The SoECAT is a tool, developed by NIHR, Department of Health & Social Care (DoHSC), NHS England & a number of other public & government bodies across the UK. Its primary purposes are:

- A cost attribution tool, to show who (NHS or study funding) is responsible for which costs
- A part of the UK Local Information Pack, which is shared with participating NHS/HSC organisations to support local capacity & coordination
- Providing an estimate of excess treatment costs (ETCs), which assist sites in understanding the financial impact of studies & contributes to methodology behind funding of research organisations for NIHR grants

The SoECAT is governed by the principles of AcoRD (Attributing the cost of Research & Development); a guidance document produced by DoHSC on how to attribute costs in non-commercially funded grants. A SoECAT Specialist (accredited by the local CRN network) will assist you with this aspect of the template.

There are 3 types of cost categorisations in the SoECAT:

1) Treatment Cost: for activities that are currently undertaken by the NHS as routine treatment
2) Research Cost: for activities that contribute towards research & end when the study finishes
3) Service Support Cost: for patient care costs that only occur during the study

AcoRD Specialists will assist you with categorisations during their review. However, having a basic understanding of the categories may expedite the review. More detailed guides on AcoRD can be found here:

AcoRD Guidelines (an overview of AcoRD)
AcoRD Annex A (A guide on what may be considered treatment, research & service support costs)
AcoRD Annex B (a list of FAQs on AcoRD & extensive detail on how to treat some costs)

The SoECAT has 3 main tabs that researchers should consider; the Standard of Care (SoC), General Activities & Per-Participant Activities. These 3 tabs will be covered within this document.

Further useful links can be found here:

NIHR SoECAT guidance
Obtain a copy of the SoECAT (Excel file) here

The AMRC (Association of Medical Research Charities) is a membership organisation supporting research funded by charities in the UK.s 3 main tabs thseful links can

Duration should always be measured in minutes.

The "Undertaken by" field contains 3 options, which describe who will be performing the activity. The 3 options are designed to cost at an average salary for the following staff roles:

Medical Staff: costed at consultant rate of pay
Nurse/Manager: costed at NHS Band 7 rate of pay
Admin/Data Entry: cost at NHS Band 4 rate of pay

Once you have recorded the activity as above, you'll need to show when the activity will occur. This can be done as per the below screenshot:

You do not need to enter multiple lines for the same activity if it occurs more than once. As shown above, you can repeat occurrences across the same line for recurring activity.

For the standard of care tab, you will only have to denote activities with an "x" to mark when they'll occur, instead of the cost categorisations shown in the screenshot above.

The Standard of Care (SoC) tab is used to denote the current routine care a patient would receive from the NHS. It also helps by providing a baseline that helps to calculate the Excess Treatment Costs of the study.

For this tab, your clinical knowledge will be required to show what activities are undertaken in the routine care.

As per the guidance given in the SoC

The summary page gi

You can now select the activity in any of the relevant tabs (SoC, General Activities or Per-Participant Arm) as shown below:

Area of Activity	Specific Activity	Duration	Undertaken by
Complete only for procedures			
Non Tariff Cost	An activity with a set cost		
Non Tariff Cost	An activity measured in staff time	10	Medical Staff