

An Ethics Release can be self-certificated for any research and innovation project that:

- a. **Does not involve human participants** other than the investigator(s);

However, for those projects that involve human participants, an Ethics Release can be used **if the project:**

- o Does not involve vulnerable participants such as children, young people, disabled people, the elderly, people with declared mental health issues, prisoners, people in health or social care settings, addicts, or those with learning difficulties or cognitive impairment either contacted directly or via a gatekeeper (for example a professional who runs an organisation through which participants are accessed; a service provider; a care-giver; a relative or a guardian);
  - o Does not involve the use of control groups or the use of deception;
  - o Does not involve any risk to the participants' health (e.g. intrusive intervention such as the administration of drugs or other substances, or vigorous physical exercise), or involve psychological stress, anxiety, humiliation, physical pain or discomfort to the investigator and/or the participants;
  - o Does not involve financial inducement offered to participants other than reasonable expenses and compensation for time;
  - o Does not involve individuals unconnected with the University wishing to use staff and/or students of the University as participants;
  - o Does not involve the collection of participants' personal data other than gender, age and address; and that all reasonable steps are taken to safeguard the anonymity of the participants during and after completion of the project, with all personal data being destroyed in a timely manner; and
- b. **Does not involve sensitive materials** or topics that might be considered offensive, distressing, politically or socially sensitive, deeply personal or in breach of the law (for example criminal activities, sexual behaviour, ethnic status, personal appearance, experience of violence, addiction, religion, or financial circumstances);
- c. **Does not have a detrimental impact on the environment, habitat or species;**
- d. **Does not involve animal living subjects;** and
- e. **Does not involve the development for export of 'controlled' goods** regulated by the Export Control Organisation (ECO); *"This specifically means military goods, so called dual- use goods (which are civilian goods but with a potential military use or application), products used for torture and repression, radioactive sources."*<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> For further information: <http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/europeandtrade/strategic-export-control/index.html>