



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Request for Proposal (RFP): Assistance Developing a Mechanism for Monitoring Risks and Opportunities of a Regulatory, Ethical and Societal Nature Relevant for Wellcome's Discovery Research Portfolio

#	Supplier Question	Wellcome response
1	To what extent will the function be expected to monitor developments/data sources outside of the Wellcome Discovery Research Portfolio?	The primary focus of this RfP is around the DR portfolio vs. the wider Wellcome research portfolio, although we would anticipate linkage of the outputs from horizon scanning towards future work within DR and wider. We are open to suppliers' recommendations as to the extent this will be necessary on the basis of insights from scoping phases (i.e. mapping of Wellcome's data inputs and learning from other organisations).
2	Could you provide an estimate for the size of the "global networks of researchers, advisers and affected communities", and their geographical spread? This will help to define our engagement methodologies.	<p>Our current portfolio comprises approx. 1300 researchers, ~11% of which are those based in Lower and Middle Income settings across Africa, and South East Asia. Our larger-scale investments via more targeted funding mechanisms mean that we reach many more researchers than this as part of our network of investments e.g. the Wellcome Sanger Institute houses around 800 researchers who whilst not directly funded by us, work within initiatives that we support. And we have several investments of this scale.</p> <p>You can find more detail on our Discovery Research portfolio on our website (i.e. its remit here, its goals here, our advisory networks here, funded people and projects here). An overview of historical grant funding to Spring 2023 can be found here.</p>



3	Does Wellcome have any existing frameworks for articulating developments' impacts social, regulatory, legal or ethical norms?	Wellcome does not have a standardised framework for this.
4	Will Wellcome be able to provide any design or communications resources to facilitate prototyping and communications with Wellcome's networks?	This would depend on the specific needs of suppliers. Nevertheless, suppliers should cost their proposals on the assumption that no significant resources will be available and a general expectation that the bulk of the work will be carried out independently from Wellcome.
5	What form do Wellcome's largest relevant databases to be included in this study take? For example including volume of data held, typical data format, database systems used, associated database APIs	See 2 above for information regarding our Discovery Research portfolio. It is expected that suppliers will need to review and map out existing internal-facing and external-facing datasets and data sources during the initial phase of this project.
6	Do you have an initial view on the broad scale of the desired monitoring function, in terms of potential staff numbers, budgets, and/or timelines for its operation?	We are open to suppliers' recommendations in this aspect. We expect a number of options based on different levels of ambition regarding staff numbers, budgets and timelines for implementation may be developed and presented at the end of the project.
7	Are you able to give us a budget range for the project?	An indicative range would be £200-300K including VAT. Please note that we don't want to limit ambition or innovation and suppliers are encouraged to come in with a budget required for this work to be delivered effectively. Nevertheless, value for money is one of the criteria proposals will be evaluated on.
8	Can you elaborate on how you think about pricing with indicative reference to past projects or similar portfolio sizes?	See 7.



9	What is the appetite of the leadership team, to experiment with a portfolio management paradigm that builds up Horizon Scanning as an “in-portfolio-capability”	See 6.
10	What capabilities of the service partner are complementary to those that Wellcome holds and therefore prioritised?	Unable to answer at this stage.
11	What is the relationship between the Horizon Scanning project and the Discovery Portfolio?	The Horizon Scanning project is a collaborative cross-organisation project facilitated by the Policy Team. While Wellcome also funds research across four strategic areas, this project is particularly centered across our Discovery Research portfolio. Please see our annual report for further information.