

Research Committee Minutes

19 June 2023, RMA Offices

Present

Dr Joe Judge, Chair
Mr Jim Farish
Ms Michele Gilluley

In Attendance

Mr Mark McSherry, Chief Executive
Mr Paul Keoghan, Director Corporate Services
Mr Geoffrey Tordzro-Taylor, Head of Development
Mrs Debbie Campbell, Head of OLR
Mrs Rachel Webb, Development Lead

Welcome

1. The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:30 and welcomed all present.

Apologies

2. The Chair noted apologies submitted for Dr Aileen Burnett.

Declarations of Interest

3. The Chair called for declarations of interest.
4. The Chair noted no declarations were submitted.

Approval of Previous Minutes

5. The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the Research Committee held on the 13 February 2023.

Matters Arising

6. The Board noted no matters arising.

Ongoing Projects

7. Update on Ongoing Projects – Committee Paper 013

- 7.1. The Development Lead presented an update in relation to the ongoing research projects. This included updates on the research being undertaken for the internet offending pilot. In addition to an update on the completed OLR research on Offending Behaviour as well as the ongoing OLR research on Psychopathy and Personality Disorder. Lastly, the Development Lead provided an update on the What Works project which aims to evaluate approaches in risk management.
- 7.2. The committee discussed and noted the update on the Ongoing Projects. There was a discussion in relation to the internet offending pilot regarding service provision and allocation of resources. The Committee were made aware of a current risk in relation to the IIOC project in terms of the low number of assessments compared to what was estimated. There was a discussion surrounding the implications this may have for the research and the timescales of such. This is being monitored and kept under review.

8. External Research – Committee Paper 014

- 8.1. The Development Lead presented the External Research paper to the Committee advising of a proposal for an external researcher to undertake research in relation to OLR. The Development Lead noted that if funding is secured for this research, the next step will be completion of a Project Initiation Document which will come to the Committee for review and approval.
- 8.2. The Committee discussed and noted the outline of the proposed research. There was a discussion regarding timelines of this research, governance and how data sharing would work. One of the Committee members asked whether it would solely be secondary data being examined which the Development Lead confirmed would be the case.

Research Governance

9. Framework Research Governance Management Assurance – Annual Review – Committee Paper

- 9.1. The Head of Development presented the Annual Review of the Framework for Research, Governance, Management and Assurance (FRGMA) to the Committee advising: the FRGMA has been in for a year and tweaks have been made such as the consent procedure being updated and the Research Ideas Log having an additional layer of delegation. The Head of Development noted some aspects had been delayed such as completion of status reports due to workload pressures, but this is now being completed and staff in the team have reviewed the FRGMA and know what their roles involve.

The Head of the Development asked the Committee whether ethics documents should be published on the RMA website. The Committee discussed this and the fact that the research proposal is embedded into the project initiation document (PID). It was agreed

that ahead of the next meeting, the Head of the Development will review whether the research proposal can be extracted from the PID.

There was a discussion regarding whether ethics should come through the Research Committee or whether this should be a separate process. The discussion included what processes universities and other bodies use and whether those involved in RMA research could have a conflict of interest given exposure to risk assessment and management documents. The Head of Development detailed it would be difficult to avoid individuals having exposure to such documents given the nature of our work and it was agreed that any bias would likely be minimal however this will be reflected in research publications. There was a discussion of whether the approval process could be done within the staff structure, and it was suggested we could draft an audit process of how this would work.

In relation to the Research Ideas Log, the Committee noted it would be helpful to have a rationale in relation to the prioritisation.

Action: Review if Research Proposal can be extracted from PID

Action: Consider RMA's ethical approval process

Action: Amend Research Ideas Log to include rationale for ratings

9.2. The committee noted the contents of the Annual Review for FRGMA.

10. Recommendations from Research Publications – Committee Paper 016

10.1. The Head of the OLR presented the Recommendations from Research Publications advising that a new item is to be added to the agenda to consider recommendations from the research conducted by the RMA.

10.2. Committee Members discussed options for the item and agreed that it works in its current format with some amendments such as adding a RAG status and implementing review dates.

Action: Amend log of recommendations to include RAG status and review dates

AOCB

11. The Head of the OLR noted their team is currently down by a third which is impacting work including the OLR review which will be recorded as a risk.

12. The Head of the OLR updated the Committee that the qualitative research will be published early next month, and that work had been undertaken recently to produce an accessible version of the report. The Head of OLR asked if Committee members could review this and provide their feedback on it.

13. The Head of Development informed the Committee that we have been accepted for two poster presentations at the IATSO conference – one on the OLR Offending Behaviour research and the other on the Internet Offending Pilot. Currently considering who will attend to present.

Date of Next Meeting

14. The Committee noted the next meeting is scheduled for 16 October 2023
15. The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 12:30