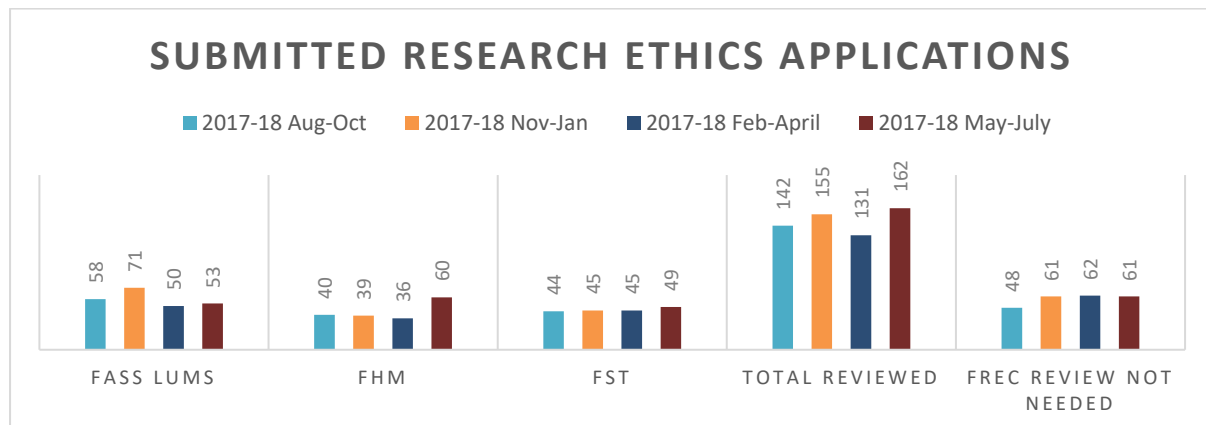


## Research Integrity Report 2017/18

During 2017-18 the university has continued to develop its culture of high research integrity; this has been monitored during the year by the university’s response to the Science and Technology Committee inquiry into research integrity and by a ‘moderate’ rating in the Research Councils UK Funding Assurance visit and report. Training and guidance has continued to be delivered during the year to staff and postgraduate researchers with a focus on data protection so that the research community can comply with new regulations, the EU General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018.

The devolved Faculty Research Ethics Committee (FREC) structure, introduced in July 2016, has continued to provide a timely review of ethical applications overseen by the University Research Ethics Committee. The FRECs are supported by an academic Chair and Deputy, a range of academic reviewers and Research Services. There has also been significant support from the university’s Governance Services team with regards to the changes in data protection law. The total number of FREC applications is shown in the graph below. Figures are also included for those funded projects which are identified by the researcher as not needing ethical review via the ACP costing tool governance checklist.



During 2017/18 the process of ethical review was mapped to develop a digital review system. This involved discussion with other institutions and as a result a new process for self-review was developed which will be launched with the system in 2018/19. Self-review will allow applicants to identify projects that are deemed by the university as minimal risk and therefore do not need an FREC review. An audit of applications that are reviewed in this way will be undertaken each year.

One research misconduct complaint was raised in 2017/18: an informal review was held but the complaint was dismissed. The university’s research misconduct process will be further updated in 2018/19 following an update to widen the pool for constituting misconduct investigation panels.

Academic Year	Formal Complaint Raised	Investigation Completed	Allegations Upheld (whole or in part)
2012-13	1	1	0
2013-14	0	0	0
2014-15	0	0	0
2015-16	1	1	0
2016-17	4	3	1
2017-18	1	0	0