Overview of funder requirements for the retention and preservation of research data

This document is for guidance only; reference should also be made to the funders' specific policies.

Funder	What?	How long?	Starting when?	Where?	Exceptions/comments
Open University	Any significant research data.	10 years	Completion of project	RDM project working on solution	After the 10 year retention period is over, researchers are advised to re-evaluate the data in order to determine if an extension is necessary.
UK Research Councils					
Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)	Any significant data with potential future value.	Min. 3 years	Within 3 months of the end of the project	Archaeology grant holders to deposit in ADS. For other subjects none provided; expected to draw on other data centres	
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)	All data generated in the course of research.	10 years	Timely; generally no later than publication of the main findings; in-line with best practice in the field.	Not stated.	
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (ESPRC)	Primary data as the basis for publications.	10 years from last date of access	Metadata within 12 months of generation: data timely.	Not provided – responsibility falls to institution.	
Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)	Primary data collection and derived datasets resulting from ESRC-funded work	Not stated	Within 3 months of end of project	All funded projects are required to offer their data for deposit at the UK Data Archive	
Medical Research Council (MRC)	Primary research data in their original form	Min. 10 years	Completion of project	Within the research establishment that generated them	Where possible/relevant this should include specimens, samples, questionnaires, audiotapes etc.
	Work that informs national policymaking	In perpetuity	Completion of project	A secure repository	
	Research records relating to clinical or public health studies	20 years	Completion of project	Not stated	After 20 years, full records may need to be retained for a few studies only, such as those which were of historical importance, where novel clinical interventions were first used, those which have proved controversial, or where research is ongoing. In all other studies for which consent was obtained, a subset of the original records should be retained for 30 years.
National Environment Research Council (NERC)	All significant data sets.	Not stated	In a timely manner	Appropriate NERC Data Centre	Embargo allowed; normally max. 2 years. Criteria to identify data sets with long-term value found in NERC's Data Value Checklist
Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC)	High quality data of value to other researchers. Published data – data that are displayed or otherwise referred to in a publication – should be made publicly available.	Min. 10 years	Within 6 months of publication	Institutional or subject-based repository	For data that by their nature cannot be re-measured, efforts should be made to retain them indefinitely.

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Charities					
Arts Council England	All research records	7 years	Completion of project	Not stated	
British Academy	Digital resources created as a result of research funded by the British Academy	Not stated	Within a reasonable time after the completion of a project	In a suitable research repository	See relevant terms and conditions for specific schemes. Advice on the requirements on each scheme can now be obtained by looking at the relevant scheme notes in the e-GAP system at https://egap.britac.ac.uk – anyone can register themselves as an individual user of e-GAP.
British Heart Foundation (BHF)	All findings from the research funded by the Grant	Not stated	As soon as possible although publication or release of such findings may be reasonably delayed to enable protection of any intellectual property	Not stated	
Cancer Research (CRUK)	All data arising from funded research	CRUK does not prescribe when or how researchers should preserve and share data, but requires them to make clear provision for doing so when planning and executing their research.	In a timely and responsible manner	Not stated.	A limited period, defined in consultation with the lead applicant, of exclusive use of data for primary research is reasonable, according to the nature and value of the data and the way they are generated and used. Ongoing research contributing to the completion of datasets must not be compromised by premature or opportunistic sharing and analysis. Sharing should always take account of enhancing the long-term value of the data.
Dunhill Medical Trust (DMT)	Not stated	Not stated	Not stated	Not stated	DMT will contribute 50% towards data storage and archiving costs, up to a maximum of £500 per grant.
The Leverhulme Trust	The Trust Board is monitoring debates about, and developments in, Open Access Publishing. In keeping with its view that researchers themselves are best-placed to judge how and where to disseminate their findings, the Board has resolved to make no stipulations regarding either mandatory archiving, or open access publication.				
London Mathematical Society (LMS)	Original data arising from a grant	Not stated	Not stated	Appropriate repository	
Marie Curie Cancer Care	Research data and associated metadata	Data must be available for sharing for a minimum of 5 years after end of research grant	Immediately after publication of results	In a suitable research repository	
Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF)	All health data generated in MSF programs or sites, where MSF acts as a Custodian for such data. It includes but is not limited to data generated from: health information systems, patient records, surveillance activities, quality control activities, surveys, Research, patients/ Research Participants' Human Biological Material.	Not stated	Not stated	The MSF Collection; Data sharing will normally take place through a Managed Access Procedure. There is an intention to work towards the placing certain MSF Datasets of importance to the public health research community on public repositories (e.g. Field Research) where possible and appropriate.	MSF data sharing practices will comply with the various international and national legal obligations applicable, notably those relative to medical ethics, medical law, Research and privacy law. Data sharing will prioritise data which are of benefit to the local communities where the data was collected, as well as to patients and communities similar to those in which MSF works, in particular marginalized or neglected populations. Notwithstanding this, there is a recognition that benefit sharing can be with a wider community of individuals, and will not always result in benefits to local community.
National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs)	The NC3Rs has adopted the MRC policy on Data Management and research data sharing (see section on MRC above)				
Nuffield Foundation	Research data	Not stated	Within one year of project completion	Any appropriate repository	
The Wellcome Trust	Data generated in the course of research should be kept securely in paper or electronic format, as appropriate.	Min. 10 years	Timely	Not stated	Research based on clinical samples or relating to public health might require longer storage to allow for long-term follow-up to occur.

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European Union (EU)					
European Research Council (ERC)	All primary data	Not stated	Preferably immediately after publication, and no later than 6 months after the date of publication	Relevant databases	
European Science Foundation (ESF)	All primary and secondary data	Min. 10 years	Timely	National or regional discipline-based archives, or institution	
Horizon 2020	The data, including associated metadata, needed to validate the results presented in scientific publications	Not stated	As soon as possible.	Preferably in a research data repository. As far as possible, measures should be taken to enable third parties to access, mine, exploit, reproduce and disseminate the research data.	**The following areas of Horizon 2020 will be included in the Open Data Pilot:** Future and Emerging Technologies, Research infrastructures – part e-Infrastructures, Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies – Information and Communication Technologies, Societal Challenge: Secure, Clean and Efficient Energy – part Smart cities and communities, Societal Challenge: Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw materials – with the exception of raw materials topics, Societal Challenge: Europe in a changing world – inclusive, innovative and reflective Societies, Science with and for Society Researchers in other areas can "opt in"
	Other data, including associated metadata	Not stated	As specified and within the deadlines laid down in a data management plan		
Science Europe	*Science Europe's Roadmap, published December 2013 mentions Research Data as one of its Priority Action Areas. Policy will follow soon.*				
UK Government					
Department for Environmental, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)	All project records, including research data	For a period of time to be agreed with the funder		Records must be retained in a form which ensures their integrity and security and prevents unauthorized modification. The location of the records must be recorded.	All samples and other experimental materials should be labelled clearly, accurately, uniquely, and durably, and be retained for a period to be agreed with the Funding Body.
Department of Health (DoH)	All publicly funded data	Not stated	Data should be published in a 'timely manner', subject to ethical & legal requirements	Data.gov and OpenlyLocal for open data	Encouraged to use open, linked data formats for publication.
Department for International Development (DfID)	All research outputs	Retain and provide free access to raw datasets for minimum of five years after project completion. Project websites should be permanently archived on closure.	Deposit raw and/or derived datasets in an open access discipline/institutional repository within 12 months of collection.	Data should be deposited in an appropriate subject/institutional repository, such as those recommended by OpenDOAR and ICSU World Data System. Software to be submitted to an suitable sofware repository. Metadata record, papers & 'small datasets' should be published in R4D repository.	
Other					
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	Final, annotated quantitative and qualitative datasets and accompanying information such as metadata, codebooks, data dictionaries, and questionnaires. Data may arise as a primary output of a grant, or as a product of other activities, such as program evaluations.	Not stated	Data should be made available in a 'timely manner'. The grantee may specify a time period for exclusive use of data (e.g. 12-18 months), after which the data will be made available for others.	Deposition in a public access data archive or data enclave is encouraged. Alternatively, direct sharing by investigator or institution, or mixed mode sharing may be appropriate	The data may be released with a Data Use Agreement, indicating that the user may analyse the data, but is not allowed to publish on topics related to the grantee's area of research. 3rd party proprietary data is not expected to be made available.
GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)	Research findings obtained from completed & abandoned projects	Subject to conditions of contract	Not stated	Not stated	Pharmaceutical companies are legally required to disclose relevant data from clinical trials and other research to appropriate national or regional regulatory authorities as part of the medicine development and approval process. GSK posts protocol summaries on ClinicalTrials.gov and Clinical Study Register on study initiation. It also publishes summaries of study results on Clinical Study Register within 8-12 months
Hewlett Foundation	*No current policy, but Ensuring that data is widely available to the scientific community is important for promoting advances in public health. To that end, a group of major international funders of public health research—the Hewlett Foundation included—signed on to a joint statement in which they committed to encourage greater access to and use of the research data that they fund. For more information about the joint statement, please visit the* Wellcome Trust's website				