

Peter Stewart-Sandeman
Senior Research Associate
Survey Coordination Centre for Existing Methods
Picker Institute Europe, Buxton Court
3 West Way, Oxford OX2 0JB

20th December 2021

Dear Mr Stewart-Sandeman,

Study title: Community Mental Health Survey 2022 (CMH22)

Date submitted: 22nd November 2021

Ethical opinion

Approval was sought for an amended, 2022 version of the study with adjustments to the questionnaire and the documentation. Many of the amendments were minor and were largely to accommodate the on-going changes to the delivery of care associated with the continuing impact of the pandemic on service provision. There was a particular focus on the ways in which these changes impacted the form of care and waiting times. The documents reviewed are noted below.

The documents and the changes raise no ethical issues which are not reasonably handled and justified in the application documents. I am happy to give a favourable ethical opinion of the study on the basis described in the Ethics Application form and supporting documentation.

In particular, I note that the survey coordination team have again considered the question of directing respondents to an independent organisation in cases where there might be safeguarding concerns. I agree that because the invitation letters are written from the perspective of the Trust providing care, having reference to a third-party may cause unnecessary concern. However, it would be helpful if, as they suggest, the team could consider alternate locations for such a link – perhaps alongside the free text question in the survey itself. Overall, though, that the safeguarding processes are thorough and robust.

Committee Process

















The CQC's Independent Ethics Review Panel is tasked with reviewing studies commissioned by the CQC. It is chaired by Dr Mark Sheehan and includes Nigel Booth (Lay member) and Dr Gary Abel (Statistician). In accordance with its operating procedures, the full Panel reviews research studies which are new and have not been reviewed by the panel or its precursor. Amended, updated, or previously reviewed research studies are reviewed by the Chair.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Mark Sheehan, Chair
On behalf of the CQC's Independent Ethics Review Panel

Documents Reviewed and Approved:

-  20CAG0155 (amendment outcome letter)
-  20CAG0155 (non-research fully supported outcome final)
-  CMH21_Ethics ammendment approval
-  CMH21_Ethics committee approval
-  CMH21_Sampling instructions_V4
-  CMH21_Survey handbook_V3
-  CMH22_Data flow diagram - post codes_V2
-  CMH22_Dissent poster_V1
-  CMH22_Dissent_V5
-  CMH22_First mailing letter_V1
-  CMH22_Multilanguage sheet_V1
-  CMH22_Safeguarding procedures_V1.1
-  CMH22_Second reminder letter_V1
-  CMH22_Third mailing letter_V1
-  Decision letter - Community Mental Health Survey 2022
-  P101678_Community Mental Health Survey 2022_Ethics application_V3.0_HB_PSS_CK_221121_PROTECT

* It would be helpful to also see the final questionnaire and, when it is available, the CAG approval letter.