



UKRI Policy Fellowships 2023: Fellowship Opportunity Description

Fellowship Title: Home Office Criminal Justice System Strategy Analysis Fellowship

Host Organisation: Home Office - [Home Office - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Host Team: CJS Strategy Analysis Team, Crime Analysis Unit

Summary: Opportunity to use research and analytical skills to build a more detailed understanding of operational and policy changes that can lead to increase charges and out of court disposals.

Fellowship Theme: Building a secure and resilient world. *Please see the full call text 'What We Are Looking For' for a detailed summary of the research themes targeted in this call.*

Policy Topic: Criminal Justice

Research Council: ESRC

Academic Discipline/s: Sociology, Criminology, Geography, Psychology, Social Sciences, Economics

Research Career Stage: Open to both early and mid-career researchers

Fellowship Structure

Inception Phase:

Estimated Start Date: October 2023. *Exact date to be confirmed by the host depending on onboarding and security clearance requirements*

Duration: 3 months

FTE: 0.4 FTE

Main Placement Phase:

Duration: 12 months

FTE: 0.6-1 FTE

Knowledge Exchange Phase:

Duration: 3 months

FTE: 0.4 FTE

Work Arrangements

Location Requirements: London, Croydon, Sheffield, or home working. *Eligible T&S costs are supported in the main UKRI grant. Please see full call text and guidance for more details.*

Hybrid Working: Our current working model is a minimum two days a week in the office. However, this may be subject to change.

Security Clearance: Successful candidates must meet the security requirements before they can be appointed. The level of security needed is [security check](#). See our [vetting charter](#). This typically takes up to 40 working days but may take longer in busier periods. The fellow cannot start until their security clearance has been approved. People working with government assets must complete [basic personnel security standard](#) checks.

Fellowship Opportunity Description

We're offering a fellowship opportunity to work in the CJS Strategy Analysis team in the Crime Analysis Unit in the Home Office. You'll work closely with policy colleagues and other criminal justice stakeholders – e.g. National Police Chiefs' Council, Ministry of Justice, Crown Prosecution Service - to help build the evidence base around improving criminal justice outcomes (charges and out of court disposals). In particular, you'll work on projects that aim to increase understanding around which operational and policy initiatives are effective at increasing the number of

offenders being brought to justice. The work will involve designing and executing a research project in this high-profile area, drawing on both quantitative and qualitative methods.

Research problem and context

The planned research takes place against the background of year-on-year reductions in charge volumes in England and Wales. It is difficult to assess what factors are driving the fall in charges, but no one single factor is thought to have led to the decline ([Crime outcomes in England and Wales 2021 to 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2021-to-2022)). Wider academic research on effective investigations suggests that a wide range of factors may be influential ([Effective police investigative practices: an evidence-assessment of the research | Emerald Insight](https://www.emeraldinsight.com/doi/10.1108/EIP-03-2021-0011)). We anticipate that the project will make an important contribution to expanding the evidence base in this area.

We're interested in exploring a number of approaches which are about improving outcomes for crime investigations for the police in England and Wales. The postholder will be responsible for leading the development and delivery of a small empirical study of a procedural initiative designed to increase the likelihood of offences receiving a charge outcome. The role will involve designing a practical and robust study, collecting data, analysis and reporting. The role will necessitate working closely with a multi-disciplinary team of analysts, internal and external policy officials and police officers. The Home Office has routine data collections on crime outcomes that could be drawn upon as part of the proposed study. Exact topics will be determined by departmental priorities during the Inception Phase, shaped by the Fellow's interests and input. We will work closely with the successful candidate at each stage of the research.

Outputs

The expected outputs of the fellowship are likely to include:

- A general contribution to expanding the evidence base on factors that influence criminal justice outcomes.
- Presentations to analysts, practitioners, and policy makers.
- Internal reports that may be shared across Government departments.
- Contributions to briefings and practitioner workshops.

The fellow will have the opportunity to co-design clear research tasks in collaboration with officials in government based on policy needs and the fellow's interests/skills during the inception phase of the fellowship.

Background reading

- Latest Home Office published data tables - [Crime outcomes in England and Wales, year to June 2022: data tables - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-year-to-june-2022-data-tables)

Person Specification

Applications will be assessed against the following opportunity-specific requirements in addition to the generic eligibility and call criteria.

Essential Criteria:

- Ability to use your knowledge and understanding of the research process to take a structured, logical and rigorous approach to answering research questions.
- Proven ability to design and deliver a mixed methods research study, preferably a policy or practice evaluation. Ability to source, evaluate and analyse data, identifying and resolving issues and drawing out the main findings for the benefit of different audiences. Experience in quantitative and qualitative methods.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills, and the ability to communicate complex ideas and information to a range of stakeholders.
- Proven ability to establish effective relationships with colleagues from across a range of different teams and professional backgrounds, and actively seek wider input and perspectives to aid your work.

Desirable Criteria:

Please list the desirable criteria you would like the applicants to meet, in order to be successful for this fellowship.

- Project or programme management experience.
- Experience of undertaking research in a strategy, policy or operational environment.
- Experience of stakeholder engagement.
- Experience of working on complex policy issues.