

# Research Data Management

## *EPSRC's Expectations*

**Ben Ryan**

Senior Manager, Research Outcomes, EPSRC

[ben.ryan@epsrc.ac.uk](mailto:ben.ryan@epsrc.ac.uk)

**EPSRC**

Engineering and Physical Sciences  
Research Council



# Overview

- **Underpinning Philosophy – common to all UK Research Councils**

- **Implications of EPSRC's 'expectations'**

Full policy and expectations are on our website

[Home](#) > [About us](#) > [Our service standards](#) > EPSRC Policy Framework on Research Data

- **Current RCUK work on Research Data Policy**

- **Other developments**



# RCUK Common Principles on Data Policy

<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/research/Pages/DataPolicy.aspx>

- **Driven by a recognition that Data are a critical output of the research process:**
  - ❖ For the integrity, transparency and robustness of the research record
  - ❖ Value often increases through aggregation
  - ❖ Enables new research questions to be addressed
  - ❖ Supports the wider exploitation of data



# The Principles – an overview

- A Public Good – to be made available responsibly
- Long-term value – the need for preservation
- Discoverability & Cite-ability
- Legitimate constraints – not everything can be shared equally
- Researchers (for a period) should have privileged access to ‘their’ data
- Data users should cite their sources – and abide by terms of access
- Looking after and sharing research data is
  - part of the research process
  - a legitimate use of research budgets



# How EPSRC Policy affects...

## Research Organisations

**Primary responsibility** for ensuring that researchers manage their data effectively. They need establish infrastructure and processes to ensure that:

- ✓ *retained* EPSRC-funded research data is preserved for a minimum of 10-years
- ✓ effective data curation is provided throughout the full data lifecycle,
- ✓ they know what publicly-funded research data they hold, make it discoverable, and record 3<sup>rd</sup> party requests to access such data;
- ✓ they notify and justify access restrictions, e.g. ‘commercially confidential’
- ✓ their researchers appreciate/make use of relevant law e.g. FOI
- ✓ their researchers understand the requirement to comply with research data policies
- ✓ that adequate resources (e.g. from QR/Research Grants) are allocated to research data management



# How EPSRC Policy affects...

## Researchers/Grant-holders

**They have a responsibility** to understand - and adhere to - EPSRC's principles and expectations for research data management. They need to:

- ✓ make their EPSRC-funded research data freely and openly available with as few restrictions as possible
- ✓ comply with the data management policies of their Research Organisation
- ✓ have project specific data management plans in place
- ✓ where relevant, have appropriate agreements in place with non-academic collaborators,
- ✓ ensure their published research describes how to access the supporting data (now also a requirement of the RCUK Policy on Open Access)
- ✓ be aware of the relevant legislation and the available exemptions which may be used, should the need arise, to justify the withholding of research data



# How EPSRC Policy affects...

## Others

**Non-Academic Partners** in research collaborations need to be aware of:

- ✓ the general principle that publicly-funded research data will be expected to be made freely and openly available with as few restrictions as possible
- ✓ the relevant legal requirements such as the Freedom of Information Acts
- ✓ the need to ensure that issues of commercial confidentiality and data ownership are adequately addressed in the data management plans and collaboration agreements - *before* the start of a collaborative research project.



## Currently, in RCUK...

- The RCUK Research Outputs Network (RCUK-RON) is actively reviewing individual Council policies to explore opportunities for future alignment
- No major philosophical differences identified – it's the nature of the data itself that is most often behind differences in approach
- Shared guidance to be issued soon on how RC funds may be used to support RDM
- Review includes how RDM is treated at the grant application stage



# A related development...

- Research data status is under active consideration by parliament.
- The Intellectual Property Bill (in House of Lords committee stage) includes this proposed amendment to the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

“Information obtained in the course of, or derived from, a programme of research is exempt information if—

- (a) the programme is continuing with a view to the publication... ..of a report of the research (whether or not including a statement of that information), **and**
- (b) disclosure of the information... ..before the date of publication would, or would be likely to, prejudice—
  - (i) the programme,
  - (ii) the interests of any individual participating in the programme,
  - (iii) the interests of the authority which holds the information, or
  - (iv) the interests of the authority mentioned in paragraph (a) (if it is a different authority from that which holds the information).”

- ‘Public Interest’ test still applies



# Thank You!

## Ben Ryan

Senior Manager, Research Outcomes, EPSRC

[ben.ryan@epsrc.ac.uk](mailto:ben.ryan@epsrc.ac.uk)

Find the full policy and expectations on EPSRC website:

[Home](#) > [About us](#) > [Our service standards](#) > [EPSRC Policy Framework on Research Data](#)

**EPSRC**

Engineering and Physical Sciences  
Research Council

