RESEARCH PROJECT LIFECYCLE

The five gate statements

Each gate is a review point. A project passes only when the statement is true. If it is not true yet, pause or stop, so that capacity goes to the ideas most likely to work.

GATE 0

“Good idea, worth scoping”

- The idea fits the organisation’s aims
- Nothing already known rules it out
- It is not a duplicate of current work

Decisions: Proceed · Pause · Stop

Template: Research Idea Form

GATE 1

“This research project is worthwhile”

- The evidence has been reviewed and a real gap remains
- A likely effect size is estimated for the power calculation
- The cohort who could benefit is described

Decisions: Proceed · Pause · Stop · Implement without testing

Template: Evidence Scoping Summary

GATE 2

“This research project is feasible”

- There are enough eligible cases, with a baseline measured
- Delivery can be tracked in every group, including control
- Funding and staff are in place, and the route is chosen

Decisions: Proceed · Pause · Stop

Template: Feasibility and Business Capability Assessment

GATE 3

“Research is ready to conduct”

- The plan is signed off and pre-registered
- Ethical oversight is complete
- Tracking, allocation and staff briefing are ready

Decisions: Proceed · Pause · Back to Gate 2

Template: Full Research Plan, Experimental Planning Document, Ethical Oversight Review and Gate 3 Readiness (or the Light-Touch Trial Protocol)

GATE 4

“Research was conducted as intended”

- Delivery, analysis and reporting followed the plan
- Every registered outcome is reported, null or not
- Major differences have a root cause analysis

Decisions: As intended · With differences noted · Not as intended

Template: Research Outcomes Report, Benefits Assessment, and Gate 4 Review and Root Cause Analysis

Pause means worth doing, but not feasible yet. Stop means the idea is closed and kept on the register, so nobody repeats it without new evidence.

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