

Fw: APPROVAL FROM STIR MAN SCHOOL- Fw: HAGIS Stirling Management School Ethics Application

Elaine Douglas

Fri 15/09/2017 11:19

To: Elaine Douglas <elaine.douglas@stir.ac.uk>;

From: Ronald McQuaid
Sent: 23 October 2015 13:54
To: Lisa Reid; Elizabeth Lemmon
Subject: FW: HAGIS Stirling Management School Ethics Application

Elizabeth,

I think these answers are sufficient for me to take Chair's action and I approve the application.

Ron

Professor Ronald McQuaid | Professor of Work and Employment
Chair of SMS Ethics Committee
Management, Work and Organisation Division,
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From: Elizabeth Lemmon
Sent: 22 October 2015 09:47
To: Lisa Reid <lisa.reid@stir.ac.uk>
Cc: Ronald McQuaid <ronald.mcquaid@stir.ac.uk>; Elaine Douglas <elaine.douglas@stir.ac.uk>; Alasdair Rutherford <alasdair.rutherford@stir.ac.uk>; David Bell <d.n.f.bell@stir.ac.uk>
Subject: HAGIS Stirling Management School Ethics Application

Dear Lisa,

Please see below our formal responses to each of the comments raised in our application for ethical approval to the Management School.

- **Is there a social bias in the types of activities you have listed, such as opera, art galleries. Might the study be excluding certain groups who enjoy other types of activities.**

This is a valid point and one that we had not considered. We will add in some additional activities such as playing bingo or bridge, playing golf, bowls etc.

- **On the main questionnaire, page 5 questions 2.7 and 2.10, it was suggested that for both questions the interviewer should ask the participant whether they (or their partner) is male or female, offering the option to reply “Prefer not to disclose”. On one you have “ Code without asking” on the other you have “Ask if unsure”. It was suggested that asking in a light hearted fashion may negate any awkwardness, if you understand what I mean?**

Yes, we will remove the “code without asking” part for asking the participants gender. The “ask if unsure part” is there because the partner might not be present and it might not be clear from the name of the partner given whether they are male or female, and we also don’t ask anything on the sexuality of the participant. But I suppose it is the same situation as with asking the participant, it might be best to just ask and do so in a light hearted fashion as you suggested.

- **The questionnaire refers to Gypsies – this may be construed as politically incorrect**

Agreed. We will take the option of Gypsies out and only have Traveller.

- **Can you please confirm what protocols are in place if distress is caused as a result of any of the questions?**

We will appoint a market research company to carry out the survey. This will go to tender shortly. Conditions of the tender include i) compliance with the Social Research Association Ethical Guidelines (<http://the-sra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/ethics03.pdf>) ii) the contractor provide specific details of their own protocols for dealing with any distress caused as a result of the questions asked iii) the contractor provide details of their interviewer training and, in particular, how these protocols are communicated and adhered to in the field. The quality of the market research company response to these conditions will be a factor in the outcome of the tender process.

- **The length of the questionnaire was a slight concern – so again, what are the protocols for supporting elderly participants, perhaps with disabilities that might be impeded by completing a questionnaire of this size?**

As discussed in the previous point, the market research appointed to conduct the survey will be selected based upon a number of ethical conditions. In addition to compliance with the Social Research Association Ethical Guidelines (<http://the-sra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/ethics03.pdf>), the tender document specifically requests the contractor to i) provide details on their own protocols to support consenting participants who may find the length of the questionnaire a barrier to completion and ii) how these protocols are communicated and adhered to in the field. These are anticipated to include arranging multiple visits of shorter duration or allowing breaks. The quality of the market research company response to these conditions will be a factor in the outcome of the tender process.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Elizabeth

Elizabeth Lemmon

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