



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

Data Protection Review: Research Ethics Management System (REAMS)

tcd.ie/dataprotection

February 2026

Introduction

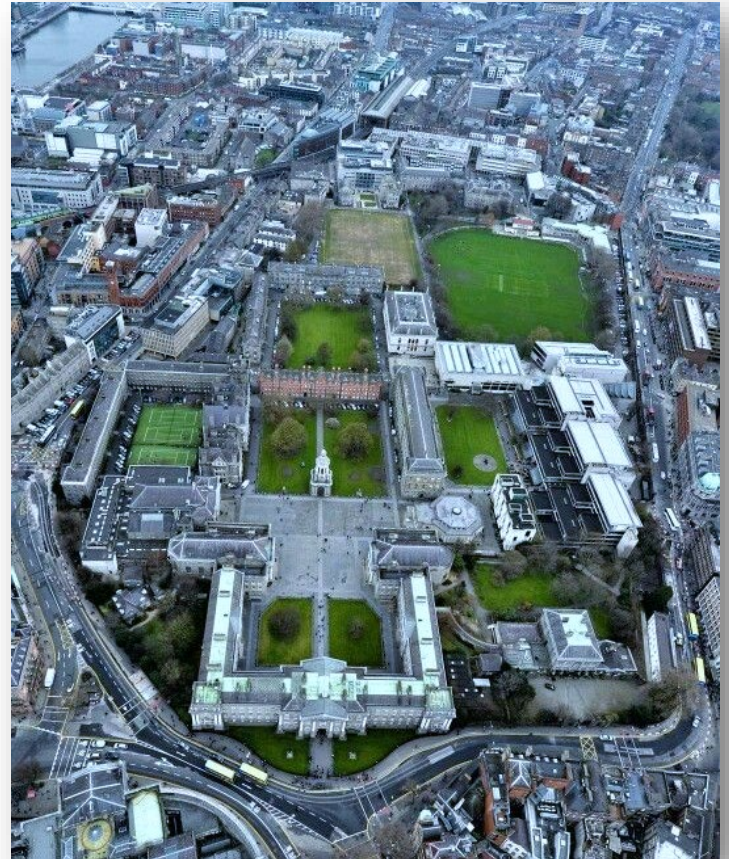
Some research projects will require assessment/review from the Trinity College Data Protection Office ('DPO') in addition to ethical review. This is necessary to ensure compliance with relevant legislation.

If your research requires a data protection assessment, it will take longer for your project to be approved.

Please take this into account when planning your project timeframe.

There are SEVEN SCREENING QUESTIONS included in REAMS (see below) which will prompt you to contact the DPO for a DATA PROTECTION REVIEW.

Depending on the DPO's assessment of the data protection risk involved, you may also need to complete a DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT ('DPIA').



Introduction

When the DPO's assessment is complete, you will be provided with a LETTER OF COMPLETION.

You will need to upload this to REAMS before you can proceed further in the REAMS process.

We advise you to review the seven questions below and supporting information in advance of starting your ethics application on REAMS.

Please review the infographic at the end of this presentation.

You can download the DATA PROTECTION REVIEW template document [here](#).

If you would like to discuss any potential data protection implications relating to your research project, please contact dataprotection@tcd.ie to schedule a meeting.



RESEARCH
DESIGN



Questions 1-2 (of 7)

Please review the [infographic](#) at the end

Question 1 (REAMS reference number: 2.1.8)

Could the research have detrimental legal, economic or social consequences for either the participant or their establishments?

- Yes*
- No*

If you answer / tick 'Yes' in response to this question your ethics application will be paused, and you will be directed to contact the Data Protection Office to complete a data protection review.

Question 2 (REAMS reference number: 2.1.9)

Intentions of the study: Does the project..

- Involve deception*
- Explore a topic that is potentially intrusive or is research that is harmful or may endanger participants*

If you tick either box your ethics application will be paused, and you will be directed to contact the Data Protection Office to complete a data protection review.

Questions 3-4 (of 7)

Please review the [infographic](#) at the end

Question 3 (REAMS reference number: 2.2.9)

Does the research require a Consent Declaration form as defined by the Health Research Regulations 2018 and amendments 2021?

- Yes*
- No*

If you tick 'Yes' in response to this question your ethics application will be paused, and you will be directed to contact the Data Protection Office to complete a data protection review.

Question 4 (REAMS reference number: 2.2.14)

Which of the following best describes the general characteristics of the target population?

- Adults at risk of vulnerability*
- Children*

If you tick either box your ethics application will be paused, and you will be directed to contact the Data Protection Office to complete a data protection review.

Questions 5-7 (of 7)

Please review the [infographic](#) at the end

Question 5 (REAMS reference number: 2.2.18)

Was a DPIA required at any of the sites/ sources?

- Yes
- No

If you tick 'Yes' in response to this question your ethics application will be paused, and you will be directed to contact the Data Protection Office to complete a data protection review.

Question 6 (REAMS reference number: 10.2.2)

How many participants' Personal Data is being processed in this project? :

- <100
- >100

If you tick '>100' your ethics application will be paused, and you will be directed to contact the Data Protection Office to complete a data protection review.

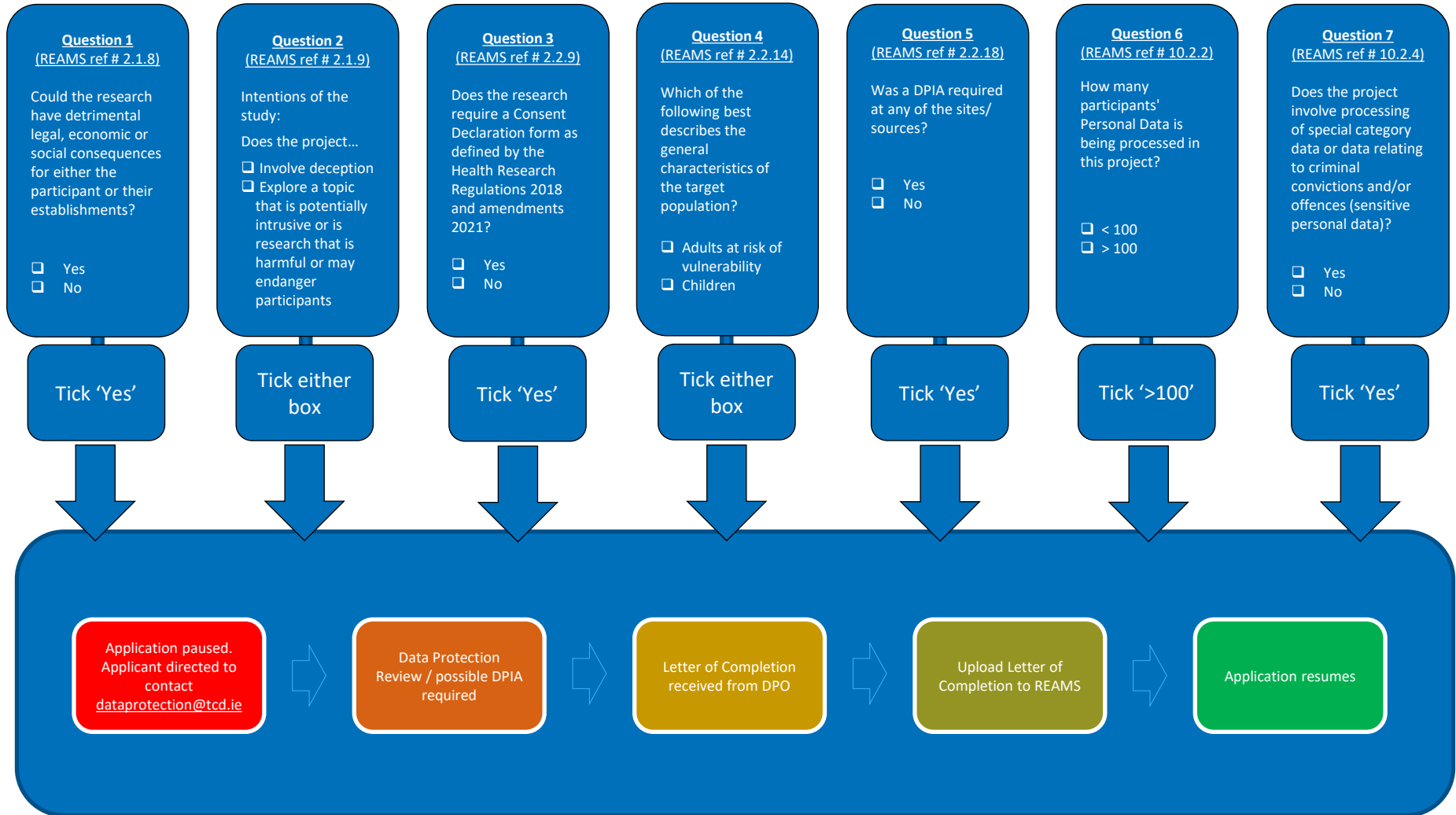
Question 7 (REAMS reference number: 10.2.4)

Does the project involve processing of special category data or data relating to criminal convictions and/or offences (sensitive personal data)?

- Yes
- No

If you tick 'Yes' in response to this question your ethics application will be paused, and you will be directed to contact the Data Protection Office to complete a data protection review.

Infographic





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