

**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?

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| * 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?

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| * 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?**

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| * 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**

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| * 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?**

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| * 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.