

# University of Essex

## Administrative Structure for Ethics Review

### Annex A

#### Guidance for ESCs about Referral to the University's Ethics Committee

Where Ethics Sub-Committees feel uncertain, or where proposed research is in a higher risk category, then the application must be sent to the University's Ethics Committee.

The following is a list of activities that must be referred.

1. Access to personal and/or confidential non-anonymised data without the identifiable participant's specific consent.
2. Administration of procedures which may be harmful to participants either during or after the research process.
3. Research that involves contact with illegal activities, or investigation of identifiable participants involved in illegal activities where there is a legal obligation or a strong convention to report the activities. Examples include: research which will lead to the researcher having knowledge of an act of terrorism or suspected financial offences related to terrorism (Terrorism Act 2000), suspected instances of money laundering (Proceeds of Crime Act 2002) or information about the neglect or abuse of a child (Section 115 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998).
4. Collection and/or testing of gametes, embryo tissue/cells or foetal tissue/cells.
5. Administration of ionising radiation to participants.
6. Research having potential military/terrorist applications.
7. Publication of data that might allow identification of individuals.
8. Research on any activity with suspected adverse health or social consequences, funded by an organisation with a possible commercial interest in promoting that activity (e.g. research on smoking or on alcohol drinking commissioned by the tobacco or alcohol industries, or research on climate change commissioned by the airline industry or fossil fuels commissioned by the fossil fuels industry).

#### Note:

This does not mean that any of this research should not be conducted but that it must be referred to the University's Ethics Committee.