

## Questions and answers from the funding call webinar for a searchable register & UK LPS information hub held on 1 October 2025

| Question                                                                                                                                                    | Answer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| Does PRUK have a specific metadata standard/framework in mind?                                                                                              | Applicants should justify their proposed use of metadata standards to enhance, develop, and sustain standardisation approaches to discovery tool development. The choice of standard(s) is not prescriptive, but applicants may consider discipline-specific standards such as DCAT or DDI, as well as any combination with preservation and interoperability standards and registry and protocol standards. The choice of standard for the profile is less important than the need for the profile entry to be interoperable across the breadth of systems and standards used for UK study metadata systems.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Does PRUK see this project as a stepping stone towards a unified UK-wide LPS discovery portal, or as an interoperable layer that connects existing systems? | PRUK sees this as an interoperable layer that connects existing systems. We want to unify the UK wide LPS community and are not trying to build a platform which will decommission those that already exist. Our aim is to create a unified front door which provides onward connectivity to all of those other platforms that offer value to the community.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Do you expect the register and interoperability elements to coincide?                                                                                       | Yes, interoperability is a key component of the register and its functionality and must involve connections to existing discovery platforms to form a connected LPS discovery ecosystem. The main aim of the register is to permit an LPS profile to persist across connected platforms, allowing for contemporaneous metadata on a profile level to exist across any chosen platform an LPS wishes to be present on for discovery purposes. The search functionality enables a single entrance point to allow interrogation of metadata across connected platforms, particularly focusing on connecting to where more granular metadata is housed on other discovery platforms. Applicants should consider both the technical elements of interoperation between catalogues/tools and how this impacts end users and ongoing back-end maintenance, as well as the governance of connected toolsets administered by distributed parties. |
| Is there any more detail around requirements for the register "portal interface" requirement?                                                               | The call text does not prescribe the interface that needs to be created, but this would ideally be something that any member of an LPS team could use to update their study metadata (not necessarily technical staff). This might be a web-based interface that an LPS team member could securely log in to and make changes to the existing fields for a                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | minimum metadata requirement. Applicants should consider where that would be hosted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Regarding the work with the existing platforms, is there an expectation that this funding will cover funding to each of those listed? Or is there the expectation that their Open APIs will just be used to pull in the data? | Within your application, you can describe how the funding will be allocated regarding costs for partners. If existing platforms do not currently have connectable APIs or they have infrastructure that may need to be enhanced as part of any of the onboarding, then that would be an eligible cost that can be included in the application. You should reach out to the platforms ahead of submitting your application to ensure you understand their requirements.                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Do you have a ballpark / list of those expected to be on the register?                                                                                                                                                        | The call text does not specify a number of studies that should be included on the register. There is an expectation that applicants should draw from existing discovery platforms in order to fill the register and that the search functionality is able to grow over time by connecting to deeper metadata holdings across the discovery ecosystem. The long-term aim is for as many studies as possible to be on the register rather than restricted to only a limited set of platforms being connected, and that the technology allows the growth and joining of additional platforms over time. It is important that you justify your approach and that scalability is feasible. |
| Are these "other existing platforms from the existing landscape" already scoped and known?                                                                                                                                    | The call text states that the proposed platform should aim to integrate with existing data discovery platforms/data repositories. A non-exhaustive list of some existing data discovery platforms/data repositories is provided. You do not have to work with all of those listed and you can work with any that have not been listed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| As the UK Longitudinal Linkage Collaboration is part of Population Research UK (UK LLC) - are they conflicted as a partner?                                                                                                   | Neither UK LLC nor CLOSER are conflicted with respect to the funding opportunity, though would be recused from all parts of assessment if they submit a proposal. Irrespective of application status and as infrastructure partners to PRUK, both the UK LLC and CLOSER are committed to working with the successful applicant.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| How will the project be expected to navigate the tension between enhancing discoverability and maintaining confidentiality of sensitive LPS datasets?                                                                         | It is important to distinguish between the discoverability of datasets and the access of those datasets. This funding opportunity is about discoverability. This funding opportunity and the generation of our register should not change any existing governance or confidentiality arrangements around access to datasets.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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| <p>You mentioned a preference for open source. Do you see the solution being based on open-source technologies or proprietary technologies? Or are you open to both approaches?</p> | <p>We are open to both approaches. Applicants should make reference to the sustainability and future development of the proposed tooling, and how the proposed tools will be built to enable continuous development towards creating seamless discovery to access pipelines for LPS data in future.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <p>Are there any guidelines or recommendations around sustainability or anything from ESRC or MRC on how they would envision it?</p>                                                | <p>There is no specific guidance from ESRC or MRC as part of this funding opportunity. Applicants should make reference to the sustainability and future development of the proposed tooling, and how the proposed tools will be built to enable continuous development towards creating seamless discovery to access pipelines for LPS data in future.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <p>Will the £1.625M award be made to a single lead applicant, or could PRUK fund multiple coordinated projects under a consortium model?</p>                                        | <p>It is anticipated that a single award will be made to an organisation eligible to receive UKRI funding. Your application can involve multiple institutions and partners, but a single award letter would be issued by PRUK to the lead organisation. The lead organisation would then be responsible for the onward distribution of the funding.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <p>Can international project co-leads apply?</p>                                                                                                                                    | <p>International applicants can be included as co-leads if they provide expertise not available in the UK and make a major intellectual contribution to the design or conduct of the activity. You must justify in your application why their expertise is required and to provide clear indicators of commitment to delivering the UK landscape vision for Digital Research Infrastructure. If you wish to include funding for international applicants, you should seek guidance from the PRUK Hub team in advance of submitting the application (<a href="mailto:info@pruk.ac.uk">info@pruk.ac.uk</a>).</p> |
| <p>Can someone contribute to more than one application?</p>                                                                                                                         | <p>Yes, you are able to contribute to more than one application. You should only be named as Project Lead on one application. You should use the <a href="#">Résumé for Research and Innovation (R4RI) format</a> to describe how are you the right individual and team to successfully deliver the proposed work.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |