

**UKRI policy fellowships 2025: fellowship position**

**Fellowship title:** Gambling Commission Research and Statistics secondary analysis fellowship

**Fellowship type:** Core policy fellowship

**Host organisation:** [Gambling Commission](#)

**Host team:** Research and Statistics

**Summary:** opportunity to conduct a piece of research using secondary analysis of the Gambling Survey for Great Britain (GSGB), and in alignment with the Gambling Commission's [evidence gaps and priorities](#)

**Policy topic:** the fellowship can focus on any relevant policy areas covered by the Commission's [evidence gaps and priorities](#). There are six overarching themes within the evidence gaps and priorities which set out the areas of research we are interested in and which require further evidence in order to help the Gambling Commission, as the regulator of gambling in Great Britain, to keep gambling safe, fair and crime free. The six themes are early gambling experiences and gateway products (Theme one), the range and variability of gambling experiences (Theme two), gambling related harms and vulnerability (Theme three), the impact of operator practices (Theme four), product characteristics and risk (Theme five) and illegal gambling and crime (Theme six)

**Research Council:** UKRI

**Academic discipline(s):** open to any academic disciplines with a demonstrable link to one of the six evidence themes out lined in the evidence gaps and priorities. This might include but is not limited to psychology, sociology, public health, criminology, neuroscience, economics or policy studies

**Research career stage:** open to mid-career researchers

**Fellowship structure****Inception phase:**

**Estimated start date:** February 2026. Exact date to be confirmed by the host depending on onboarding and security clearance requirements

**Duration:** three months

**FTE:** 0.4 FTE

**Main placement phase:**

**Duration:** 12 months

**FTE:** 0.6 to 1 FTE

**Knowledge exchange phase:**

**Duration:** three months

**FTE:** 0.4 FTE

**Work arrangements**

**Location requirements:** requirement to travel to the Gambling Commission's offices in central Birmingham at least once a week (usually a Thursday) during the main placement phase. Travel to our offices is also likely to be required during the inception and knowledge exchange phases to attend face-to-face planning or dissemination meetings and to meet the Research and Statistics team, this is likely to be around twice per month

**Hybrid working:** the Research and Statistics team work in a hybrid way, with at least one day per week in the office (usually a Thursday). Where face-to-face project meetings are happening on other days of the week we would encourage attendance in person. This will help embed the successful fellow into the project and aid working relationships. We have regular team meetings for the whole team on a Thursday in the office which the successful fellow would be invited to attend, as well as regular project meetings with smaller subgroups of the team. There are also opportunities to attend Commission-wide 'Connect' sessions to find out more about the work going on across the rest of the Commission, and other organisation-wide events. Eligible Travel and Subsistence costs are supported in the main UKRI grant. Please see full call text and guidance for more details

**Security clearance:** Disclosure and Barring Service ([DBS](#)) check

## **Fellowship description**

The Gambling Commission uses a range of data, research and insights to inform the decisions that we make and provide advice to the government about gambling behaviour and the gambling market. We are responsible for the production of official statistics on the size and shape of the gambling industry, rates of participation in gambling and the prevalence of problem gambling, in both adults and children. In addition, we track wider trends in consumer behaviour, listen to the full breadth of consumer voices and conduct quantitative and qualitative deep dives on key issues, impacts and emerging areas of interest.

We are a people-focussed and evidence-led regulator. To be the most effective regulator possible, however, we require a robust evidence base and the current evidence base still has many gaps. A lack of conclusive evidence does not necessarily mean that action should not be taken (for example, we sometimes apply the precautionary principle where we are satisfied that there is sufficient risk of harm), but we should aim to have as much reliable evidence as possible on which to base our decision.

Our [evidence gaps and priorities](#) publication outlines our ambitions and vision for developing the evidence base and outlines the gaps that we believe can and should be filled by research from across the evidence ecosystem in order to improve the regulation of gambling in Great Britain.

One of our core sources of data on gambling is the GSGB, which collects our official statistics on gambling behaviour in Great Britain. The GSGB is one of the largest surveys about people's gambling behaviours in the world, collecting data from 20,000 respondents each year. This information helps us better understand people's attitudes and gambling behaviours up and down the country, creating a robust source of evidence for gambling in Great Britain.

We have recently published the first year of data from the GSGB in the [UK Data Service](#), making it accessible for academics and researchers to conduct their own analyses. This fellowship presents an opportunity to use this data, and the data from the second year of GSGB to conduct a piece of robust research which will advance our knowledge across one or more of our evidence gaps and priorities.

Based on the interests and skill set of the fellow, we will plan and codesign the main research phase of the project, ensuring it meets the policy needs of the Gambling Commission and aligns with our evidence gaps and priorities. The successful fellow will be expected to undertake the following tasks:

- Design and scope a new piece of research aligned to one or more of our evidence gaps and priorities in agreement with the Commission
- Develop an analysis plan in collaboration with the Commission
- Conduct advanced secondary analysis to explore in-depth findings from the GSGB survey
- Produce updates and briefings throughout the project, with members of the Research and Statistics team, the wider Commission, and other stakeholders including the Commission's [advisory groups](#)
- Share knowledge and expertise with members of the Research and Statistics team, to build statistical capability among the team's analysts
- Produce a publishable research paper containing key research findings and recommendations for further research

The benefits to the successful fellow of this fellowship at the Gambling Commission include:

- Opportunity to get hands-on experience of codesigning and leading the delivery of research
- Opportunity to work with data from one of the largest gambling surveys in the world
- Experience working within a government body, reporting into the Department for Culture, Media and Sport
- Experience of working for the regulator of the largest online gambling market in the world
- Opportunity to influence policy through impactful research
- Networking opportunity with broad range of stakeholders including policymakers, academics, third sector and the gambling industry
- Opportunity to publish research findings, as approved by the Gambling Commission
- Opportunity to attend conferences and potential to present research findings at conferences

## **Person specification**

Applications will be assessed by UKRI panel assessment against the following essential opportunity-specific requirements in addition to the generic eligibility and call criteria:

### **Essential criteria:**

- Background in research and statistics, including experience of delivering projects involving advanced statistics methods
- Strong analytical skills including experience of working with different types of data, such as survey data or operational data
- Strong spoken and written communication skills to convey and present complex data analysis and evidence to internal and external audiences, including in accessible written outputs
- Experience of using SPSS for advanced statistical analysis
- Experience within the development of analytical processes and assurance methods in accordance with research best practice and codes of practice

Applicants shortlisted from the panel assessment will be assessed at the host led interview selection process against the following desirable opportunity-specific requirements:

**Desirable criteria:**

- Experience of using programmes such as Power BI or Tableau to build dashboards and visualise data
- Experience of training and coaching others in advanced statistics
- Ability and willingness to learn new systems and software

**Processing personal data**

If applicants are shortlisted by the UKRI assessment panel UKRI will need to share the application and any personal information that it contains with the host for the host led interview selection process.

Your personal data will be handled in line with UK data protection legislation and managed securely. If you would like to know more, including how to exercise your Rights, please see the UKRI [privacy notice](#).

The Gambling Commission's privacy notice can be found here: [Gambling Commission privacy policy](#). Hosts will delete your data at the end of the selection process unless you are successful, in which case we will retain your data as an independent data controller.