



**Isle of Man**  
**Government**

*Reillys Ellan Vannin*



Isle of Man Research Ethics Committee (IOMREC)

## Annual Report 2022

Cabinet Office

# Introduction

The Isle of Man Research Ethics Committee (IOMREC) reviews health and social care research projects that meet the criteria for review<sup>1</sup>. The IOMREC review process involves a number of stages. A basic overview can be seen in the following diagram:



This report provides a breakdown of activities undertaken by the IOMREC during meetings held in 2022.

<b>Purpose</b>	Report of IOMREC activity between 1st January 2022 and 31st December 2022
<b>Committee Name</b>	Isle of Man Research Ethics Committee
<b>Committee Chair</b>	Ms. Lillian Boyle
<b>Committee Vice Chair</b>	Ms. Nicci Igoea
<b>Author</b>	Research Governance and Regulation, Public Health Directorate, Cabinet Office
<b>Date of completion</b>	February 2023

<sup>1</sup> The criteria used for review can be found at: <https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/cabinet-office/public-health/research-governance-and-regulation/research-application-submissions/>

## **IOMREC Report Chair's Statement**

Over the past few years in our report, the Isle of Man Research Ethics Committee (IOMREC) has highlighted the impact which the pandemic has had on the number of research applications being submitted for consideration. Although 2022 has seen more activity in terms of enquiries and initial submissions at the time of preparing this report these numbers have not yet translated into the volumes which we anticipated might materialise. However, we remain confident that the "green shoots" which have started to appear will continue to grow and 2023 will see the Committee back to fuller activity in its consideration of applications.

The topics of those that we have both reviewed and have identified within the pipeline continue to be varied and reflect the very diverse base of students and researchers which we are fortunate to have in the Isle of Man. All of this continues to make the work of the Committee interesting and important in the development of research standards and professionalism for those studying and working in the relevant areas of research on our Island.

We remain conscious of the many challenges that researchers face in terms of time and the logistics of carrying out their research studies and we have taken the opportunity this year to consider how the Committee can be most effective in both encouraging and maintaining good ethical standards in the field of research. We acknowledge that the work of the Research Ethics Committee has several competing aspects which require to be balanced as we go through the process with applications. In managing this the Committee welcomes and values the opportunity to liaise with researchers to ensure the process remains relevant, efficient and works for everyone.

One of the key considerations in the IOMREC remaining effective has been to ensure that we continue to attract a range of representative individuals to join the Committee and I am pleased that we have been able to do this over the years since the Committee was reformed in 2018. The term of office in respect of Committee appointments is 5 years and therefore as I will have concluded my term in April 2023 this is my last report as Chair of the IOMREC. In concluding both the report and my term of office I would like to thank all of the

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Committee Members who I have been fortunate to work with over the past 5 years and to recognise the huge input and assistance that the Committee receives from the Research Governance & Regulation team within the Isle of Man Cabinet Office.

Lilian Boyle

IOMREC Chair

# Members

## List of members

There are ten IOMREC members, seven lay<sup>2</sup> (which includes both lay + and lay) and three expert. Two members left the Committee mid-2022 and no further members have been recruited. Table 1 provides a list of the members, their position and category within the IOMREC, and their date of appointment.

**Table 1.** Isle of Man Research Ethics Committee member details.

Officer type	Name	Category	Appointment / Resignation Date
Chair	Lillian Boyle	Lay +	Apr-18
Vice-Chair	Nicci Igoea	Lay	Jul-18
Member	David Neilan	Expert	Jul-18
Member	Alison Gomme	Lay +	Jul-18
Member	Dr Ameeta Patel	Expert	Jul-18
Member	Isobel Hasnan	Expert	July 2018 / June 2022
Member	Lee Cowap	Lay +	October 2020 / June 2022
Member	Rich Sille	Expert	Oct-21
Member	Marie Weale	Lay+	Oct-21
Member	Adam Dempsey	Lay	Oct-21
Member	Karen Duffy	Lay+	Oct-21
Member	Shelley Flowers	Lay+	Oct-21

<sup>2</sup> A Lay member is a person who:

- (i) has previously been a registered health care professional- except for previously registered doctors or dentists who still qualify as expert members;
- (ii) has previously been a person involved in the conduct of health and social care research other than as a research subject;
- (iii) is or has been a chairman, member or director of a health service body or any other body providing health care.

A Lay + member is therefore a person who is not and never has been any of the following:

- (i) a health care professional;
- (ii) a person involved in the conduct of health and social care research other than as a research subject;
  - a.

## Training

Members are encouraged to follow the best practice requirements that are suggested by the Health Research Authority (HRA), to achieve a minimum of 8 credits. However, personal circumstances may restrict members' ability to achieve this level of self-directed learning.

Table 2 lists all training courses attended by each member, the month of attendance and credits achieved.

**Table 2.** Training courses attended during 2022.

Name	Training Courses	Date	Minutes	Credits
Lillian Boyle	IOMREC Workshop: Refresher/new member training	January 2022	120	12
	Podcast: HRA 10th Anniversary Lecture	December 2022	60	
	Workshop: Participants lacking mental capacity	May 2022	30	
	Webinar: Research on Pandemics	August 2022	15	
	Reading: Research on Pandemics	August 2022	30	
	Reading: Recs as friend or foe	November 2022	30	
	Workshop: Equality Diversity & Human Rights	December 2022	40	
Nicci Igoea	Online Training: eLearn Vannin, Basic GDPR Awareness	February 2022	15	16
	Workplace Experience: Research on S251 and equivalent Northern Irish legislation	February 2022	75	
	Reading: WHO Working Group for Guidance on Human Challenge Studies in COVID-19	February 2022	75	
	Reading: HRA latest and blogs on public views on ethics review, aligning applications for CAG advice and REC opinions, public involvement in clinical trials research	February 2022	15	
	Reading: HRRRA proportionate consent guidelines	February 2022	30	
	Reading: UKRI GDPR and research	September 2022	15	
	Reading: Research methods - bias, doubt and the ethics of sociological enquiry	October 2022	30	
	Reading: UK Policy framework for health and social care research	October 2022	60	
	Webinars: Introduction to critical appraisal	November 2022	10	
	Webinars: Systematic reviews and meta-analysis	November 2022	30	
	Webinar: Randomised control trials	November 2022	20	

**Table 2.** Training courses attended during 2022 (continued).

Name	Training Courses	Date	Minutes	Credits
David Neilan	Formal Qualification: Research Methodology & Data Analysis Module (MSc) Learning/Other: Becoming an Ethical Researcher Learning/Other: Research Ethics in Practice	March 2022 July 2022 July 2022	++ 120 120	8+
Alison Gomme	Webinar: HRA Conference	January 2022	90	3
Dr Ameeta Patel	Formal Qualification: Paediatric Epilepsy	Ongoing	++	+
Rich Sille	IOMREC Workshop: Refresher/New Member Training Online Course: eLearn Vannin, Equality & Diversity Webinar: The Only Way is Ethics Reading: The Role of RECs: challenges and factors influencing effectiveness Reading: Exploring methodologies used in research on addiction Podcast: University of Oxford, Ethics Online Training: eLearn Vannin, Basic GDPR Awareness	January 2022 January 2022 May 2022 August 2022 September 2022 September 2022 November 2022	120 90 30 45 75 90 60	18
Marie Weale	IOMREC Workshop: Refresher/New Member Training Webinar: Royal Society of Medicine, COVID-19 Conference: two years on Present Paper: Symposium (AABA/PPA), Ethics in the Curation and Use of Human Skeletal Remains	January 2022 March 2022 March 2022	120 210 360	19

+ Hours exceeding the IOMREC training requirements

**Table 2.** Training courses attended during 2022 (continued).

Name	Training Courses	Date	Minutes	Total Hours
Adam Dempsey	IOMREC Workshop: Refresher/New Member Training Formal Qualification: Edinburgh University, Overview of Study Designs Formal Qualification: Edinburgh University, Cross-sectional Studies Formal Qualification: Edinburgh University, Ecological Study Design Formal Qualification: Edinburgh University, Introduction to cohort studies Formal Qualification: Edinburgh University, Cohort Studies; examples, bias and confounding	January 2022 September 2022 September 2022 September 2022 October 2022 October 2022	120 60 90 60 60 120	17
Karen Duffy	IOMREC Workshop: Refresher/New Member Training Reading: Declaration of Helsinki, Nuremberg Code & Guidelines on the practice of ethics committees in medical research with human participants Reading: HRA Guidance, Applying a proportionate approach to the process of seeking consent Podcast: HRA, What information is important to patients and their families Online Training: HRA eLearning, Research involving participants lacking mental capacity Reading: UKRI, GPPR and Research: An Overview for Researchers	January 2022 January 2022  April 2022 April 2022 November 2022 November 2022	120 120  60 15 30 30	13
Shelley Flowers	IOMREC Workshop: Refresher/New Member Training Webinar: Why Research in Children is Important Webinar: Should Children be Involved in Research Webinar: Consent Assent Dissent Webinar: HRA and the Research Ethics Service	January 2022 November 2022 November 2022 November 2022 November 2022	120 13 5 7 30	8



# Meetings

## Date of meetings

There can be up to ten IOMREC meetings scheduled within a year. Committee members are able to attend the meetings either in person or virtually via MS Teams. A list of meetings for 2022 can be found in Table 3.

**Table 3.** Dates of 2022 meetings and members attendances.

Date	Attendees											
	LB	NI	DN	AG	AP	IH	LC	RS	MW	AD	KD	SF
January	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
February	✓	✓*	A	✓	✓*	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
March	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
April	✓	✓*	A	✓	A	✓*	A	✓	A	✓	✓*	✓*
May	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
June	✓	✓*	✓	A	A*	V	V	✓	A	✓	A	✓
July	-	-	-	-	-	V	V	-	-	-	-	-
September	✓	✓*	✓*	✓	A*	V	V	✓*	A	A	✓*	✓*
October	-	-	-	-	-	V	V	-	-	-	-	-
November	-	-	-	-	-	V	V	-	-	-	-	-
December	✓	✓*	A	A	A	V	V	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✓*
<b>Total attended</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

✓ Present. ✓\* Present via MS Teams. A Apologies. A\* Apologies/Comments provided on IEP. V Vacant Position. - No meeting.

## Meeting applications reviewed

During 2022, a total of three new applications were reviewed by the IOMREC (see Table 4). In all cases, the Committee decided that a final opinion could not be issued until further information had been received from the applicant. One case received a favourable opinion with additional conditions following the submission. In two cases, the Committee gave a favourable opinion with standard conditions following the submission of further information by the applicant.

**Table 4.** Details of the applications processed at each meeting in 2021.

Date	New applications	Re-submitted applications	Applicant attended meeting for questions	Outcome of meeting	Final opinion
January	-	-			
February	-	-			
March	-	-			
April	1	0	0	Provisional opinion with request for further information	Favourable
May	-	-			
June	1	0	0	Provisional opinion with request for further information	Favourable
July	-	-			
September	1	0	0	Provisional opinion with request for further information	Favourable with additional conditions
October	-	-	-		
November	-	-	-		
December	-	-	-		
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		

- No applications received.

## Application Details

Details for applications reviewed in 2023 are provided in Table 5. The origin of the research can be educational (where a person is studying a formal qualification), professional (Manx Care or other) or 3<sup>rd</sup> sector. The standards upheld by the IOMREC are equivalent to the standards expected by an NHS REC. Therefore, applicants often have conditions to meet in order to achieve a favourable opinion by IOMREC. This accounts for the time between their first meeting date and date of approval.

**Table 5.** Research applications received and processed in 2023.

Application Title	Origin of research	Date of first meeting review	Date of second meeting review	Date of approval
Evaluating the quality of a dependency tool in community nursing.	Educational	05/04/2022	N/A	04/10/2022
A study into the microbial load of toilet and wash facilities in the hospital setting, the Infection Control implications and the effects of simple interventions.	Educational	14/06/2022	N/A	25/08/2022
The Covid-19 Pandemic and the lived experience of Motiv8 service users impacted by substance or gambling disorders.	Educational	06/09/2022	N/A	07/10/2022

## Annual and final reports

One annual report and one final report was received during 2022, in relation to a proposal approved in the previous year (see Table 6).

**Table 6.** Reports received in 2022.

Application Title	Origin of research	Date of approval	Final or annual report	Date received
Improving Quality of Life for people over 65 living with dementia – Pilot study	Third sector	03/11/2021	Annual	16/11/2022
			Final	28/12/2022

## Application Management

Table 7 reports the management and processing of the applications reviewed.

**Table 7.** Application management information.

Average number of applications received per meeting	0.6
Total number of applications to receive final opinion within 30 working days (excluding time taken by applicant following request for further information).	3
Total number of applications taken over 30 working days for a response to applicant	0
Total number of applications given a favourable opinion with standard conditions	2
Total number of applications given a favourable opinion with additional conditions	1
Total number of applications given an unfavourable opinion	0
Total number of new applications awaiting applicant's response	0
Total number of annual progress reports received	1
Total number of final reports received	1





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**Cabinet Office, Public Health Directorate**

Cronk Coar, Nobles Hospital  
Strang, Douglas,  
Isle of Man IM4 4RJ.

Tel: +44 1624 642639  
[www.gov.im/publichealth](http://www.gov.im/publichealth)  
@publichealthiom