SiPR | Scottish Institute for Policing Research

Policing Contemporary Social Harms and Challenges Grant Call

SIPR is providing £40,000 to fund research exploring 'Policing contemporary social harms and challenges'

Focus of grant

This fund is purposefully broad in scope in order for a range of topics to be identified by the SIPR community. Priorities may include policing of: minoritised groups (with consideration of intersectionality welcomed), people who use drugs, sex work and hate crime, for example. Projects could also cover topics such as policing and its intersect with or responses to environmental harms, online extremism, disinformation, cybercrime, interpersonal violence and mental health.

If you would like to discuss the suitability of your project idea to ensure it would be appropriate for the remit of this call, please contact either Monica Craig (SPR Knowledge Exchange and Business Manager – m.craig2@napier.ac.uk) OR Professor Liz Aston (SIPR Director – l.aston@napier.ac.uk).

Information for Applicants

Eligibility

Applications are welcomed from researchers with expertise in policing contemporary social harms and challenges, including (but not limited to) some of the issues identified above. We particularly welcome applications from early and mid-career researchers.

Projects are expected to align with the SIPR Strategic Research Priorities and should be cognisant of the Strategic Police Priorities / Police Scotland 2030 vision.

Co-production or co-creation with organisations or communities is welcome but not required, however, the Principal Investigator (PI) must be based at a SIPR member University and this HEI must be the administering organisation. Collaborative applications across universities and disciplines are welcome.

Value

A total of £40,000 will be available. The maximum grant value from SIPR per application will be £20,000, though smaller applications are also welcome. We welcome proposals which include co-funding from other sources (which may bring the total project value above £20,000).

Assessment Process

To ensure that all funded projects are of high quality, all applications will be subject to a robust assessment process. The review stage will include assessment by an independent panel comprising of senior academics and policing personnel.

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- The extent to which the proposed project meets knowledge gaps within contemporary social harms and challenges and aligns with strategic priorities;
- The suitability of proposed team (i.e., Project Lead/ Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator's experience and expertise in the field of study)

- Project's feasibility and value for money (i.e., a project's ambition and ability to deliver outcomes to budget and within timescales); and
- The potential benefits/impact (i.e., project legacy and potential to influence police and practice).

Application Process

Applicants are required to complete the relevant application form including the following information:

- Description of team - one paragraph per named investigator which details experience and expertise in the proposed topic including per named investigator;
- Details of the project including background, aims, objectives, partners/ collaborators, methodology, and timeline;
- Proposed budget including a brief justification of resources required; and
- Clear indication of the expected outputs and impact of the project, detailing the potential contribution of the project to the development of the evidence-base, or of policy or practice related to the themes, and how you propose to capture and measure the impact of the project.

Where the project requires access to Police personnel or data, a letter of support from Police Scotland (or the relevant external body) should be sought. Please ensure you contact Police Scotland's Research and Insights Team (AcademicResearch@scotland.pnn.police.uk) as soon as possible to ensure the project's feasibility. Please be advised, Police Scotland will require at least three weeks' notice for all requests.

Terms

Only one application is permitted from any applicant for this call. The PI can be included as a Co-investigator in one further application as long as the two applications are not linked.

Projects should aim to be a maximum of 12 months in duration, commencing no later than 28th August 2025 and completed no later than (i.e., acceptance of final research report) by 28th August 2026.

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement with SIPR). 50% funding will be provided on commencement of the project with the remaining 50% provided on delivery of the final report. The final research report will be published by SIPR and will be acknowledged in all media and publications resulting from the project.

Applicants will also be required to report where this funding has enabled the generation of external income as well as where this project has been included as an impact case study.

Timetable

The dates below are indicative only and may be subject to change.

Item	Expected Dates
Call launched	Wednesday 19 February 2025
Deadline to provide notification of intent to apply	Thursday 24th April 2025
Deadline to submit applications	Thursday 29th May 2025
Applications sent to award panel	Friday 30th May 2025
Award Panel meet	Week beginning 23rd June 2025
Decisions announced	Week beginning 30th June 2025
Latest start date for successful projects	28th August 2025
Latest completion date for successful projects	28th August 2026

Ineligible costs

These grants will not cover the following costs:

- Core funding for institutions. In terms of overheads awards are generally not granted on a full economic costing basis;
- Endowments;
- Individual items of equipment;
- A shortfall resulting from a withdrawal of or deficiency in public finance;
- Sites, buildings or other capital expenditure; and
- Student tuition fees or stipends.

Submission of Intent to Apply and Completed Applications

Notices of Intent to Apply and completed applications should be submitted to sipr@napier.ac.uk and m.craig2@napier.ac.uk

For more information, please contact

Monica Craig – Knowledge Exchange and Business Manager m.craig2@napier.ac.uk