HDR UK: Rapid funding Call to use and enrich the data within the Data & Connectivity NCS.

**Clarifications Log: Update 1 – As at 11:00 27 November 2020**

| **Ref** | **Applicant Clarification Question:** | **HDR UK Data & Connectivity Team Response:** |
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| Q1 | I have a UKRI grant looking at the safe design and fitting of personal protective equipment. National data regarding this would compliment our grant and I was considering the recent ‘Rapid funding call to use and enrich the data within the Data and Connectivity National Core Study’. Looking at the data sources it does not appear that PPE fits under the available data. Can you confirm if this is the case and whether I would be eligible to apply for funding using other national data sources (NHS supply change, NHS England and Improvement)? | Unfortunately, funding cannot be requested to solely analyse datasets outside of the NCS identified assets.  If your study is creating new data assets then funding to curate, link and make more widely available as part of the NCS may be in scope. |
| Q2 | Would the Maternity Services Data Set be available for this call please?  We have been advised that fields from the MSDS could be available via NHS X for the UPH common dataset. | The NHS Digital Maternity Services Data Set is not in scope however the Scottish Maternity Inpatient and Day Case - Scottish Morbidity Record (SMR02) is available. The Urgent Public Health Dataset is also not currently in scope for this call given the timelines to UPH launch. |
| Q3 | I wonder whether we are still eligible to apply for this call? We have received funding from the Health Foundation for COVID related research (200K) rather UKRI/ MRC. Is the call limited to UKRI funding? | Unfortunately, it is limited to the UKRI/MRC funds. |
| Q4 | Does “in receipt of” include people who are applicants but not PIs? | The restrictions for the new call are that any additional award made by HDRUK must be to the same institute that holds the original UKRI COVID-19 Open Call or UKRI/NIHR Rapid Response Initiative research grant funding. In addition, only one application per UKRI/NIHR grant may be submitted. A different lead applicant is allowed, providing they are from the same organisation (who is in receipt of the existing award) and clearly part of the original core team.  The aims of the new proposal should be aligned to the original award. The purpose of the HDR-UK/ONS call is to enhance impact of already funded studies that have been reviewed and prioritised previously. |
| Q5 | What the pathway to obtain the data linkage is and what regulatory standards are required to be satisfied? (I note criteria 2.6. The necessary skills/ expertise of the team to undertake the proposed work. Please include a table of named researchers who would access the TREs, their employer organisations, and whether they already have experience of and/or accreditation to use any TREs.)  Does SUS **Length of Stay (Hospital Provider Spell)** include antenatal admission, delivery episodes and postnatal readmission?  Does SUS OP Episode type, attended or did not attend and appointment date fields include antenatal appointments? | Applicants are to note the following as part of set up of their project.  Access to the TREs requires approval or accreditation. One aspect of this is the completion of particular courses that demonstrate understanding of IG and privacy. Please view the Innovation Gateway Training Course Collection for further details  <https://web.www.healthdatagateway.org/collection/4782731178031727>  A separate Data Access Request must be made via the Innovation Gateway (<https://healthdatagateway.org/>) to access specified data assets.  The access request form will be live from 1 December and additional details will be provided. Successful funding via this call specification does not preclude the need to submit a data access form.  We are unfortunately unable to answer queries related to individual variables within datasets. Do consult Secondary Uses Service ([datadictionary.nhs.uk](http://datadictionary.nhs.uk/)[)](https://datadictionary.nhs.uk/supporting_information/secondary_uses_service.html) |
| Q6 | What is meant by 1.3 (acknowledges the template of the Award Letter) - do we just need to select “Yes” or fill in a form? | There is no need to fill in the draft award letter presented as appendix 3 at this stage, this will only be required in the event of an award. For the response, we simply want to ensure applicants would be willing to sign the award letter and the terms and conditions included should your application be successful. |
| Q7 | The links in the PDF don’t work. | Unfortunately, in converting to PDF some hyperlinks became lost in the document. The links are below.  UKRI COVID-19 Open Call and UKRI/NIHR Rapid Response Initiative  [Find COVID-19 research and innovation supported by UKRI – UKRI](https://www.ukri.org/find-covid-19-research-and-innovation-supported-by-ukri/)  The National Core Studies overview  [COVID-19 National Core Studies - HDR UK](https://www.hdruk.ac.uk/covid-19/covid-19-national-core-studies/)  HDRUK Innovation Gateway  [HDRUK Innovation Gateway | Homepage](https://www.healthdatagateway.org/) |
| Q8 | Just to clarify, does the lead applicant for this call have to be the PI/grant holder of the already awarded UKRI COVID funding or can they be a co-Investigator on this call? If yes, are co-PIs allowed? | The restrictions for the call are that any additional award made by HDRUK must be to the same institute that holds the original UKRI COVID-19 Open Call or UKRI/NIHR Rapid Response Initiative research grant funding. In addition, only one application per UKRI/NIHR grant may be submitted. A different lead applicant is allowed, providing they are from the same organisation (who is in receipt of the existing award) and clearly part of the original core team.  A co-PI meeting these criteria would be acceptable.  The aims of the new proposal should be aligned to the original award. The purpose of the HDR-UK/ONS call is to enhance impact of already funded studies that have been reviewed and prioritised previously. |
| Q9 | My colleagues and I are already accredited researchers with the Office for National Statistics, and can access the ONS Secure Research Server. Will this allow us to access to the TREs, or will we need to undertake further training? | Yes - DEA accredited researchers are also recognised by SAIL (Wales), HBS (NI), and EPCC (Scotland). The exception is NHSD that requires Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT) organisational accreditation [dsptoolkit.nhs.uk](http://dsptoolkit.nhs.uk/) |
| Q10 | What are the specified datasets which will require an additional access request? Can I confirm whether we will be able to request access as part of the grant application, or whether this will need to be done separately, in advance of submission? We wish to access the Labour Force Survey (Person Dataset). | They will all require additional Data access request. The data access form for this will be live on 1 December on the health innovation gateway. It will be a single form regardless of which TRE you need to apply for. |
| Q11 | Is it possible to apply to access the datasets on the <https://web.www.healthdatagateway.org/collection/4782731178031727>regardless of the application, and its outcome? | Yes, all datasets are available for you to submit a data access request via the innovation gateway (from 1 December). It is not a requirement to be funded via this call do to so. |
| Q12 | Finally, I have a specific question about the Labour Force Survey (Person Dataset). Does this version of the dataset include the questions on Subjective Well-Being, which are included in the ONS datasets but not the UK Data Service Datasets? | You will need to engage with the data custodian to understand individual items. Metadata is continually being added to datasets on the gateway. |
| Q13 | Our covid grant has [X] as PI and [Y] and I as Co-Is. Does [X] also have to lead this application, or can I lead it? [X] is busy managing other things at the minute and would rather not lead this one. In fact, does [X] need to be on the grant at all (i.e. if [X] is too busy with her departmental responsibilities)? | See other others regarding co-applicants leading projects. We advise [X] should be included on the grant. |
| Q14 | I have a query regarding the nature of the data available. Our initial COVID-response grant is a data driven model and so accessing all kinds of data will be very useful in delivering a more powerful end result. One type of data of interest was any medical imaging data. Is this type of data included in patient specific data when such descriptions are cited? We can use images, lung function data, treatment parameters, patient outcomes, mortality and other patient specific factors. All of these will help build a more reliable model of the disease but I was just curious what types of data were available. | The datasets are listed on the Innovation Gateway. These are predominantly national, routine datasets made available for prioritised COVID-19. You will need to look into the available data to see if it can enhance your current study. |
| Q15 | A query was with regard to eligible costs and whether infrastructure to manage data securely working closely with the likes of SAIL would be eligible. Forward planning now, developing a framework to work more efficiently with data hubs like SAIL may have long-term benefit as well as immediate impact. | The answer will depend exactly on the nature of your request. The 5 TREs have received separate funding from the Data & Connectivity NCS programme to support curation, linkage and availability of data assets and some costs may already be covered. Please include the costs you feel you need within the grant at this stage. Creating infrastructure that enhances the overall capabilities of the NCS as a legacy is within scope. |
| Q16 | Is the new funding intending to run alongside the project for the duration of the original project? In particular one of them is of interest to my project but I think it could be a 6-12 month job rather than 18 months as the original project contingent to FTE commitment? | Projects funded through this call must be complete by 30 June 2021. |
| Q17 | What would be the formal relationship between the two research initiatives: are they two different projects or the later could be developed as a working package of the ongoing project? | There will be a separate contract for the award, and separate reporting requirements for the additional funding. The original project and the new award will share the same broad aims, so it would be reasonable to consider it (and manage it internally with the wider project team) as a workstream. Integrating the work would likely lead to greater insights and impact. |
| Q18 | Could confirm if the FTE commitment of an existing person in the team or a new person to the project could be brought in the project to work on this particular project? | Either would be acceptable. |
| Q19 | Could you please confirm if addition expenses could be budgeted- for example conferences or dissemination events tailored to this project? | An aim of the call is to 'Produce results that can inform the near term national COVID-19 response, and the research data and analytical requirements of SAGE and its sub-groups.' - Dissemination activities that support the real-time sharing of results and findings to these aims can be included. All funds must be spent by 30 June 2021 and as such conference activities are largely not applicable. |
| Q20 | We notice from J in the call that we have to apply separately for access to the datasets through Data Access Requests. If we are successful in the grant application and we do the appropriate information governance training, does this guarantee that we will also be successful in applying for access to the data, and if so, on what timescale? | It does not guarantee access to data which will be assessed by the data custodians process. We will work with you and the TRE delivery partners to expediate requests, but we cannot give timeframes at this stage. A DA Request will be live from 1 December on the Innovation Gateway and you would be able to prepare and submit your request in parallel. |
| Q21 | We are currently gaining access to the Scottish National Safe Haven. Will all of the datasets be available through this TRE, or will we need to apply to others, in which case, will we be automatically approved if we're successful in this grant application, and if so, on what timescale? | Discrete data assets are available in each TRE. Within the Data & Connectivity NCS programme we are working towards federated access and analytics of data, but this functionality is not available at this time. To access data outside the Scottish National Safe Haven will require a separate request that is independently assessed. |
| Q22 | We also notice that one of the information governance courses linked to in J at <https://web.www.healthdatagateway.org/collection/4782731178031727> is in person - Safe Researcher Training. Is this course optional for access to these datasets? If not, how can we do it? | We have now included Safe Researcher Training from the UK Data Service to the Innovation Gateway, which is recognised for ONS accreditation. There are upcoming training days on 30 November and 15 December.  [UK Data Service » Events](https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/news-and-events/events.aspx) |
| Q23 | Are the datasets in the BHF-COVID-19 TRE within NHSD in scope for the funding call? | Yes. |