

DARE UK Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) Meeting

Date: Wednesday 30 March

Time: 10.00am-12.00pm

Location: Zoom

Attendees

STAG Members

- Professor David Ford (Chair) Professor of Health Informatics, Swansea University
- Dr Claire Bloomfield, Deputy Director Value of Data Centre for Improving Data Collaboration, NHSX
- Professor David De Roure, Professor of e-Research, University of Oxford
- Professor Ben Goldacre, Director of the DataLab, University of Oxford
- Professor Søren Holm, Professor of Bioethics, University of Manchester
- Alison Kennedy Director, STFC Hartree Centre
- Phil Kershaw, Technical Manager, Centre for Environmental Data Analysis, Harwell Camp
- Maisie McKenzie, Public contributor
- Professor Máire O'Neil, Director of Electronics, Communications & IT, Queen's University Belfast
- Professor Mark Parsons, Director of Edinburgh Parallel Computing Centre and Associate Dean for e-Research, University of Edinburgh
- Professor Tom Rodden, Chief Scientific Adviser, UK Department for Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport (DCMS)
- Professor Elena Simperl, Professor of Computer Science, King's College London
- Peter Stokes, Director of the Integrated Data Programme, Office for National Statistics

UKRI and DARE UK representatives (observers)

- Hans-Erik G. Aronson, Director, DARE UK Phase 1
- Professor Gerry Reilly, Design Authority, DARE UK Phase 1
- Fergus McDonald, Senior Programme Manager, DARE UK Phase 1
- Michelle Amugi, Programme Manager, DARE UK Phase 1 (Secretariat)
- Dr Ekaterini Blaveri, Interim Head of Digital Research Infrastructure, UKRI Medical Research Council (MRC) (Secretariat)

DARE UK Programme Board members

- Dr Justin O'Byrne, Co-Director of Digital Research Infrastructure, UKRI

Apologies:

- Chris Monk, Public contributor

1. Welcome and minutes of the previous meeting

David Ford, the STAG chair, chaired this meeting. Apologies were given from Chris Monk.

Members agreed that the minutes from the 27 January 2022 meeting were an accurate reflection of the meeting.

In terms of actions from the January meeting, the following was shared (tabled at the end of DARE UK_STAG-03-22-2_ paper):

- Action 1 would be covered under Item 8- Stakeholder engagement
- Action 2 would be covered under Item 8- Stakeholder engagement
- Action 3 would be covered under Item 6- DARE UK user groups and user journeys
- Action 4 is now closed (paper STAG-02-22-3)
- Action 5 would be covered under Item 8- Stakeholder engagement
- Action 6 would be covered in the June STAG meeting.
- Action 7 would be covered under Item 5- DARE UK scope on sensitive data types
- Action 8 is ongoing.
- Action 9 would be covered under Item 5- Alignment/interface with the UKRI Digital Research Infrastructure Strategy.

2. Brief update from the Programme Board meeting

David Ford gave a summary of the discussions which took place in the January Programme Board meeting, identifying the actions which emerged from this meeting.

- Develop a proposal/option on the scope of the DARE UK Programme on sensitive data types and seek views and advice from the UKRI Digital Research Infrastructure Committee (DRIC) and the STAG (this will be discussed under **item 3**). Following the feedback and advice from these two groups an updated proposal will be presented at the next PB on the 31st March
- Develop a framework of DARE UK objectives and outputs for the different data owners and the breadth of research community users (user journeys/personas) of such an infrastructure; and propose a mechanism/approach to engage with prospective users (this will be discussed under **item 7**)
- Develop a roadmap/representation explaining where the DARE UK Programme fits in terms of both the UKRI DRI Strategy (primarily), but also the wider landscape, and indicates the gaps that are being addressed by the Programme (this will be discussed under **item 5**)
- Intensify stakeholder engagement efforts with stakeholders beyond the health and social care disciplines, including industry (this will be discussed under **item 8**)

3. Delivery team progress update

The DARE UK delivery team gave an update of their activities since the last STAG meeting, summarising how some of these actions addressed the feedback from the programme board:

- Stakeholder engagement ongoing – key workshops throughout March '22 for feedback on early thinking
- Regular connects with sprint projects started – all projects on track and trending positively
- Refining the scope of sensitive data based on DRIC and STAG input
- Persona and user journey mapping workshop in planning for 27th April
- PIE report publishing planned for mid-April – members to receive an embargoed version

Questions and comments were invited from STAG members; none were made.

4. DRIC discussion overview

The delivery team then went on to give an overview of the insights derived from their recent meeting with the Digital Research Infrastructure Committee:

- More joined up approach to DRIC investments needed
- Opportunities for pilot projects within Phase 2 between NERC-MRC-ESRC
- There was open discussion around “what if we don’t do Phase 2?”
- Request was made for feedback on defining sensitive data in the DARE UK context
- Lessons learnt from Phase 1 programmes
- Improve bringing together the Phase 1 ‘cogs’
- Planning next phases with/without funding clarity

5. Alignment/interface with the UKRI Digital Research Infrastructure Strategy

Justin O’Byrne, Co-Director of Digital Research Infrastructure (DRI), UKRI, followed the Delivery Team’s DRIC meeting highlights presentation by giving an overview of the DRI’s current position in terms of their plans for the next funding cycle. He identified that the DRI are still waiting on information on the formal UKRI (and DRI) allocation with UKRI Board recommendations now having gone to BEIS.

It was also highlighted that whilst UKRI will have budget to make some interventions, the current economic climate means that the big ambitions on DRI funding (£200m per year) are unlikely to happen. Hence prioritisation on key areas/issues to focus on for DARE UK (and the other DRI programmes) and how best to implement these priorities, will be important.

Recognition was given to the fact that more clarity is still needed on what DARE UK and other initiatives in the space are trying to do.

Comments were invited from STAG members. It was identified that a key area of importance will be how to coordinate with public cloud providers who are building TREs. In accordance, the Delivery team highlighted that it is imperative to them that an open-source pathway is pursued, in order to prevent a lock in situation with one of the public cloud providers, arising.

Action	Owner(s)	Deadline/ status
1. Give a high-level overview of UKRI, DRI funding allocations and plans	Justin O’Byrne	Will be shared when available

6. DARE UK scope on sensitive data types

In relation to this item, a paper (DAREUK_STAG-03-22-4_) was circulated prior to the meeting, posing 5 key questions that the delivery team required feedback on from STAG members:

1. What are the tractable use cases for these data, either standalone or with personally sensitive data, that would benefit from the new capabilities being explored through the DARE programme? Which of these

require commercial sensitive (e.g., commercial datasets from pharmaceuticals companies, industrial data or consumer data) rather than personally sensitive data?

2. Are the existing UKRI infrastructures being actively used for research on commercially sensitive data from industry or academia?
3. Focusing on interoperability and federated rather than storage and compute, what are likely to be the unique requirements for commercial data that would not be covered by input from the communities associated with personal data?
4. Based on the questions above, should the delivery team continue to seek a broad scope for sensitive data or focus design and recommendations on personally sensitive data with the expansion to commercial data being addressed later in the programme?
5. If the delivery team is recommended to maintain a broader scope, what support can be provided by STAG members to expand the input on requirements from data custodians and researchers who are actively using commercial data with UKRI infrastructures?

DARE UK Design Authority, Gerry Reilly, prefaced these questions by sharing that, at present, the breadth of what is potentially in scope as sensitive data for DARE UK is extremely broad. He explained that the delivery team therefore sought input from STAG members on their thoughts on what the scope of sensitive data should be in the context of DARE UK. He also shared that, so far, in the DARE UK delivery team's conversations with stakeholders, not many use cases of data not specifically related to people had arisen.

Overall members agreed that the scope of sensitive data types for the purposes of DARE UK should not be limited at this stage but remain broad (incl. commercially sensitive data). With some members offering examples of commercial use cases within, for example STFC and EPSRC. However, they advised that it will be useful if the Delivery Team could clarify the definitions of 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.

It was established that, once a more complete and clearly documented 'lay of the land' with regards to the full breadth and scope of sensitive data has been provided by the Delivery Team, based on their discussions with the community, a prioritisation exercise to focus in on where to start for DARE UK Phase 2 recommendations could then be conducted.

Action	Owner(s)	Deadline/ status
2. Crystallise and map out the range of different sensitive data types that exist	Delivery team	To discuss in June STAG 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	To discuss in June STAG meeting

7. DARE UK user groups and user journeys

The Delivery team shared that a design thinking workshop was being planned for the 27th of April. This had been triggered in response to feedback from the PB and STAG that key user groups needed to be identified. The workshop will be a short, focused activity: its aim to establish the key persona and user journeys for a future pan-UKRI council digital research infrastructure for research on sensitive data. Approximately 25-30 participants (incl. delivery team), from across research domains, would take part with a half day, design



thinking workshop, based at the STFC Hartree Centre and supported by design thinking professional(s), planned.

Following this update, the delivery team requested advice from the STAG on potential insightful participants (bearing in mind the intentional limitation of the number of participants), asking for specific names to be given in addition to information on organisations/domains. In response, STAG members offered a number of suggestions, of useful viewpoints (such as an information governance officer) and domains to include particularly from industry. With a caution to ensure that the membership of the workshop attendees was not too health-oriented.

The members generally supported the workshop but cautioned the Delivery Team around ensuring that existing work on this is considered as there is a lot of it spread around the landscape. The Delivery Team made it clear to the members that this workshop should be viewed as a starting point for a persona and user journey baseline and this would be built upon going forward.

Action	Owner(s)	Deadline/ status
4. Invite participants to the persona and user journeys workshop, from STAG members' suggestions (if not already covered in the current attendance list/ further attendees are needed).	Delivery team	April 27 th

8. Stakeholder engagement

Fergus McDonald, DARE UK Senior Programme Manager, gave an overview of the stakeholder workshops which had taken place in March as part of the co-designing of the recommendations which are being drafted for UKRI. He noted that there had been six workshops over the course of the month, each 2 hours in duration and centred around each of the key themes identified in the DARE UK landscape review: Demonstrating trustworthiness, Access and Accreditation, Funding and Incentives, Capabilities and Capacity, Core federation services (previously called Digital Research Infrastructure) and Data and Discovery. Over 400 stakeholders signed up with just over 300 attending. Invitation to the workshops was open to all and attendees included members of the public, researchers, and technologists. Feedback received during the workshops will be shared on the DARE UK website.

Following this, a stakeholder map outlining the organisations which DARE UK has engaged with was shown. The intention being to seek advice from STAG members on any gaps in engagement. In response, STAG members advised the Delivery Team to consider how to rework the current overview to make clearer the difference between 'stakeholders' and 'organisations that have been engaged with' as the current overview conflated these two perspectives. Members also prompted that the map would be more useful if subcategories were used to make it clear which disciplines, such as social sciences/health areas, specialisms, such as, researchers or technologists, and other useful categories, had been engaged with within these organisations as this would then make it easier for them to identify gaps.

There was good discussion and feedback towards the Delivery Team on potential engagement opportunities across a number of different areas (e.g., UK National Archives linked initiatives, commercial data providers, etc.).

An additional, central point, which was also raised numerous times under other agenda items but is most pertinent here, was the desire for a broad engagement with UKRI stakeholders (potentially through a survey)

to surface additional engagement opportunities but also offer transparency on existing work/programmes/initiatives being done within the landscape which could not only provide a better view of potential efficiencies/collaboration but further feed into an accurate picture of the funding overview.

It was suggested this piece of work could outline existing and pre-existing projects in the space, how much was/is being spent on each project, who funded these projects, for what purpose, what has been delivered so far and the impact of these investments. This information could then be used to establish gaps within the landscape and direct DARE UK on where best to invest further. Members identified that, given the size of the current investment into DARE UK, it would be important to conduct this deeper review of the landscape in order to avoid repeating mistakes from the past where substantive investments have been made into infrastructures with little to no return. It was also raised that transparency around substantive investments needs to be surfaced as the lack of transparency in the research community is arguably part of the reason why there has been a lack of good delivery on health data infrastructure. The delivery team expressed that they have been discussing how money flows through UKRI and how to avoid duplicative spend and reinventing the wheel and need to establish how best to source this information. It was suggested that a good avenue to source some of this information could be via the UKRI funding database.

Action	Owner(s)	Deadline/ status
5. Provide an analytical summary of the salient insights derived from engagement with key stakeholder groups.	Delivery team	Ongoing
6. Re-name the “stakeholder engagement” map to “organisational engagement” map to avoid conflating it’s meaning	Delivery team	Closed
7. Sub-categorise the engagement map to make it clear which subject matter disciplines/areas of expertise have been engaged.	Delivery team	Closed
8. Prepare a scoping paper, identifying the need and advised approach to conducting an appraisal of the TRE landscape, past and present.	Delivery team	May STAG meeting

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The chair asked members if they had any objections to their names and organisational information being shared on the DARE UK website. No objections were raised. A prompt was also given for all members to ensure that they had returned their Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality agreement forms.

Finally, the planned date for the next STAG meeting was shared: 12th May from 10-12. Some members said that they would be unable to attend on this date. The chair prompted the secretariat to send out a calendar hold for the proposed date asap.

Action	Owner(s)	Deadline/ status
9. Send out a calendar invite for the next meeting date.	Secretariat	Closed
10. Assess whether an alternative date will be more ideal for the next STAG meeting due to some members being unable to attend the proposed date.	Secretariat	Closed

Appendix – Summary of the actions from the 30 March 2022 UKRI DARE UK Scientific and Technical Advisory Group meeting

#	Actions	Owner	Deadline/status
1	Give a high-level overview of UKRI, DRI funding allocations and plans	Justin O’Byrne	Will be shared when available
2	Crystallise and map out the range of different sensitive data types that exist	Delivery team	To discuss in June STAG 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	To discuss in June STAG meeting
4	Invite participants to the persona and user journeys workshop, from the suggested domains/organisations- if not already covered in the current attendance list/ further attendees are needed	Delivery team	Closed
5	Provide an analytical summary of the salient messages derived from engagements with key stakeholder groups	Delivery team	Ongoing
6	Re-name the “stakeholder engagement” map to “organisational engagement” map to avoid conflating it’s meaning	Delivery team	Closed
7	Sub-categorise the engagement map further to make it clear which subject matter disciplines/areas of expertise have been engaged with	Delivery team	Closed
8	Prepare a scoping paper, identifying the need and advised approach to conducting an appraisal of the TRE landscape, past and present.	Delivery team	May STAG meeting
9	Send out a calendar invite for the next meeting date.	Secretariat	Closed
10	Assess whether an alternative date will be more ideal for the next STAG meeting due to some members being unable to attend the proposed date.	Secretariat	Closed