

Data Governance Call for Evidence

The British Academy and the Royal Society are conducting a rapid review of new uses of data and their implications, and a holistic consideration of the governance landscape, in order to make recommendations for governance arrangements that can ensure the UK remains a world leader in this area. The project will draw on scholars and scientists from across disciplines and will look at current and historical case studies of data governance, and of broader technology governance, from a range of countries and sectors. It will seek to enable connected debate by creating common frameworks to move debates on data governance forward.

The terms of reference of this project are to:

- Identify the communities with interests in the governance of data and its uses, but which may be considering these issues in different contexts and with varied aims and assumptions, in order to facilitate dialogue between these communities. These include academia, industry and the public sector.
- Clarify where there are connections between different debates, identifying shared issues and common questions, and help to develop a common framework and shared language for debate.
- Identify which social, ethical and governance challenges arise in the context of developments in data use.
- Set out the public interests at stake in governance of data and its uses, and the relationships between them, and how the principles of responsible research and innovation (RRI) apply in the context of data use.
- Make proposals for the UK to establish a sustained and flexible platform for debating issues of data governance, developing consensus about future legal and technical frameworks, and ensuring that learning and good practice spreads as fast as possible.

To find out more about the project and the people involved, please visit <https://royalsociety.org/topics-policy/projects/data-governance>.

Call for evidence

As part of the project we are seeking input on the governance arrangements that are currently in place for data collection, curation and use, and how these arrangements influence the way data are used. For the purpose of this project and the call for evidence, by ‘governance’ we mean to cover the social, ethical and legal consideration of the uses of data through formal organisations and processes, active engagement activities and implicit social contracts and agreements. We include both the entities that would consider uses of data and the processes that allow deliberation on those uses.

This call for evidence focuses on:

- A) Understanding **priority issues relating to data governance** across different sectors and types of organisations in order to better understand the different needs within and across sectors, and to enable better connection between discussions on governance within different sectors.
- B) Collecting examples of **current arrangements for governance of data use** in the UK and internationally, and understanding their benefits and limitations, in order to construct an overview of the governance landscape and to develop case studies of governance models.

We appreciate your input on either or both of these areas. The questions below are intended to guide, but not constrain, your response:

A) *Governance for data use: priorities, needs and opportunities*

- 1) What are the main opportunities that developments in data use present for your sector?
- 2) What are the main governance needs and how do they impact on your work? How are these governance needs currently met?
- 3) What changes in governance arrangements would be most beneficial to your area of work, and other, related areas?
- 4) What are your major concerns regarding data governance or the lack thereof? These could be impacts felt within your sector, that affect the wider public or which have potential future impacts

B) *The data governance landscape*

What are the governance frameworks, processes and organisations that affect your work? What reviews of governance are you aware of or involved in previously or currently? Please detail examples of organisations and systems for the governance of data use, addressing the following issues as far as possible:

- What sector or sectors does it cover (eg, health, research, infrastructure, finance)?
- What are the key aspects of governing data that it concerns (eg transparency, privacy, security of data, value of data, licensing, lifecycle)?
- What lessons have been, or are being, learned in terms of how use of data is governed through these institutions or processes? In what ways does it work, and in what ways does it not?
- How long-standing is the organisation, process or activity, and are their ways of reviewing how it functions?
- How well is it equipped with changes to how data is used, processed and perceived?
- What emerging social, legal and ethical issues should be addressed in any change to the data governance landscape?

In your response, please give details of the organisation you represent (if any), and which of the following sectors it falls into:

- Medicine: clinical, patient records
- Medical research
- Research and innovation: Machine learning and data science
- Research: social sciences
- Research: natural sciences
- Policy and public services
- Infrastructure: utilities and transport
- Communications: mobile, internet
- Social media and marketing
- Finance, banking and retail
- Manufacturing and industry
- Other, or cross-cutting sectors (please describe as far as possible)

Please ensure that all responses are in Microsoft Word format (not PDF), fully referenced where appropriate. While there is no word limit, responses should be kept as clear and succinct as possible. Please submit your completed response to louise.pakseresht@royalsociety.org by **Friday 4 November 2016**.