

Summary of Discussion: JBC Data Science Advisory Board Meeting

27th November 2020, 14.00 – 14.50[held virtually]

The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed and signed off.

Terms of Reference Discussion

The Board discussed the draft Terms of Reference for the DSAB that had been distributed in advance of the meeting. Several comments were made and the Secretariat will make the agreed amendments prior to circulating a revised draft in advance of the next meeting.

The board agreed that they would revisit the ToR in a few months time.

Hot Topic- Tiers

JBC presented on the analysis performed around the new Tier system. They talked about the work that JBC is doing to provide analysis in support of these decisions and the urgency of upcoming deadlines. . A challenge is how best to use surrogate data to estimate incidence. A Nowcasting model is now being deployed to extrapolate data at a local level in a rigorous way.

Hot Topic- Mass Testing

JBC presented on the new cross-purpose team approach being used in the JBC to help answer key research questions. JBC presented on work looking at the effectiveness of different interventions with an example of the effect of mass testing in Liverpool.

Discussion on Technical Feedback

The Chair facilitated a wide-ranging discussion about possible arrangements to ensure DSAB members can review and prepare feedback on 'deep dive' topics, and also on JBC data science techniques and models. Assurance was provided on the internal two-stage review process utilising skills from across JBC and T&T, and commitment made to consider options for distributing information early to DSAB members for review.

Attendance

Professor Andrew Morris	Director, Health Data Research UK– Acting Chair
Professor Mark Parsons	Director of Research Computing, UK Research and Innovation
Sylvia Richardson	Director, Chair of Biostatistics, University of Cambridge
Professor Alison Heppenstall	Professor of Geo-computational and ESRC-Turing Fellow, University of Leeds
Professor Graham Medley	Professor of Infectious Disease Modelling, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Professor Chris Holmes	Programme Director for Health and Medical Sciences, The Alan Turing Institute
Dr Zeynep Engin	Urban Dynamics Laboratory, UCL
Professor Simon Vosper	UK Meteorological Office
Dr Ben Goldacre	Director, DataLab, University of Oxford

Professor Dame Wendy Hall	Professor, Associate Vice President (International Engagement) and Executive Director (Web Science Institute), University of Southampton
Dr Ewan Birney	Deputy Director General, European Bioinformatics Institute
Dr James Hetherington	Chief Data Science Advisor, Joint Biosecurity Centre, Fellow – The Alan Turing Institute
Dr Johanna Hutchinson	Director of Data & Data Science, Joint Biosecurity Centre
Fergus Cumming	Advanced Analytics Team Leader, Joint Biosecurity Centre (Presenter)
Charlie Dunstan-Rice	Joint Biosecurity Centre (Secretariat)
Isabel Bennett	Joint Biosecurity Centre (Secretariat)
Luke Bevan	Joint Biosecurity Centre (Secretariat)
Dr Tim Chadborn	Joint Biosecurity Centre (observer)
Monica Doherty	Joint Biosecurity Centre (observer)