

Summary of Discussion: UKHSA Data Science Advisory Board 24th June 2022
14:00-15:30 [held virtually]

Chair: Sylvia Richardson

1. Welcome

- Apologies were noted from: Dr Johanna Hutchinson (UKHSA) and Professor Ewan Birney (EMBL- EBI).
- Board noted that previous minutes (25.02.22) had been formally approved prior to this meeting.
- Noted that E2E (end to end) is to be added to the agenda of future meetings to progress discussion, and that the accreditation that the “new” profession of data scientists could credibly follow.

2. DSAB review

Summary of the DSAB review results given by Anna Seale, followed by discussion.

- DSAB provides a useful external view for Data, Analytics and Surveillance (DAS) in UKHSA.
- Bringing strategies under development would enable expert input.
- Other key topics for advice could include quality assurance, and how data science is being implemented operationally.
- The duration of DSAB has been limiting discussion, and the meetings should be extended, but held less frequently, with extraordinary meetings held when requested by the Secretariat.
- Follow-up on discussions should be provided through an update from UKHSA as a standing agenda item.

3. Revisit DSAB Terms of Reference (ToR)

Summary of the current DSAB ToR given by Anna Seale, head of DSAB Secretariat, followed by discussion.

- The ToR requires redrafting, as it was written for the Joint Biosecurity Centre and does not reflect the current organisational structures and requirements.
- It was noted that in practical terms the revised ToR should:
 - Summarise the role of UKHSA and its structures.
 - Clarify the purpose of DSAB and who it advises, and how this relates to other governance structures in UKHSA.
 - Update on roles and responsibilities, reflecting the DSAB review and discussion on this.
 - Consider the DSAB membership in view of the roles and responsibilities in the ToR.
 - Note that documents are needed in advance of the meeting.
 - Meetings to be quarterly, and review rotation of the chair.

4. Geospatial Strategy Presentation

Presentation by James Lewis, Lead of geospatial team, UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA).

- Spoke about the approach to geospatial work at UKHSA, aiming to develop a centralised service and capability, integrated across UKHSA
- Highlighted the partnership work informing the development of the geospatial unified approach, and engagement across UKHSA Groups (Clinical Public Health, Science, Health Protection Operations, Technology and Strategy).
- Noted that the aim is to have a coordinated approach, working collaboratively internally but also with academic, xHMG and commercial partners externally, to build capability which manages reference data, provides analytics and visualisation support to add value.

5. Discussion

A constructive, engaging discussion on the Geospatial Strategy presentation took place and centred on the following key points:

- Defining geospatial standards important.
- Interoperability should be considered.
- Data pipelines should be appropriate, and consider weather and climate data.
- Appropriate external stakeholders to engage with should be identified through mapping.

6. Any other business

- No other business raised.

7. Meeting outcomes

- E2E to be added to agenda of future meetings.
- Accreditation that the “new” profession of data scientists could credibly follow.
- ToR to be updated and brought to next meeting, including UKHSA structures.
- Date of next meeting to be circulated.

Attendance:

Attendee	Institution/Role
Professor Graham Medley	Professor of Infectious Disease Modelling, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Dr Zeynep Engin	Open Infrastructure Strategy Lead & AI for Science and Government Theme Lead for Tools, Practices and Systems, Alan Turing Institute
Dr Ben Goldacre	Director DataLab, University of Oxford

Professor Mark Parsons	PCC Executive Director and Associate Dean for eResearch at Edinburgh
Professor Andrew Morris	Director, Health Data Research UK
Professor Alison J. Heppenstall	SSOR of Geocomputation, University of Leeds, ESRC Alan Turing Institute Fellow
Professor Dame Wendy Hall	Professor, Associate Vice President (International Engagement) and Executive Director (Web Science Institute), University of Southampton
Professor Sylvia Richardson CBE, FMedSci	Emeritus Director of the MRC Biostatistics Unit, University of Cambridge
Professor Daniela De Angelis	Professor of Statistical Science for Health, University of Cambridge, Deputy Director and Programme Leader at the MRC-BS
Professor Chris Holmes	Program Director for Health and Medical Sciences, The Alan Turing Institute
Professor Simon Vosper	Executive Director of Science, Met Office
James Lewis	UK Health Security Agency (Presenting)
Professor Anna Seale	UK Health Security Agency (Secretariat)
Dr Sundeep Popat	UK Health Security Agency (Secretariat)