**Project:** MRC/NIHR guidance on Natural Experimental Evaluations (NEEs) for researchers and End-Users

**Background to deposit:** This deposit provides archive material from three workshops and an online consultation for the project named above. The aim of the project was to develop updated guidance to provide an integrated, up-to-date guide to the use of natural experimental methods to evaluate population health interventions. The project was a collaboration between the MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit of the University of Glasgow, the University of Bristol, the University of Cambridge, and the University of Exeter, and funded by a MRC/NIHR Research Grant from 2021 to 2024.

**Background to data collection:**

The purpose of the workshops was to obtain expert opinion on the first draft of guidance, a key decision point in the guidance development. The objective was to identify any additional content, unnecessary content, any topics of contention, and whether there were any revisions required to the structure of the guidance. Input was sought from international researchers, policymakers, journal editors, and end users of natural experimental evaluations.

Three workshops, all with the same content, were held at different times of day to facilitate participation from participants from different worldwide time zones.

Prior to the workshop, participants were provided with a briefing paper that summarised the proposed structure of the guidance, introduced the issues that would be covered in each section of the workshop and set out questions for discussion. The workshops were facilitated by members of the project team, ensuring opportunities for participants to raise additional questions and to identify issues that may have been overlooked. Feedback from the workshops was used by the project team to compile a draft of guidance that was issued for consultation.

An online consultation invited participants to read and comment on current draft sections of the guidance. Invited participants included researchers, practitioners, policymakers, journal editors, funder representatives to capture opinion from individuals involved in commissioning, conducting, and using evidence from natural experimental evaluations. Feedback from the consultation was used to revise the draft sections.

**Contents of deposit:**

Content from Padlet virtual posting boards from three stakeholder workshops, each consisting of three sessions.

Collated feedback from the workshops.

De-identified responses to the online consultation.

Accompanying information:

Briefing document for the workshops.

Participant information for the workshops.

Copy of the online consultation, including consent.

Participant information for the online consultation.