

Roles & Responsibilities of Key Agents in Research Governance Framework

Funder

- Assessing scientific quality of proposed research
- Establishing value for money
- Assessing quality of research environment and experience of researchers
- Requiring that a **sponsor** takes on responsibility before research begins

Sponsor

Overall responsibility for confirming that all the arrangements are in place ready for the research to begin:

- Management and funding
- Independent approval of methods
- Ethical approval
- Written agreements
- Monitoring arrangements
- Compliance with the law (Data Protection, Freedom of Information etc.)

Researchers

- Develop proposals that are scientifically sound and ethical
- Seeking independent ethical review
- Carrying out research according to the agreed proposal and according to legal requirements and guidance
- Ensuring participants' welfare during research process
- Feeding back results of research to participants

Employing Organisation

- Promoting a quality research culture
- Ensuring researchers understand and discharge their responsibilities
- Ensuring the research is properly designed, and that it is well managed, monitored and reported, as agreed with the sponsor
- Taking action if misconduct or fraud is suspected.

Care Organisation

- Ensuring that all research where they have a duty of care (service users, carers or staff) meets RGF standard
 - Access to research population
 - Checks (eg CRB)
 - Recording & Monitoring
 - Legal requirements

The Funder, Sponsor, Employing Organisation and Care Organisation will often all be RBK services, if the research has been commissioned as an in-house piece of work. In this case the person fulfilling the sponsor's role will usually be a manager. If the study is part of academic work, the University or College will be the Organisation and a named tutor the sponsor.