

Observing the Policy Research Programme

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NIHR Policy Research Programme

- A rapid series of observations – only 15 minutes
- How the RDS can help
- Why observe the panel?

NIHR Policy Research Programme

- <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding-and-support/funding-for-research-studies/funding-programmes/policy-research-programme/>
- “... delivers robust, relevant, timely, accessible and intelligible evidence to ministers and Arms-Length Bodies (ALBs).”

Rapid, time sensitive, policy driven, solution focused
Bedside to borough, not bench to bedside

Example questions

1. Food Labelling policy – how will [did] policy changes on food labelling influence behaviour?
 2. Social Surveys – How can the representation of under-represented groups be improved?
- The challenges are:
 - Solution focused...
 - What evidence is relevant?
 - What works, and for whom?

The decision making process

- The panel:
 - 10-12 core voting members
 - Topic experts – specific to each bid
 - The commissioning team

The process:

1. Core panel members review as normal (main and second reviewer, PPI Rep)
2. Experts and commissioning team comment
3. The core panel members question the experts and commissioning team
The commissioning team directs and advises
4. Voting by Care team only

What can the RDS contribute?

- The normal range of problems were present
 - Incoherent bids
 - Weakly defined questions
 - Weak, and weakly defined methods
 - Unanticipated limitations
 - The chicken burger problem
- The RDS is
 - well versed in supporting bidding groups to address these kinds of questions,
 - providing networking for expertise where that is advantageous.
 - Providing an external voice before it is too late...

Observations:

- Key data
 - What data do you need to address the question
 - Is the data
 - Available/accessible/of sufficient quality
 - May not be time to address all issues in bid
 - Risk mitigation is key
- Do you have the right team?
 - How might companies respond to changes in food labelling policy
 - [the burger question]
 - How does this influence customer behaviour

Conclusion...

- One of the most supportive and helpful panels I have had the pleasure of observing

Thank you for listening