

# Police Priority Grants 2024/25 Call Guidance



POLICING  
RESEARCH  
PARTNERSHIP

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## Contents

Introduction to the N8 PRP Policing Priority Grants .....	3
N8 PRP Police Research Priorities Statement.....	3
2024/25 Awards .....	5
Funding Available .....	5
Eligible Costs .....	5
Award Duration .....	5
Award Requirements.....	5
Deliverables .....	5
Intellectual Property.....	5
Award Schedule.....	5
2024/25 Call.....	6
Timeline .....	6
Eligibility .....	6
Selection Criteria .....	6
Funding Decision .....	6
How to Apply .....	6
Application Form .....	7
Application Overview .....	7
Formatting Requirements .....	7
Which Police Research Priority does this project address? .....	7
Investigators .....	7
Research Partners.....	7
Letters of Support.....	7
Significance and Pathways to Impact .....	7
Project Plan.....	8
Supporting Context.....	9
Costs .....	9

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## Introduction to the N8 PRP Policing Priority Grants

The Policing Priority Grants are research awards providing pump-priming funds for collaborative, targeted research into high-priority areas, new challenges, and pressing concerns in policing.

We are looking for proposals for research projects prompted by one of the eight N8 PRP Police Research Priorities for 2024/25.

Projects must be led by an academic at one of the N8 universities and must be in collaboration with an N8 PRP police partner.

### N8 PRP Police Research Priorities Statement

From October 2024-September 2025, N8 Policing Research Partnership (N8 PRP) activity will be informed by an annual Statement of Research Priorities for N8 PRP activity identified by the N8 PRP Policing Partners. Co-ordinated communication from police partners on their priorities for N8 PRP-supported activity will enable more effective use of existing and ongoing research, and prompt innovative, socially significant research that would not otherwise have been generated or prioritised.

N8 PRP activity will advance shared understanding and action on the annual priorities through the *Northern Evidence Based Policing Hub (NEBP Hub)*, which will allocate resources for *Policing Priority Grants* (12-month research awards), *Agile Evidence Reviews* (3-month review grants), and *Knowledge Exchange Events* (including the *Policing Innovation Forum*, *NEBP Hub meetings*, and *webinars*).

### Developing Police Priority Grants from the Priorities Statement

Following discussion at the N8 PRP Northern Evidence Based Policing Hub in October 2024, the following priorities have been selected for the 2024/2025 Policing Priority Grants Call. The priorities (in bold) are followed by detail on the specific interests of police partners in these areas. These are included to aid the development of research questions.

Applicants should discuss and develop possible research projects with N8 PRP police partners using the priorities as guidance. There is no requirement for applications to cover all the questions raised under a priority.

To find a police partner, you can contact the [N8 PRP Academic Lead](#) at your university, one of the [Police SPOCs](#), or the N8 PRP project manager, [Helen Gordon-Smith](#).

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## 2024/2025 Priorities

### 1. The experience of neurodivergent people in the Criminal Justice System

- To what extent does being neurodivergent impact on someone's risk of contact with the Criminal Justice System and what impact does the identification, treatment, and support for neurodivergent individuals have on recidivism rates?
- What can be done to support neurodivergent detainees whilst in custody?

### 2. The use of social media in crime prevention

- How are crime prevention strategies being impacted by the development of social media? Can social media become an inclusive means of reducing crime? Are campaigns on social media an effective way to build trust, raise awareness (of e.g. fraud), and deter crime?
- What is the impact of the On-line Harms Bill regarding the obligation on social media and gaming companies to notify authorities in the event of any risk of Indecent images of children online?

### 3. What are the drivers for 'missing from home' and how can police work with partners to reduce them?

- Children – has the 'Children missing from care framework' improved outcomes? Has decision making from partners and police officers improved and has training made a difference?
- Adults – what does an ageing population mean for demand? How is this likely to affect incidences of neglect, crimes against older people, and safeguarding demand?
- Adults - 'Safeandfoundonline' dementia pilot for missing people in WY: are families and carers using it, is it helping call takers at first point of contact, are we finding people more quickly?

### 4. What do we know about public confidence in policing, and how can we measure it?

- What affects public confidence? E.g. policing of public protests/unrest, business-as-usual operational practices such as the use of partnership volunteers and interagency cooperation?
- What are the best ways for police forces to measure public confidence and satisfaction? Are there alternatives to surveys? How can police forces reach 'hard to reach groups' to measure public confidence, satisfaction, and issues within communities?

### 5. Understanding and Managing Professional Conduct within Policing

- How do Police Officers behave towards each other? How influential/effective are Standards of Professional Behaviour, Codes of Ethics, and supportive practices (e.g. Reflective Practice)? Does this vary across life and employment experience?
- How can good professional conduct be effectively embedded when demand is likely to continue to outstrip capacity in professional standards across the current complaints and conduct landscape?

### 6. Workforce Planning, Staff Retention and Police Mental Health

- What are the causes and impacts of high staff turnover?
- How can we help our officers and staff to be well? What are the effects of exposure to repeat trauma, high pressure incidents/ demand, agile working, and shift working?

### 7. Developing inclusive, effective vetting that meets demand

- How can we predict future demand for vetting?
- What are the barriers to effective vetting?
- Do current vetting requirements disadvantage certain social groups?

### 8. What are the threats and opportunities from AI?

- What are the risks from AI opportunities to commit crime? E.g. deep fakes, V.R. offending.
- How can police use AI to help solve crime and manage demand? E.g. facial recognition

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## 2024/25 Awards

An overview of the funding available, award duration, requirements, deliverables, IP arrangements, and award schedule.

### Funding Available

The total value of the fund is £100,000. It is expected this will fund 4 projects.

Funding will be awarded at 100% of eligible costs. The grant-holding institution **must** retain control of the budget and will be responsible for submitting a final expenditure report to N8 PRP.

### Eligible Costs

- Academic staff costs at N8 institutions only.
- Directly Incurred costs.

### Award Duration

Projects will start Feb-July 2025 for 12 months. Up to 6 months is allocated for project set up, including set up of Data Sharing Agreements.

### Award Requirements

#### **N8 PRP Police Partner**

Each proposal must include a minimum of one [N8 PRP police partner](#) as a research partner. To find a police partner, you can contact the [N8 PRP Academic Lead](#) at your university, one of the [Police SPOCs](#), or the N8 PRP project manager, [Helen Gordon-Smith](#).

#### **N8 PRP Policing Research Priorities**

Applications are invited on one of the 8 priorities listed in the [N8 PRP Policing Research Priorities Statement](#).

Applicants should discuss and develop possible research projects with N8 PRP police partners using the priorities as guidance. There is no requirement for projects to cover all the questions raised under a priority.

### Deliverables

#### **Final report**

A 4-page summary report, which will be publicly available on the N8 PRP website. This will act as a briefing of the project and its key findings for non-academic readers.

#### **Webinar**

Researchers will present a webinar following the completion of the project. This will be arranged, organised, and promoted through N8 PRP.

#### **Project-specific**

The Award Letter will identify deliverables that have been outlined in the proposal. They are not a condition of funding and can be changed with approval of N8 PRP.

### Intellectual Property

Authors retain Intellectual Property rights. N8 PRP has the right to publish, share, and use the 4-page summary report.

### Award Schedule

Invoices will be paid in full on approval of the Final report and expenditure statement at 12 months.

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## 2024/25 Call

Applications led by an academic at one of the N8 Universities, in collaboration with an N8 PRP police partner, on one of the 2024/25 Police Research Priorities, are invited for submission by 20 December 2024.

### Timeline

4 Nov 2024 **Call Open**

20 Dec 2024 **Deadline for applications**

25 Jan 2025 **Funding Decision**

### Eligibility

The Principal Investigator must hold an academic post at an [N8 university](#) for the duration of the project. Parties who are not part of N8 PRP can contribute as Co-Investigators or Research Partners.

### Selection Criteria

All applications must meet the [Award Requirements](#) to be considered for funding.

1. Intellectual Rigour, Originality, and Significance;
2. Feasibility;
3. Potential for significant impact on police policy and practice, with attention to breadth and longevity (i.e. beyond the research partner/s)
4. Potential for academic development - i.e. how the investment will lead to external funding;
5. Collaborative approach to research, including a good level of cross-police collaboration.

### Funding Decision

Applications will be reviewed by a working group selected from the N8 PRP Steering Group, adjusted to account for conflict of interest (see below). A recommendation will then be made to the Steering Group who will make the final funding decision.

Proposals will be anonymised and the working will score the proposals according to the selection criteria.

Qualitative feedback will be provided to unsuccessful proposals on request.

### Conflict of interest

The working group will be selected following the application deadline to ensure there is no conflict of interest. If a Steering Group member, a close colleague (i.e. line manager), or close relative, is an investigator on an application, that will be considered a conflict of interest and the relevant Steering Group member will be recused from participation in the working group.

N.b. Submission of an application by a member of the same organisation does not in itself constitute a conflict of interest.

### How to Apply

Applications should be sent to [Helen Gordon-Smith](#) by the deadline, using the form below. Applications will be reviewed by a working group of the N8 PRP Steering Group, and a final funding decision will be made by the N8 PRP Steering Group in January 2025.

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## Application Form Guidance

### Application Form

<https://www.n8prp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/315/2024/10/Policing-Priority-Grants-Application-Form-2024.docx>

### Application Overview

The application form is a **six-page** summary of the proposed project which will be the basis of the funding decision. It comprises the project summary, academic and practical significance and pathways to impact, project plan, supporting context, and costs. Guidance for each section is below.

### Formatting Requirements

Complete the application in single spaced size 11 Calibri (Body) font.

Please adhere to the word count limit for each text box. Do not exceed the space allocated to each text box. Text within images must be legible.

### Which Police Research Priority does this project address?

Insert the relevant Priority from the numbered list under '2024/2025 Priorities'. You may also include one or more of the 'details' given under the priority as relevant to your application.

### Investigators

List the Principal Investigator and Co-Investigators on the project. The Principal Investigator must be from an N8 University.

### Research Partners

List the non-academic research partners on the project. I.e. individuals or organisations who have committed to making a specific contribution to the project, such as data or facilitating finding interviewees.

### Letters of Support

All research partners must commit to undertaking all reasonable efforts within the scope of their contribution to ensure successful delivery of the project.

N8 PRP police partners are expected to provide additional commitment to supporting and recording the impact of the project, by:

- Ensuring findings and recommendations are presented to those in relevant leadership positions;
- Reporting on the impact of the project at the force through the force's N8 PRP lead;
- Where practical and required, participating in dissemination and impact activities.
- A Letter of Support is required per research partner organisation, including N8 PRP partners. This must be signed and dated on headed paper and outline the commitment to the project.

### Letter of Support Template

<https://www.n8prp.org.uk/policing-priority-grant-letter-of-support-template/>

### Significance and Pathways to Impact

This section can refer to the Project Aims, the Strategy for Collaboration, and Deliverables.

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### Academic significance

Applicants should briefly outline the theoretical foundations and significance of the project, demonstrating intellectual rigour, originality, and significance. References can be attached as an appendix.

Applicants should also outline why the project is an appropriate use of Small Grant funds – i.e. how internal investment will enable the research team to apply for subsequent funding, and what this will contribute to the wider field of policing research.

### Practical significance

This section should outline the potential for impact on policy and practice. Applications will be judged by the *significance* of the impact, potential for development, and the strength of the pathways to impact, not immediate geographical reach.

**Practical** impact can be:

- Conceptual – changing how a topic is thought about;
- Educational – changes to training;
- Evidential – addresses a gap in knowledge;
- Developmental – trialling existing ideas in new contexts;
- Procedural – changes to processes like record-keeping;
- Other – this is not an exhaustive list; if your application has the potential for another kind of practical impact, please include it.

**Significant** practical impact is change which results in improved outcomes and/or understanding. There should be clear pathways for impact reach beyond the research partner(s).

### Pathways to impact

Pathways to impact should show how project-specific deliverables and strategy for collaboration will enable the impact to be achieved.

Academic pathways can include publications, conference papers, funding bids, etc.

Applicants are encouraged to be as specific as possible (e.g. ‘develop a 3-year ESRC Major Research Grant application’, rather than ‘bid for funding’).

### Example of a Pathway to Impact

A project has practical significance for procedure -> the report will recommend changes to current procedures -> these will be presented to relevant decision-makers (as identified by research partners) with a plan for implementation.

### Project Plan

#### Methodology and Deliverables

Deliverables should be project-specific; the Final Report and Webinar (p.2) should **not** be included.

#### Strategy for Collaboration and Research Co-Production

N8 PRP Small Grants Award supports collaborative projects. Please consider how your research partners will be included in the project, from design and delivery to dissemination and pathways to impact.

Please also consider the breadth of collaboration. Applicants are encouraged to establish Advisory Groups for the project (see below), and proposals that collaborate across N8 universities are encouraged.



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## Timeline

A table or chart may be inserted, within the allocated space. Text is included in formatting requirements.

## Supporting Context

### Feasibility

When considering the feasibility of the project design, please take into account that the Grant Holder (Principal Investigator) will be responsible for arranging Data Sharing Agreements, ethical approval, participant recruitment, and adherence to all associated policies as per the rules of their institution.

### Data Sharing Agreements

It is not possible for N8 PRP to provide a DSA. Applicants should discuss the necessity of any DSA with research partners as early as possible in the development process. Up to 6 months project set-up time is given on award to allow any DSAs to be completed in advance of the project start.

### Contingency Plans

Innovative projects may include aims or strategies that are at relatively high risk of failure. Applicants should show how they intend to mitigate these risks/respond to undesired outcomes so the project will still create practical and academic value.

## Costs

Funding will be awarded at 100% of eligible costs.

The grant-holding institution **must** retain control of the budget and will be responsible for submitting a final expenditure report to N8 PRP.

### Eligible Costs

- Academic staff costs at N8 institutions only.
- Directly Incurred costs. This covers:
  - Directly incurred staff costs
  - Travel and subsistence
  - Consumables
  - Payments to project partners

Directly incurred staff **must** be employed by the grant-holding institution.

### Ineligible Costs

- Overheads
- Staff costs at non-N8 universities
- N8 PRP police partner contributions (these can be listed as in-kind-contributions)