

Specification
14/19 – Call for follow-on studies to funded HS&DR projects
Closing date: 9 April 2014

1. Call

This call invites full proposals for follow-on work to studies which have been funded by the HS&DR programme. This includes work funded by the programme's predecessor programmes – the Health Services Research Programme and the Service Delivery and Organisation Programme. The originating studies can be live or completed. **This is not a mechanism for funding extensions of existing projects. Follow-on studies must have distinct research objectives and outputs, and demonstrate clear and substantial added value to the research user community from the proposed additional research. The commissioning board will take into account the track record of the original research team(s) in delivering high quality, scientifically rigorous and high-impact, relevant research findings, to time and budget.**

The HS&DR Programme recognises the added value of building on and exploiting fully research which is funded. This call provides a fast-track mechanism for teams who have a track record in delivering high quality research to time and budget. **This is a one-stage process.** In the full proposals, applicants need to demonstrate the likely impact of the proposed follow-on study, describe its relation to the original study, provide a robust study design and show that they can commit required resources (including senior investigator time) to complete the research.

2. Remit

- 2.1. The proposed follow-on studies must be in the general remit of the HS&DR programme. The Programme is designed to address the needs of managers and decision-makers, with a broad focus on the quality, access and organisation of services.
- 2.2. To be eligible for this call, studies need to build on and complement existing HS&DR funded studies. These could be:
 - Applying the original research to another setting or clinical area
 - Extending preliminary testing of an intervention to a wider number of sites
 - Exploring new organisational forms or services identified during the original study
 - Using data collected in original study for further modelling and analysis
 - Using the findings of original research to develop and test toolkits or other tailored products for commissioners or service practitioners (as studies in own right, rather than bolt-on dissemination activities)
- 2.3. Follow-on studies should include members from the original team. Principal investigators need not be the same for original and follow-on, but there should be substantial cross-membership of senior/core team members.
- 2.4. Follow-on studies might combine more than one original study from the same call or thematic area. An example given below is of two teams studying support workforce

who came together for a joint follow-on study on innovative practice in deployment of support workers.

- 2.5. Research of all types is welcome, including primary and secondary research. However, the aim of this call is to commission substantive research, rather than adjunct studies.
- 2.6. Studies should be well-designed, with clear research objectives and methods. Follow-on studies will be assessed in the usual way, with full peer review, independently of the original research studies.

3. Purpose of the call

- 3.1. The HS&DR programme wishes to maximise its investment in existing research studies by increasing the reach or impact of original research, or exploiting rich datasets generated and cleaned during original work.
- 3.2. Examples are given below, some of them commissioned from an SDO call for follow-on studies in 2010:
- 3.3. Further analytic work using Birthplace cohort data to examine new relations (such as organisational characteristics and rates of intervention) from the rich database <http://www.nets.nihr.ac.uk/projects/hsdr/10100843> (Hollowell)
- 3.4. Mixed-methods evaluation of along-side midwifery units (a new organisational form which emerged from service mapping in the original Birthplace study) <http://www.nets.nihr.ac.uk/projects/hsdr/10100835> (McCourt)
- 3.5. Further work to test innovative models of inducting, supporting and supervising assistant nursing workforce, building on two separate studies of support workforce <http://www.nets.nihr.ac.uk/projects/hsdr/10100817> (Kessler)
- 3.6. Work on identifying morbidities and complications after paediatric cardiac surgery, including longitudinal data, building on earlier study by the team which developed a casemix-adjusted mortality risk model in this area and identified gaps in existing routine data <http://www.nets.nihr.ac.uk/projects/hsdr/12500506> (Tsang)

4. Notes to Applicants

The NIHR Health Services and Delivery Research (HS&DR) programme aims to produce rigorous and relevant evidence on the quality, access and organisation of health services, including costs and outcomes in order to improve health and health services. It is focused on research to support decisions by frontline managers and clinical leaders on the appropriateness, quality and cost-effectiveness of care.

The NIHR Health Services and Delivery Research programme is funded by the NIHR, with contributions from NISCHR in Wales, the HSC R&D Division, Public Health Agency in Northern Ireland, and case by case contributions from the CSO in Scotland.

The programme operates two funding streams (this call is under the commissioned workstream); Researcher-led and Commissioned. Researchers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are eligible to apply for funding from either workstream under this programme. Researchers in Scotland may apply to the researcher-led workstream but are not eligible to respond to the commissioned workstream and should contact the CSO to discuss funding opportunities for healthcare delivery-type research.

5. Application process and timetable

Please ensure you have read the supporting documents and application guidance notes provided to support this call.

Should you have any questions or require any further clarification please refer to the NETSCC FAQs at [HS&DR programme - FAQs](#), if the answer to your question cannot be found please email your query to hsdrinfo@soton.ac.uk with the title for the call for proposals as the email header. Applicants should be aware that while every effort will be made to respond to enquiries in a timely fashion, **these should be received at least two weeks before the call closing date.**

The process of commissioning will be in a **single stage** and applicants should submit **full proposals** via the HS&DR website by **1pm** on **April 9 2014**. All proposals will initially be checked for remit and competitiveness¹. No late proposals will be considered. No paper-based only submissions will be considered.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their full application in **August 2014**. Please note this date may be subject to change.

6. Transparency agenda

In line with the government's transparency agenda, any contract resulting from this tender may be published in its entirety to the general public. Further information on the transparency agenda is at:

<http://transparency.number10.gov.uk/>

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/policy_and_standards_framework_transparency.asp

<http://www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/>

¹ 'Non-Competitive' means that a proposal is not of a *sufficiently high* standard to be taken forward for further assessment in comparison with other proposals received and funded by the HS&DR programme because it has little or no realistic prospect of funding. This may be because of scientific quality, cost, scale/duration, or the makeup of the project team.