Frequently asked questions – prevention of modern slavery

Will the Modern Slavery PEC be funding one project per topic?

The intention for this call is to fund one project on both cultural competency and homelessness, and then one project on each strand on enquiry on poverty and cost of living, and one project for each methodology on the identification of children. Projects will be selected on a portfolio basis, meaning that funding decisions will take into consideration how the final group of projects inter-relate to avoid overlap or duplication and to provide a reasonable mix of focus, approach and method.

Can local authorities partner on these calls?

Local authorities can act as partners on this research, but would not be eligible to receive costs for staffing or overheads. This means that they could offer this support to a project in kind, and that costs such as travel to enable participation could be included in the project budget.

Is it possible to work with international partners (thinking of demonstrating best practice)?

International partners are not eligible for this call due to the timescales. It is possible however to look at best practice internationally where mentioned in the objectives.

Can businesses be project partners?

Businesses can be partners on these projects. A business's role/tasks in the project will determine if they are eligible for funding (see the call document for full details). We also support businesses being involved in projects by providing in kind support. For specific eligibility advice, please email office@modernslaverypec.org

In 'effectiveness', you said that you wanted to look at the effectiveness of policies at combatting modern slavery. Does this mean specifically the UK government's policies, or any broader policies that are relevant?

The PEC was established to influence UK-based decision-makers including government policy-makers and businesses with operations in the UK. Policymakers includes all levels of policy in UK and Northern Ireland, but we also recognise other important decision makers which might include groups like regulators, enforcement agencies, practitioners. These would need to be the main influencing targets of the research, but we would encourage research teams to consider additional targets/audiences.

Could "third sector" include an expert individual who is working as self-employed, not with charitable status?

Third sector could include non-governmental and not for profit organisations, but further detail is needed to determine if a self-employed expert individual is eligible. An eligible organisation could take them on for the duration of the project. Subcontractors are also

permitted, but they must work with a collaborator. Most universities have their own subcontracting process.

Can the same organisation apply for two strands of the same call? i.e. identification and prevention of children methodology 1 and 2 – the same NGO and UKRI institution can they apply with different individual PI's for both?

The same organisation can apply for two strands of the same call. However, there is a limitation on individual researchers. Individuals can appear on a maximum of two bids, and can appear as the Principle Investigator on only one.

Would you be looking to fund projects on immigration and refugee issues?

Immigration and refugee issues may well be central to projects that fit under this call. For example, for projects on identification of children, issues relating to both British and non-British populations would need to be addressed considering the known patterns of exploitation in the UK and figures recorded through the NRM. Issues around inclusion, integration and the immigration/refugee system are also likely to central for proposals addressing cultural competency.

Would a collaboration with a community interest company (CIC) be possible?

A collaboration should be possible if the CIC meets the criteria of being third sector (e.g. that it is non-governmental and not for project – this will be check via the companies registration at companies house), or otherwise you may use a subcontractor route. Please email office@modernslaverypec.org with full details of the organisation to confirm.

Can you elaborate on what costs could be covered in terms of service user/individuals with lived experience involvement?

This will depend on the requirements of the project and the type of involvement, such as travel costs where in-person activities take place. There is an expectation of payment at the National Living Wage for people with lived experience who participate in the project, with justification provided for whether this is paid in cash or vouchers. Budget implications would differ depending on how people with lived experience are involved and compensated. We advise looking at previous research projects on the Modern Slavery PEC website to see how other teams have done this.

Where certain areas of strategy and legislation are devolved (to Holyrood rather than Westminster), should projects be more aligned with the practice of the devolved nation if they are happening there?

Yes, we would accept the scope of the project to be limited in this way, as long as there is sufficient justification. You should consider who the decision-makers are that you wish to target, and what evidence and engagement strategy would be influential for them. A full UK and NI study may well be beyond the time and resources available for this project (aside from in relation to desk-based research), therefore empirical work could be narrowed down to an appropriate scale.

Does an academic institution cover 20% and bid for 80% of project full cost?

Yes, you need to set out the full economic cost in your application, and the Modern Slavery PEC pays at 80% of this cost for academic institutions. This is standard for UKRI funding and we recommend talking with your research office at a University to help prepare your costings.

What is required in the project scope section?

In the project scope section, we are looking to see more detail of the exact question that your research will be considering. For example, are you narrowing the scope to look at one geographical area or exploitation type? The aim is to give the panel a clear idea of what will be included within your project. It helps to determine if the project will meet the aims and objectives of the call, and how it will answer the research questions it sets itself.

What do we understand by "focus on modern slavery" for NGO eligibility?

By this we mean that a partner NGO should have the necessary knowledge and speciality to take part in modern slavery research. Modern slavery may not be the sole focus of the NGO's work, but in setting out the team roles, background and responsibilities you must demonstrate how all of the researchers and partners involved in the project have the skills and experience to complete the project.

Homelessness

There are new datasets identified by ONS that are not yet publicly available, and old datasets have been removed. Will the Modern Slavery PEC be able to share previous versions of this?

The call documentation links to publicly available datasets that can be analysed. As far as possible, the Modern Slavery PEC will support teams to access other data, depending on data sources available throughout the project.

Identification of children

Is it correct that Project 1 focuses on practitioners and other stakeholders' work and understanding around the child trafficking, while the focus of Project 2 is on the inclusion of young people as participatory of the research. Meaning that even though Project 1 is indicated as "desk-based" and "surveys", other research methods such as interviews etc. can be used so long as these are done with practitioners and other stakeholders. Is this the correct interpretation of the call?

This interpretation is correct, project one is considered to be primarily desk based, but may include some empirical components. The main distinction is that project two should employ participatory methods.

Regarding narrowing scope, are you seeking project that cover both prevention and identification or do you also suggest narrowing on focus for one of each?

A project would be expected to cover both prevention and identification.

Glossary of Terms

Principal Investigator (PI) – the lead researcher or academic in charge of the project

Co-investigator(s) (Co-I) – the collaborating researcher(s) or academic(s) working alongside the PI on the project

Project Team – the combination of PI, Co-I(s) and other researchers who are working on the project