

Road Safety: The Public Health Impact of Decreasing the Amount of Street Lighting 11/3004

Research Question(s)

- What is the public health impact of decreasing the amount of street lighting?
 - **Population:** Researchers to specify and justify
 - **Intervention (non-NHS):** Decreasing the amount of street lighting, such as dimming or switching off street lights.
 - **Comparator:** Default street light provision.
 - **Outcomes:** Possible outcome measures include physical and mental wellbeing, unintended consequences, adverse effects, impact on sleep, greenhouse emissions, impact on the fear of crime (e.g. on transport choice). This is not an exhaustive list and applicants may suggest other outcomes.
 - **Duration of follow-up:** Researchers to specify and justify.
 - **Impact on inequalities:** Research should consider the impact of the intervention on health inequalities, researchers to specify and justify.
 - **Design:** Primary research and/or secondary data analysis, researchers to specify and justify. Possible designs may include controlled experimental designs, step wedge designs, interrupted time series. The programme is less interested in uncontrolled before and after studies.
 - **Setting:** Defined geographical areas in the UK, urban or rural. Researchers to specify and justify.
 - **Public engagement:** Proposals should incorporate a mechanism for public involvement.

Background to commissioning brief:

The UK has about 7.5 million streetlights which cost up to £500 million per year. The cost of running and maintenance has risen significantly over the last five years. A number of local authorities are changing the provision of street lighting for financial reasons, often between midnight and 5am. Very little research has explored the public health impact of street lighting. The little research available was conducted in the UK and the USA predominantly in the 1970s. Conclusions on the public health impact of street lighting are uncertain at best. In this call, the programme is interested in comparatively short studies.

Notes to Applicants

The NIHR Public Health Research programme is funded by the NIHR, with contributions from the CSO in Scotland, NISCHR in Wales, and HSC R&D, Public Health Agency, Northern Ireland. Researchers in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are eligible to apply for funding under this programme

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/>