



Driving innovation in policing across the East Midlands

RESEARCH IMPACT CAPACITY RATING

Integral to the launch of the 'Thoughtful Policing' campaign, initiated in Lincolnshire by Deputy Chief Constable Gary Knighton, a new clarity over what professional policing requires from research, in order to operationalise findings, has been set out.

The notion of an 'industry standard' is well established in many fields, such as chemical engineering, marine technology, car design and manufacturing, and also in commissioned research approaches in medicine and social work. This principle, of research needing to move in an (industry) informed way towards an operationalised 'impact' is equally needed in policing.

This new policing typology is a straightforward table that research collaborators can use to scope, plan, manage and assess research purpose and application, explicitly focussed on impact. The purpose is to embed a collaborative approach for impactful policing research, by both transparently creating a standardised critique yet accelerating application innovation.

Policing is a highly complex profession and having a research informed approach to professional practice is vital. Research helps inform evaluation and innovation, but for a 24/7 emergency workplace, research must aim to add clear impact for service improvement. (Rapid Evidence Review overview mapping is outside the scope of this notion of commissioned 'research' for 'new knowledge'.)

Researchers wishing to collaborate with policing should first be clear if their proposal is basic or applied. The highest rating research will be that which adds value to operational priorities.'

The Frascati Manual (Proposed Standard Practice for Surveys of Research and Experimental Development, OECD, Paris, 2002) defines these as (adapted):-

- Basic research is experimental or theoretical work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge of the underlying foundation of phenomena and observable facts, possibly resulting in little / no particular application or use.
- Applied research is also original investigation undertaken in order to acquire new knowledge. It is directed primarily towards a specific practical aim or objective.

In the case of applied research projects, the potential to deploy and test is an important assessment consideration for the approval of potential research collaboration.

Collaborators should assess proposed research using the typology below:

IMPACT CAPACITY RATING (ICR)

(BR 1,2 & AR 1,2,3,4,5)

Basic research BR Level 1	The outcome of the proposed work has many potential applications to a range of needs, processes or products, subject to future development.
BR Level 2	The results of the proposed work will provide significant insights into the identified field, which might enable the development of alternative / innovative ways of policing.
Applied Research AR Level 1	The outcome of the proposed work has a limited range or opportunity for operational deployment within current policing priorities.
AR Level 2	The results of the proposed work are mainly restricted to determining the feasibility / scoping of the proposed product / solution.
AR Level 3	An applied project, near to operational deployment but needing forms of validation in the field, with greater medium term potential benefit to policing practice.
AR Level 4	An applied project, with field validation results, ready for further / wider operational deployment.
AR Level 5	An applied project, with field validation, ready for further / wider operational deployment and directly meeting current operational priority needs.