

# UKRI Gambling Harms Research and Innovation Partnerships (GHRIPs)

## FAQs and Additional Guidance

Please note that this document will be revised and expanded as necessary

Q. Where should queries about this funding opportunity be sent?

A. All queries regarding this call should be sent to: [operations@ahrc.ukri.org](mailto:operations@ahrc.ukri.org)

## General Queries

How many GHRIPs will be funded through this opportunity?

Up to 20 Phase 1 GHRIP awards will be made under this funding opportunity.

What is the starting date for the GHRIPs?

The successful Centre must start on 27 April 2026

Interview panels are scheduled for w/c 16th February, which is a half term, what should applicants do if they are not able to attend that week?

UKRI will endeavour to be as flexible as possible regarding interview dates, including scheduling interviews for the following week (w/c 23<sup>rd</sup> February) if necessary

Where can I find a list of relevant data sources as mentioned in the UKRI Webinar?

In Annex A, at the bottom of this FAQ document.

## Application Queries

Can someone be included on more than one application to this call?

Individuals can only be Project Lead on one application, but Project Leads may be listed as Project Co-Leads on a different application.

## Can someone be included on a GHRCC application and a Gambling harms research and innovation partnership (GHRIP)?

Individuals may not be named as project lead on both a GHRCC and GHRIP applicant, however individuals can be named as project co-lead on applications to both opportunities, provided they have the required available FTE to work on both projects if successful.

## Can institutions submit applications to the GHRCC and GHRIP funding opportunities?

Yes. Limitations on submitting bids to both opportunities apply to individuals, institutions may submit bids to both opportunities.

## Can project partners and collaborating institutions be named on both GHRCC and GHRIP applications?

Yes. Limitations on applying to both opportunities only apply to core project team members.

## Can the application include images or hyperlinks?

No, it is not currently possible to include images within applications. All relevant information should be included within the application text without the need for including external links.

## Will unsuccessful applicants to the GHRCC opportunity be eligible to join Phase 2 GHRIP bids?

Yes. Unsuccessful applicants to the centre will be eligible to join Phase 2 GHRIP bids as appropriate.

## Where will the peer-reviewers/assessors for this call be drawn from?

Applications will be peer-reviewed by an assessment panel. Panel members will be selected on the basis of their subject specialisation and relevant experience and will be drawn from the breadth of UKRI's research and innovation community (including UKRI's interdisciplinary peer-review college).

## What different things are you looking for between the “ethics and responsible research and innovation section” and the “research involving human participation” sections?

The Ethics and Responsible research section is more broadly focussed on ethical considerations, responsible innovation practices, environmental, social and governance arrangements and open access and data sharing – it should contain details of ethical considerations that concern the entire proposed project.

The Research Involving Human Participation should go into specific detail about any human involvement in the proposed work, including recruitment methods, informed consent and safeguarding and risk mitigation. Details on ethics approvals, GDPR compliance and interaction with vulnerable groups should also be included here.

## Are applications eligible from Northern Ireland?

Yes, applications based in Northern Ireland are eligible for this funding opportunity provided applicants meet the other eligibility criteria.

## What is the expected role and responsibilities of non-academic co-directors? How do their governance responsibilities differ from academic co-directors?

GHRIPs should encourage equitable, cross-sector partnerships and the inclusion of non-academic co-directors is key to this aim. Their role will be to provide sectoral knowledge / lived experience / policy or practices relevance. Non-academic co-directors may contribute to project management, including overseeing work packages, budgets and timelines if this is appropriate to delivering the aims of the project.

While non-academic co-directors might not lead on governance and decision-making elements of each GHRIP, they are expected to participate in project governance structures.

## Phase Queries

### How much detail on potential Phase 2 activities should be listed in a Phase 1 application?

UKRI do not expect to see high levels of detail on Phase 2 activities at this early stage. Applicants should focus on Phase 1 activities and leave room to develop and grow ideas for Phase 2 projects as awards progress.

### Do collaborators who are planned to be listed on a Phase 2 application also need to be named on a Phase 1 application?

No, collaborators and team members can be added to Phase 2 applications without having been directly involved in Phase 1 and should not be listed on Phase 1 applications if they will not be an active member of the project team.

UKRI would expect some continuity in the leadership of project teams for Phase 1 and 2 awards.

### Is the primary purpose of Phase 1 to prepare for Phase 2, or is it to address specific research questions in their own right?

While some applicants might choose to address specific research questions, Phase 1 GHRIPs are intended to be foundational and focussed on partnership building, resource and capacity building and landscape mapping, to shape the future Research Programme on Gambling and Phase 2 awards.

As only a portion of GHRIPs awarded Phase 1 funding will also receive Phase 2 funding, will UKRI try to cover all domains and therefore at some stage GHRIPs will be in competition with each other? Or will all Phase 1 funded GHRIPs be considered for Phase 2 funding on their own independent merits?

Applications will primarily be assessed on the quality of proposed activities and their fit to the aims of the Research Programme on Gambling. UKRI will look to take a managed portfolio approach to ensure coverage of themes and geographic areas across the programme, but this does not mean applications with similar themes will not be funded if they are deemed to be of sufficient quality by independent assessment.

To what degree should lived experience be considered in either phase?

Successful GHRIPs will be expected to involve and call upon the expertise of people with lived and learned experience from gambling related harms.

Will the GHRCC be part of the final decision-making process for the GHRIP Phase 2 funding opportunity?

No. The GHRCC will be expected to support Phase 1 GHRIP awards in developing their Phase 2 bids, as such they will not be included in the final decision-making process due to the potential for conflicts of interest.

What is your expectation on sustenance beyond the funding period?

The [government White Paper consultation](#) commits to a 5-year review stage of the gambling levy as a whole. As UKRI funded programmes come towards their end, we will evaluate progress and success, and in collaboration with DCMS develop plans for the next phase of the levy. UKRI's long term ambition is to create a sustainable research and innovation ecosystem.

## Theme Queries

How have the research themes been identified and how will they be refined?

Indicative research themes have been identified in consultation with other commissioners under the gambling levy and wider stakeholders. The themes listed are indicative and not exhaustive.

It is expected that the successful centre will build in the flexibility to be able to respond to emerging themes over the course of the levy, particularly through engagement with other commissioners and DCMS.

## Wider Levy Queries

Has evidence from the experience of other levies on harmful industries been used to inform the structure of the levy board and the governance of the funding calls?

Wider levy governance structures are administered by the Department for Media, Culture and Sport (DCMS). We would recommend all questions of this nature be directed to [enquiries@dcms.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@dcms.gov.uk)

Please can you expand on the role of the GHRIPS and the Centre?

Please can you explain the model as a whole and how you anticipate that this will create the change needed?

It is expected that the centre and partnerships will support the research programme's ambitions to widen the evidence base on gambling harms and build capacity in the research and innovation sector. The centre will become a focal point to coordinate and inform research across the levy system, working with UKRI and the other commissioners.

Will the upcoming UKRI funded Rapid Evidence Reviews be linked to the GHRIPs in some way? How will you do this?

Rapid Evidence Reviews and GHRIPs will not be formally linked by UKRI. Rapid Evidence Reviews will be completed in April 2026, and teams will be required to share their findings with GHRIP award holders, this will coincide with the early stages of the GHRIP awards.

To what extent can GHRIPs involve existing third sector providers funded by the voluntary levy?

Projects should seek to involve a broad range of partners, including those from the third sector. Applicants should not concurrently hold statutory levy funding and funding from the gambling industry. Please see FAQ answers on conflict-of-interest for more details.

Has UKRI issued any policy guidance regarding the management of conflict of interests for these awards?

UKRI is committed to the establishment of an independent and trusted research and innovation ecosystem for gambling harms. UKRI has established policies on [declaration of interest](#) and [prevention of harm in research](#). Under the Research Programme on Gambling, UKRI has placed particular exclusions on [Gambling Commission](#) licence holders and associated industries whose core business can be associated with harm. Engagement with these companies is only permitted for time-limited, purpose-specific interactions deemed essential to achieving legitimate and high-quality research objectives. These interactions must be approved by UKRI in advance. UKRI would not expect individual researchers to concurrently hold funding from licence holders subject to the levy while receiving funding from the Research Programme on Gambling. We also asked applicants to declare in their applications that they are compliant with these requirements and outline clear and robust governance arrangements in their proposals.

As part of its standard process UKRI requires peer reviewers and assessors to declare any potential conflicts of interest. In addition to this process all peer reviewers and panellists for UKRI RPG programmes will be required to complete a bespoke declaration of interest form in advance of engagement with the programme.

If applicants have further queries, they are encouraged to get in touch with the UKRI team directly.

## Why have you chosen not to prohibit partnership with industry including those they fund, not just licence holders? What is the purpose of being open to partnerships with broader industry (with UKRI permission)?

In order to maximise the impact of the research programme UKRI are seeking to engage with stakeholders from across the system, including academics, policy makers, third sector, and industry.

Engagement with the gambling industry will only be permitted for specific, time-limited interactions that are deemed essential for the research programme. UKRI recognises that, prior to the introduction of the statutory levy, funding specifically related to gambling harms has been limited. UKRI does not feel it to be appropriate to exclude organisations purely based on these previous funding arrangements. However, restrictions have been placed on concurrent funding from industry, as well as requiring robust governance arrangements to be outlined in applications.

## Funding Queries

### Will there be more funding beyond the GHRIPs?

The government White Paper consultation commits to a 5-year review stage of the gambling levy as a whole. As UKRI funded programmes come towards their end, we will evaluate progress and success, and in collaboration with DCMS develop plans for the next phase of the levy. UKRI's long term ambition is to create a sustainable research and innovation ecosystem.

### How many Phase 2 GHRIPs will be funded?

UKRI intends to fund between 6 and 10 Phase 2 GHRIP awards of up to £5m each. This is subject to change depending on the quality of applications received, following an independent peer review process.

## Annex A – List of relevant data sources

### Longitudinal & Survey Data

- CLOSER: Millennium Cohort Study (MCS), British Cohort Study (BCS70)
- Understanding Society: Gambling and Problem Gambling Module
- Health Survey for England (HSE): Gambling prevalence and health correlations
- Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey (APMS): Mental health and gambling behaviours
- Gambling Survey for Great Britain (GSGB): Conducted by the Gambling Commission; includes behavioural, attitudinal, and harm-related data - available via the UK Data Service

### Administrative Data

- Local morbidity rates (e.g., alcohol-related conditions, Global Burden of Disease)
- Education, employment, and health service usage records
- Licensing Authority Statistics: Gambling Commission data on local licensing and compliance activity, and market data

### Smart Data

- Smart Data Donation Service (SDDS): Gaming and social media activity
- Financial Data Service (FINDS): Income volatility, financial resilience, consumer banking data
- Geographic Data Service/ Healthy and Sustainable Places Data Service: Footfall, synthetic populations, geographic and demographic indices, consumer behaviour and vulnerability

### Other Data (Including Qualitative & Public Engagement)

- Qualitative Studies:
  - GSGB Follow-up Interviews (NatCen): Case studies of gambling harms
  - Stigma and Discrimination Study (GambleAware, NatCen, Wolverhampton): Lived experience of stigma
- Public Engagement Datasets:
  - GambleAware Lived Experience Guidelines: Ethical framework for co-production
  - Mass Observation Archive: Gambling in households and communities