



An Institiúid um Thaighde Eacnamaíochta agus Sóisialta
Cearnóg Whitaker, Cé Sir John Rogerson, Baile Átha Cliath 2

The Economic and Social Research Institute
Whitaker Square, Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin 2

(353 -1) 8632000

www.esri.ie

admin@esri.ie

Child Safeguarding Statement for ESRI Research

A good deal of ESRI research is based on analyses of secondary data. However, from time to time, it is necessary to collect new data on children and young people in order to better understand their experiences of school or other domains of their lives. This child safeguarding statement relates to research involving children and young people under 18 years of age. A separate child safeguarding statement has been compiled for the largest ESRI study involving children and young people, the ***Growing Up in Ireland*** study.

The research typically involves interviewing children and young people on an individual basis or as part of a group in a school, other educational setting or their home. These interviews are always carried out by members of the ESRI research team.

The health, safety and protection of all children encountered in the course of any research are paramount at all times to ESRI researchers.

ESRI researchers are committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people encountered in the course of their research and to protecting them from any harm which could arise from their participation in this research. To this end, the ESRI has developed the following policies and procedures:

- A Research Child Welfare and Protection Policy is regularly reviewed and updated.
- For each research study, a risk assessment is conducted to identify potential risks of harm to a child/young person arising from their involvement in the research and procedures are put in place to manage risks.
- All research studies involving children and young people are subject to approval by the ESRI research ethics committee.
- The ESRI has a Garda vetting policy and all staff involved in primary data collection and/or where they have access to personal data on children and young people are subject to Garda vetting. They also undertake training on child protection.
- A committee, consisting of the Head of the Social Research Division, the Principal Investigator (PI) of the study and another researcher is responsible for ensuring research is fully compliant with all child protection requirements set out in the Children First Act 2015. Members of the committee will assess child protection or welfare concerns which come to the attention of researchers in the course of their research.¹ Where necessary, the Head of Division as the Designated Liaison Person will report concerns to TUSLA or other relevant authorities.
- A procedure for the management of allegations of abuse of a child against any staff member is in place.

¹ If the Head of Division is the PI for a specific project, another researcher will also be involved in committee deliberations.



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These policies and procedures have been developed in line with the requirements under the *Children First Act 2015* and *Children First: National Guidance 2017*. Implementation is an ongoing process and all policies and procedures are regularly reviewed and updated.

Signed: _____

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Helen Russell'.

Helen Russell
Head of the Social Research Division
Economic and Social Research Institute
Whitaker Square
Sir John Rogerson's Quay
Dublin 2.