

Data Delivery Group (DDG)
 Note of Meeting – 7 October 2019

Attendees		
Colin Cook (CC)	Liz Elliot (LE)	Rod Murray-Smith (RMS)
Caroline Bellamy (CB)*	Tim Ellis (TE)	Lorna Ramsay (LR)
Kevin Collins (KC)	Graham Fairlie (GF)	Ruchir Shah (RS)
Phillip Couser (PC)	John Fotheringham (JF)	Peter Tolland (PT)
Gillian Docherty (GD)	Katy Guthrie (KG)	Gordon Watson (GW)
Paul Dowie (PD)	Roger Halliday (RH)	
Janet Egdell (JE)	Erika Lewis (EL)	<i>*by audioconference</i>
Apologies		
Marion Bain	Geoff Huggins	Ken Macdonald
Stuart Fancey	Paul Lowe	Nayha Sethi

Welcome, Introductions and Note of Meeting on 24 June 2019

CC, chairing in lieu of Lesley Fraser, welcomed attendees to the fourth meeting of the DDG. After introductions round the tables, and the secretariat advising of notified apologies, it was confirmed that there were no actions recorded at the last meeting.

High Level Delivery Plan for Data – progress update

RH advised that the plan is still in development, and invited members' feedback on papers DDG/19/4/2 – the latest iteration of the plan – and DDG/19/4/3, its associated driver diagram.

In the ensuing discussion it was noted that the driver diagram is extensive and there is a need to ensure that it clearly reads back to the plan and sets out key activities being taken forward. CC observed that the plan points to the increasing complexity and range of work in progress and acknowledged the need for the plan to reflect the strategic context. RH mentioned work to set up Research Data Scotland (RDS), a new body that will provide support for researchers to access and use data about people, places and businesses. RS opined that the 'permitted uses' approach RDS intends to adopt in stewarding data requests is at odds with the open government approach; RH and RS agreed to discuss this issue further in due course.

AI Strategy for Scotland – progress update

JF gave an update in lieu of RH. The Scottish Government's commitment to develop an AI strategy was set out in [Protecting Scotland's Future: the Government's Programme for Scotland 2019-2020](#), published on 3 September, and formally launched by Kate Forbes MSP, Minister for Public Finance and Digital Economy, at an event on 6 September.

The membership of the strategy steering group, which will be chaired by the Minister, has been finalised and the group will hold its first meeting on 30 October. Over the course of its first two meetings the group will produce a scoping document that sets out draft aims, principles and priority actions that will be further developed via working groups and public engagement in due course. The Data Lab have engaged Anderson Solutions and The Democratic Society to provide facilitation and engagement support respectively to the strategy development process. There is now an AI strategy page on The Data Lab's website and a Twitter feed: these can be found and followed at: <https://www.thedatalab.com/community-events/developing-an-ai-strategy-for-scotland/> and [@ScotAIStrategy](#) respectively.

LE asked if the strategy will advise on the practical application of AI: GD advised that it is intended that it will define AI first and then set out a route towards fostering its adoption. The order of precedence of the potential social and economic gains from AI was briefly discussed.

UK National Data Strategy – presentation and discussion

EL gave a presentation on the strategy, including the background to its development, its aims, work to date and intended next steps. A call for evidence – focused on the three core pillars of people, economy and government – identified several issues, whilst further analysis highlighted emerging themes within each pillar that will be explored and addressed as the strategy evolves. The strategy, which is expected to be published in autumn 2020, will include a 2030 Vision that it is intended to hone through consultation with specialist stakeholders and the wider public; EL advised that input from the DDG and broader data networks in Scotland would be welcome.

EL posed two questions: what should the strategy team know about data in Scotland, and how can they work with stakeholders in Scotland? PC commented that cultural issues can impede data-sharing, whilst and RMS noted the need to consider the impacts of digital misinformation¹, such as on political debate; EL advised that aspects of this are within the scope of the UK Government's Online Harms White Paper². The need to ensure that the strategy reflects the reserved/devolved policy context was noted: identifying commonalities and differences, and then developing a joint way of working to move forwards, was mooted to address this. CB highlighted the need to ensure that the strategy links to the national geospatial data strategy, as there are several common and powerful threads between them. CC and RH advised that the Scottish Government would welcome further engagement as the strategy develops.

¹ Relating to this topic the recent [snapshot paper on deepfakes and audiovisual disinformation](#), by the UK Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation, may be of interest.

² More details at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/online-harms-white-paper>

Communicating Data – an emerging narrative

RH spoke to his paper, DDG/19/4/4, which sets out proposals to develop a shared narrative that positions Scotland as an international leader in data driven innovation. GF advised that Scottish Development International produced a paper on this in 2017, and agreed with the need for an refreshed overarching strategic narrative. GF remarked that one of the strengths of Scotland's data community is how well connected and successful it is, and that the latter could make curating and updating a narrative rather tricky. RMS cited successes in the fintech and space sectors to draw upon; GD agreed that there is lots to share, and more in the pipeline.

RS suggested bringing the Open Government Network into discussions to develop a narrative, whilst KG suggested having a 'narrative library' that could be used on a case by case basis; the '[Scotland is Now](#)' campaign partners are already working along these lines. LE highlighted the need to ensure a consistent message in relation to public trust. CC closed by remarking that if data is as key to the future of the Scottish economy as it appears - more so given how much it underpins emerging sectors - then there is a real need to develop a narrative to communicate this. RH agreed to convene a group to discuss taking the proposals further.

Closing Remarks

There being no other business, CC thanked all for attending and their input to the DDG's work.

Next Meeting

2.00 – 3.30 pm, Thursday 30 January 2020

Conference Room 4ER, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Actions

None recorded