

AWAHRD

A Work and Health Research Data Platform

Collaborators



Bespoke research and consultancy from:



A Work and Health Research Data Platform and the next steps

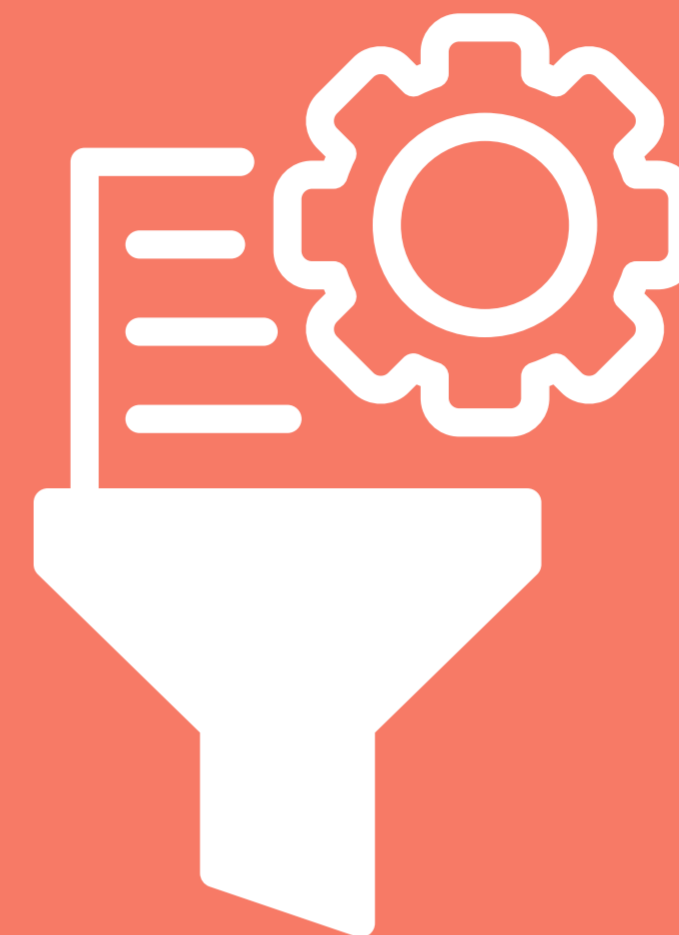
A consortium led by University of Manchester and University of Glasgow, in collaboration with the Universities of Bristol, Edinburgh, King's College London and UK Longitudinal Linkage Collaboration was awarded an NIHR Work and Health Development Award. The main aim of this project was to explore whether it would be possible to develop a comprehensive data platform, bringing together information on data sets that could be used and linked to investigate relationships between work and health.



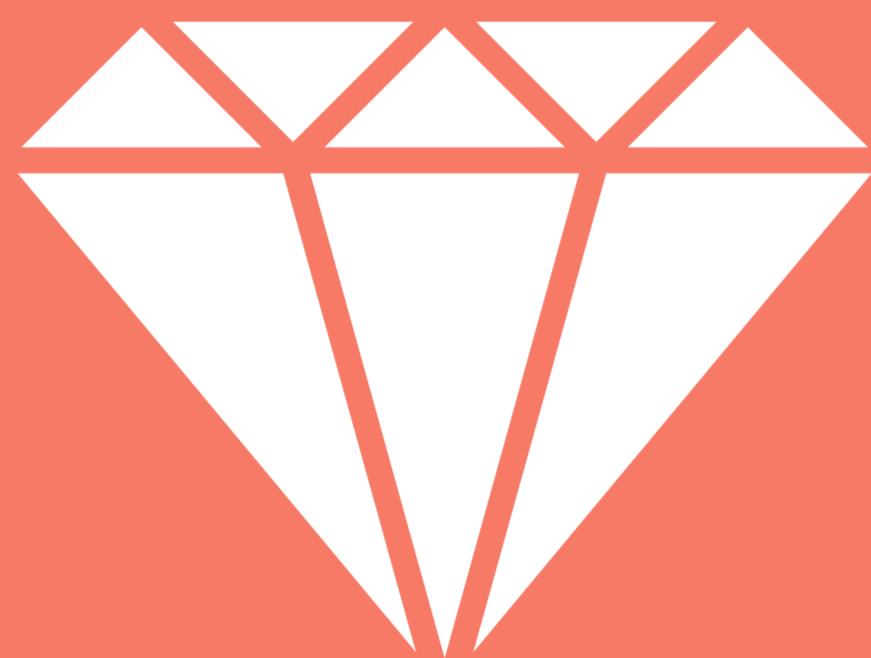
Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE)



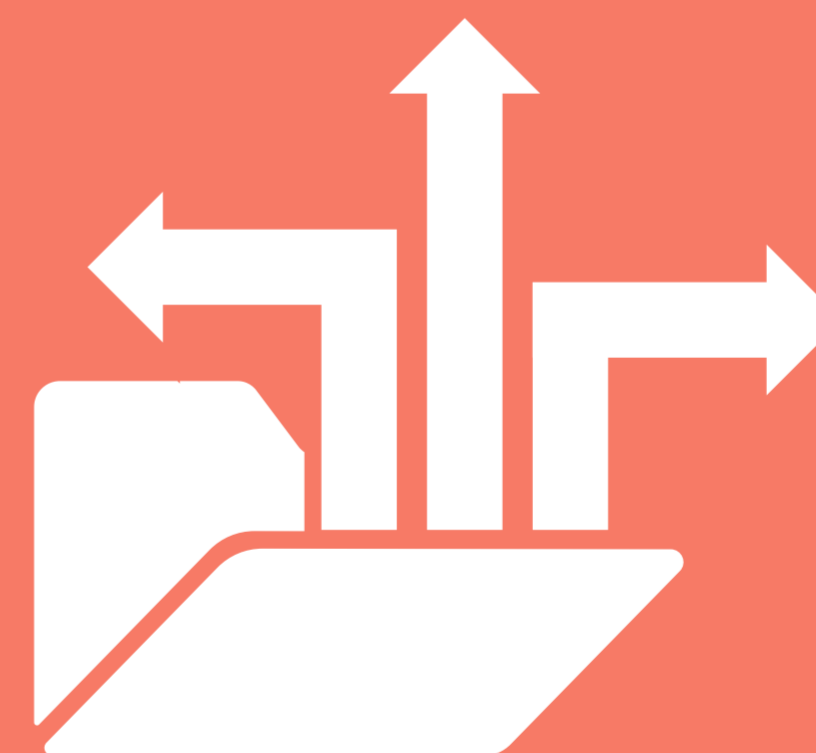
Our PPIE and stakeholder engagement work has been **instrumental in shaping and informing** our research.



The PPIE work informed how we approached the **detailing and degree of classification** of data that would be required to be collected for our platform.



It indicated that **participants saw great value** in linking health and non-health data to occupational data, as long as it was anonymised, consented to and for the public good.



A survey to database managers showed that most database managers are willing to explore the potential of having a **set of harmonised questions on work and occupation** included in future questionnaires and **sharing detailed occupational data within TREs**.

What did we do?

We developed an inventory of:

54

UK occupational and general population cohorts

20+

Other surveys that capture data on occupation, occupational health, and/or occupational exposures

40

Exposure assessment tools and questionnaires covering a breath of occupational risk factors (for example chemical, environmental, physical and psychosocial), occupational information and either health questions or occupational exposure questions

AWAHRD Platform prototype

This led to the development of our platform prototype, which includes;

- Five longitudinal cohorts, ten Exposure assessment tools and the Labour Force Survey
- Allows to identify the database and variables most appropriate for each research question
- Variables coded at different levels of granularity

What did we learn?

Occupational Data and Studies



There is a plethora of occupational related data and several general population cohorts that can be used for work and health research.



Developing a **work and health platform is feasible** and would be of **value for research across disciplines**, but work is needed to harmonise and enhance existing longitudinal cohorts with occupational data.

However...

- There is a **lack of occupational cohorts**
- Datasets with detailed occupational data are **not generally linked** to administrative records
- Occupational data is not **collected in a systematic and standardised** way



How would the AWAHRD data platform benefit health research?



Draws on the current investment in data infrastructure of TREs (e.g. UK LLC) to develop a **unique, user-friendly, discoverable** data catalogue, based on principles of FAIR access, that will bring together new and existing datasets containing information on work and health.



The catalogue will **greatly enhance accessibility** and ability to conduct research on work and health, from epidemiological studies to the evaluation of workplace and non-workplace interventions that impact on the health of the working age population, across disciplines.



It will **enhance knowledge** on the benefits of work and health data sharing, and **develop methods** to mitigate disclosure risks with sharing granular level data.

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Further documents

AWAHRD
A Work and Health Research Data Platform

The AWAHRD (A Work And Health Research Data) project aimed to assess and improve how work and health data can be collected and linked to health and administrative records and to test the feasibility of building a platform for work and health research to improve data accessibility.

Using occupational data in public health research
A public perception

We asked 10 public contributors who were members of the Public Involvement Programme of UK Longitudinal Linkage Collaboration (ukllc.ac.uk) to participate in an online survey aimed at gathering a public perspective of the understanding, acceptability and use of occupational data in research.



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Linking Occupational Data to Health and Administrative Records

The opinions of public contributors from the NHS CHECK (nhscheck.org) study, a study on the health and wellbeing of healthcare workers, as well as ex-serving personnel from the UK Armed Forces (kcl.ac.uk/research/kcmhr), were sought through two online workshops and/or written feedback.

All workshop participants acknowledged that linking occupational data to administrative data sets as well as health data would benefit research on the health of the working age population, provided that data are anonymised, consent is obtained and that the research is carried out for public benefit.

The aim of the workshops was to hear the views of members of the public, with specific occupational histories, on the benefits and risks of data linkage and to find out what could be done to ease any concerns.



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Professor Martie van Tongeren
martie.j.van-tongeren@manchester.ac.uk

Dr Evangelia Demou
evangelia.demou@glasgow.ac.uk