



## UKRI DARE UK Programme Board Meeting

**Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022, 11:00 – 12:30

**Location:** Zoom call

---

### 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 (MRC)  
Dr Ekaterini Blaveri (Secretariat), MRC  
Dr Catherine Bromley, Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)  
Dr Justin O'Byrne, UK Research, and Innovation (UKRI)

#### DARE-UK Phase 1 Delivery Team (observers)

Professor Andrew Morris, HDR UK Director  
Hans-Erik Aronson, DARE UK Phase 1 Director  
Fergus McDonald, DARE UK, Senior Programme Manager  
Michelle Amugi, DARE UK Programme Manager  
Elizabeth Waind, DARE UK, Senior Comms and Engagement Manager  
Rosie French, ADR UK Deputy Director of Operations and Governance (deputising for Emma Gordon)

### 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 PB meeting minutes were an accurate record of the meeting. In terms of the actions from the March meeting, these were either closed, deferred, or updates would be provided during this meeting:

- Action 01 – update provided under item 4 (see section 4 of this paper)
- Action 02 – update to be provided at the next PB meeting (June/July)
- Action 03 – update to be provided at the next PB meeting (June/July)
- Action 04 – closed
- Action 05 – update provided under item 5 (see section 5.1 of this paper)

- Action 06 – closed
- Action 07 – closed
- Action 08 – update provided under item 5 (see section 5.4 of this paper)
- Action 09 – closed

## 2. UKRI DRI allocations

Justin O’Byrne updated members on the UKRI DRI budget allocations for the next three years. The allocation for this financial year (FY22/23) was expected to be at the same level (£17 million) as the previous year with a significant increase of funding in the following two years. A formal announcement on the budget allocations was expected soon. As a result of this lower funding amount for the first year of this three-year settlement, the UKRI DRI Committee (DRIC) was considering continuing with a ‘Phase 1b’ (instead of launching into Phase 2) for the DRI Programme to support a portfolio of both existing Phase 1 and new projects for up to 18 months (April 2022 to October 2023). Currently, the DRIC was discussing the prioritisation process for the Phase 1b project proposals.

The UKRI DRI governance structure was being finalised. This included a DRI Advisory Committee of external experts who would be responsible in assessing project proposals and making recommendations to UKRI on the DRI investment pipeline in the future. An update will be provided once the UKRI Executive Committee approved the governance structure later in the summer.

PB members commented that this year’s prioritisation process timescale was extremely tight, and this posed a risk of creating a funding gap between Phases 1a and 1b. Plans for bridge funding should be considered to allow for the continuity and smooth running of existing Phase 1 projects that will be prioritised into the next phase. They also emphasised the need to do the Phase 1b proposal prioritisation/assessment process as soon as possible and requested to review the draft DARE UK Phase 1b proposal before its final submission to the UKRI DRI team.

Action(s)	Owner(s)	Deadline/Status
1. Draft the DARE UK Phase 1b project proposal based on a template, which UKRI DRI team has provided	MRC, ESRC and Delivery Team	End of May 2022
2. Circulate draft DARE UK Phase 1b project proposal to the PB members and inform about next steps	Secretariat	End of May 2022
3. Provide an update on the UKRI DRI governance structure	Justin O’Byrne	Once UKRI ExCo approves it – summer 2022

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

Professor David Ford updated the PB on the discussions from the Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

STAG continues to be clear that a deeper and broader landscape review, including UKRI and non-UKRI digital research infrastructure investments, which support the use of sensitive data, was needed to inform the future phases of the DARE UK Programme. To this end, the Group suggested that a clearer articulation of the aims and objectives of the deeper landscape review project was needed than the one in the project proposal presented to them at the meeting, together with a considered definition of sensitive data before deciding on the approach/methodology that should be taken to deliver this deeper landscape review.

During the discussion of the Sprint Exemplar Projects, STAG suggested to the Delivery team to produce a summative report, which looks across all the Projects and extracts the generic lessons learnt, benefits and uses of their outputs.

In terms of the DARE UK user groups and user journeys, STAG members agreed this was an important activity for Phase 1 and they were keen on providing feedback on any gaps in the user personas/journeys, which the Delivery team had identified through a recent design-thinking workshop.

There was also a reminder that the PB, STAG and Delivery team have already been, and would continue to be, as objective and transparent as possible in terms of the delivery of the DARE UK Programme and were doing their utmost to prevent a potential accusation of vested interest.

### **4. Initial scoping of a comprehensive review of the UK landscape of the digital research infrastructure designed to support sensitive data**

The Delivery team presented an updated proposal to the one presented at STAG to the PB which sets out the aims, objectives, proposed delivery approaches of a deeper and broader landscape review of digital research infrastructure, which is designed to support sensitive data that will inform the design and delivery of the next Phases of the DARE UK Programme.

In terms of the delivery approach, the following three options were presented:

1. A broad survey using the UKRI infrastructure Portal's existing contact database
2. An open self-reporting data capture supported by a DARE UK web infrastructure portal or other appropriate (option proposed by a STAG member)
3. Extending UKRI Infrastructure Portal to allow for additional self-reporting data capturing capability (this was the Delivery Team's recommended option)

The advantages and disadvantages of each option were considered (see [Annex 2](#)).

The PB members considered the idea of using and building on the information, which was held within the UKRI Infrastructure Portal as a sensible starting point and therefore, endorsed the Delivery team's option 3 recommendation. However, they asked the Delivery team to before they do this to present to the PB (after consulting STAG first):

- a clear and detailed plan on the information that was going to be collected and how this would be used to inform the DARE UK Programme since this was the original reason for doing this review;
- an overview of the relevant infrastructures, which were held in the UKRI Infrastructure Portal currently, for the purposes of the deeper landscape review; and
- a plan/approach on how information on investments, which were not currently included in the UKRI Infrastructure Portal would be captured in a meaningful way since this Portal was possibly deficient in scope/breadth in terms of the infrastructures which were included (for example, it did not contain information on commercial infrastructures) and in timeliness (for example, it did not contain infrastructures in development).

The Delivery team also noted that this deeper landscape review could be an opportunity to raise awareness of the UKRI DRI Programme and DARE UK; and to incentivise relevant stakeholders to participate and help explore how UKRI investment in DRI for sensitive data leads to UK and local productivity.

Relevant to this, the ESRC Future Data Services Programme will be running a survey to gather slightly different information and therefore, it was suggested that it would be useful to join up to these two activities to avoid potential overlap.

Action(s)	Owner(s)	Deadline/Status
4. Circulate a clear and detailed plan on the information that will be collected about the digital research infrastructures, which support sensitive data as part of the deeper landscape review; and how this information would be used to inform the DARE UK Programme (first to the STAG for feedback and then PB for ratification)	Delivery Team	13 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
5. Provide an overview of the relevant infrastructures, which are designed to support sensitive data, were held in the UKRI Infrastructure Portal	Delivery Team	next (June/July 2022) PB meeting
6. Explain how information on investments, which were not currently included in the UKRI Infrastructure Portal would be captured in a meaningful	Delivery Team	next (June/July 2022) PB meeting
7. Set up a follow up meeting with the UKRI Infrastructure central team to discuss further the future of the Infrastructure Portal and how it could be used for the purposes of the DARE UK deeper landscape review	Delivery Team	By the next (June/July 2022) PB meeting

8. Discuss the potential alignment and avoid overlap between the DARE UK deeper landscape review work and the ESRC Future Data Services survey	Delivery Team and Felix Ritchie	By the next (June/July 2022) PB meeting
--	---------------------------------	---

## 5. Delivery Team Update

The Delivery team provided a written update on the Persona and User journey mapping; and the Sprint Exemplar Projects whilst verbal updates were provided on public involvement and engagement; and the emerging findings and recommendations from the DARE UK Phase 1 work so far.

### 5.1. 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. The findings from this dialogue were published in early May and the PB received an embargoed version of this report for comments.

The findings in this report will be used to heavily inform the Demonstrating Trustworthiness chapter of within the DARE UK Phase 1 recommendations draft document, but also form feed into to all the other chapters making sure that this was a thread which run through all the recommendations.

### 5.2. DARE UK Phase 1 emerging findings and recommendations

Due to workload pressures, the first draft of the DARE UK Phase 1 recommendations document was running slightly behind. It was expected that this will be shared with the STAG and the PB by the end of June and at least a week before their respective meetings so that members will have ample time to review and provide feedback.

Action(s)	Owner(s)	Deadline/Status
9. Circulate draft DARE UK Phase 1 recommendations to the STAG and PB members for comments	Delivery Team	By the end of June  (at least a week before their respective meetings)

## 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.

<b>Action(s)</b>	<b>Owner(s)</b>	<b>Deadline/Status</b>
10. Contact the PB members to identify a date for the next meeting	Secretariat	End of May 2022

### Appendix 1 - Summary of the actions from the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022 DARE UK Programme Board meeting

Actions	Owner	Deadline/Status
1. Draft the DARE UK Phase 1b project proposal based on a template, which UKRI DRI team has provided	MRC, ESRC and Delivery Team	End of May 2022
2. Circulate draft DARE UK Phase 1b project proposal to the PB members and inform about next steps	Secretariat	End of May 2022
3. Provide an update on the UKRI DRI governance structure	Justin O'Byrne	Once UKRI ExCo approves it – summer 2022
4. Circulate a clear and detailed plan on the information that will be collected about the digital research infrastructures, which support sensitive data as part of the deeper landscape review; and how this information would be used to inform the DARE UK Programme (first to the STAG for feedback and then PB for ratification)	Delivery Team	13 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
5. Provide an overview of the relevant infrastructures, which are designed to support sensitive data, were held in the UKRI Infrastructure Portal	Delivery Team	next (June/July 2022) PB meeting
6. Explain how information on investments, which were not currently included in the UKRI Infrastructure Portal would be captured in a meaningful	Delivery Team	next (June/July2022) PB meeting
7. Set up a follow up meeting with the UKRI Infrastructure central team to discuss further the future of the Infrastructure Portal and how it could be used for the purposes of the DARE UK deeper landscape review	Delivery Team	By the next (June/July 2022) PB meeting
8. Discuss the potential alignment and avoid overlap between the DARE UK deeper	Delivery Team and Felix Ritchie	By the next (June/July 2022) PB meeting

landscape review work and the ESRC Future Data Services survey		
<b>9.</b> Circulate draft DARE UK Phase 1 recommendations to the STAG and PB members for comments	Delivery Team	By the end of June (at least a week before their respective meetings)
<b>10.</b> Contact the PB members to identify a date for the next meeting	Secretariat	End of May 2022



**DARE UK**

*Deeper landscape review – options appraisal*



**Recommended**

<p><b>1</b> Survey approach via UKRI Infrastructure Portal contact base</p>	<p><b>2</b> Self-reporting structure via DARE UK hosted web structure</p>	<p><b>3</b> Self-reporting structure via UKRI Infrastructure Portal</p>
<p><b>Method:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Broad survey based on UKRI Infrastructure Portal contact database</li> <li>ii. Broad outreach via Infrastructure Portal contact database and other channels to drive response rate</li> <li>iii. Moderation and collation of inputs</li> <li>iv. Validation of inputs with UKRI DRI leads</li> <li>v. Input enrichment through detailed discussions with DRI operators</li> </ul>	<p><b>Method:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Stand up DARE UK web infrastructure to provide portal and self-reporting data capture (incl. template)</li> <li>ii. Broad outreach to community to drive response rate</li> <li>iii. Moderation and collation of inputs</li> <li>iv. Validation of inputs with UKRI DRI leads</li> <li>v. Input enrichment through detailed discussions with DRI operators</li> </ul>	<p><b>Method:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Extend the UKRI Infrastructure Portal with self-reporting data capture (incl. template)</li> <li>ii. Broad outreach via Infrastructure Portal contact database and other channels to drive response rate</li> <li>iii. Moderation and collation of inputs</li> <li>iv. Validation of inputs with UKRI DRI leads</li> <li>v. Input enrichment through detailed discussions with DRI operators</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pros:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Some reuse of existing strategic UKRI infrastructure (i.e. contact database)</li> <li>✓ Improved response volume potential</li> </ul> <p><b>Cons:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Discreet piece of work with limited legacy and reuse outside of the programme</li> <li>✗ Potential UKRI central data access constraints</li> <li>✗ Driving response rate may be a challenge</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pros:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Flexibility as self managed web infrastructure</li> <li>✓ Shorter delivery timescale (no dependencies)</li> </ul> <p><b>Cons:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Isolated infrastructure and process with risk of limited legacy and reuse outside of the programme</li> <li>✗ Ongoing maintenance, moderation, and operational hosting resource required</li> <li>✗ Driving response rate may be a challenge</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pros:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Reuse of existing strategic UKRI infrastructure</li> <li>✓ Adding value to existing UKRI resources beyond the programme</li> <li>✓ Streamlined data capture and improved response volume potential (i.e. contact database, portal profiles etc.)</li> <li>✓ Potential for ongoing legacy and reuse</li> <li>✓ Supporting a holistic view of UKRI DRI and synergy with other DRI programmes</li> </ul> <p><b>Cons:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Risk of longer delivery timescale based on UKRI central resource constraints</li> <li>✗ Driving response rate may be a challenge</li> <li>✗ Future of the UKRI Infrastructure Portal uncertain</li> </ul>