

## **You're Welcome – Ethics approval statement**

The National Research Ethics Service has advised that activities related to *You're Welcome* self-assessment (such as consultation with young people, mystery shopper exercises or questionnaire surveys) do not require ethical review by a NHS Research Ethics Committee. Such activities are classified as audit or service development (see <http://www.nres.npsa.nhs.uk/rec-community/guidance/#researchoraudit>) rather than research, and are therefore, exempt. As a result, there is also no requirement for approval to be given by a PCT's R&D office.

Please note that PCTs may have separate locally determined procedures for projects classified as audit or service development. These may include requiring submission of plans for approval or ensuring they are recorded. Advice from clinical governance/ effectiveness colleagues locally needs to be sought.

It is important to highlight that the activities related to *You're Welcome* self-assessment do need to be conducted in accordance with basic ethical principles, such as ensuring informed consent is gained from participants and respecting their confidentiality. When processing identifiable data there are also legal requirements under the Data Protection Act 2000. R&D colleagues locally can provide advice on adherence to these principles.

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