RESEARCH PROJECT LIFECYCLE · AFTER GATE 2

Full route or light-touch route?

Answer six questions once your project has passed Gate 2, “This research project is feasible”. Every answer must be Yes for the light-touch route. One No means the full route.

1. **Is the risk of harm to participants low?**
   - No → Full route
   - Yes ↓
2. **Is there no change, or only a trivial one, to what people are entitled to receive?**
   - No → Full route
   - Yes ↓
3. **Can the outcome be measured from routine data you already hold?**
   - No → Full route
   - Yes ↓
4. **Can you run it without collecting new data from participants?**
   - No → Full route
   - Yes ↓
5. **Can it be delivered within existing resources?**
   - No → Full route
   - Yes ↓
6. **Is it fully within your organisation’s control?**
   - No → Full route
   - Yes to all six ↓

Full route

For trials and studies with any extra risk, new data collection, new resources or partners. Use the documents that fit your design:

- Full Research Plan (4a trials, 4b questionnaires, 4c interviews, 4d secondary data, 4e mixed methods)
- Experimental Planning Document
- Ethical Oversight Review
- Gate 3 Readiness and Project Sign-Off

Then Gate 3: “Research is ready to conduct”

Light-touch route

One short Light-Touch Trial Protocol replaces documents 4 to 7. It doubles as your pre-registration. Its ethics screening can still send you to the full Ethical Oversight Review if anything is unclear.

Same on both routes

- Delivery tracking in every group, including control
- Pre-registration before allocation starts
- Gate 3 and Gate 4 reviews
- Reporting every registered outcome, null or not

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