



Senate

Paper Title	Ethics of Research Committee
Outcome requested	To note the executive summary report of the QMERC meeting on 20 November 2024 and action taken since.
Points for Senate members to note and further information	A new Chair has been appointed. The Research Ethics team now sits within Responsible Research and Innovation
Questions for Senate to consider	N/A
Regulatory/statutory reference points	N/A
Strategy and risk	N/A
Reporting/consideration route for the paper	QMERC Senate
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Sponsor	Professor Andrew Livingston, Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation)

QUEEN MARY ETHICS OF RESEARCH COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Meeting – 20 November 2024

Chair's Succession: New QMERC Chair

Dr Andra Le Roux-Kemp has joined the Queen Mary Ethics of Research Committee (QMERC) as Chair. In this role, Andra will oversee the review of research ethics applications and collaborate with the research ethics team to continually refine and enhance our policies and guidance.

Research Ethics team sitting within Responsible Research and Innovation

The responsible research and innovation team is a new team created within the JRMO from 2 existing teams, research ethics and research integrity. The responsible research and innovation team is led by Dr Magdalena Morawska, Head of Responsible Research and Innovation Policy.



Figure1: Organogram of the Responsible Research and Innovation team within the JRMO.

High-Risk Application

There are no studies to report.

Main Items Discussed & Relevant Action Since

Terms of reference

There have been updates in terminology external lay members are now referred to as independent members. QMERC shifted away from the term 'lay' as it means non-professional or people who are neither academic researchers nor health or social care professionals. This is not true of several of our independent members.

Devolved School Research Ethics Committees (DSRECs)

The DSREC Sub-Committee – whose dual function is to review the incoming applications from new DSRECs and to serve as a forum for debate among the Chairs and Deputies met in September 2024. The subject of the February Sub-Committee was a discussion around the activity levels, update on the audits of the DSRECs and the review of a new DSREC across two institutes, Blizzard and Wolfson to serve a PGT programme.

The roll-out of Infonetica the research ethics management system (REMS) is underway. REMs will reduce the administrative load on DSRECs. Meeting paperwork can be shared, individual application workflows including decisions made and application specific notes are recorded and data on application numbers and can easily be retrieved. DSRECs will be better able to see applications within the process, what has been submitted awaiting approval and approved.

DSREC submissions *

All submissions	New submissions	Resubmissions	Incomplete	Under review	Changes requested
6	2	0	0	0	0
Conditions (w/app)	Approved	DSREC amendments	Defer to QMERC team	Meeting assigned	Query with QMERC
0	3	1	0	0	0

Figure 2: An example of a DSREC application dashboard. The number in the tiles indicates the number of applications at a particular stage of the workflow.

Current Panel Membership

We have good membership level from a wide range of departments and expertise.

Metrics for 1 October 2024 to 31 January 2025

The report below provides a summary of the applications for QMERC ethical approval received and approved between **1 October 2024 to 31 January 2025**.

	Received	Approved
Panel review apps	22	10
Low risk apps	45	42
QMERC apps	0	0
Amendments	39	36
Block (Generic) applications	2	0
DSREC set up applications	1	0
Transfer apps	4	1
International	8	2
Total	121	91

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