



Senate

<b>Paper Title</b>	<b>Ethics of Research Committee (QMERC)</b>
<b>Outcome requested</b>	To <b>note</b> the executive summary report of the QMERC meeting on 19 June 2024 and action taken since.
<b>Points for Senate members to note and further information</b>	The summary includes notification of two high-risk applications; QME 24.0358 and QME 24.0538.
<b>Questions for Senate to consider</b>	N/A
<b>Regulatory/statutory reference points</b>	N/A
<b>Strategy and risk</b>	N/A
<b>Reporting/consideration route for the paper</b>	QMERC Senate
<b>Authors</b>	Nooreen Shaikh, Senior Research Ethics Facilitator, JRMO
<b>Sponsor</b>	Professor Andrew Livingston, Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation)

**QUEEN MARY ETHICS OF RESEARCH COMMITTEE**  
**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Date of Meeting – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024

High-Risk Application

<b>Study title:</b>	Shifting landscapes of solidarity: struggling in and against British trade unions for Palestinian liberation
<b>Reference number:</b>	QME 24.0358
<b>Study type:</b>	Student project, School of Politics and International Relations

The study is summarised below and was reviewed at QMERC Main Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024. The reason QMERC have requested Senate notification as it is a high-risk study involving vulnerable participants; the concerns for the safety of the researcher and the complex ethical issues.

This study contributes to the work of a PhD exploring the relationship between trade unions and the Palestinian solidarity movement in Britain. Specifically, on activists in Britain invested in legal anti-militarism as a form of anti-colonial praxis and trade unionists both engaged within and against them. It was previously reviewed at Panel before being escalated to QMERC for a high-risk review. It was decided the study needed more work due to the sensitivity of understanding the tensions surrounding support for Palestinian liberation in the trade union movement. Prior to QMERC it was recommended the researchers seek Prevent guidance because of the risks of potential Prevent issues coming up during interviews.

## High-Risk Application

<b>Study title:</b>	Enhancing Accountability and Transparency: The Impact of Body-Worn Cameras
<b>Reference number:</b>	QME 24.0538
<b>Study type:</b>	Staff project, School of Economics and Finance

The study is summarised below and was reviewed at QMERC Main Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024. The reason QMERC have requested Senate notification is due to the high-risk security-sensitive study; the complex legal and ethical issues and potential reputational risk it poses for Queen Mary.

The main objective is to evaluate the implementation of body-worn cameras by the Military Police of the State of Bahia, within the context of a high-lethality policing environment and as a state-level initiative directed by the institution itself. The research team advised the police on how to distribute the cameras for randomization at dispatch level but do not get involved in the consent process. During interactions civilians may be recorded, the QM research team do not get involved in this consent process either. The QM research team analyse the data collected by the police. We have advised that it would be best that identifiable data was not shared with the research team. There is concern over GDPR implications requiring input for QM's legal team.

## Main Items Discussed & Relevant Action Since

### QMERC meeting June 2024

#### Current Panel Membership

We have good membership from a wide range of departments and expertise.

### [Low-risk ethics review audit summary](#)

An audit of the low-risk review process by QMERC Chairs and members found from the 35 applications audited very few concerns raised. All auditors agreed on the risk level. There were recommendations made about the transfer processes of research projects between universities which had previously proved challenging.

### [Update on the Review of Academic Governance](#)

Danny Hassel spoke to QMERC about the review that looked at Senate and sub-boards, duties, accountability, reporting, how it relates to other boards and Council. Following the report and the issues raised, recommendations have been put into the QMERC development plan.

### [Prevent guidance and training update](#)

Helen Jenner Chair of QMERC spoke with Simon Jarvis and Chris Shelly, Heads of Student Responsibility for Prevent, and Thomas Shaw from Legal, about disclosure. As a result of the meeting all Panel members will be encouraged to take the Prevent training and at least one member of each Panel must be trained. The Prevent guidance was updated to reflect this change.

## [DSREC subcommittee meetings September 2024](#)

### [DSREC activity](#)

During academic year 2023-2024, several DSRECs had expanded their remit to include cohorts of applicants that had not previously been included.

In the academic year 2023-2024: our largest DSREC School of Business and Management for staff and Postgraduate Research students reviewed 379 applications. One of our smaller DSRECs History reviewed 7 applications.

### [DSREC audits](#)

11 out the 12 DSRECs have been audited with the one remaining audits scheduled ahead of the next DSREC subcommittee meeting. A report will be presented at the next meeting covering general findings and recommendations made.

## Updates and developments

### Research Ethics Management System

The REM system has been running for over a year. Feedback has overall been positive from applicants submitting ethics applications, Panel members reviewing applications and ethics facilitators regarding administration. The next step is to roll-out the system to DSRECs. The QM Research Ethics team have been building the system for the Geography and Sports and Exercise Medicine DSRECs in parallel. Early testing has been going well. The roll-out will be phased to obtain feedback and to incorporate lessons learnt.

### QMERC development plan updates

To fulfil our role as the QMERC, and to help deliver the Ethics Core Value in QM 2030 Strategy, we continually update the QMERC development plan. Recent items include the roll out of the ethics online system to the DSRECs. Considering the 'review of academic governance' we await QM data to ensure we match or exceed representation amongst the ethics review panels. In Summer 2023 a new 7<sup>th</sup> panel, Panel G was introduced to match the demand of moderate risk projects. QMERC will continue to monitor application numbers and the number of Panel meetings.

## Metrics for 1 June 2024 to 30 September 2024

The report below provides a summary of the applications for QMERC ethical approval received and approved between **1 June 2024 to 30 September 2024**.

	Received	Approved
Panel review apps	19	17
Low risk apps	54	54
QMERC apps	1	0
Amendments	37	35
Block (Generic) applications	0	0
DSREC set up applications	1	1
Transfer apps	1	0
International	3	1
Total	116	108

### Contact officer

Nooreen Shaikh

Senior Research Ethics Facilitator, JRMO

Email: [research-ethics@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:research-ethics@qmul.ac.uk)