

## Pre-bid queries and their responses

The SR consortium has received queries with respect to the RfPs for systematic reviews and evidence summary (issued on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2016) under the SARH Systematic Review (SR) Programme for South Asia. These are listed below along with their corresponding responses:

#	Query	Response
<b>Received till 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2016</b>		
1.	I am currently part of the team for the on-going evidence summary on XXX as a methods expert and would like to clarify if this would affect my eligibility to apply for this call?	Teams or team members already involved in conducting reviews under the programme (either competitive or training) can apply for the call. However, bidders should ensure that the proposed team should have sufficient available time to complete the review within the specific timelines. Further, bidders already engaged in the programmes will be required to provide a justification regarding how they will manage their time across multiple systematic reviews during the negotiation stage.
2.	What would count as having prior experience in conducting an SR or ES?	By 'Teams having prior experience in conducting SRs or ESS', we mean that bidders should have conducted or supported preparation of systematic reviews and evidence summaries before. This will be preferred at institutional level as well as it will be desired that some members of the team should have prior experience of conducting SRs or have attended training on SR methodology. However, this is not a qualifying criterion. Even bidders without significant experience in SRs but having done related research and reviews in the sector concerned can apply. However, they will be scored less relative to bidders demonstrating previous SR or ES experience.
3.	Can XXX apply again this time, considering that we already have an ongoing SR and ES project?	Yes, institutes or team members already conducting systematic reviews and evidence summaries under the programme can apply for opportunities under new calls launched. However, bidders should ensure that the proposed team should have sufficient available time to complete the review within the specific timelines. Further, bidders already engaged in the programmes will be required to provide a justification regarding how they will manage their time across multiple systematic reviews during the negotiation stage.
4.	As regards the Review questions and evidence summary questions, can the narrowing down of focus be done at the proposal stage itself, with due justification?	Teams can suggest narrowing down of the focus at the proposal stage if this is justified in terms of good knowledge of the literature available, or for some other justifiable reason. However, it will not be a binding upon the SR consortium to accept the proposed scope, in case the bidder gets selected. The decision of the SR consortium and DFID will be considered as final regarding scope revision.