

Evidence Briefing 2026 - Brief for proposals

Objective

The purpose of the Evidence Briefing is to summarise evidence on topics that are high on the agenda for Scottish drugs research. The evidence briefing is meant to summarise evidence in an accessible way with policy makers and practitioners in mind. We are commissioning this report to be done by one or several researchers. We are particularly supportive of applications from PhD students and early career researchers.

Topic

We are looking for an Evidence Briefing on the topic of ketamine. The briefing should have a relevant focus on Scotland and can include international evidence. The briefing can be an overview of literature or provide insights from existing data. We are looking for applicants to provide a brief of what they intend to include and a short overview of methods. We are open to suggestions of areas of interest relating to ketamine, including but not limited to:

- Trends in ketamine use, including motivations for using ketamine
- Perspectives on early identification, treatment and/or support
- Drug-related harm
- Effective prevention and education approaches

We are keen for this Evidence Briefing to have direct relevance to a particular sector, so please identify that in your brief.

The proposal

Interested applicants should send us a short proposal, which will be assessed by members of the DRNS Network Planning Group. We will assess the applications on suggested topic and proposed plan. An overview of the structure of the proposal is included on the next page.

Timeline

All proposals need to be submitted by **5pm Friday 6th February** to admin@drns.ac.uk. Outcomes of the assessment will be provided by the 27th of February, and the successful applicant can then start on their report, which should be submitted by the 30th of June 2026. If the work is completed by the 4th June 2026, you will be invited to present at our annual conference in Glasgow.

Output and budget

The budget for the briefing is up to £1,000 subject to contractual agreements which will be paid as soon as possible upon delivery of the final report. The Evidence Briefing should be about 3-5 pages and summarise the evidence of the proposed topic. We are not expecting a systematic review. In addition to the Evidence Briefing we would like the author to write a blog post and deliver a webinar on the results.

Appendix – Form for Evidence Briefing proposal

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Applicant name	<i>This is the person who has the main responsibility for the delivery of the evidence briefing. Teams and individuals may apply however the total funding will be up to £1,000.</i>
Applicant email address	
Collaborators/wider team	
Institution/organisation	
Topic (max 50 words)	<i>Short justification of the topic and why this is timely</i>
Title of proposed evidence briefing	<i>Suggested title for the brief</i>
Evidence briefing outline (max 500 words)	Background <i>Introduction to the topic and state the aims and objectives of the evidence briefing</i> Methods <i>Brief description of how you plan to go about finding evidence for the briefing, e.g. literature searches or analysis of data</i> Timeline/Gantt chart <i>Your plan for delivering the briefing</i>
Intended Audience (max 100 words)	<i>Briefly outline who your intended audience is (e.g. practitioners, policy makers)</i>

Please send your brief to admin@drns.ac.uk