

Stephen Flett - Psychological Services for TV

The typical “psych” screening process for most programmes is...

1. Background and risk questionnaire (essential) – this is my own factual and risk based questionnaire; it can be done as an email attachment or paper and pencil version on-site or (preferred and more typical) verbally as part of the interview
2. Interview (essential) – usually 40-50 minutes either face to face or by telephone/Skype depending on circumstances; usual minimum number on-site is 4 and maximum is 6 per day; telephone interviews are office-based and more flexible
3. Written report (essential but time consuming) – length and detail can be negotiated; usually delivered within 24 hours; summary of key facts, issues and risks; evidence to support the decision to include or exclude; confidentiality boundaries and a limited distribution list for reports will be agreed beforehand
4. Normal personality questionnaires (optional) – can provide personality descriptions and comparisons between contributors on traits such as dominance, emotional stability, energy, responsibility etc

NB....

- when specialised or serious issues are involved eg abuse, depression, obesity, surgery, personality disorders etc, further clinical tests may be necessary and/or access to the contributor’s GP records, both incurring extra time and costs
- it is helpful to have editorial notes from the production team concerning individual contributors, how they were recruited and what challenges they will be facing
- for face to face interviews on site, I usually have 1 or 2 researchers to assist on site with meeting and greeting and keeping candidates apart etc, while I interview
- **all psychological reports are contracted as confidential with limited distribution “for selection and welfare purposes only and not for use in programme or publicity”**

Remote Screening by Telephone or Skype

- for some shows with more aspirational themes and lower risk candidates or where there is no opportunity to bring them to one place for interviews, I use remote screening. The pre-interview questionnaire is completed as an email attachment or as part of the interview, conducted by telephone, Skype or Facetime - a protocol is available for this

Support/welfare options

- On-call with agreed priority access and service levels; my name and chartered clinical status can be used as cover for legal, insurance purposes; on-call can be office hours, filming hours or 24/7; rates vary with programme risks and time involved
- call-outs – ie visiting the person on-site or at home charged by half-day or full day
- ad hoc advice for producers during or after filming –rates to be agreed
- halfway checks for longer productions, by telephone for contributors on location
- final debriefs – telephone or face to face
- liaison with GP, psychologists, psychiatrists already caring for contributors

Fees: Please phone or email me with details of your project