

Audit of data sharing and publications coming from research databases given a favourable opinion by UK research ethics committees

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Supplementary Information

1. Date Database Registered	9. Number of access requests granted
2. Database Title	10. Number of access requests received
3. Reviewing REC	11. Number of publications
4. Lead Applicant Name	12. Number of amendments
5. 1 st contact email address	13. Public Engagement Details
6. 2 nd contact email address	14. Response to email contact
7. Database Aims	15. Final report received (Y/N)
8. Annual Reports Received	

Table 1: Access Database fields

Dear <<Name of Lead Applicant>>

Re: <<Title of Research Database>>

The Health Research Authority is performing an audit on the usage of all Research Databases that have previously been granted a favourable ethics opinion.

We remind you that the continuing favourable ethics opinion (if relevant) is contingent upon regular submissions of information to the HRA through annual reports, until closure and submission of the final report.

As a point of contact for <<Title of Research Database>> please could you provide us with the following information about this database,

1. How many requests are received from researchers wishing to access the database per year?
2. How many requests for database access are granted per year?
3. Please list any publications that have resulted from research using the database?

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience

Table 2: Email sent out to contact email addresses

Name	Description	References
<i>Database access and sharing</i>	<i>Responses relating to access and data sharing processes.</i>	38
Different understandings of what 'data sharing' means	Responses here provide evidence of a range of understandings of what 'data sharing' is, and how it operates in relation to the respondent's database.	5
Formal and informal access processes affect data on access	Responses indicating that formal and informal processes exist relating to access (typically informal approaches and formal applications). Many of these illustrate the lack of data on the former due to records only being available for the latter.	7
No external access	Responses here indicate that no external access has been granted to the database. These responses break down into two general types; those indicating explicitly that access was not facilitated; and those indicating only internal use of the database by the host organisation or research team.	26
Access Not Facilitated	Responses indicating explicitly that access was not facilitated to the database.	11
Internal Use Of Database Only	Responses indicating that the database was only used by the host organisation or research team.	15
<i>Database management</i>	<i>Responses relating to management of the database.</i>	10
Governance	Responses describing how the management and/or operation of the database has changed in response to changes in governance processes over time.	5
Information Technology (IT)	Responses describing how IT issues have affected operation and/or development of the database.	3
Workforce	Responses indicating workforce issues affecting the operation and/or viability of the database (e.g. availability of key staff).	2

Table 3: Coding of emails received