

<p><b>SOCIAL CARE RESEARCH ETHICS</b></p> <p><b>SURVEY INFORMATION SHEET</b></p>	<p><b>WE WANT INSIGHTS FROM ORGANISATIONS, SUCH AS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Authorities (Health and Social Care Partnerships).</li> <li>• University Research Ethics Committees (RECs)</li> <li>• NHS RECs.</li> <li>• Research-active third sector organisations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>THIS SURVEY IS PART OF A SCOTLAND-WIDE INITIATIVE AIMED AT UNDERSTANDING AND IMPROVING ETHICAL REVIEW PROCESSES IN ADULT SOCIAL CARE RESEARCH.</b></p>	

## Introduction

We are reaching out to invite you and your organisation to contribute to an important initiative focused on improving ethical governance in adult social care and social work research across Scotland.

## Background

Research in social care and social work often intersects with complex ethical issues such as privacy, consent, and the inclusion of individuals who may be frail, isolated, or living with incapacity. In Scotland existing frameworks, such as NHS Research Ethics Committees (RECs), have limitations in addressing the nuanced and sensitive demands of social care and social work research, particularly in areas involving marginalised and vulnerable populations. Current NHS REC (Research Ethics Committees) structures, do not necessarily have social care or social work expertise to navigate the specific ethical nuances of social care and social work, leaving gaps in oversight and potential barriers to innovation.

## Data gathering

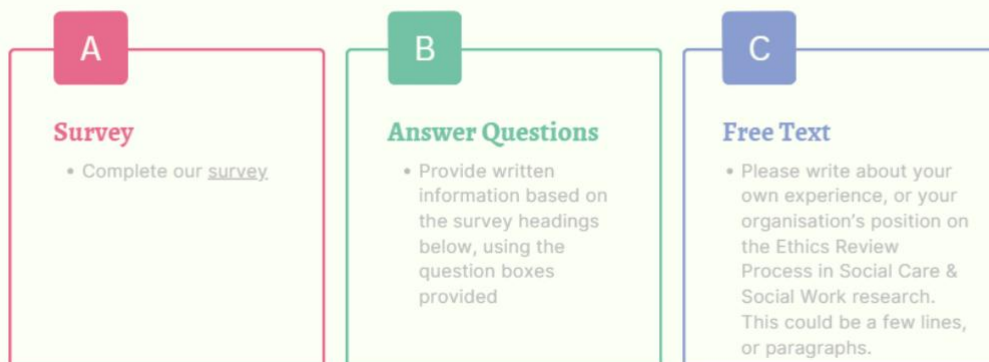
We are conducting a national survey to understand and enhance ethical review processes in adult social care and social work research across Scotland. The [survey](#) is being conducted on behalf of the Social Care & Social Work Research Ethics Working Group, which is sponsored by the Scottish Government and chaired by Professor Susan Shenkin.

We are seeking insights into current practices, challenges, and experiences within your organisational context. Your contribution is vital to ensuring that your sector is represented in this work. Even if you are not currently involved in research, we still want to hear your views. We are hosting two webinar sessions on 5th and 6th August for anyone who may want further information or assistance before completing the survey. Please register here: <https://www.nhsresearchscotland.org.uk/calendar/social-care-research-ethics-engagement-webinars-6-august>

We are particularly keen to receive more input from Local Authority, Health and Social Care Partnerships and our colleagues in the Third Sector. We recognise that current working pressures mean that you may have limited time to respond, so we are offering flexible options for you to share your views:

## OPTIONS FOR PROVIDING YOUR, OR YOUR ORGANISATION'S VIEWS:

Please consider one of the following options to ensure that your responses and views are included in our data collection.



Have your say



**A**

Please consider taking the [survey](#) (we anticipate this to take 10-15 mins to complete)

**B**

Provide written information based on the survey headings below, using the question boxes below. Please state if these are personal views or those of your organisation:

**1. Profile information** e.g., Place of work, REC involvement

**2. Personal experience** Researcher/Reviewer. Designer/participant roles; guidance received; challenges; steps in review process

**3. Delivery of Ethical Review** How review is delivered; how prepared you feel; training or support received

**4. Organisational-level experience Collaboration** with others; key partners; networks you're part of

**5. Organisational Considerations** barriers or facilitators; effectiveness of the process

**C** Please write about your own experience, or your organisation's position on the Ethics Review Process in Social Care & Social Work research. This could be a few lines, or perhaps paragraphs. We are keen to hear your views through free text. Please state whether these are personal OR organisation's views.

*Reporting of responses will be anonymous. It is important to indicate whether you are offering personal views and experiences or representing your organisation's position. Personal responses will be anonymised. Organisational responses will be acknowledged, but no individual names or identifiers will be published.*

Please return responses for section B & C to: [SWStat@gov.scot](mailto:SWStat@gov.scot)