



## UKRI DARE UK Programme Board Meeting

**Date:** 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, 15:00 – 16:30

**Location:** Zoom call

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### Meeting Minutes

#### Attendees

Professor Patrick Chinnery (Chair), Medical Research Council (MRC) and University of Cambridge

Professor Felix Ritchie (Deputy Chair), UWE Bristol

Professor David Ford, Swansea University and Chair of the DARE UK Scientific and Technical Advisory Group

#### Public Contributors

Angela Coulter

John Marsh

#### UKRI

Dr Mike Ball, Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)

Dr Catherine Bromley, Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)

Dr Ekaterini Blaveri (Secretariat), MRC

DARE-UK Phase 1 Delivery Team (observers)

Dr Hans-Erik Aronson

Dr Emma Gordon

Fergus McDonald

Gerry Reilly

Michelle Amugi

#### Apologies

Dr Justin O'Byrne, UK Research, and Innovation (UKRI)

### 1. Welcome introduction and apologies

Patrick Chinnery (Chair) welcomed members to the UKRI Digital Research Infrastructure (DRI) DARE UK Programme Board (PB) meeting.

Members agreed that the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 PB meeting minutes were an accurate record of the meeting. In terms of the actions from the February meeting (tabled at the end of the paper PB-03-22-2), these were either closed, deferred, or updates would be provided during this meeting:

Action 01 – closed

Action 02 – update provided under item 5.2 (see section 5.2 of this paper)

Action 03 – closed

Action 04 – update provided under item 4 (see section 4 of this paper)

Action 05 – update provided under item 2 (see section 2 of this paper)

Action 06 – update provided under item 5 (see section 5.1 of this paper)

Action 07 – this matter will be discussed in more detail at the May PB

Action 08 – update provided under item 5 (see section 5.5 of this paper)

Action 09 – update provided under item 5 (see section 5.5 of this paper)

Action 10 – update provided under item 5 (sub-item 5.4)

Action 11 – update under item 5 (sub-item 5.3)

Action 12 – update under item 5 (sub-item 5.3)

Action 13 – closed

## **2. UKRI DRIC meeting update and subsequent actions**

The DARE UK Delivery team was invited to update on the progress of the DARE UK Phase 1 activities at the UKRI Digital Research Infrastructure Committee (DRIC) meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022. This meeting also provided the opportunity to the Delivery Team to request timely feedback on the scope of sensitive data in the DARE UK context (see also section 4 of this paper).

Other key discussion points at the DRIC meeting included the need to bring together the individual UKRI DRI Phase 1 investments to discuss the lessons learnt during their first year of activity; and to join up both the DRI Phase 1 projects, but also other ongoing UKRI DRI investments, during the next phases of the DRI Programme more effectively. A useful approach to explore for achieving this join up would be through pilot projects on cross-disciplinary research use cases. The DARE UK Delivery team has already engaged with several UK DRI investments such as DiRAC and the Net Zero initiative to discuss such opportunities. DRIC members offered to stimulate connections with additional pertinent cross-UKRI DRI projects.

## **3. DARE UK Scientific and Technical Advisory Group update**

Professor David Ford updated the PB on the discussions from the recent Advisory Group meeting, which took place the previous day, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

The meeting had a good turnout and interaction between the Delivery team and the STAG members. The key discussion items were DARE UK's scope on sensitive data (see section 4 of this paper); and the plans for defining potential user groups, their needs, and journeys.

Building on the broad landscape review of the existing data research infrastructure across the UK performed at the beginning of the DARE UK Programme, STAG advised that a more detailed follow up landscape review was needed focusing on existing, and where possible upcoming, investments in data research infrastructure, which were designed to accommodate

sensitive data. Such a review could provide a better understanding of both how such infrastructures/facilities operate; and if possible, identify potential synergies, overlaps and gaps across these investments. Although this would be a substantial and challenging piece of work, STAG was convinced that it was important in forming robust, evidence-based DARE UK Phase 1 recommendations and avoiding duplication of subsequent efforts and investments in this area. As an initial step, the Delivery team should liaise with UKRI/MRC to draft a scoping paper outlining the objectives, scope, approach, timeline, and resource required for such a comprehensive landscape review of the data infrastructure, which is designed to accommodate sensitive data.

| Action(s)  | Owner(s)      | Deadline/Status                                |
|--|---------------|--|
| 1. Draft a scoping paper outlining the objectives, scope, approach, and timeline for a comprehensive landscape review of the UK data infrastructure, which is designed to support sensitive data | Delivery Team | Next PB meeting<br>- 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2022 |

#### 4. DARE UK scope on sensitive data types

Following up on the relevant actions from the February PB meeting (actions 1 and 4), the Delivery Team sought the DRIC and STAG members' views on focusing the scope of sensitive data in the context of DARE UK Phase 1 recommendations.

Overall, the DRIC members still firmly believed that sensitive data remained a cross-Research Council priority and in particular, the linkage of open data to sensitive data. Other key points raised included that any definition of sensitive data should include data such as experimental data that was sensitive due to its context (e.g., where it has commercial value) rather than any intrinsic characteristics. Also, there should be different levels of sensitive data that could be defined by the risks/impacts of disclosure to non-authorized parties.

In the same vein, the STAG members agreed that the scope of sensitive data types for the purposes of the DARE UK Phase 1 should be kept broad as defined by the communities that hold it and use it (for example, including both sensitive personal data and commercially sensitive data) to meaningfully capture the digital infrastructure needs and requirements across the different science communities and sectors. Then, during the next phase, an informed and pragmatic decision on narrowing the scope could be taken, if this was necessary. However, they advised that it would be useful if the Delivery Team could clarify the definitions of the different sensitive data types - for example, by differentiating between commercially sensitive and commercially-held data and/or by cataloguing all the different types of sensitive data.

Although PB recognised the challenge of the task, members agreed that it was important to ensure that the whole activity around digital research infrastructure for sensitive data across UKRI was captured during DARE UK Phase 1 including, identifying tractable research use cases that cannot be addressed by current investments. The research area of agricultural technology (agritech) was mentioned as an example of a use case worth exploring further.

| Action(s)   | Owner(s)      | Deadline/Status                             |
|---|---------------|---|
| 2. Crystallise and map out the range of different sensitive data types that exist   | Delivery Team | June 2022 PB meeting                        |
| 3. Rework the definition of sensitive data, in the context of DARE UK, to include all types of sensitive data, including commercial                       | Delivery Team | June 2022 PB meeting                        |
| 4. Liaise with PB member (Mike Ball, BBSRC) to identify key experts from the agritech research community to contact as part of the stakeholder engagement | Delivery Team | Next PB meeting - 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2022 |

## 5. Delivery Team Update

### 5.1. Stakeholder engagement

The Delivery team updated PB members on the stakeholder engagement activities that have happened since the last PB meeting at the beginning of February.

Six interactive workshops were held in March 2022, one for each thematic area identified as an area of need through the initial DARE UK landscape review of the UK data research infrastructure. The purpose of these workshops was to inform and refine early thinking around the Phase 1 recommendations and get feedback on any gaps. A total of 285 attendees joined these workshops, including researchers, technologists, third sector representatives and members of the public. Although, it would have been useful to have more diversity and representation across the different research disciplines and sectors during these workshops, the team received constructive feedback.

The stakeholder engagement will be continuing through further meetings with key groups and organisations.

### 5.2. Persona and user journey mapping

In response to feedback from both the PB and the STAG to identify the DARE UK key user personas and user journeys, the Delivery team was organising a half-day design-thinking workshop at the STFC Hartree Centre on 27<sup>th</sup> April. It was envisaged that approximately 25-30 participants, from across research disciplines and sectors, would take part in a half day event, facilitated by design-thinking professionals.

In parallel, the Delivery team was also collating pertinent input and insights from existing work in this area from aligned investments (e.g., Research Data Scotland).

The PB and STAG had previously advised the Delivery team to also include the data producer user journey, which did not seem to be covered in this workshop. The PB advised that running another similar workshop with such a different audience instead could bring some unique insights and should be considered further.

| Action(s)   | Owner(s)      | Deadline/Status   |
|---|---------------|---|
| 5. Consider organising another design-thinking workshop with a different audience to capture the data producer user journey | Delivery Team | Update at the next PB meeting – 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2022 |

### 5.3. Sprint Exemplar Projects

The Sprint Exemplar projects were almost half-way through their funding period and a one-day face-to-face meeting was being planned in London on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to encourage collaboration and knowledge sharing across the project teams.

Following up on the discussion from the February PB meeting to consistently capture lessons learnt on PIE from these projects, it was emphasised that it wasn't just capturing the planned outputs from each individual project but also the implicit learnings, which might not have been one of the original objectives of a particular project. Instead, it would be useful to look across the projects and select the key issues that were common across them. The Delivery team suggested that a deeper discussion on this would be helpful to ensure that the PIE learnings from the projects were captured appropriately at the upcoming DARE UK public contributors meeting.

In response to the PB's request, the Delivery team presented a mapping of the gaps/areas of need, which each of the Sprint Exemplar projects addressed, and welcomed further feedback. PB were satisfied that this mapping was clear.

| Action(s)  | Owner(s)      | Deadline/Status                                |
|--|---------------|--|
| 6. Discuss how to best capture both the explicit and implicit lessons learnt on PIE from the Sprint Exemplar projects with the DARE UK public contributors at their next meeting | Delivery Team | DARE UK Public Contributors meeting (date tbc) |

### 5.4. Public Involvement and Engagement (PIE)

The Delivery team, in collaboration with Kohlrabi Consulting, ran a UK-wide public dialogue to explore views regarding what a more joined-up, efficient and trustworthy national data research infrastructure should look like. A series of deliberative workshops was held with 44 members of the public from across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales in January and February 2022. The workshops explored issues related to data security, access and accreditation, trustworthiness and more. to capture a range of different views on these issues – including both spontaneous/uninformed views and, as the workshops progressed, informed views – participation focussed on people who had not previously taken part in public involvement, engagement or professional activities related to the use of sensitive data in research. Currently, the team and consultancy were drafting the report from the findings.

PB members will receive an embargoed version of this report to provide thoughts and comments before it was published.

| Action(s)   | Owner(s)      | Deadline/Status |
|---|---------------|-----------------|
| 7. Circulate an embargoed version of the DARE U K Public Dialogue Report to the PB for comments | Delivery Team | May 2022        |

### 5.5. Strategic Science Business Case and Blueprint approach and development

Refinement of early thinking and draft recommendations will continue to happen until mid-May, when these would be shared with PB and STAG.

| Action(s)   | Owner(s)      | Deadline/Status |
|---|---------------|-----------------|
| 8. Circulate early thinking on draft DARE UK Phase 1 recommendations to the PB members for comments | Delivery Team | mid-May         |

### 6. AOB

None was raised.

### 7. Date of next meeting

The secretariat will contact the PB members to identify a date for the next meeting.

| Action(s)   | Owner(s)    | Deadline/Status |
|---|-------------|-----------------|
| 9. Contact the PB members to identify a data for the next meeting | Secretariat | 12 April 2022   |

### Appendix 1 - Summary of the actions from the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 DARE UK Programme Board meeting

| Actions  | Owner         | Deadline/Status   |
|--|---------------|---|
| 1. Prepare a scoping paper outlining the objectives, scope, approach, and timeline for a comprehensive landscape review of the UK data infrastructure, which is designed to support sensitive data | Delivery Team | Update at the next PB meeting - 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2022 |
| 2. Crystallise and map out the range of different sensitive data types that exist  | Delivery Team | Update at the June 2022 PB meeting                        |
| 3. Rework the definition of sensitive data, in the context of DARE UK, to include all types of sensitive data, including commercial  | Delivery Team | Update at the June 2022 PB meeting                        |
| 4. Liaise with PB member (Mike Ball, BBSRC) to identify key experts from the agritech research community to contact as part of the stakeholder engagement  | Delivery Team | Update at the next PB meeting - 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2022 |
| 5. Consider organising another design-thinking workshop with a different audience to capture the data producer user journey  | Delivery Team | Update at the next PB meeting - 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2022 |
| 6. Discuss how to best capture both the explicit and implicit lessons learnt on PIE from the Sprint Exemplar projects with the DARE UK public contributors at their next meeting                   | Delivery Team | DARE UK Public Contributors meeting (date tbc)            |
| 7. Circulate an embargoed version of the DARE U K Public Dialogue Report to the PB for comments  | Delivery Team | May 2022  |
| 8. Circulate early thinking on draft DARE UK Phase 1 recommendations to the PB members for comments  | Delivery Team | mid-May 2022  |
| 9. Contact the PB members to identify a data for the next meeting  | Secretariat   | 12 April 2022   |