Data Delivery Group (DDG)
Note of Meeting – 27 April 2020

Attendees		
Shannon Vallor (SV)	Graham Fairlie (GF)	Rod Murray-Smith (RMS)
David Alexander (DA)	John Fotheringham (JF)	Scott Nowbaveh (SN)
Lisa Allen (LA)	Katy Guthrie (KG)	Stephen Peacock (SP)
Susie Braham (SB)	Roger Halliday (RH)	Lorna Ramsay (LR)
Jonathan Cameron (JC)	Alan Howie (AH)	Matthew Rice (MR)
Kevin Collins (KC)	Geoff Huggins (GH)	Nayha Sethi (NS)
Phillip Couser (PC)	Albert King (AK)	Ruchir Shah (RS)
Gillian Docherty (GD)	Iain McKay (IM)	
Apologies		
Marion Bain	Sophie Ilson	Peter Tolland
Janet Egdell	Paul Lowe	Pete Whitehouse
Tim Ellis	Ken Macdonald	Gareth Williams
Stuart Fancey	Carol Sinclair	

Welcome and Opening Remarks

SV, taking over as chair of the DDG, welcomed attendees to the meeting. She introduced herself and outlined her career history, which includes several academic, advisory and editorial appointments relating to data ethics, and the ethics of emerging science and technologies. Now Baillie Gifford Chair in the Ethics of Data and Artificial Intelligence (AI) at the Edinburgh Futures Institute, University of Edinburgh, she noted the positive data landscape in Scotland – including work on citizen-centeredness, openness and transparency, stakeholder engagement – and her keen interest to contribute to this, particularly on the ethical use of data for the broader good.

This was followed by a round of introductions, then the secretariat advised noted apologies.

Note of Meeting on 30 January 2020

It was confirmed that the actions noted in paper DDG/20/1/3 had been completed.

Covid-19 Data Work Update

RH gave an update on Covid-19 data and analysis work, which is moving at considerable pace. He is stepping away from the role of Chief Data Officer – which will be taken on by AK – to focus on this initially but, in time, will move on to become CEO of Research Data Scotland. He outlined the Scottish Government Covid-19 Advisory Group, formed to address the need for additional scientific analysis of the impact of Covid-19 in Scotland, and work to bring together key data sets from health and other public services across Scotland. AK is working to align this work so as to achieve a shared view across the wider public sector, and is exploring how to address potential gaps; he may approach some DDG members for support with this.

IM highlighted that a lack of common identifiers across data sets has affected some Covid-19 related work by Scottish local authorities; LA advised similar issues have arose elsewhere in the UK. RH noted that views on such identifiers differ, and there is a need to be sensitive to people's trust in organisations. GH advised that in NHS Scotland the Community Health Index number is a single identifier, but that it is possible to federate data linkages without such markers; DA noted that citizens are receptive to linkages when needed, but not necessarily use of such singular unique identifiers.

Progress with the publication of open data on Covid-19 was discussed; RS highlighted the need to better help people utilise this data, which is available at https://statistics.gov.scot/home.

DDG Priority Task Updates

GD gave an update on progress with Scotland's AI Strategy. In light of the Covid-19 situation, the closing date for the consultation on the strategy has been extended to 22 May, whilst the engagement activities and working groups will be conducted online over the next few months; the working date for publishing the strategy is now March 2021, with a potential launch at *DataFest21*. Details of the consultation and – in time – the revised engagement programme and working groups can be found at https://www.scotlandaistrategy.com/.

AK advised that work to develop Scotland's Data Story (SDS) has been put on hold due to Covid-19. Data and AI will likely play a key part in the economic and social recovery following Covid-19, and the DDG will be invited to contribute to thinking on this. AK and GF agreed to discuss work on inward investment, and how this links to SDS, offline.

SB advised that a scoping exercise was conducted to identify options for work over the next few months, which will see a focus on Information Governance (IG). Work on Privacy Principles will be progressed within the prototyping phase of the Digital Identity Scotland programme, whilst there has been some work with the Office of the Chief Designer on data and digital ethics. LR asked what had been explored as part of the scoping, and if collaboration with Health and Social Care colleagues on IG work would continue. SB advised that the scoping focused on developing understanding of the existing landscape, and that collaboration would be ongoing; SV offered to have a chat with SB regarding data ethics.

AK advised that work on data skills has been put on hold due to colleagues' involvement with Covid-19 work. GF highlighted that Skills Development Scotland are working with ScotlandIS, The Data Lab and other partners on a separate project to map the data skills landscape.

AK advised that work on data standards, including a landscape review, continues to progress. It is intended to use the outputs from a series of workshops, each focused on a specific area, to help inform an action plan. Work to develop a Scottish Public Sector Data Maturity Framework will be taken forward, with a view to build on this and produce a dashboard that can highlight priorities, resources and showcase 'what good data looks like'; DDG members may be asked to support this work. LA asked if it was planned to engage with the new UK Data Standards Authority: AK advised that it hadn't been, and welcomed LA's offer to discuss this offline.

AOB

RS raised the issue of ethics and privacy concerns relating to the proposed NHS Covid-19 tracing app. RH offered to ask JC, who had left the meeting due to urgent business, if it would be possible to provide more information on this evolving area of work. It was agreed to circulate this to the group with the note of the meeting: MR suggested, and SV agreed, that given the pace of developments it would be helpful to have an interim update ahead of the next meeting.

SV highlighted the extension to the closing dates for consultations, detailed on the agenda.

Closing Remarks

SV thanked all for attending, bearing with connectivity issues, and noted that she looks forward to working with the group.

Next Meeting

July 2020 – further details to follow.

Actions

1. Share details of those involved with the data standards workshops with LR – AK

DDG/20/2/2