



Department
of Health &
Social Care



Dear Colleagues,

ACTION TO ENHANCE VISIBILITY OF CURRENT RESEARCH DELIVERY SET UP ACTIVITIES IN THE UK

We are writing to update you on continued efforts to maximise the potential for the UK to be world-leading in clinical research for the benefit of patients, the NHS and the economy. As we pivot towards the Government's health and growth missions, we are working with partners across the UK via a newly recharged UK Clinical Research Delivery (UKCRD) Programme to make the UK a world leader in clinical research. To achieve this, it is a Government priority to streamline and reform the set-up and delivery of clinical trials through digitalisation and reducing unnecessary bureaucracy.

As part of this programme, we would like to increase visibility and transparency of our research portfolio, enhancing the data we already publish monthly via the [UK Key Performance Indicator Report](#) (KPI). The first step of this work is to enable reporting of the two current study set-up KPIs at a site-level, with a view to publishing these in April 2025:

- Proportion of commercial studies open to recruitment within 60 days of HRA approval letter
- Proportion of commercial studies recruiting first participant within 30 days of sites opening to recruitment

To enable site-level reporting of these two KPIs, we require sites in England to complete two existing data fields on their Local Portfolio Management System for each commercial contract study they are involved in (where HRA approval has been received from 1st December 2024 onwards). We are working with system partners across the devolved nations to align improvements.

We define commercial contract studies as studies sponsored and fully funded by the life sciences industry.

Data Item	Data Definition
Date Site Selected	<p>The date on the sponsor email received by the site providing the minimum defined documents to enable site to commence arrangement and/or confirmation of local capacity and capability as applicable representing that the site has been selected to take part in the study.</p> <p>Note: we will continue to collect HRA approval letter date as part of the data to assess the KPI at study level.</p>
Date Site Ready to Start	<p>The date that the site is ready to start (i.e., recruit study participants, provide data or tissue) defined by all other requirements to start, additional to contract signature and/or Statement of Activity agreement, are satisfied.</p>

We are introducing this interim requirement as part of the transition to a real-time data dashboard to complement the Research Delivery Data and Intelligence (RDDI) Programme. These two fields are essential to linking site participation to studies within NIHR's central portfolio management system. NIHR will analyse the data and produce an average of site performance against these two KPIs which DHSC will seek to publish on a suitable platform alongside the national KPI monthly report.

For more information, or queries relating to the UKCRD Programme please contact UKCRDprogramme@dhsc.gov.uk

For data related queries, please contact your local RRDN using the details [here](#)

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