# cid:image001.png@01D65C4E.7829D420**MRC Research Data and the Data Access Committee**

The MRC Science Archive

Since the establishment of the Medical Research Council, it has funded a wide range of research studies, units and centres. When studies end, or units and centres are closed, then data that cannot be stored by the original research organisation and continues to have potential scientific value, may be transferred to the MRC for long-term archiving. Historical documents and publications are also retained in the Archive. When it is more appropriate, MRC Archive holdings may be transferred to The National Archives, Wellcome Collection, or other collection where they will be accessible to researchers, historians or the public. As the data in the MRC Archive may include personal details from study participants, data is held under secure conditions and access is carefully controlled by the Data Access Committee.

Requesting data from the MRC Science Archive

To ensure that the data in the MRC Science Archive are available for re-use in research with appropriate controls to protect participants, the MRC set up an independent Data Access Committee to manage access in 2019. Enquiries and applications to use data within the MRC Science Archive should therefore be directed to <<email>>.

Applicants must be bona fide researchers employed by a recognised research organisation. The costs of preparing data for applicants, for example where data has been archived in the format of older historical paper records, may be charged to the applicant.

The DAC:

* considers the scientific merit and feasibility of the proposal;
* checks that access is consistent with the reasonable expectations of research participants and the original consent;
* ensures the applicant is a *bona fide[[1]](#footnote-1)* research team/organisation with the appropriate skills and resources to perform the proposed analyses and safeguard the confidentiality of participants;
* assesses the resource implications of providing access;
* ensures that all legal, ethics and governance requirements have been addressed.

Data Access Committee

Chair: **Sarah Edwards**, Professor of Bioethics, University College London

Members: **Mary-Kate Hannah**, Data Scientist, University of Glasgow

**Maurice Hoffman** (public involvement representative)

**David Hyett**, Head of Information Governance, UKRI (Deputy Chair)

**Ben Micklem**, Research Support Manager, University of Oxford

**Fleur North** (public involvement representative)

**Victoria Yorke-Edwards**, Research Fellow for Trial Conduct Methodology, University College London

Data Sharing Agreement

If a data access request is approved, then a Data Sharing Agreement will be drawn up between the MRC (UKRI) and the research organisation that employs the applicant. This will specify the data to be released, the purpose and the time period for access.

**Contact for the MRC Science Archive and DAC:** [MRCDATA.SHARING@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:MRCDATA.SHARING@mrc.ukri.org)

Application process and forms

A flowchart of the Data Access process is provided below.

The Expression of Interest (EoI) form can be found on pages 3-7.

Completed forms should be returned to MRCDATA.SHARING@mrc.ukri.org

Flowchart of the Data Access Application Process



**Accessing archived data from the Medical Research Council**

**Expression of Interest**

Please complete this form to submit an expression of interest. The Medical Research Council will use the information to assess the feasibility of providing data to support your project.

1. **Name, job title, affiliation and contact details of main applicant.**

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1. **Which organisation will be receiving the data?**

(NB this organisation will sign the data sharing agreement and be responsible for the confidentiality and secure storage of the data).

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1. **Name, job title and affiliation of all other applicants.**

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1. **Project Title**

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1. **To which dataset do you require access?**

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1. **Description of project** (no more than 2 sides A4 – include any key references)

Please provide a summary of your proposal including: background, aims/objectives, scientific justification, proposed analysis methods, expected outcomes, trial registration (if relevant), funder, details of scientific peer review.

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1. **What will be the key outputs from your use of the requested data?**

Please provide details, for example any proposed publications, other dissemination of findings, pilot analyses to support further research, etc.

What is the expected timeframe for these outputs?

Please confirm which outputs will be open access/publicly accessible.

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1. **Has this project been, or will it be, submitted to any ethics/review committees, (e.g. Health Research Authority Confidentiality Advisory Group)?**

Please provide details, including the duration of approval.

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1. **Please indicate the data items requested, as specifically as possible, giving examples where appropriate.**

(This may be attached as a separate document)

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EoI form (version 2.0, 28 Sep 2020)

1. **Indicate whether identifiable, pseudonymous linkable or de-identified data is required.**

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| **Aggregated** |  |
| **De-identified individual-level** (i.e. coded with a unique identifier) |  |
| **Identifiable** |  |

1. **Have you been in contact with the original study team/investigators to confirm (i) whether the data items you require are available in the dataset, and (ii) that the original consents allow reuse of the data?**

Please provide any relevant details. (If not, then we will attempt to clarify this).

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1. **Do you require data from all participants in the dataset or for a subgroup?**

If for a subgroup, please explain and provide inclusion and exclusion criteria.

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1. **Define the location/s in which data will be stored**

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1. **Until when will the data be held?**

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1. **What are the funding details for your project?**

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1. **Who are the data controller and data processors for the data?**

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1. **What is the lawful basis for processing the data?**

Please refer to the MRC Regulatory Support Centre guidance if you are unsure: <https://mrc.ukri.org/documents/pdf/gdpr-guidance-note-3-consent-in-research-and-confidentiality/>

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**By signing this form, you confirm that you accept the following conditions:**

* No attempt will be made to re-identify any de-identified data
* No data or metadata will be released to a third party
* The data will be used expressly for the project defined in our protocol and this form
* The MRC and original study team will be fully acknowledged in any outputs

**Date**

**Signature of applicant**

**Name of applicant**

Thank you very much for completing this form.

Please return the completed form by email to [MRCDATA.SHARING@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:MRCDATA.SHARING@mrc.ukri.org)

1. As defined in the *MRC Policy and Guidance on Sharing of Research Data from Population and Patient Studies* available at <https://mrc.ukri.org/publications/browse/mrc-policy-and-guidance-on-sharing-of-research-data-from-population-and-patient-studies/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)