## HSC R&D Division

## Opportunity-Led Commissioned Research

*Guidance*

*Notes*

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## Introduction

* 1. This document details the process involved in making an application to the Health & Social Care HSC Research & Development Division (R&D Division) **Opportunity-Led Commissioned Research** Award scheme.
  2. The Opportunity-Led Commissioned ResearchAward schemeis designed to support research that derives from ad-hoc opportunities and exploits partnership funding
  3. Researchers, potential funders and other interested stakeholders are encouraged to contact HSC R&D at the earliest opportunity to discuss potential Opportunity-Led commissioned proposals. All inquiries and correspondence relating to applications for Opportunity-Led Commissioned research should be addressed to <mailto:enquiry.rdpha@hscni.net>

## Eligibility

* 1. Applications are invited from Northern Ireland-based investigators working in research areas directly relevant to health or social care.
  2. The **Chief Investigator** (CI) must be employed in a substantive post in Northern Ireland within health or social care services, voluntary/not-for-profit organisations providing health or social care, or within a higher education institution.
  3. The CI must have secured co-funding, or, produce evidence of potential co-funding arrangements\*. HSC R&D Division will provide up to a maximum of 50% of the total award value.
  4. Before funding is awarded the applicant must provide evidence of independent peer-review. HSC R&D Division may request a copy of the peer-review.
  5. Applicants can only apply to the Opportunity-Led Commissioned Research Award scheme a maximum of three times in any 12 month period.

## Remit and Scope

3.1 The Opportunity-Led Commissioned ResearchAward schemeis designed to support research that derives from ad-hoc opportunities and exploits partnership funding. When considering applications, HSC R&D Division will examine aspects including:

* Relevance/benefit to HSC - is there political imperative to support the proposal? - does the proposal address a service priority? Will the proposal improve patient/client outcomes or other benefit to the HSC?
* Evidence that the project is a priority for HSC – Does the proposal add breadth or depth to the existing R&D research portfolio?
* Funding leverage - does the proposal lever external funding from an existing or potential funding partner?
* Is there a potential for additional return on investment?

## 4 Application Process

4.1 Applications may be submitted at any time. As with all HSC R&D Division schemes, awards will be subject to the availability of funds in any given financial year.

4.2 Applicants are advised to contact the HSC R&D Division at the earliest opportunity to discuss potential opportunity-led commissioned proposals.

4.3 Applicants should complete all sections of the *HSC R&D Division Opportunity-Led Commissioned Research Application Form.*