



National Forum Research Ethics Governance Structure and Ethics Approval Process

ETHICS GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The ethics governance structure consists of two committees of the National Forum Board as follows:

Research Ethics Committee (REC) with responsibility for undertaking ethics review and approval for research conducted under the auspices of the National Forum and for developing ethics processes in line with international good practice. This Committee meets, normally, up to three times per year.

Research Ethics Audit Committee (REAC) with responsibility for undertaking periodic audit activities to ensure that the National Forum's REC processes for ethics review and approval are robust and fit for purpose. In the event of a complaint in relation to the research activities of the National Forum REC, the Audit Committee will review/consider such claims. This Committee meets normally once per year.



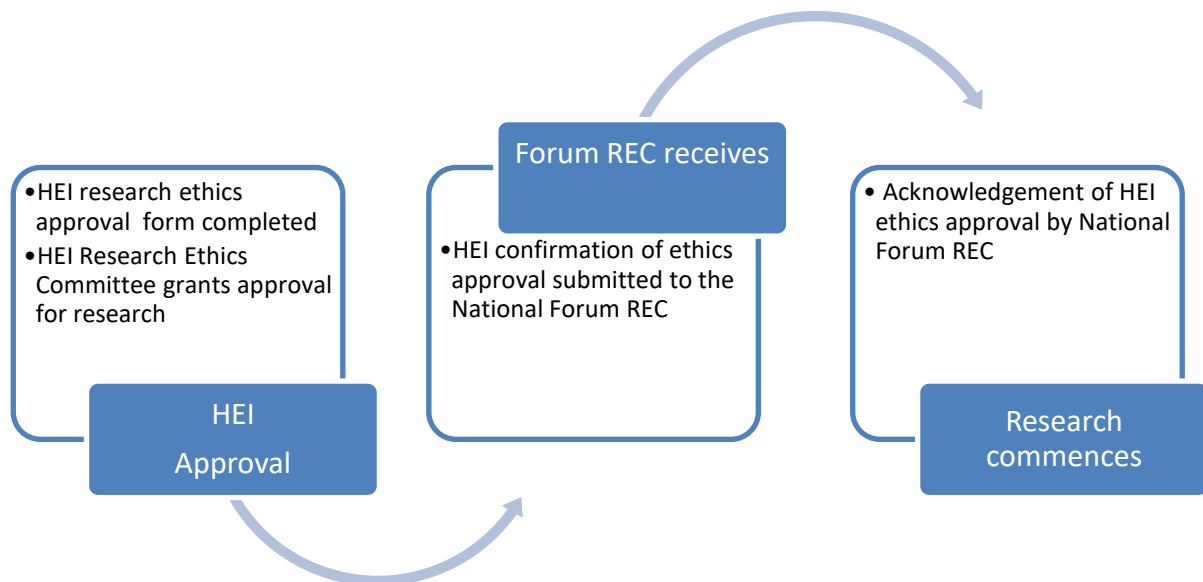
ETHICS APPROVALS PROCESS: Mode 1: Research Projects

The following process applies in the case of Forum-led, or Forum-commissioned third-party research. Following review of an ethics application by the REC, any conditions of approval must be addressed prior to the commencement of the research.



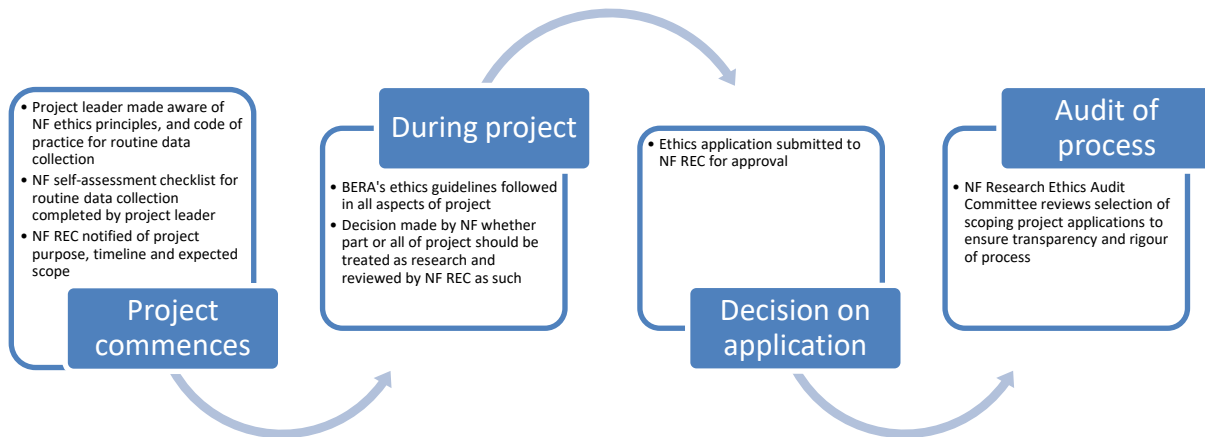
ETHICS APPROVALS PROCESS: Mode 2: Research Projects

The following process will normally apply in the case of partnership research between the National Forum and HEI(s) and shall be based on the recognition of institutional ethics approval processes through the REC.



ETHICS APPROVALS PROCESS: Mode 3: Ethics Process for Research that May Arise from National Forum Routinely-Collected Data (such as in scoping/consultation projects)

The process for ethics oversight of research that may arise from routinely-collected data within National Forum work packages such as scoping/consultation projects.



During periodic research ethics audits, conducted by the National Forum REAC, at least one example of each mode of ethics approval is included, where available.

Audits focus on the process followed by the REC and whether the REC has consistently followed the processes outlined in this Framework.

Complaints/appeals procedures are in place for all research projects for which the National Forum considers/grants ethics approval.

For further information on this Framework or any aspect of National Forum research ethics, please contact the National Forum Research Ethics Liaison, Dr Eileen McEvoy, at eileen.mcevoy@teachingandlearning.ie.