**Recruiter Accreditation Scheme (RAS)**

**Participant Exclusions**

**GENERAL GUIDANCE**

***This information is being provided as part of the commitment by MRS and AQR to provide support as part of the Recruiter Accreditation Scheme (RAS). Please note that RAS guidance and templates are provided for information. It is not legal advice and cannot be relied upon as such. Specific legal advice should be taken in relation to any specific legal problems or matters.***

Screeners generally have the following exclusion criteria:

**All projects**

* It is usual to exclude anyone (or their very close friends and relations) who work in an occupation with affiliations to market and social research e.g. marketing, public relations. Also, journalism can be an exclusion terms if a research topic is confidential e.g. prototype product testing.
* Occupations which are closely affiliated to the topic being researched e.g. if the research is about shopping habits it would be usual to exclude people who work in retail or wholesale.

**Food projects**

* It is usual to exclude people with food intolerances or allergies. Depending on the food being researched it may also be appropriate to consider whether vegans or vegetarians, people who are on a strict diet plan or have a medical condition e.g diabetes, are pregnant or follow a strict diet according to their religious beliefs, should be included.

If a client has omitted the exclusion criteria in a screener, it is good practice to check with the client whether the omission is a mistake or whether the exclusion criteria does not apply. It is also good practice to ask the questions used to determine exclusions to allow for implementing exclusions should clients change their participant requirements.