

# Developing UKRI's research data policy

Chorus Forum: Research Data Management

20 May 2026

Presented by Elizabeth Newbold, Open Science Theme Lead, Scientific Computing, Science and Technology Facilities Council.





UK Research  
and Innovation

**Advance  
knowledge,  
improve lives,  
drive growth.**



# Why update our policy?

Good research data sharing and management is an important part of doing good research.

We want data from UKRI funded research to be more findable, accessible, interoperable and reuseable (FAIR) to:

- maximise the value and impact of publicly funded research
- enable research quality, reproducibility, transparency and integrity
- support a more open, collaborative, efficient, sustainable, inclusive and trusted research and innovation culture and environment

Must be done fairly, safely and transparently – open as possible, and only as restricted/secure as necessary.



# A joined-up approach

Integrated policy, collectively developed and implemented by all UKRI's constituent councils

- Easier to navigate and use
- Consistent across our funding but grounded in good practice for the specific research being undertaken and types of data it involves
- Joined-up with other UKRI policies, priorities and investments (**e.g. digital research infrastructure**, talent and skills, research culture, trusted research and innovation, sustainability, AI)

# Supporting advances in technology, policy and practice

- Our policy will support and promote the wider ecosystem of policies, standards, practices and activities for FAIR data.
- It builds on a strong foundation of our current council policies, investments in data, and wider national and international activities.
- We're updating it to align with, and support, the latest advances and developments in technology, policy and good practice.

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## Strategy

### UKRI AI Research and Innovation Strategic Framework

From: UKRI  
Published: 19 February 2026

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- Our vision
- Our role
- Our priority areas and outcomes
- The future

**Foreword**

**Charlotte Deane, EPSRC Executive Director for the UKRI AI Programme**

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming our world, creating major opportunities for economic growth, better health and capabilities that extend human potential.

The UK is well placed to benefit. Our strengths in AI include world-class researchers and ambitious business leaders. Through the AI Opportunity Fund, we are investing in AI across all eight industrial sectors at a scale of £1.6 billion. Over £1.6 billion of UKRI funding will be directed to support AI research and innovation. This investment helps realise the governments vision of a world-leading digital economy.

Government investment and strategies give us a strong foundation. Our agenda has been set, through the AI Opportunity Fund. This includes AI across all eight industrial sectors at a scale of £1.6 billion. Over £1.6 billion of UKRI funding will be directed to support AI research and innovation. This investment helps realise the governments vision of a world-leading digital economy.

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Our research councils' research data sharing policies and guidance:

- [AHRC research funding guide](#), including guidance on research data
- [BBSRC data sharing policy](#)
- [EPSRC policy framework on research data](#)
- [ESRC research data policy, ESRC data citation: what you need to know](#) and [submit datasets if you have funding from ESRC](#)
- [MRC research data sharing and management policies and guidance](#)
- [NERC data policy and guidance notes](#) and [NERC research data sharing and management policies and guidance](#)
- [STFC scientific data policy](#) and [STFC guidance on research data](#)

**Common principles on research data**

To bring these policies together and help you understand what you have also established a set of seven common principles. They apply to all research funding opportunities.

1. Publicly funded research data are a public good and should be made openly available in a timely and responsible manner.
2. Any organisational and project-specific data management policies should be consistent with the common principles.

## Concordat on Open Research Data

The Concordat on Open Research Data has been developed by a UK multi-stakeholder group. This concordat will help to ensure that the research data gathered and generated by members of the UK research community is made openly available for use by others wherever possible in a manner consistent with relevant legal, ethical, disciplinary and regulatory frameworks and norms, and with due regard to the costs involved.

Published 28<sup>th</sup> July 2016

## Realising the potential

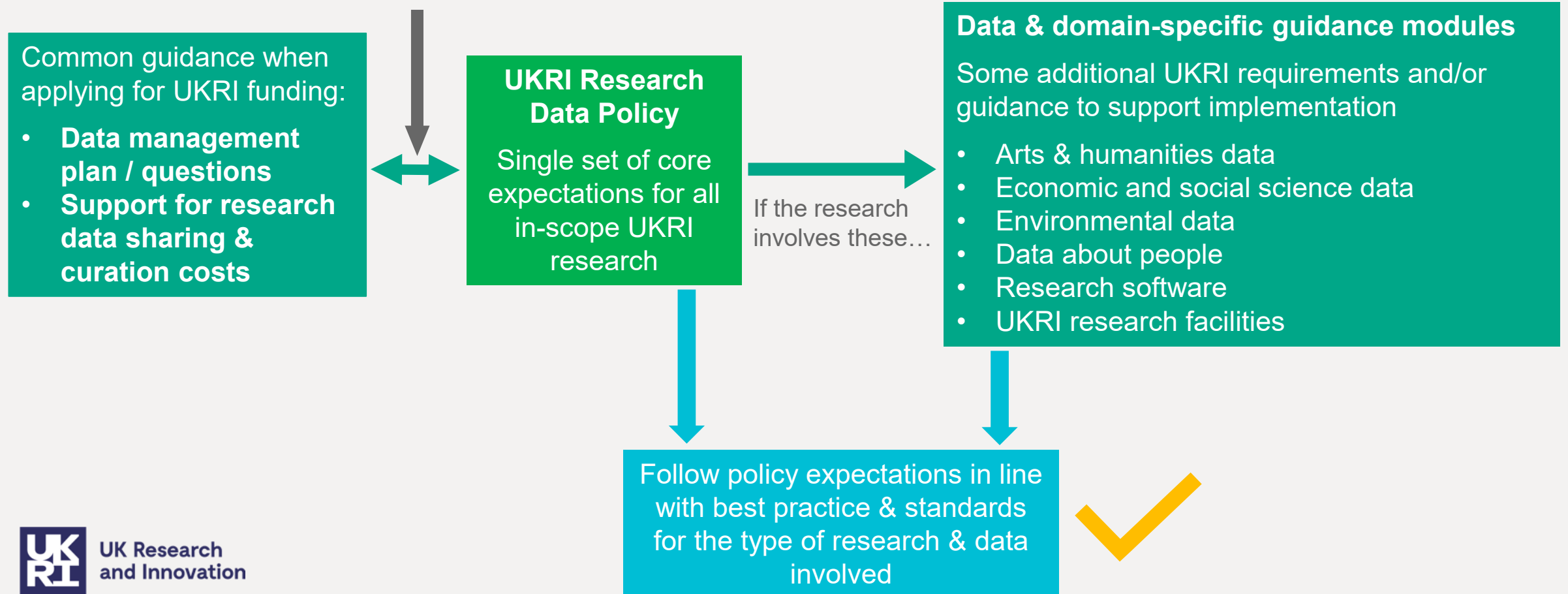
Final report of the Open Research Data Task Force

**Recommendation of the Council concerning Access to Research Data from Public Funding**

OECD Legal Instruments

# Common expectations with practice guided by your research

UKRI funded project or funding opportunity?  
What is the research and what data will it involve?



# Draft UKRI research data policy



## Scope & key principles

1. Purpose
2. What this policy covers
3. Definitions
4. Key principles

## Common requirements & expectations

5. Planning research
6. What data to share
7. Where to share data
8. Implementing FAIR data
9. Acknowledgement & recognition
10. Citing and reusing data
11. Data retention and preservation
12. Responsible data sharing

### Note:

- The draft policy is currently undergoing internal post-consultation review and will be subject to changes
- Award holders must continue to follow our existing policies in the meantime

# Developing supporting guidance



**Data management plans:**  
reviewing our approach to DMPs  
across UKRI



**Costs:** developing clearer  
guidance about costing for data  
curation and sharing in grants



**Monitoring and evaluation:**  
developing a holistic approach to  
monitoring compliance and the  
impact of the policy

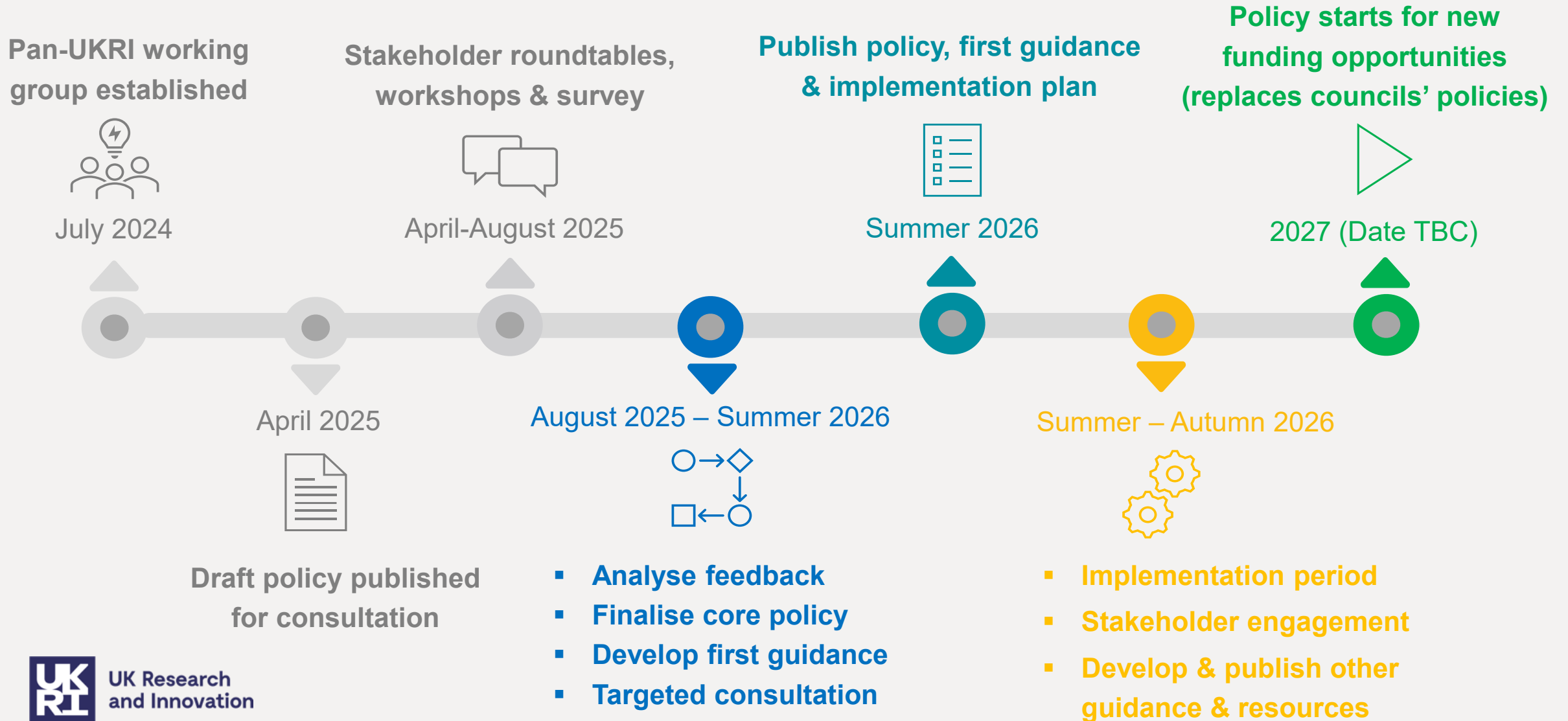
Supplementary requirements and/or guidance for some  
research domains and data types:

- **Economic & social science data**
- **Arts and humanities data**
- **Environmental data**
- **Data about people**
- **Research software**
- **UKRI research facilities**



We'll also be reviewing and updating relevant resources  
on our [good research resource hub](#).

# Next steps



# Find out more



Visit UKRI's engagement hub for more information, including our latest update <https://engagementhub.ukri.org/ukri-openresearch/developing-ukris-research-data-policy>

Contact us at [researchdatapolicy@ukri.org](mailto:researchdatapolicy@ukri.org)

A screenshot of the UKRI engagement hub website. The page features the UKRI logo and name at the top left, with navigation links for 'Engagement Hub', 'Find and Participate', 'We Asked, You Said, We Did', and 'About'. Below the navigation is a decorative banner with orange and blue geometric shapes. A dark blue header bar contains the title 'Developing UKRI's research data policy'. The main content area has an 'Overview' section with a sub-heading 'Update on the development of the UKRI Research Data Policy (April 2026)'. The text in this section thanks contributors for feedback on a draft policy, mentions over 100 written responses and various consultation events, and states that a summary of feedback will be published with the final policy. It also notes that the data policy is currently being finalised, including implementation plans and supporting guidance.

**UKRI** UK Research and Innovation

Engagement Hub Find and Participate We Asked, You Said, We Did About

## Developing UKRI's research data policy

### Overview

#### Update on the development of the UKRI Research Data Policy (April 2026)

UKRI would like to thank everyone who contributed feedback on the draft policy, both via engagement hub and our consultation events. We received over 100 consultation written responses, and a diverse range of individuals and organisations attended a series of cross-sector and disciplinary-specific webinars, workshops, and roundtables. We will be publishing a summary of feedback received with the final policy.

We are currently finalising the data policy, including considering all the input received, and developing our implementation plan and supporting guidance.