

Research Ethics Committee

Guidance on Survey Research Involving Potentially Criminal Behaviour

Procedures for collecting data from participants on potentially criminal acts they may have committed – drug use etc. The following procedures should be in place:

- Use an anonymous questionnaire ideally delivered electronically so responses cannot be attributable to any one individual
- Tell participants on the participant information sheet that this is what they will be asked about
- Ensure there is the opportunity to withdraw before submitting the questionnaire, and tell participants they can withhold responses to any questions they do not wish to answer
- Clearly ask participants to respond only to the set questions.
- Helplines are given in the debrief for those who may have experienced these behaviours or are concerned about their own behaviour (i.e. not just victim helplines).

While these are general guidelines, FRECs may require additional safeguards depending on the particular project.

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