Key points when reviewing UREC applications:

Key aspects are

1. The vulnerability of the participants
2. The sensitivity of the subject and or the context
3. The importance of informed consent

Participants

- Relevance of what people are being asked to do in relation to purpose of study
- Reasonableness of commitments required in terms of time, effort etc.
- Safety of participants
- Harm of other types to participants (distress etc.)
- Inadvertent participants – third parties
- Fairness/equity

Recruitment

- Inclusion / exclusion
- Under/over-recruitment
- Expectations of participation
- Gatekeeper permission
- Withdrawal rights (up to the point of analysis)
- Transparency of consent process
- Dependency – perceived or real
- Incentives – appropriateness

Data compliance

- Data types (text, image, artefact etc.)
- Data management
- Confidentiality
- Storage
- Privacy notice
- DPIA screening (if applicable)

Data collection tools

- Language – neutrality, simplicity
- Tools as fit for purpose - appropriate for study

Good research practice beyond ethics

- Separation of researcher role from other roles
- Dissemination to participants and wider community, debrief if required
- Professionalism of materials