

Terms of Reference

Freelance Research Assistant – Data collection and collation

About SWBG

The Scottish Women's Budget Group (SWBG) advocates for a gender equal economy in Scotland and has campaigned for over 20 years for gender budget analysis in the Scottish Government and local authority budgets. It seeks to promote equality through gender budgeting in order to build a fairer and more equal Scotland.

SWBG brings together women from across Scotland who have an interest in women's equality and want to achieve gender equality. Our plan is to continue to produce robust research and analysis to influence policy, and to build on our long-standing approach to building knowledge and application of feminist economics analysis offering training, creating accessible resources and working with women's groups.

About this Project

The purpose of this research project is to secure analysis on current funding levels on care and project the potential returns on investment in care services and infrastructure as a % of Scottish GDP and/or % of current government spend. This data and subsequent analysis is an integral consideration in informing the ambitious funding commitments essential to develop and deliver a high quality National Care Service with its attendant economic as well as social benefits.

This research will drive advocacy efforts in calling for greater investment in care in Scotland and demonstrate how it can be spent. It will outline the need for ambitious funding in the development of the National Care Service if it is to provide a quality, universal care service.

The project will involve working with Dr Jerome De Henau who has developed a modelling framework and conducted the analysis internationally and in relation to spend in England, details of which can be found here: <https://wbq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/universal-quality-social-care-appendix.pdf>

SWBG would like to conduct this modelling at a Scotland level and to present it in the context of conversations on the National Care Service and the need for substantial investment in care in Scotland, consistent with our advocacy for investment in care as social infrastructure.

Purpose of this role

This role will work to compile and synthesise the data required for cost modelling on care. Extracting data from sources such as population survey information, health and social care service data, workforce information and economic datasets, and collating the data in the required formats required. The lead researcher will outline data sets required and how it needs to be presented.

Main duties

- Collect and collate Scottish data – including population survey information, health and care services data, care workforce data, input-output economic data;

These duties will follow an established methodology that outlines data requirements. The Research Assistant will be responsible for finding the appropriate Scottish data to complete this and where datasets vary from the English example working with the lead researcher and project manager to consider alternative data options.

Person specification

- Ability to synthesis large datasets and extract relevant sections;
- Good understanding of Scottish health, population and economy datasets;
- Proven research experience working with complex datasets;
- Excellent skills in statistical analysis and economic modelling;
- Excellent analytical and writing skills;
- Attention to detail.

Timescale for work

Kick off meeting week commencing 6th June

First draft data week commencing 27th June

Review and rework as necessary 4th – 15th July

Complete data work 20th July

We expect this work to take between 5-8 days.

Selection process

Interested applicants should submit their CV and a brief cover letter as to why they are suited to the role, availability to complete it and costs outline to recruitment@swbg.org.uk by 1st June