Frequently-Asked Questions on Professor Stephan Lewandowsky’s Climate Change Research. (Updated 23/9/15)

Because of the repetitive nature of questions relating to Professor Lewandowsky’s research, the University has prepared the following FAQ to address the more common enquiries.

1. Did Professor Lewandowsky have human research ethics approval for conducting the research which gave rise to the paper “NASA faked the moon landing—therefore (climate) science is a hoax: An anatomy of the motivated rejection of science” Psychological Science, 24, 622-633 Lewandowsky, S., Oberauer, K., & Gignac, G. E. (2013) ?

Yes he did. Professor Lewandowsky submitted a complete ethics application to the University’s Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) prior to commencing the research. This application was assessed for level of risk and then reviewed following standard practices consistent with the National Statement. Approval was granted by the HREC following this review. Professor Lewandowsky submitted requests for minor amendments which were approved using the University’s standard practices. These amendments either altered some of the questions, or changed the collection method for the answers.

2. Was the human research ethics approval investigated after complaints were made?

Yes, it was. A number of complaints were considered in accordance with the University’s policy on Managing Alleged Breaches of the Code of Conduct for Research Misconduct. The University has determined that there has been no breach of the code, and as a result, there is no case of research misconduct.

3. Were other complaints and requests for information under Freedom of Information legislation complied with and fully investigated?

Yes, following a series of FOI requests and specific allegations of impropriety posited by various persons, the University conducted a full investigation that comprehensively established the authenticity of the research conducted by Professor Lewandowsky, the University’s proper governance and the adequacy of the University’s responses to various queries and complaints. The University wrote in 2010 and 2013 to complainants to inform each of them that ‘The policy and procedure required to consider the issues has been appropriately followed and there are no further internal processes available. The University will not engage further with you in regards to these matters and this correspondence is now closed.’

4. Are the data from the Lewandowsky et al. (2013) Psychological Science paper available so other researchers can check the results?

Yes, after his move to the UK, Professor Lewandowsky has made available the data on which the conclusions of the Psychological Science paper are based on the University of Bristol’s
data repository (https://data.bris.ac.uk/data/; search for “Lewandowsky”). In making these data available, Professor Lewandowsky has conformed to:


Details on the particular methodology used by Lewandowsky et al. (2013) are provided in the manuscript in sufficient detail to enable researchers to review and analyse the paper.

5. Are there any outstanding complaints about Professor Lewandowsky’s research published in Psychological Science?
No, and the University will continue to investigate any fresh complaints that are made.