

MRC Science Archive Data Access Committee: Annual Activity Report 2023-24

This report on the activity of the Data Access Committee (DAC) covers the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024.

Applications and Enquiries

There have been 4 applications and 4 extension requests for access to 10 separate datasets held within the MRC Science Archive in this period.

4 applications and 4 extension requests were considered by the DAC.

Timeliness of review in 2023-2024

	Mean (range)
Period from initial enquiry to Access Application	2 weeks (0 - 5 weeks)
Period from Access Application to Data Access Committee review	6 weeks (2 - 15 weeks)
Period from extension request to approval	5 weeks (5 weeks)
Period from Data Access Committee review to Data Sharing Agreement	No DSAs finalised
Period from Data Sharing Agreement to data transfer	No DSAs finalised

Outcomes of Data Access Committee review

For the 4 applications and 4 extension requests in this period, the outcomes from the Data Access Committee review were:

Data Access Committee outcome	Number of datasets
Approved	3
Approved with Conditions*	5
Rejected	0
Withdrawn	0

The conditions placed on approval included: restricted period of access (5 years) with possibility of renewal, restricted use to those with access to the database, data to only be stored in one place, extension of researcher contract at research organisation.

There were 0 appeals against Data Access Committee decisions in this period.

Data Access Committee Members in 2023-24

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, Senior Research Data Steward, UCL

The public register of approved data request applications can be found here: [MRC data reports and collections – UKRI](#)