

# Case Study 1

A 4<sup>th</sup> year dissertation student submits their dissertation thesis to their supervisor as part of their assessment. As part of the module requirements, the supervisor asks the student to drop-off their participant consent forms when they have a chance. In the meantime, the supervisor marks the students work and is delighted to see how good it is. The work is well written and presented and demonstrates evidence of critical insight and further understanding.

The supervisor mentions to colleagues how good the work is and as a proud supervisor, is delighted. Given how good the work is, the supervisor is planning on offering the student further research work over the summer that is based around the student's dissertation work. Indeed, there is also mention of a research grant being submitted for additional funding with a view of offering the student a PhD studentship in the next academic year. Both the students and the supervisor are excited for the future.

The following week, the module coordinator for the dissertation module emails all supervisors and explains the process for recording student marks. At the end of the email, the module coordinator reminds supervisors that it is their responsibility to collect any informed consent forms from their students. This is not something that the module coordinator will check but supervisors should do this to satisfy themselves that informed consent was captured.

This prompts the supervisor to remind the student to provide the informed consent forms as a matter of urgency. Otherwise, the student's results would not be recorded. The supervisor believes this will prompt the student into action and drop-off the informed consent forms as requested. As expected, the student knocks on the supervisor's office door the following day. Rather than provide the informed consent forms as the supervisor expects, the student explains that they failed to ask participants to complete the informed consent forms. The student explains however that verbal consent was provided before they commenced their data collection. As such, the student doesn't believe that they have done anything wrong.

If you were the supervisor, how would you proceed in these circumstances? Feel free to chat through the scenario with other students and then **Provide your answer in the text box within the slide.**