

## Appendix 1: Questions for Ethical Approval of Sensitive Research

### Section A: Sensitive Research

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1. Does the intended research include research into illegal activities<sup>i</sup>? (This may include, but is not limited to, research into hate crime<sup>ii</sup>, theft, fraud, or harmful and illegal cultural practices<sup>iii</sup>, the collection of source data, such as crime statistics, etc.).

**Please note: the university does not permit any crime to be committed for research purposes, such as accessing images of paedophilia or child abuse, unless special permission has been granted by the Home Office.**

Yes      No

2. Does the research involve (active) deception?

Yes      No

3. Will the research require the use of sites usually prohibited on university computers (e.g. pornography or the sites of these prohibited organisations)?<sup>iv</sup>

Yes      No

4. Has the research been commissioned under a commercial contract requiring secure storage for related materials?

Yes      No

5. Does the intended research fit into any of the following categories? If so, please indicate which\*:

**a.** Terrorism, extremism, terrorist or extremist organisations or groups, extremist ideologies, radicalisation<sup>v</sup>, de-radicalisation<sup>vi</sup>:

Yes      No

**b.** Commissioned by the military or GCHQ:

Yes      No

**c.** Commissioned under an EU / US security call or similar:

Yes      No

**d.** Involve the acquisition of security clearances (including the Official Secrets Act):

Yes      No

**If you are unsure as to whether your research will involve any of these categories you are advised to answer 'Yes' to the most relevant.**

## Section B: Accessing Websites for the Research Areas Outlined in Category Q5a

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1. Will your research involve visits to websites that might be associated with radicalisation or terrorist/extremist organisations or groups?

Yes      No

*If you answer 'Yes' to Q1 you are advised that such sites may be subject to surveillance by the police and accessing those sites might lead to police enquiries. It is strongly recommended that you use your university network address, once you have received ethical approval, which will ensure these activities are flagged as a legitimate part of your research. Whilst acquiring ethical approval for this project and adhering to University guidance on accessing websites and storing related materials securely will allow the University to verify the legitimacy of you accessing these websites, it cannot guarantee legal protection.*

**Please acknowledge that you understand this risk by putting an 'X' in the box.**

## Section C: Storage and Transmission of Research Materials

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*The secure storage of data and research material is strongly recommended to all who answered 'Yes' in Section A. Please note that anyone storing participants' personal data is subject to separate legislation and requirements. Details are outlined here, and in the university's Research Records Retention Policy.*

1. Does your research involve the downloading and storage on a computer of any materials relating to extremism or radicalisation (for example, records, statements or other documents)?

Yes      No

*If you answered 'Yes' to Q1, you should request a secure file share from ITMS to be created for your project, with access restricted to you, or if absolutely necessary, any internal co-investigator(s). The research materials should not be kept on a personal computer, and all online research in this area should be done on university servers<sup>vii</sup>. Physical data should be scanned and uploaded to the password-protected server; where this is not possible, it should be kept in a locked filing cabinet or similar on university premises.*

*You will need to agree to store all materials relevant to Section B, Q1 and Section C, Q2, as well as any other materials related to your research project in accordance with this advice in order to gain ethical approval.*

**Please confirm you will store all research documents in accordance with this advice by putting an 'X' in the box.**

2. Might your research involve the electronic transmission of such materials to project Co-Investigators?

Yes      No

**Note:** *The Terrorism Act (2006) and the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (2015) outlaw the dissemination of terrorist publications if the individual concerned has the intention to encourage or induce others. Publications disseminated for the purposes of an approved and clearly defined research project should not amount to an offence, because the requisite intention is unlikely to be present. However, you are advised to exercise caution and avoid dissemination of raw research materials where possible.*

*You will need to agree to only transmit these materials to Co-Investigators after they have been password-protected and that you will only use 'Zend'<sup>viii</sup>, which encrypts materials in transmission.*

Please confirm you understand the risks in disseminating publications and that you will only transmit these materials to collaborators after they have been password-protected and via 'Zend' by putting an 'X' in the box.

## Authorisation

By signing this form, you confirm that you have read, understood and will comply with the above ethical procedures. You MUST also sign the main section of this application form.

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- <sup>i</sup> **Illegal activities** incorporates **any illegal activity**; for example, trespassing, theft, or online piracy.
- <sup>ii</sup> **Hate Crimes** are those committed against someone because of their disability, gender-identity, race, religion or belief, or sexual orientation.
- <sup>iii</sup> **Harmful and illegal cultural practices**: these include violence against women and girls, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, child sexual exploitation and honour-based violence.
- <sup>iv</sup> **Accessing prohibited websites**: You will need to seek permission from ITMS; advice on how to gain permission is available from the ITMS helpdesk.
- <sup>v</sup> **Radicalisation** refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism
- <sup>vi</sup> **De-radicalisation** usually refers to activity aimed at a person who supports terrorism and in some cases has engaged in terrorist related activity, which is intended to effect cognitive and/or behavioural change leading to a new outlook on terrorism and/or disengagement from it.
- <sup>vii</sup> **Secure File Share**: You will need to ask ITMS to create a Secure File Share for your project, with access restricted to yourself, or if absolutely necessary, any internal co-investigator(s). Advice is available from the ITMS helpdesk.
- <sup>viii</sup> **Zend**: advice on using Zend is available from the ITMS helpdesk.