

The role of national ethics committees during the COVID-19 pandemic

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National Ethics Committee functions in the UK

- Health Research Authority
- UK Clinical Ethics Network
- Nuffield Council on Bioethics

- Public deliberation – widely accepted but no leader



NEC Functions

| Functions | Context | Legitimacy |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| Deliberative | Government | Authority |
| Determinative | Legislature | Process |
| Advisory | Independent | Endorsement |



UK NEC-like Activity

- Moral and Ethical Advisory Group
- Critical care prioritization
- Contact tracing apps
- Subdivisions of labour
 - Scientific Advisory Group on Emergencies (SAGE)
 - Joint Committee on Vaccines & Immunisation (JCVI)
 - Health Research Authority



Reflections

- Ethical Frameworks
- Tactics of influence
- Accountability and public deliberation
- Bioethics and Politics

Thank You for Listening

