No surprises

[I wrote last month](#) about how health and care data is being used to tackle the coronavirus COVID-19 epidemic. I explained a little about what we've been doing during this time to support proportionate uses of people's data to tackle the pandemic. And I emphasised the importance of openness about what is happening with data in order to maintain public trust.

Since then we've continued to work with a range of other organisations and individuals to try and achieve those aims. We've advised on protections for new data collections, on communications to the public, on guidance for staff and volunteers, and more.

Two of the members of [my advisory panel](#) have been representing the National Data Guardian on the [NHS COVID-19 App Data Ethics Advisory Board (EAB)](#). This is a group which is advising NHSX about steps it should take to ensure that the NHS COVID-19 app will be trustworthy. We've worked alongside other members of the group to try to ask the questions that we believe are critical – exactly what the data will and won't be used for, how far the data will be anonymised, how well the app will work, who will have access to the data and for how long, how the public will be informed and enabled to make choices.

The EAB presented a set of six principles to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, and we're pleased to see that [the letter presenting these principles](#) and the [Government response](#) has been published. This is an important and welcome step forward in transparency.

There has understandably been a great deal of public interest in this app. The app is a tool which has potential, as part of a wider test and trace programme, to help people live more safely and under fewer restrictions. We all have a stake in its success and that will be helped by open engagement about the principles behind its development and the choices that are to be made.

The importance of there being no surprises for the public about the use of their data has long been a theme threaded through my work. This has run through work with my advisory panel to consider the role that the legal concept of 'reasonable expectations' should play in shaping the circumstances under which health and care data may be shared legitimately. We've been looking at this for more than two years, and our work has encompassed [articles](#), [seminars](#), [a citizens' jury](#), discussions among the NDG panel, and engagement with stakeholders. It has been influenced by [academic work](#) led by two NDG panel members, Dr Mark Taylor and Professor James Wilson.

As a result, we are proposing to create an eighth Caldicott Principle to add to [the existing seven Caldicott Principles](#). It would remind those using and sharing data of 'no surprises', of the importance of considering and informing people's expectations to promote understanding and agreement about its uses.

The Caldicott Principles were [first published in 1997](#) as six good practice guidelines recommended for application by the NHS when confidential information is used. Senior individuals responsible for ensuring the Principles were upheld in their organisations were appointed in the NHS and later in social care and other sectors. They became known as Caldicott Guardians and there are now more than 18,000 across England helping their organisations ensure that information is used legally, ethically and appropriately. [A review in 2013](#) led to the creation of a seventh principle. It made clear that the duty to share information can be as important as the duty to protect patient confidentiality.

So we've been talking with a range of stakeholders about the Caldicott Principles over the last few months. We've had feedback that the existing Principles remain useful and relevant. We've heard that during this epidemic, when data needs to be shared in new ways or more quickly than usual, the Principles are more important than ever to provide a simple, practical summary for staff, patients and those seeking social care about how information may be used. And we've been told that the role of the Caldicott Guardian continues to be valuable, complementing other roles, such as the Senior Information Risk Officer and the Data Protection Officer, with responsibilities for data.

We believe that our proposed eighth principle would be highly relevant now, when maintaining public trust for the use of data is critical. If it were not for the epidemic, we would have launched a full public consultation, accompanied by workshops for members of the public to have their say. The consultation would cover proposed minor changes to the wording of the existing Caldicott Principles to ensure they remain up-to-date, the new eighth Principle and a proposal that the NDG uses [her statutory powers](#) in order to issue guidance about organisations appointing Caldicott Guardians to uphold the Caldicott Principles.

We've delayed the launch of that consultation while we, and others we work with, have been concentrating on the COVID-19 response. But we are also thinking ahead to the time after the current crisis. Some of the temporary data sharing arrangements will have to end. What is appropriate during a public health crisis to meet the overriding need to protect the public against a dangerous disease may not be appropriate when the danger recedes. However, some of the changes that were expedited by the impetus to improve data sharing rapidly may be very beneficial and should be maintained. There must be careful consideration of which of the temporary measures cease, and which are continued. We look forward to contributing to that conversation.

We've decided to launch our consultation later in the summer, and to extend the period that it's open to allow colleagues busy with COVID-19 activities more time to respond. We hope that this will allow both members of the public and health and care professionals, to help us develop our new set of Principles and guidance in time to inform the conversation about data sharing once the crisis is resolved.

[Call for project proposals to carry out research into coronavirus (COVID-19) impact on Ukraine](#)

The British Embassy Kyiv is now accepting project proposals from organisations (hereinafter – the implementer) to implement the "Identifying and understanding secondary implications of COVID-19 on conflict and stability in Ukraine" project.

Background

The UK remains committed to supporting Ukraine and its people en route to democratic development, stability and prosperity. We are funding a range of peacebuilding and conflict management projects, alongside assistance to enable Ukraine to deliver key reforms and strengthen democratic institutions.

The outbreak of the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic poses additional challenges and risks for Ukraine. Understanding how people and the state could be affected as a result of emerging secondary implications of COVID-19 is crucial in order to mitigate those risks and identify implications on conflict and stability in Ukraine.

The key audience for this project is the British Embassy Kyiv who will be responding to new evidence and analysis by adapting existing conflict and stability initiatives, as well as developing new ones. The Embassy will seek to share the analysis with other donors in Ukraine and the Ukrainian government stakeholders.

Scope of Work

The project is expected to deliver the following:

Outcome:

- Greater understanding of the emerging medium to longer term secondary implications of COVID-19 on conflict and stability in Ukraine. This will enable responsive, context specific policy and programme decisions.

Outputs:

- The implementer is expected to deliver a rolling evidence-based analysis highlighting the medium to longer term implications of COVID-19 on areas relating to conflict and stability in Ukraine. The final methodology and structure of the products will be agreed with the successful implementer. A proposed list of products includes:

- Peace and Stability Tracker – a flexible product that provides a snapshot of areas of concern, trends, risks and opportunities for greater stability. It will provide an easy to understand overview of all strands of analysis and help aid the prioritisation and focus of below analytical products
- Rolling Conflict and Stability Analysis and summary document using a mixed method approach that highlights meaningful findings that will inform recommendations on mitigating and addressing the negative secondary implications of COVID-19 on conflict and instability in Ukraine. Identifying any opportunities for future UK engagement and programming
- Deep Dives will look at priority areas in more detail. They will likely be a short (10 page) case study focussing on a certain thematic area highlighted during previous rolling analysis. It will allow a greater focus on a certain area of interest that will inform adaptation of existing programming or development of new initiatives.

Proposed table of products and delivery schedule:

1. Peace and Stability Tracker End July 2020 then updated monthly
2. First Analysis + Summary   End August 2020
3. Rolling Analysis + Summary November 2020
4. Deep Dive*   December 2020
5. Rolling Analysis + Summary February 2021
6. Deep Dive*   March 2021

Products should be produced in English with flexible budgeting for translation into Ukrainian

- details will be agreed with the successful implementer

Themes to be considered

The following themes should be addressed in project proposals with specific analytical areas to be agreed with successful implementer:

- implications of COVID-19 on conflict drivers in the east of Ukraine
- implications of COVID-19 on nationwide stability and regional resilience
- implications of COVID-19 on political stability
- gendered implications of COVID-19 in Ukraine

Requirements

To be eligible, the proposals must:

- demonstrate extensive experience in research and/or evidence based analysis in Ukraine
- propose a clear research plan that sets out appropriate data collection and analysis methods to deliver robust findings within the constraints of the operating context

- understand the specific political, economic, and historical background of Ukraine's conflict. Identify the risks of instability and peacebuilding activity, both in the east and more broadly across the whole of Ukraine
- be legally able to carry out the activities indicated in the bid
- demonstrate sufficient operational, human resources and expert capacities (local and/or international) to deliver expected results

Timeline

The expected project start date is 01 July 2020. The project duration is nine months with the possibility to extend.

Proposal guidance

- The selected implementer must be able to receive project funding in GBP to an existing GBP account or open a GBP bank account for the project.
- Estimated budget is between £50,000 and £100,000. The final amount will be agreed with the selected implementor based on their proposal.
- Interested parties are required to submit the following documents: [CSSF Project Proposal Template](#) (ODT, 43.2KB), [CSSF Activity-Based Budget Template](#) (ODS, 13.4KB)
- Potential implementers may combine efforts and submit their project proposals in consortium of several organisations (implementers). Those could be both international and local organisations.

Assessment

Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

Criteria	Points
Methodology (clear research approach, alignment with the expected outcome and outputs, realistic delivery approach and schedule, monitoring and evaluation and complementarity with existing analysis)	50
Stringent risk matrix	10
Value for money	10
Conflict and gender sensitivity	15
Communication and visibility	5
Implementer's background and relevant experience (a brief history and examples of similar projects undertaken)	5
Capacity to deliver (including team composition)	10
Language capabilities, with an emphasis on English language	5
Alignment of the project budget with requirements and recommendations listed in the CSSF activity-based budget (ABB) template	30
Total	140 points

Receipt of project proposals

1. The submission deadline for bids is at 23:59 (Kyiv time) on 10 June 2020. Late submissions will not be considered. Proposals can be submitted at any time up to the indicated deadline. British Embassy Kyiv is not responsible for non-receipt. Proposals submitted before that deadline will remain unopened until then.
2. When submitting, please indicate "Secondary implications of COVID-19" in the subject line of your e-mail.
3. Project proposals must be submitted using the attached forms only (CSSF Project Proposal and CSSF Activity-Based Budget). Please make sure your files do not exceed 5 MB in size. They must be free from any form of virus or corrupted contents, otherwise you might not be able to submit your proposal.
4. Project proposals must be submitted to the following email: CSSF.Programme@fco.gov.uk. Bidders must upload documents in standard Microsoft Office formats (Word, Excel).
5. Only shortlisted bidders will be notified via email before or on 15 June 2020. The selected bidders will be asked to complete a Due Diligence Assessment (form will be sent to them) and will be invited for an online interview on 19 June 2020.
6. British Embassy Kyiv seeks to finalise the contract award with the selected implementer by 01 July 2020.

Key dates

Submission deadline for bids	23:59 (Kyiv time) on 10 June 2020
Notification of shortlisted bidders	15 June 2020
Shortlisted bidders complete Due Diligence Assessment (DDA)	By 14:00 (Kyiv time) on 18 June 2020
Online interview with shortlisted bidders	19 June 2020
Project start date	01 July 2020

Contacts

CSSF Programme team: CSSF.Programme@fco.gov.uk

Questions should be submitted to CSSF.Programme@fco.gov.uk by 09:00 (Kyiv time) on 02 June 2020.

Frequently Asked Questions

Please find additional information about this call in this note [FAQ coronavirus impact on Ukraine project](#) (PDF, 492KB, 2 pages).

Notes

Bidding is competitive and it is likely that only one selected project will receive funding. The British Embassy Kyiv reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without incurring any obligation to inform the affected applicant(s) of the grounds of decision making. Due to the volume of bids expected we will not be able to provide feedback on unsuccessful bids.

[Ian Ackerley reappointed as NS&I Chief Executive](#)

News story

Ian Ackerley reappointed as Chief Executive of NS&I for a three year term.

Ian Ackerley has been reappointed as Chief Executive of NS&I (National Savings & Investments), as of 13 March 2020, by HM Treasury. Ian's reappointment will be for a term of three years.

NS&I is one of the largest savings organisations in the UK with over £175 billion invested. Its products offer 100% capital security because NS&I is backed by HM Treasury.

Ian was appointed Chief Executive of NS&I in February 2017. Immediately before joining NS&I, Ian was at Barclays, which he joined in 2011 as Director of Investments, and where he was responsible for Barclays' UK retail investment business.

Ian has over 20 years' experience in the UK retail financial services industry. His previous roles include Managing Director of Investments and Pensions at Virgin Money, Managing Director of Sun Life International, and working as a consultant with McKinsey & Company.

Notes

- All appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. However, in accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, there is a requirement for appointees' political activity (if any declared) to be made public. Ian Ackerley has confirmed that he has not engaged in any political activity in the last five years.

Published 27 May 2020

[Another leap forward in returning salmon to Yorkshire Dales](#)

The Developing the Natural Aire (DNAire) project will see fish passes installed at the last four major obstructions blocking access up the river to the Dales.

Work to install a fish pass at Kirkstall weir has got under way with the building of a pontoon bridge across the river and a cofferdam.

This is being done in parallel with the construction of a fish pass at Saltaire weir, which began earlier this year.

The final two obstacles – Armley and Newlay weirs – will be made passable to fish later this year, with this part of the project expected to be complete by the end of the year.

Once complete it will allow passage for salmon up to spawning habitat in the upper Aire and its tributaries for the first time in more than 150 years.

It will also benefit other migratory fish, such as sea trout, eels and lamprey, as well as in-river coarse fish.

The £2.7 million project is led by the Environment Agency, delivered in partnership with Aire Rivers Trust and Yorkshire Water, and part funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Yorkshire Water and Craven District Council.

Martin Slater, of the Environment Agency, said:

> The safety of our staff, partners and the communities we work in remains a priority for us. We are following the latest Covid-19 guidance on safe working on construction sites from Public Health England.
>
> As well as the re-opening the River Aire to fish migration, this project is an amazing opportunity to engage people with the river and reconnect them with its fascinating stories and the life within it.
>
> The river's heritage needs a sustainable future at the heart of communities and there is an opportunity to empower local people to take ownership and action to help care for this shared heritage into the future.

The River Aire is one of the longest rivers in Yorkshire, starting at Malham

Tarn and flowing to meet the River Ouse near the Humber estuary.

In common with the many of the UK's rivers, the Aire was adversely affected by the industrial revolution, both in terms of water quality and fragmentation of the watercourse.

Along with other industrialised rivers in the county it became instrumental in the making of modern Yorkshire; a place famed for cloth, coal and steel.

This industrial activity helped to shape Yorkshire as it is today, leaving behind a legacy of buildings, communities and stories that are part of the fabric of the communities surrounding the river.

But by 1840 it was said the River Aire was a "reservoir of poison, carefully kept for the breeding of a pestilence in the town".

However, over the last 40 years, with the decline of the textile industry, investment by Yorkshire Water, tighter environmental legislation and pressure from interested groups, the water quality has steadily improved.

Dr Ben Gillespie, Yorkshire Water river resilience technical specialist, said:

> Yorkshire Water is a proud partner of DNAire. We know that these projects benefit both the environment and our sustomers. Salmon, eel and other migratory fish will once again be able to access their historic spawning sites and complete their life cycles.
>
> We expect this reinvigoration of the natural world to open up and enhance the economy of the Aire corridor, through increased tourism and angling opportunities.
>
> On top of this, DNAire isn't just about fish passes, and we look forward to seeing the outcomes of the community engagement and educational schemes planned and delivered by the Aire Rivers Trust.
>
> Ultimately, DNAire will capitalise on historic investment in the Aire catchment by Yorkshire Water, and we look forward to seeing the results through working together in this Partnership project.

Aire Rivers Trust chairman Geoff Roberts said:

> We are delighted to be part of this major project restoring the Aire to its former glory. Bringing salmon back to the river, and reconnecting the ecology for the benefit of many other fish species, has long been a dream of the Trust.
>
> This project will catalyse a whole new interest in one of Yorkshire's greatest rivers and we are already working with community groups along the river to regenerate interest.

Councillor Simon Myers, Craven District Council's lead member for Enterprising Craven, said:

> We're delighted that work has started at Kirkstall weir on this exciting project. Craven District Council chose to support the development of this project with £150,000 from our New Homes Bonus Infrastructure Reserve, because we believe it will benefit communities and help create safe walking and cycling routes, as well as boosting tourism in the area.

George Hinton   Communications Manager
Operational & Local Communications Defra Group Communications
07342 099 435   george.hinton@environment-agency.gov.uk

[New report reveals UK as world leader in online safety innovation](#)

- Study shows significant growth of 'safety tech' businesses and their importance in plans to make UK the safest place to be online

- More than 70 companies in London, Leeds, Cambridge and Edinburgh have a quarter of global market share for safety tech products

The independent study, Safer technology, safer users: The UK as a world leader in Safety Tech, highlights significant growth within the sector, with the number of dedicated online safety firms doubling in the last five years and investment increasing more than eight-fold in 2019, making it a record year.

It shows there are almost two thousand people working in more than 70 companies across the UK, including in London, Leeds, Cambridge and Edinburgh.

Leading UK firm Crisp, based in Leeds, has created new technology that is used to detect and remove harmful content from social media and online games, contributing to the safety of an estimated two billion worldwide users each day. While London-based SuperAwesome helps more than 300 of the world's top brands ensure their online engagements with children meet strict data privacy requirements.

The research, carried out between September 2019 and March 2020, comes as the government launches a Safety Tech Innovation Network, the world's first forum for safety tech providers to collaborate and showcase their work, alongside a

scheme to boost exports.

Minister for Digital and Culture, Caroline Dinenage, said:

> We are all spending more time online during the pandemic and this new report shows the value the safety tech sector could add as we look to power growth out of it.

> Its innovative products, many of which are developed in towns and cities across the country, are being used globally to help companies make their online platforms safer.

> The government is leading the world, developing online harms laws and it's great to see our brilliant British tech industry is part of the solution.

The companies highlighted in the report are providing tools to help protect users online and demonstrating the UK tech sector can be a central to tackling the challenge.

While the research for the report was carried out prior to the impact of coronavirus, high growth rates are still projected for the safety tech sector driven by increased demand for their products. The main findings of the report are:

- UK safety tech providers currently hold an estimated 25 per cent of the global market share

- The number of dedicated safety tech firms has doubled in the last five years, with 70 firms identified in the report. Almost half have an international presence

- In 2019, the sector generated £226 million in annual revenues, and has grown rapidly with an estimated 35 per cent annual growth rate since 2016

- Some of the most established companies (those earning in excess of £5 million) have grown at rates of up to 90 per cent a year, and the report estimates that safety tech revenues could exceed £1 billion by 2025.

- In 2015, the safety tech sector raised £6 million in external investment across ten deals. By 2019, the figure had increased more than eightfold to £51 million across nineteen deals.

- The report anticipates the UK is likely to see its first safety tech unicorn (a company worth over $1 billion) emerge in the coming years, with three other companies also demonstrating the potential to hit unicorn status in the early 2020s.

The sector consists of companies in fields such as data and computer science providing a range of tech solutions and applications to help increase safety on websites and in apps and video games such as those allowing user-generated content and interactions.

Examples of British companies and the products and services they provide include:

- Cyan Forensics, Cubica Technology and VigilAI are working closely with law enforcement on 'digital forensics' — the automated identification, location and removal of illegal child sexual abuse and terrorist material

- Crisp, Qumodo and Spirit AI are assisting moderators of social media and gaming platforms to actively identify and respond to bullying, harassment and abuse on their platforms

- SuperAwesome, SafeToNet, Yoti and Trust Elevate are providing tools that verify the age of users and ensure phones, tablets and the apps on them are safe and appropriate for children

- South West Grid for Learning, Smoothwall and Opendium are filtering, blocking or blacklisting harmful content across school, business or home internet

- Full Fact, Factmata and Astroscreen are tackling false, misleading or harmful online narratives, by providing fact-checking services or promoting trusted news and information

To further capitalise on the sector's success, and in response to the report's recommendations, the government is today announcing:

- A Safety Tech Innovation Network, co-funded by Nominet, to launch later in 2020. This will be the world's first forum for safety tech providers to collaborate and promote their work

- A virtual safety tech expo to showcase safety tech to the world

- A safety tech export pilot, run by the Department for International

Trade, to include a directory of UK safety tech organisations and
exploratory international missions – which can be virtual if necessary

ENDS

Further quotes

Andy Burrows, head of child safety online policy, at NSPCC, said:

This report highlights how the creativity and passion of the UK
tech sector can lead the world with new solutions to tackle online
harms. The emergence of a thriving safety-tech sector is a crucial
component of the move towards a Duty of Care, and to ensure tech
firms can offer meaningful protections to children online.

Ian Stevenson, Chair of the UK's Online Safety Tech Industry Association
(OSTIA) and CEO of Cyan Forensics, said:

This report comes at a vital time for online safety – important
strides are certainly being made, but the challenge to keep
internet users safe is broad and ongoing. However, with resources
such as today's report and continued collaboration between
specialist companies, industry organisations and the Government, we
will continue to see real, sustained changes made in this sector;
with the UK remaining as a leading light in the online safety
space.

Julie Inman Grant, Australian eSafety Commissioner, said:

This report provides important insights into the burgeoning field
of online safety tech, reflecting a growing recognition for the
need to develop more responsible technology – with safety built in
from the get-go. The significance of international collaboration,
multi-stakeholder engagement, and investment in safety tech and
'safety by design' has never been more important.

Daniel Korski, CEO of PUBLIC, said:

Thanks to the efforts of some of the country's most entrepreneurial
minds, the UK has fast become a global leader in technologies to
help guarantee safety online, as this report clearly shows.
Investors should take note; with one quarter of the global online
safety tech sector based here in the UK – and demand for such
technologies only set to grow, not least because of Covid19
strictures – the opportunities offered by an early-stage market
experiencing rapid, significant growth are very exciting.

Ellie Bradley, MD Registry and Public Benefit at Nominet said:

> We've worked hard to understand what the most effective instruments will be to energise the safety tech sector in the UK. Leaning on our experience operating a world class domain registry, our cyber security expertise and our tech for good initiatives, means we are in a unique position to help enable the digital economy in this emerging space. The aim is that the innovation network we'll be supporting provides an essential platform to foster creativity and collaboration in this dynamic sector – and bolstered by key research, business support and future investment we hope these interventions sow the seeds that see the UK leading the world in safety tech.

Notes to editors

- The ['Safer technology, safer users'](#) report is an independent research report produced for DCMS by [Perspective Economics](#), a Belfast-based economic advisory company. Independent academic advisory input was provided by Professor Julia Davidson and Professor Mary Aiken (University of East London). The report meets the commitment set out in the Online Harms White Paper to assess the capability and potential of the UK online safety sector.

The launch of the 'Safer technology, safer users' report follows the establishment in April 2020 of the UK Online Safety Tech Industry Association, [OSTIA](#) which brings together the UK's leading safety tech companies. These include Crisp, SafeToNet, Securium, Yoti, Cubica Technology, DragonflAI, GoBubble, Image Analyser, Qumodo, SuperAwesome, Securus Software, Trust Elevate, VigilAI and Child Safe VPN.

Alongside the Safety Tech Innovation Network, Expo and Export pilot, the government will also:

- explore ways in best practices in online safety can be included in standards and guidance for buying, building and reusing government technology, such as the Technology Code of Practice

- develop a Safety Tech Sector Strategy, to guide future priorities for sector support

A podcast interview with the report authors will be released by SafeToNet Foundation on Wednesday 27 May, and will be available at the following URL: http://safetonetfoundation.libsyn.com/.