

## **Annual report 2025**

Scientific Integrity Committee Wageningen University & Research

Wageningen  
University & Research

DATE  
September 2026



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## **1 Handling complaints at Wageningen University & Research**

Every person at Wageningen University & Research (WUR) who is involved in scientific education and research is individually responsible for monitoring and safeguarding scientific integrity. All academics and researchers at WUR are required to act in accordance with the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity. The principles of good academic teaching and research in terms of scientific integrity are honesty, scrupulousness, transparency, independence and responsibility.

WUR has drawn up a Scientific Integrity Complaints Procedure based on a model obtained from the Universities in the Netherlands. It explains the steps that complainants need to take if they suspect an infringement of scientific integrity or of the standards referred to in Paragraph 5.2(B) of the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity. The current complaint procedure at WUR entered into force on 30 March 2020.

Official complaints, regardless of whether a confidential counsellor has been consulted, can be submitted in writing or by e-mail to the Executive Board of WUR (EB). WUR has appointed a Scientific Integrity Committee (CWI) that will investigate the complaint and present advice to the EB. The CWI consists of an external independent chair and no less than two but preferably three other members. CWI members are appointed for a period of four years. At the end of a term, members may be re-appointed for a subsequent four years.

### **1.1 Guidelines for handling complaints**

The CWI works for its judgement regarding violation of scientific integrity with the standards of scientific integrity that are primarily derived from The Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity and the Scientific Integrity Complaints Procedure of Wageningen University & Research.

### **1.2 Information about the CWI and procedures**

Information about scientific integrity, the CWI and the complaints procedure can be found on the website of WUR ([Scientific integrity - WUR](#)). This webpage is part of the information on integrity that is presented by the organisation, which also contains information about non-scientific integrity issues such as the Wageningen University & Research Integrity Code and other codes that apply to WUR employees.

### **1.3 CWI**

In 2025, the members of the CWI were:

- Prof. Barend van der Meulen (*chair: professor University of Twente*)
- Prof. Tiny van Boekel (*vice-chair: emeritus professor WUR*)
- Prof. Johan Bouma (*emeritus professor WUR*)
- Prof. Cor van der Weele (*emeritus professor WUR*)

The CWI was supported by two secretaries: dr Rixt Komduur and dr Astrid Mars

## **2 Handled requests and complaints**

In 2025, the CWI held two regular meetings and handled several complaints (see below). It presented three advices to the EB. In the handling of complaint 2024-04, the complaint was handled by a special committee.

### **2.1 Complaint 2024-04**

In 2024, the CWI received a complaint from a former PhD candidate concerning the conduct of a WUR employee. The complaint addressed both possible violations of scientific integrity and other issues. The CWI forwarded the complaint to the EB, who decided to establish a special committee to investigate the complaint and to provide advice to the EB. The committee consisted of one representative of the CWI and two experts on the other issues and was supported by two secretaries.

In 2025, the committee concluded that the complaint was unfounded and advised the EB accordingly. The EB followed the advice. None of the involved parties requested LOWI to present a second advice to the EB. The EB decided in its final ruling that the complaint about the alleged violations of scientific integrity was unfounded. The [anonymised advice](#) was published on the website of UNL.

### **2.2 Complaint 2024-05**

In 2024, the CWI received a complaint about alleged infringements of the Netherlands Code of Conduct on Research Integrity by a PhD candidate. Based on the provided information, the CWI concluded that there was insufficient indication that scientific integrity was infringed. The CWI therefore advised the EB not to deal with the substance of the complaint and, as such, declare it inadmissible. The EB followed this advice. None of the involved parties requested LOWI to present a second advice to the EB. In 2025, the EB decided in its final ruling to declare the complaint inadmissible.

### **2.3 Complaint 2024-06**

In 2024, the CWI received a complaint about alleged infringements of the Netherlands Code of Conduct on Research Integrity by a WUR employee. The CWI dealt with the complaint in 2025. The CWI concluded that the complaint was partly not admissible as it resulted from a labour conflict and was partly unfounded and advised the EB accordingly. None of the involved parties requested LOWI to present a second advice to the EB. In 2025, the EB decided in its final ruling to declare the complaint partly inadmissible and partly unfounded. The [anonymised advice](#) was published on the website of UNL.

### **2.4 Complaint 2025-01**

In 2025, the CWI received a complaint about the alleged unauthorized use of data and requested the retraction of an MSc thesis. The complaint was also sent to others, including the confidential counsellor for scientific integrity, the accused and another project partner.

The confidential counsellor was already aware of the situation and offered to mediate. The complainant accepted the offer. The CWI subsequently closed the case.

### **2.5 Complaint 2025-02**

In 2025, the CWI received a complaint of a former PhD student against several WUR employees about disregarding the right on authorship and/or not being responsive. As evidence was lacking, the CWI requested the complainant to further substantiate the complaint.

### **2.6 Complaint 2025-03**

In 2025, the CWI received a formal complaint of a former researcher against WUR employees about contacting a third party alleging a possible violation of scientific integrity by the complainant without

evidence. As evidence was lacking, the CWI requested the complainant to further substantiate the complaint.

## **2.7 Complaint 2025-04**

In 2025, the CWI received a complaint regarding concerns about a publication. As evidence was lacking, the CWI requested the complainant to further substantiate the complaint.

### **3 Other activities of the CWI**

#### **3.1 NRIN CWI meetings**

On 11 March 2025, Rixt Komduur, and Astrid Mars attended the annual NRIN CWI meeting in Utrecht. This meeting is intended for the chairs and secretaries of the scientific integrity committees in The Netherlands. On 18 November 2025, a second meeting was organised in Leiden, which was attended by Astrid Mars.

#### **3.2 Annual NRIN symposium**

On 17 October 2025, Rixt Komduur and Astrid Mars attended the annual NRIN symposium "Research Integrity in a Disruptive Academic Context: from AI to Academic Freedom" in Leiden.

#### **3.3 Colloquium**

On 14 October 2025, Astrid Mars attended a colloquium about 'Problematic science' at the Radboud University in Nijmegen.

#### **3.4 Advice on concept Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity 2026**

In October 2025, the CWI advised the EB of WUR on the concept Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity 2026.