidi as part of the investigation, but I am satisfied that there is sufficient evidence to justify informing Cambridge of the allegations so that they can be investigated by Cambridge. I also consider that there is sufficient evidence of irregularities in the *Science* and *Nature* papers to warrant notifying the journal editors and will make it clear to Cambridge that if they do not confirm their intention to contact the editors by a specified deadline, I will do so on behalf of the University of Bristol.

I will be writing to the members of the research group with brief information about the outcome of the investigation and to thank them for their participation.

Finally, the panel raised several concerns with me about the handling of this matter within the School and Faculty prior to the research group's decision to report the issues formally. These concerns are set out in a letter from the Chair of the panel, which I will send to you separately.

I am happy for you to share the contents of this letter with the Head of School.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Canagarajah', with a horizontal line underneath.

Professor Nishan Canagarajah
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise)