

Transparency in Ethical Research

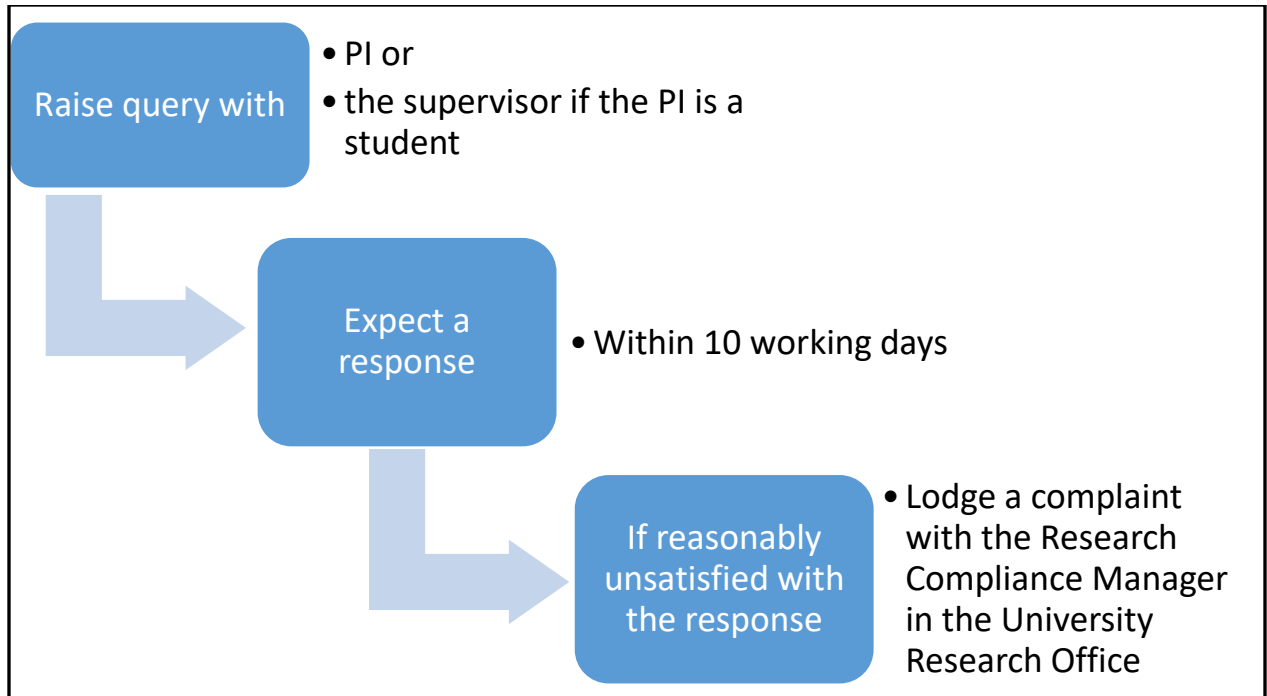
It is important that the research conducted at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg / Wits University (“University”) by the University’s academics and / or students or by other researchers who have received ethics clearance from the University, is seen to be ethical. The standards of ethical research are provided by the Wits Research Integrity Policy which is based on National law and international standards and principles.

In this context anyone should be able to feel free to raise queries so as to improve their understanding about the nature of research they observe or participate in. Based on these queries, complaints can also be lodged with the University’s Research Ethics Committees and / or Research Compliance Manager in order to expose research that is believed to be allegedly unethical. The following text below describes the procedures to (i) raise a query about the ethics of a research project; and (ii) to lodge a formal complaint concerning the ethics of a research project that is undertaken by Wits researches in which has received ethics clearance from the University.

It is important to note that these matters need to be confined to the ethics of observed research. These processes should not be used to disrupt or delay research for reasons not related to ethical concerns and / or complaints.

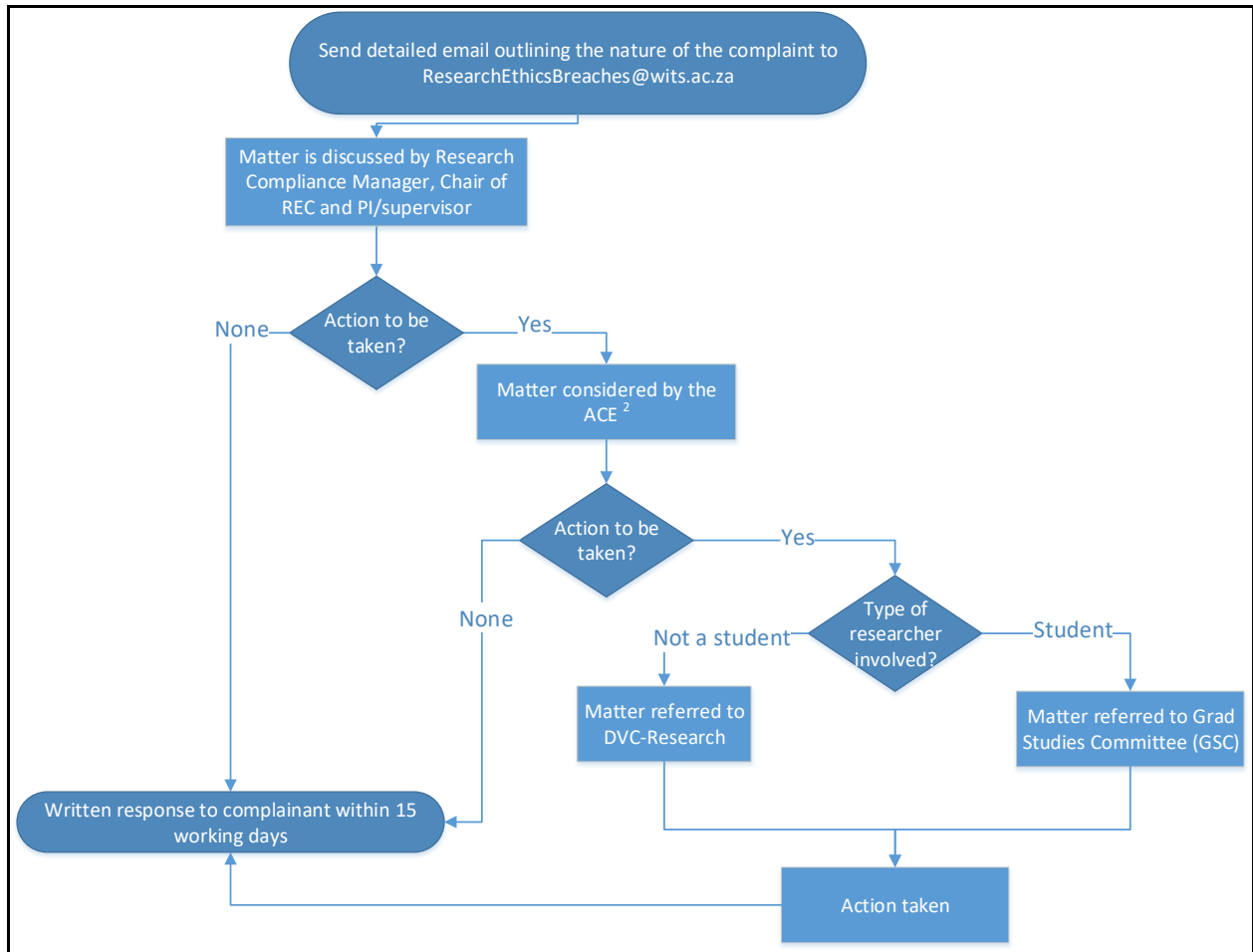
i. Raise a Query

Anyone will be able out of their own free will raise legitimate reasonable queries about the nature of the research with the lead researcher (called the “Principal Investigator” / “PI”) or the supervisor if the PI is a research student. The contact details of the researcher / PI will be on the information sheet that the participant would have received prior to participation.



ii. Lodge a Complaint

Having made a query, it could be appropriate to lodge a formal, written complaint about research that is perceived to be unethical. The flow diagram below explains how the complaint will be administered.



Important Contact details:

1. Email Queries and /or complaints to ResearchEthicsBreaches@wits.ac.za; and / or
2. University Research Compliance Manager, Ms Eleni Flack-Davison, Eleni.Flack-Davison@wits.ac.za, 011 717 1328.
3. Director: Research Development, Dr. Robin Drennan, Robin.Drennan@wits.ac.za
4. HREC Non-Medical Chair – Prof. Jasper Knight, Jasper.Knight@wits.ac.za
5. HREC Medical Chair – Dr. Clement Penny, Clement.Penny@wits.ac.za
6. AREC Chair – Prof. Frederic Michel, Frederic.Michel@wits.ac.za
7. IBC –Chair – Prof. James Larkin, James.Larkin@wits.ac.za

*ACE stands for University Advisory Committee to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Innovation

*REC stands for Research Ethics Committee