

## **UKRI Policy Fellowships 2023: Fellowship Opportunity Description**

**Fellowship Title:** MoJ Improving Outcomes Fellowship

**Host Organisation:** [Ministry of Justice \(MoJ\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk); see also [Research at MoJ - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

**Host Team:** Evidence and Partnerships Hub, Data and Analysis

**Summary:** Harnessing interdisciplinary academic expertise, to enable evidence-based policy and practice decisions, to improve justice outcomes

**Fellowship Theme:** Creating Opportunities, Improving Outcomes. *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:** Justice (flexible) – to be agreed with the Fellow in line with their research interests and the [MoJ Areas of Research Interest \(ARI\)](#)

**Research Council:** ESRC

**Academic Discipline/s:** Social sciences (any), economics, data science, methodology

**Research Career Stage:** Early or mid-career

### **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 (flexible – to be agreed with the Fellow)

#### **Knowledge Exchange Phase:**

**Duration:** 3 months

**FTE:** 0.4 FTE

### **Work Arrangements**

**Location Requirements:** UK only – no specific location requirements (see 'Hybrid Working') – some travel to MoJ offices as required by work. *Eligible T&S costs are supported in the main UKRI grant. Please see full call text and guidance for more details.*

**Hybrid Working:** MoJ offers Hybrid Working, allowing colleagues to work flexibly from their base location, different MoJ sites/offices, and from home – to be agreed with the Fellow.

**Security Clearance:** Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) is expected to take 4-6 weeks from submission. We expect the successful applicant to start the security clearance application process, with support from the host team, as soon as their Fellowship has been confirmed by ESRC. The Inception phase can begin before the security clearance process is completed, but will be required for the main placement phase. See [National security vetting: clearance levels - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

## **Fellowship Opportunity Description**

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) are seeking to embed a Fellow within the Evidence and Partnerships Hub in Data and Analysis. As part of the 'What Works' agenda to support better decisions with better evidence, the Hub enhances the use of evidence and expert collaborations.

Data and Analysis is a multi-disciplinary team of around 500 staff that sits at the heart of the MoJ, providing analytical support across a diverse and exciting agenda. The team support policy development and operational delivery with cutting-edge and high-impact analysis delivered by a community of analysts and specialists.

The Fellow will play a crucial role in maximising the impact of external evidence in fundamental policy and operational decisions, to improve justice outcome. The Fellow will push the boundaries in the 'traditional' use of evidence and expertise within justice research, including the application of cross-discipline methodologies, scientific techniques, and the use of international evidence.

Based in the Hub, the Fellow will be flexibly deployed to a range of teams across MoJ, to support policymakers and analysts to understand the evidence base and drive innovative evidence-based solutions, to address high-profile, complex, and priority policy challenges. This is likely to include:

- Translating complex academic research to support policy and practice decisions
- Identifying, overseeing, and delivering evidence syntheses in complex policy areas
- Designing, planning, and undertaking new and innovative research in line with emerging priorities.

The Fellow will have the opportunity to work on numerous projects that cut across the Department's policy and operational responsibilities, addressing priority research questions in the [MoJ Areas of Research Interest \(ARI\)](#). Exact topics will be determined by departmental priorities during the Inception Phase, shaped by the Fellow's interests and input.

The Fellow will be supported by the Evidence and Partnerships Hub in the translation, dissemination, and application of their work, including via knowledge exchange opportunities such as seminars, roundtables, and specialist academic advice 'surgeries'.

The Fellow will benefit from wider support, networking opportunities, and learning and development available to colleagues in Data and Analysis, giving them a richer experience during their Fellowship.

Feedback from a past Fellow:

*"During this Fellowship I was able to conduct numerous projects (both theoretical and empirical) related to my research expertise and had the opportunity to work with a wide range of policy and analytical teams. There was a lot of flexibility and the Evidence and Partnerships team was welcoming and collegiate."*

## **Person Specification**

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

### **Essential Criteria:**

- A breadth of expertise in the application of social science/research methods (quantitative or qualitative), within and beyond the Fellow's own discipline, to analyse and understand social policy outcomes
- Knowledge of justice research and the justice evidence landscape, or how it intersects with the Fellow's own research and discipline
- Excellent communication skills and the ability to operate in multidisciplinary teams, at pace, to tackle complex challenges
- The ability to translate complex information and research findings into meaningful narrative for a non-academic audience, verbally and in writing, to drive decision-making and achieve impact
- An understanding of the challenges and opportunities of co-production and collaboration, including with non-academics and government/its agencies.

### **Desirable Criteria:**

- Previous experience of collaborating with a UK government department or agency.