

# Initial Post

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Initial Post

by [Md Aminur Rahman](#) - Wednesday, 11 December 2024, 9:12 AM

Abi's dilemma raises significant ethical, legal, and professional concerns about data integrity and the responsible use of statistical analysis. While Abi might be tempted to use statistical methods to cast Whizzz in a more favourable light, this approach could lead to ethical violations and undermine trust in research.

Abi must uphold honesty and transparency in his analyses, as emphasized by professional codes like the ACM Code of Ethics (ACM, 2018). Manipulating data or selectively reporting findings would compromise scientific integrity and potentially mislead consumers, violating ethical standards. Presenting both the positive and negative analyses, with clear documentation of the methodologies used, would align with these principles. However, Abi cannot control how the manufacturer might use these results, raising further ethical concerns.

Under laws like the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and consumer protection regulations, providing misleading or incomplete information about Whizzz could expose both Abi and the manufacturer to legal repercussions. In international contexts, misleading claims about nutritional products could lead to penalties under food safety regulations (Voigt & Bussche, 2017).

Abi's actions could have profound social consequences. If misleading data is published, consumers may make health decisions based on inaccurate information, potentially causing harm. Professionally, Abi risks damaging his reputation if his involvement in such practices becomes known.

Some might argue that Abi's responsibility ends with performing the analyses accurately and transparently, leaving the manufacturer accountable for their use of the results. However, this position neglects the broader social responsibility of researchers to ensure their work is not misused (Floridi, 2016). A more ethical approach would be for Abi to include disclaimers or even decline the project if he suspects the manufacturer intends to misuse the results.

## Conclusion

Abi's best course of action is to present the data transparently, including all relevant analyses, while clearly communicating the limitations and risks of selective reporting. He should also document his concerns about potential misuse in writing. Ultimately, Abi's adherence to ethical practices not only aligns with professional standards but also protects public trust in research.

## References

ACM. (2018). ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct. Available at: <https://www.acm.org/code-of-ethics> [Accessed 31 October 2024].

Floridi, L., 2016. *The Ethics of Information*. Oxford University Press.

Voigt, P., & Bussche, A. von dem, 2017. *The EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR): A Practical Guide*. Springer.



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Re: Initial Post

by [Mario Butorac](#) - Saturday, 14 December 2024, 5:45 PM

Hi Aminur,

Your post provides an in-depth analysis of Abi's challenges and directions Abi should take to ensure the integrity of his research.

I agree with your conclusion about the data and research transparency. As per BCS Principle 3 "Duty to Relevant Authority", Abi must carry out responsible research and respect the relevant laws in the process. If Abi presents and publishes only the positive results of his research, he will be breaking the laws against unfair competition. According to Gangjee (2023) omitting or misleading information is prohibited by unfair trading regulations, therefore, Abi must present the negative results of the research as well. If Abi is not transparent in his research, he will break the BCS Principle 4, which sets out standards that must be followed to ensure duty to this profession and his fellow members of the BCS Institute.

Regards,

Mario

#### References

BCS (2022). BCS, The Chartered Institute For IT Code Of Conduct For Bcs Members. [online] Available at: <https://www.bcs.org/media/2211/bcs-code-of-conduct.pdf> [Accessed 14 December 2024].

Dev Saif Gangjee (2023). Law(s) against unfair competition: the legitimacy of the UK approach. Journal of Intellectual Property Law & Practice. [online] doi:<https://doi.org/10.1093/jiplp/jpad105> [Accessed 14 December 2024].

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Re: Initial Post

by [Tala Anabtawi](#) - Monday, 16 December 2024, 7:49 AM

Hello Aminur,

Your idea of a disclaimer by Abi is interesting. It indeed is a step in the right direction when it comes to upholding ethical standards outlined in the ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct and the BCS Code of Conduct. Both codes emphasize a professional's responsibility to ensure their work contributes positively to society and avoids harm.

The ACM Code of Ethics explicitly states that computing professionals should "avoid harm" and "be honest and trustworthy" (ACM, 2018). By including a disclaimer, Abi would transparently communicate the intended scope and limitations of the analysis, thus mitigating potential misuse. This proactive measure demonstrates accountability, aligning with the principle that professionals must anticipate the societal consequences of their work.

Similarly, the BCS Code of Conduct stresses the importance of acting in the public interest. A disclaimer serves as a safeguard, ensuring that results are not taken out of context or misinterpreted to the detriment of stakeholders (BCS, 2022). It reflects Abi's ethical responsibility to minimize risks and promote integrity, particularly in situations where the results could influence public safety or well-being.

While a disclaimer is not a foolproof solution, it reinforces the ethical commitment to transparency and accountability.

#### References:

ACM (2018). *ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct*, available at: <https://www.acm.org/code-of-ethics> [Accessed 16 December 2024].

BCS. (2022). BCS Code of Conduct. Retrieved from <https://www.bcs.org/membership/become-a-member/professional-standards/code-of-conduct/> [Accessed 16 December 2024].

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