
CPP040 Human Ethical Research Policy

Purpose

Cefas is committed to maintaining high ethical standards across all research activities involving human participants. We will use the Government Social Research (GSR) Ethical Assurance for Social and Behavioural Research as a framework to ensure that research involving human participants is designed with accountability, quality, and the protection of all participants in mind. The purpose of this policy is to outline the responsibilities and requirements for ethical review of human research, embedding good research practice as a key part of the Cefas Science, Evidence and Advice Strategy.

Policy

This policy is Cefas is dedicated to conducting research in accordance with the GSR Ethical Assurance for Social and Behavioural Research principles:

- Principle 1: Research should have a clear user need and public benefit.
- Principle 2: Research should be based on sound research methods and protect against bias in the interpretation of findings.
- Principle 3: Research should adhere to data protection regulations and the secure handling of personal data.
- Principle 4: Participation in research should be based on specific and informed consent.
- Principle 5: Research should enable participation of the groups it seeks to represent.
- Principle 6: Research should be conducted in a manner that minimises personal and social harm.

Application

Cefas will:

1. Build and maintain the trustworthiness of our research involving human participants. We will embed core values and ethical considerations into Cefas organisational structures, workflows and functioning.
2. Foster and sustain an ethical research environment by providing guidance and resources to staff. We encourage researchers to thoughtfully consider the ethical implications of their work.
3. Lead and promote ethical research conduct that participates openly in discussions on research direction and improvements, both within Cefas and the broader Defra Group, cross-government and marine science community.
4. Address and mitigate risk by being committed to providing an ethics review process for all research involving human participants and / or handling personal data.
5. Leverage the policy to build partnerships and maintain trustworthiness of Cefas Science.

Responsibility and Accountability

All staff members are individually responsible for ensuring that their work is conducted ethically by following procedures embedded within Cefas workflows.

The Cefas Human Ethical Research Review Body (HERRB) holds overall responsibility for overseeing the ethics review process and supporting colleagues to meet requirements.

Overall accountability sits with the Senior Reporting Officer under direction of the CEO.

Review

All research involving human participants must undergo review and approval by HERRB.

Legislation (or Regulation)

Cefas will comply with all legislation (or Regulation) applicable to research involving human participants.

I give my full backing to this policy and will support all those who endeavour to carry it out.



Tim Green

Interim Chief Executive