**College Ethics Committee for Non-Clinical Research Involving Human Participants**

**Research Risk Guidance Document**

The following is for guidance purposes only and does not require to be submitted along with the application for ethical approval. It should be read **prior** to completing the **Section on Ethical Risks** on the ethics application form. The lists contained in this guidance document provide examples of the types of research that may be considered high risk.

# Are any of the following topics to be covered in part or in whole?

|  |
| --- |
| * research involving children and young people
 |
| * research about parenting
 |
| * research investigating sensitive personal issues\*
 |
| * research investigating sensitive cultural issues\*
 |
| * explorations of grief, death or serious/traumatic loss
 |
| * depression, mood states, anxiety\*
 |
| * gambling
 |
| * eating disorders\*
 |
| * illicit drug taking\*
 |
| * substance abuse\*
 |
| * self report of criminal behaviour
 |
| * any psychological disorder\*
 |
| * suicide\*
 |
| * gender identity\*
 |
| * sexuality\*
 |
| * race or ethnic identity\*
 |
| * any disease or health problem\*
 |
| * fertility\*
 |
| * termination of pregnancy\*
 |
| * anger management
 |
| * impulse control
 |
| * self esteem
 |
| * domestic violence
 |
| * elderly neglect
 |
| * adults abused as children
 |
| * participant(s) being asked to provide information on another person
 |
| * any similar topic of possible concern
 |
| * use of researcher devised questionnaire researching a sensitive topic (eg. depression)
 |
| * divorce
 |

# Are any of the following procedures to be employed?

|  |
| --- |
| * use of personal data obtained from organisations (including Government Department/Agency)\*\*
 |
| * deception of participants\*
 |
| * concealing the purposes of the research\*
 |
| * covert observation\*
 |
| * audio or visual recording without consent\*
 |
| * recruitment via a third party or agency
 |
| * withholding from one group specific treatments or methods of learning, from which they may “benefit” (e.g., in medicine or teaching)\*
 |
| * any psychological interventions or treatments\*
 |
| * use of medical records where participants can be identified or linked\*
 |
| * potentially humiliating tasks
 |
|  |

**Does the research specifically target participants from any of the following groups?**

|  |
| --- |
| * living with a mental health condition\*
 |
| * living with a physical impairment\*
 |
| * people highly dependent on medical care\*
 |
| * minors without parental or guardian consent
 |
| * people whose ability to give consent is impaired
 |
| * residents of a custodial institution
 |
| * unable to give free informed consent because of difficulties in understanding information statement (eg language difficulties)
 |
| * members of a socially identifiable group with special cultural or religious needs or political vulnerabilities\*
 |
| * those in dependent relationship with the researchers (eg lecturer/student, doctor/patient, teacher/pupil, professional/client)
 |
| * participants able to be identified in any final report when specific consent for this has not been given\*
 |
| * small sample size which may lead to participant identification in final report\*
 |

**Location of interviews**

|  |
| --- |
| * interviews being conducted in participant’s home
 |
| * interviews being conducted in an isolated area
 |
| * interviews being conducted by sole researcher, outside of organisation or institution premises\*\*\*
 |

**Does the research involve any of the following?**

|  |
| --- |
| * research being undertaken in a politically unstable area\*
 |
| * research involving sensitive cultural issues\*
 |

**\***  Research topics or methods marked by asterisk may come within the scope of personal or special types of data under the **GDPR** and may be subject to increased scrutiny by the Ethics Committee.

**\*\***  Research involving the use of different forms of data including social media; social networking; online data; ‘big data’ will likely still require ethical approval and the new **Non Standard Data Protocol** form should be used.

**\*\*\***  Lone working or lone study policies are available on the [Health Safety and Wellbeing website](https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/health/) and should be consulted where appropriate in relation to the Lone Working question on the ethics application form.