

Common errors in applications to IREC



Please make sure that when submitting your application, you check for the following errors which we see regularly in IREC applications. Any or all of these can cause applications to be rejected.

- Not understanding that IREC works differently from most RECs/IRBs – in particular, we do not take a ‘tick-box’ approach to ethics, and we do take a supportive approach with the aim of improving ethical practice in research. See the website for more information.
- Failing to recognise that our principle of keeping bureaucracy to a minimum applies to applicants as well as the IREC process.
- Referring to documents without providing either copies or summaries.
- Providing several almost identical participant information sheets, consent forms, etc for different participant groups or conditions. In these cases, one copy of each document is sufficient, with a brief summary of the other versions and how they would differ from the copy provided.
- Not compensating participants for their work for the research.
- Compensating participants at different rates, e.g. paying professionals more than people with lived experience.
- Saying that complaints can be referred to IREC – it is good ethical practice to identify an external body for complaints, but IREC does not offer a complaints management service.
- Requesting a meeting with the panel. IREC does offer ad hoc meetings for people who want advice, and the fees for these are on the website. But we manage applications and responses in writing because that gives everyone a chance to deliberate and to structure proposals and responses appropriately.