

Statement in relation to whistleblowing allegations regarding Professor Colin Bailey's shareholdings in graphene technologies

12 April 2022

On 31 March 2022 Queen Mary received an anonymous statement of concern in relation to Professor Colin Bailey's shareholdings in graphene technologies, and an allegation that there was a serious potential, if not actual, conflict of interest, and a failure to comply with the Nolan principles of public life.

Queen Mary has undertaken an investigation under the Whistleblowing Procedure and found the allegation **not** upheld.

Professor Bailey became involved in BGT Materials, a company dedicated to the development of graphene technologies, and Graphene Security Limited, which was spun-off from BGT Materials in June 2015, through his previous role at the University of Manchester. He resigned as Non-Executive Chair and Non-Executive Director of BGT Materials and Graphene Security in December 2015. He has had no dealings with these companies since his resignation.

He has shares in these companies, as a legacy from his work with them whilst at the University of Manchester. Contrary to speculation on social media, the shares have no financial value, as can be seen by the information publicly available on Companies House.

The whistleblower alleged that Professor Bailey's involvement in these companies could be a conflict of interest in relation to Queen Mary's graphene research. However, Queen Mary does not have a graphene research programme, nor does the University have links to either of the companies Professor Bailey was involved with.

For completeness, Professor Bailey has entered his shareholdings in BGT Materials and Graphene Security in the University's register of interests.

No actual or perceived conflict of interest has occurred, and the Nolan principles of public life have been upheld.

Queen Mary's investigation into these matters has now concluded.