



Data Sharing Advisory Committee

Minutes

Date and time

1pm 25 February 2021

Venue

Location or meeting technology

Attendees

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Iain Bell - sent apologies

Nick Hillman

John Jerrim

Laura McInerney - sent apologies

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
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Jason Bradbury	Deputy Director, Data and Insight – Ofsted
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Vikas Dhawan	Associate Director, Data and Analytics – Ofqual
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Mike Jones	Head of Early Years, Schools, SEND Research and Analysis – DfE
Michelle Meadows	Executive Director, Strategy, Risk and Research – Ofqual
Charlotte Nash	Strategic Data Curation Officer, SRS – ONS
Philip Noden	Senior Analytical Officer, Data and Insight – Ofsted
Richard O'Kelly	Head of Analytical Data – UCAS
Jane Parsons	Director of Communications – Ofqual
Ian Stockford	Director of Strategic Projects – Ofqual – sent apologies
Tim Stratton	Research Associate – Ofqual
Nadir Zanini	Research Fellow – Ofqual

1. Welcome

Lead: Julius Weinberg

Papers: Agenda – 25 February 2021

The Chair welcomed attendees to the second meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Data Sharing Project set up by Ofqual in conjunction with Ofsted, DfE and UCAS.

Chair confirmed that the notes from the meeting would be circulated before they are published. It was acknowledged that this meeting unavoidably coincided with government announcements about the process for awarding grades in 2021.

2. An update from Ofqual

Lead: Michelle Meadows

MM gave an update on recent developments in the arrangements for summer 2021 assessments and summarised the key aspects of the consultation outcomes and the decisions taken.

Advisory Committee members reflected on the implications for the project and noted that it would be important to share data from 2021, when it becomes available.

3. Data Sharing

A presentation on the progress on the sharing of data with external researchers

Lead: Nadir Zanini

Slides: Data sharing update.pptx

NZ provided an update on plans to place Ofqual, DfE and UCAS datasets in the ONS Secure Research Service (SRS). NZ noted that work on the data and metadata is progressing at pace with plans of completing it in April, in line with the original plans.

Members asked about the scope of research that would be allowed using the datasets. Reassurance was given that all research projects in line with the organisations' remit, which is broad, will be in scope.

Members also noted the importance of trying to streamline the approval process to avoid delays in getting access to the data.

Technical details about anonymisation of the data and linkage were also discussed.

4. Funding

An update on funding opportunities for researchers

Lead: Jason Bradbury

JBr talked through plans to partner with Administrative Data Research UK (ADR UK) and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).

Members noted that, currently, these opportunities for funding may not be open to researchers in certain types of organisation. Further engagement with ADR UK will be needed and alternative arrangements may also have to be explored.

5. Research update

An update on the progress on the analyses produced as part of the project

Lead: Nadir Zanini, Tim Stratton, Philip Noden

Slides: Research update - CAGs and grading gaps.pptx

NZ introduced analysis conducted.

TS presented an analysis of the factors affecting Centre Assessment Grades and compared them with the factors affecting examined grades in previous years.

PN presented an analysis of the difference between Centre Assessed Grades and Calculated Grades in 2020 and the characteristics of those candidates with larger gaps.

Both pieces of work are still in draft and require further analysis and refinement, but will be published once finalised.

Advisory Committee members welcomed the work conducted so far. For both presentations members made suggestions to help clarify the analysis and how the findings could be interpreted to aid current and future policy discussions. They also noted the importance of dissemination of the research conducted as part of the project to make sure it has impact.

6. Communications

An overview of the communications plans

Lead: Nadir Zanini

NZ talked through the communications plan including the need to publish the final versions of the analyses presented earlier.

7. Summary and next steps

Lead: Julius Weinberg

JW thanked the members for their time and contributions during the meeting.

JW also outlined the plan for one final meeting, possibly towards the end of April or in May.

8. AOB

MM noted that OSR will soon publish their review of the approach to developing statistical models to award 2020 exam results. A link to the report will be circulated to members of the Advisory Committee as soon as it is published.

No further business was raised.