



CASE NOTE

18 OCTOBER 2016

Regarding Code for public sector services

RESEARCH & INNOVATION

In April 2009, Universities Denmark (Danske Universiteter) published *Danske Universiteters Hvidbog om forskningsbaseret myndighedsbetjening (Universities Denmark's White Paper on research-based public sector services)*. The White Paper sets out the following principles as underlying research-based public sector services:

UNIVERSITETSPARKEN 1
DK-2100 COPENHAGEN Ø

- Quality and integrity
- Openness
- Freedom of speech and academic freedom.

The principles were supplemented by the following position statement:

The position of Universities Denmark is that:

- *research-based public sector services should be performed with the same integrity as the university's other tasks;*
- *sector-related research results should be judged by the same quality criteria as all other research;*
- *results of public sector consultancy etc. should be publicly available and able to be peer reviewed;*
- *universities should develop quality management systems for research-based public sector consultancy etc.;*
- *researchers' freedom of speech and academic freedom are basic principles that universities cherish – this also applies when undertaking research-based public sector services;*
- *in special cases there may be a need for the authority and university to coordinate the time of publication of consultancy results.*

The University of Copenhagen has, on the basis of Universities Denmark's White Paper, formulated a set of principles for public sector services. The

principles were approved by the Rectorate and the Deans on 5 October 2016, and adopted by the Central Liaison Committee on 12 October 2016.

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Research – the arm's length principle

Exactly the same ethical guidelines apply to sector-related research as to any other research.

Especially in cases where the client may have a particular wish with regard to the results of the research, the nature of the assignment must be precisely agreed, including the researchers' independence and the right and obligation to publish the results regardless of outcome.

All research, including strategic and sector-related research, must be documented openly, publicly and without delay. Authorship follows the usual guidelines (e.g. the [Vancouver rules](#)). The documentation should be attributed to the academic members of staff responsible for the results.

Consultancy etc.

Public sector consultancy etc., including reports, knowledge syntheses, monitoring and other reporting based on performed or known research, shall, unless exceptional circumstances so warrant, be publicly available, and thus exposed to possible criticism from other researchers and the general public.

In some cases there may be a need for the authority and university to coordinate the time of publication of consultancy results. In such cases, this should be agreed at the outset of the work. Normally the delay in publication of consultancy should be no more than three weeks.