

SDAP Quarterly Meeting: Being accredited as a Digital Economy Act (DEA) Accredited Processor

Tuesday 9th March 2021, 11.00 – 12.30

Virtual meeting

Attendees

Christine Woods (UK Data Service) (Chair), **James Scott** (UK Data Service) (Deputy Chair), **Oliver Parkes** (UK Data Service), **Andrew Austin** (Office for National Statistics), **Olly Butters** (University of Liverpool), **Louise Corti** (Office for National Statistics), **James Dainty** (HMRC), **Cuna Ekmekcioglu** (University of Edinburgh), **Beate Lichtwardt** (University of Essex), **Aida Sanchez** (University College London), **Bill South** (Office for National Statistics), **Tony Stone** (University of Sheffield), **Dionysis Vragkos** (Public Health Scotland).

Apologies

Christopher Banks (Public Health Scotland), **Emily Griffiths** (University of Manchester), **Mary McDerby** (University of Manchester).

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

The chair welcomed all to the meeting, including new members. Everyone then introduced themselves.

2. Being accredited as a Digital Economy Act (DEA) Accredited Processor

Andrew Austin and Bill South from the Office for National Statistics delivered a presentation on being accredited as a Digital Economy Act (DEA) Accredited Processor.

The presentation included: accreditation options, the process and timeline, evidence required for accreditation, and maintenance of the accreditation.

Following the presentation there was a question and answer session.

The chair thanked Bill Austin and Bill South for their presentation.

3. Service Updates

University of Edinburgh

Cuna Ekmekcioglu provided an overview of the University of Edinburgh's Data Safe Haven and an update on their work:

- The University of Edinburgh Data Safe Haven creates secure virtual environments per projects, so each project has a different secure virtual environment. At the end of the project data are securely deleted.
- Before a researcher can access the data there is mandatory training on information security, data protection, and researchers must either provide a certificate for an MRC GDPR course or one-day Safe Researcher Training.
- DPIAs are mandatory for each project and there are also gatekeeping agreements with data and/or code being imported or exported from the environment checked.
- The Safe Havens were LRQA certified in Dec 2019 and had two internal KPMG audits in 2020. They are currently planning for the NHS DPS toolkit application and the Scottish Government Accreditation.

University College London

Aida Sanchez provided an overview of the Centre for Longitudinal Studies (CLS) and the CLS Data Safe Haven, and an update on their work:

- There are four CLS cohort studies: National Child Development Study 1958, 1970 British Cohort Study, Next Steps (formerly LSYPE) 1990, and the Millennium Cohort Study 2001. Each study collects a wide range of data including biomeasures data. Externally linked data are also available.
- UCL operate a Data Safe Haven for the access of these data by UCL researchers. Data are also made available to the researcher community via other organisations (UK Data Service etc.).
- Currently CLS is migrating to PostgreSQL and developing a new data and metadata management system using Python (SQL Alchemy).
- There is a 'managed pause' of traditional face-2-face surveys and the survey team are piloting different methods of collection. There are also four Covid related projects: 3 web surveys and a serology project.
- The sharing of linked administrative data was highlighted, along with upcoming data sharing platforms/initiatives (with ADR UK, HDR UK, the ONS SRS, Open Safely, and the Mental Health data research hub being explored).
- The issue of metadata discoverability was raised, noting that metadata discoverability would benefit from being improved at the variable level, including longitudinal mapping (equivalences across sweeps) Aida welcomed suggestions from attendees and the wider SDAP Group on this.
- Louise Corti reported that ONS is carrying out work to improve linked data. 'Data and Connectivity' being led by HDR UK and in partnership with ONS, involves work on extracting variable and metadata. Louise said she would report back on both of these projects at the next meeting.

ACTION 1: Louise Corti to report back on work to improve linked data and the 'Data and Connectivity' variable/metadata work at the next SDAP meeting.

University of Sheffield

Tony Stone updated that they were now are using a VPN with a multi-factor authentication.

4. Being accredited as a Digital Economy Act (DEA) Accredited Processor

James Scott and Christine Woods delivered a presentation on their experience of being accredited as a Digital Economy Act (DEA) Accredited Processor.

The presentation provided an overview of the DEA and the UK Data Archive's experience of becoming accredited as a DEA processor.

Slides accompany these minutes.

5. AOB

The chair closed the meeting and thanked all who provided presentations and service updates. The next meeting will be on 8th June.