

Dowager Countess Eleanor Peel Trust
Criteria and scoring system for assessing Minor Medical Grants.

First round triage.

We firstly briefly review grants to check whether they fulfil criteria for full review. Criteria for *rejection* at this stage are:

- Application emanating from outside of North West priority area.
- Focus solely on children (Trust Deeds prevent us from funding research that is only relevant to children, though we have been as flexible as possible on this).
- Application is from a large, well-funded, charity i.e. DCEPT funding would have limited added value.
- Other inappropriate funding request. We have been reluctant to fund Masters students to undertake research as experience has shown that problems arise due to students coming and going. We have also been reluctant to fund 'top up' requests for PhD students as these also do not have added value for us.

Second round – full review.

Applications are reviewed in detail and a brief critique written followed by a score. Scoring has been done as high, medium or low priority or alpha, beta, or gamma (with possible nuances such as alpha – or alpha +). The two medical Trustees review the grants independently at this stage and their views are then collated. Criteria used for high scoring:

- Good scientific proposal addressing an important question.
- Apparent probability of aims and objectives being achieved.
- Applicant and Co-Is have good track record. Track record is dependent on seniority of course and we tend to favour junior researchers to help them on the ladder.
- Possible clinical impact in the medium to long term.
- Well costed and reasonable funding request.
- Ethical and statistical considerations covered.

Third round – funding decision.

We always have more highly rated applications than we can fund. The two medical Trustees therefore discuss the short listed highly rated applications and arrive at a funding proposal. Of late we have made awards less than those requested so as to be able to fund more applications. The funding proposal is taken to a full Trustees meeting for a final decision.