**Data Sharing in a Pandemic Citizens' Juries**

**Draft Oversight Panel Brief**

**Background**

Three citizens’ juries have been jointly commissioned by the University of Manchester, the National Data Guardian’s Office and NHS X. Participants will be recruited and each jury will meet online for eight (relatively short) days to hear from the same expert witnesses, and consider the same set of case studies and questions about data sharing in a pandemic. One jury will comprise residents of Greater Manchester, one of people from Sussex, and one will be made up of people from across England. They will be selected to include a broadly representative mix of people in terms of age, gender, ethnic group, educational attainment, employment status and geographical spread. Dates have not been set but the first jury will begin in March and the third jury will end in May 2021.

The NHS has commissioned an independent social enterprise - [Citizens Juries c.i.c.](http://www.citizensjuries.org/) working with the [Jefferson Center](http://jefferson-center.org/) to design and run the juries. The jury process will be led by skilled facilitators: Kyle Bozentko and Sarah Atwood of the Jefferson Center. The juries will be informed about the questions they are exploring, partly through expert witnesses who will make presentations and answer questions posed by the jurors. Jurors will also be given time to do exercises, and to deliberate amongst themselves before reaching their conclusions. An important aim of the juries is to influence policy, and to enable that conclusions will be published and put to a post-jury workshop with jurors, academics and policymakers.

The above process, such as the presentations by expert witnesses, is open to potential bias. It is not possible to completely eliminate bias, but it is important to try to identify and minimise it as far as possible before the juries takes place. One way to try to achieve this is through asking an oversight panel who are independent from the process, and who have no substantive conflicts of interest in the juries and their outcomes, to review the juries’ design and materials to be used at the juries.

**Brief for oversight panel**

The role of the panel is to look for, and identify, bias that is evident in the plans and the design of the citizens' juries, and the citizens' juries project more generally, so that where possible the bias can be addressed prior to the juries. For example, the panel may identify something that is intended to make jury members support additional health data sharing. The oversight panel may also identify things that are difficult to understand, gaps in the material, or any irrelevant things that are included in the documentation as these could be sources of bias.

The oversight panel review will be through the following process:

* Jury specification and design documentation, including the slides of expert witnesses (approximately 30-40 pages) is sent to oversight panel members for review (several days before the teleconference mentioned below);
* A 90-minute teleconference is convened (probably in late January/early February 2021) at which members of the oversight panel can discuss the jury design documentation, and identify areas of potential bias;
* In response to the feedback from the oversight panel, Malcolm Oswald, Director of Citizens Juries CIC, amends the design documentation, and informs the panel of the amendments made.
* A 2-hour teleconference is convened in early March 2021 at which members of the oversight panel can discuss the materials to be used by the juries (e.g. witness slides sent in advance), and identify areas of potential bias;
* In response to the feedback from the oversight panel, Malcolm Oswald, Director of Citizens Juries CIC, amends the jury materials and asks witnesses to amend their slides, and informs the panel of the amendments made.
* Members of the oversight panel are asked to complete a short oversight panel bias questionnaire (see overleaf), which will be published on the web after the citizens’ juries have taken place.

**Data Sharing in a Pandemic - Citizens' Juries**

**Oversight panel bias questionnaire**

Having reviewed the jury design documentation, how satisfied are you that the citizens' juries being run between March and May 2021 have been designed *with the aim of* minimising bias?

not satisfied partially satisfied mostly satisfied fully satisfied

How satisfied are you that these citizens' juries *were successfully designed* to minimise bias?

not satisfied partially satisfied mostly satisfied fully satisfied

Comments and qualifications to your answers above

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Organisation and role

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