
Housing Vision



Research Ethics Policy

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Last updated: 5 October 2009
Date approved: [add]
Date of next review: [Add]

Housing Vision: Research Ethics Policy

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Housing Vision Consultancy (HVC) is committed to undertaking research to a high ethical standard. This is the responsibility of all those operating under the name of HVC, i.e. the Director (an employee) and the project team, normally drawn from an established team of Associates (self-employed sub-contractors) and Partners. It is HVC's policy to sustain good ethical practice which will be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis.
- 1.2 This will be achieved in conjunction with HVC's vision and values:

Vision

Combining advanced research skills with policy formulation to develop effective and practical solutions, tailor-made to our clients' needs.

Values

Commitment	all team members operate in a professional and flexible manner to ensure that clients' needs are met.
Value for Money	track record of competitively priced projects, successfully completed to a high standard, on time and within budget.
Diversity	offering skills, experience and geographical coverage that aid in delivering uniqueness for clients.
Impact	producing high quality outputs which clients can use with confidence to improve their performance.

2. Objectives

Adapted from Economic and Social Research Council (2005)¹; p1:

- 2.1 Research undertaken by HVC will be designed, reviewed and undertaken to ensure integrity and quality.
- 2.2 The project team and research subjects will be fully informed about the purpose, methods and intended possible uses of the research, what their participation in the research entails and what risks, if any, are involved.
- 2.3 The confidentiality of information supplied by research subjects and the anonymity of respondents will be respected.
- 2.4 Research participants will participate in a voluntary way, free from any coercion.
- 2.5 Harm to research participants will be avoided.

¹ **Economic and Social Research Council** (2005) *Research Excellence Framework (REF)* (Swindon, ESRC). An update of the document is due sometime in 2009 after a consultation on the REF was carried out in early 2009.

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- 2.6 The independence of research will be clear, and any conflicts of interest or partiality will be explicit.

3. Implementation, Monitoring and Review

- 3.1 Research ethics are integral to HVC project proposals and the delivery of projects for clients.
- 3.2 At the regular Housing Vision Business Review Meetings, a standing agenda item on 'Research Ethics' will ensure that the policy objectives are monitored.
- 3.3 The Director of Housing Vision, in agreement with the Associates, will review the Research Ethics Policy on an annual basis.
- 3.4 Dr Richard Turkington, the Director of Housing Vision, has overall responsibility for Research Ethics in the Consultancy.

4. Communicating the Policy

- 4.1 Where appropriate, a copy of the HVC Research Ethics Policy will be included in submissions for consultancy work.
- 4.2 All Associates operating on a sub-contractor basis to the Consultancy will receive a copy of the Research Ethics Policy and agree its terms as part of the HVC Associate Protocol.
- 4.3 All Partners working with the Consultancy will be made aware of the Research Ethics Policy. HVC will seek to obtain copies of its Partner's research ethics policies.