



Data Sharing Advisory Committee

Minutes

Date and time

10am 14 December 2020

Venue

Microsoft Teams call

Attendees

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Iain Bell sent apologies – Lee Hood attended instead

Nick Hillman joined the meeting at 10.30

John Jerrim

Laura McInerney

Sandra McNally

Natalie Perera

Dave Thomson

Julius Weinberg (Chair)

PROJECT BOARD AND PROJECT TEAM

James Bowsher-Murray Head of Early Years and Social Care, Data and Insight – Ofsted

Jason Bradbury Deputy Director, Data and Insight – Ofsted

Vikas Dhawan Associate Director, Data and Analytics – Ofqual

Mike Jones	Head of Early Years, Schools, SEND Research and Analysis – DfE
Michelle Meadows	Executive Director, Strategy, Risk and Research – Ofqual
Richard O'Kelly	Head of Analytical Data – UCAS
Jane Parsons	Director of Communications – Ofqual – joined for item 6
Ian Stockford	Director of Strategic Projects – Ofqual – sent apologies
Nadir Zanini	Research Fellow – Ofqual

1 Welcome

Lead: Julius Weinberg

Papers: Advisory Committee Members – Short Biogs.pdf
Data Sharing Advisory Committee – ToR.docx

The Chair welcomed attendees to the first meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Data Sharing Project set up by Ofqual in conjunction with Ofsted, DfE and UCAS. He set out the purpose of the group, making reference to the draft ToR that had been circulated ahead of the meeting.

2. Project overview

A presentation of the project by Project Board members

Lead: Michelle Meadows

Paper: Project initiation document.pdf

MM (Ofqual) and the other members of the Project Board introduced the project and set out the two strands of work aimed at achieving greater transparency from linked data:

- i) to allow external researchers to conduct independent research by making the data accessible through the ONS SRS
- ii) to inform policy-making based on the analysis of summer 2020 data

There was support from members of the Advisory Committee and for the ambitions around transparency, sector engagement and maximising opportunities for genuine collaboration. There was recognition of the need for short-term analysis (focused on the most pressing areas of policy interest) and a desire for an open mind on long-term questions and opportunities (such as the linkage of this data to future data sets).

3. Research questions

A presentation of potential research questions and the engagement of external researchers and users

Lead: Nadir Zanini

Paper: Project initiation document.pdf (Annex A)

NZ provided an overview of research questions that the Project Teams had identified.

Members welcomed the questions and the data to be shared.

Reflections were made on the nature of the data – the need to make sure that the data is shared at the right level of granularity and with the appropriate identifiers at candidate- and school-level to allow in-depth research to be conducted, while recognising that outputs would be aggregated and not released at individual- or school-level.

The possibility of including data on Vocational and Technical Qualifications was raised. It was recognised that the nature of the data would be different and the arrangements for awarding in 2020 varied. The possibility of including data from November exams was also raised.

The importance of focusing on research questions that may be helpful for the teaching community and users of these qualifications was discussed.

Members noted that funding would raise interest from academics and suggested that Ofqual engage funding bodies and other research organisations potentially interested in analysing the data.

4. Some data led insights into CAGs and grading gaps

A presentation of initial analyses

Lead: Nadir Zanini

Slides: Preliminary insights – CAGs and grading gaps.pdf

NZ presented some of the insights from the data that had been produced so far. The presentation was based on very preliminary descriptive statistics and highlighted the need for further exploration within a multivariate approach.

Members welcomed the presentation and gave suggestions of angles to take when analysing data and on potential international literature on predictions that could provide useful context.

5. Risks and opportunities

A discussion of risks and opportunities

Lead: Jason Bradbury

Paper: Project initiation document.pdf (page 5)

JBr briefly discussed the risks and opportunities of the project.

Members agreed with those identified and stressed the importance of considering all the stakeholders involved, particularly pupils and teachers.

6. Next steps

A discussion of next steps on data, analysis and communications

Lead(s): Jason Bradbury (data and analysis)

Jane Parsons (communications)

JBr summarised the next steps as a result of the meeting. JP briefly talked about communications.

Members underlined the need to make sure that key groups are aware of the project and are able to access the necessary information on the project.

7. Next meeting of the Advisory Committee

Lead: Julius Weinberg

JW talked briefly about the Ofqual blog that he was about to write on the first meeting of the Committee.

JW outlined the plan for two more meetings and suggested the possibility of creating working groups on specific issues if needed.

8. AOB

No further business was raised.