FAO Chair of the Concordat Strategy Group

25 June 2025

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

I, Helen Donnellan, Director of Research Business and Innovation,on behalf of De Montfort University, Leicester, confirm our commitment to the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers.

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

De Montfort currently holds the HR Excellence in Research Award (HREiR) and so we fully commit to the principles of this Concordat. We have an action plan in place to both support best practice in researcher development and also to make improvements where needed.

We have a diverse researcher community at De Montfort, many of whom as Early Career Researchers are at a pivotal point in their academic careers, making this Concordat particularly important to our institution. However we have an extensive range of training and development opportunities as well as policies and practices in place to support colleagues at all career stages to be successful in their chosen fields. This Concordat not only confirms and reinforces our current commitment to researcher career development, it also provides a framework for the future.

Our work has already been recognised through the HREiR award and so being a signatory to this Concordat is a natural extension to this.

As a signatory, 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 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,



Helen Donnellan

Director of Research Business and Innovation

De Montfort University Leicester