

HSE National Committee for the Governance, Management and Support of Research

Terms of Reference

Revised November 2025

Context and background	<p>Research activity is significant in the HSE and funded HSE Services, but the level of oversight and governance of this activity at both local and national level is poor; and the organisational infrastructure to sustain it is under-developed.</p> <p>The HSE Action Plan for Health Research 2019-2029 is a pragmatic roadmap to address existing problems and contribute to the embedding of a culture of research, evidence-based practice and innovation in the health service so that research becomes a critical enabler of health service delivery. One of the key outputs of this plan is the HSE National Framework for the Governance, Management and Support of Research (RGMS Framework), which was launched in September 2021. The framework sets up the requirements for the development of appropriate organisational governance for research to enable compliance with ethical, legal and regulatory requirements while supporting our staff and placing the service users, patients, their families and carers at the centre of the research activity.</p> <p>The implementation of the RGMS Framework will require a nationally integrated approach to the establishment of RGMS functions at local level, the reform of the Research Ethics Committee (REC) system and the roll out of an electronic information management system as well as the development of research related policies, standardised codes of practice, guidance and resources for staff.</p>
Group mandate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support and oversee the implementation of the HSE Strategic Action Plan for Research 2019-29 and the HSE National Framework for the Governance, Management and support of research 2. Evaluate progress on the implementation of the National RGMS Framework in the HSE regions and provide recommendations and guidance - supports National Research and Development in their performance and assurance functions with regards to the regions. 3. To act at champions for research at senior management level ensuring that research considerations are embedded in decisions related to HR, IT, Finance and so forth within the organisation. 4. To provide subject matter expertise to HSE National R&D and provide steering guidance. 5. To be familiar with the outputs of the working groups led by HSE National R&D to provide steering guidance. 6. Formally confer status of HSE Reference REC to newly set up committees and formally endorse the nomination of the RREC Chair(s). 7. To support Public and Patient Involvement in Research 8. The Committee may establish sub-committees or working groups to carry out specified tasks. Membership of sub-committees may include individuals who are members of the main committee plus additional representation, not members of the main Committee, subject to approval, provided they bring relevant expertise or stakeholder representation. Such sub-committees may include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible Conduct of Research Policy • National Electronic Research Management System Implementation • Research Priority Setting

Reporting and Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The HSE National Committee for the Governance, Management and Support of Research will report to HSE Senior Management Team via the office of the Chief Information Officer. • The group will be chaired on an interim basis by Dr Anthony O'Regan, and will have a minimum of one patient representative. • The Assistant National Director for Research and Evidence will act as deputy chair. • Decision making will be based on the majority: a course of action will require the support of more than 50% members. • Decisions will be taken at meetings or by email if attendance is not possible. When engaging remotely, lack of answer will imply support of whatever decision is put forward for a vote. A quorum of at least 50% of the committee members will be required. • Outputs from the National R&D Working Group will be sent to the RGMS Committee members for noting.
Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings will take place four times a year • Meetings will take place online • Additional meetings may be scheduled if required. • Secretariat will be provided by National HSE R&D
Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim Chair: Dr Anthony O'Regan, NDTP. • Deputy Chair: HSE Head of HSE Research & Evidence • National Finance nominee • National HR nominee • Chief Clinical Officer nominee • Data Protection Officer nominee • Data Governance nominee • Chair of the Chief Academic Officers Group • Chief Data and Analytics Officer Patient representative • Patient and Service User Engagement nominee • Research Ethics Committee representative • Researcher representative • Representative from Voluntary Agencies (Section 38) • Department of Health Director of Research • National Public Health Nominee • National Access & Integration Nominee