QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Request for Proposal (RFP): New forms of social data for life, health and wellbeing research

#	Supplier question	Wellcome response
1	While we appreciate the openness of the budget to promote innovation and ambition, it would be useful to have a ballpark figure, such that we pitch a project of the right sort of shape and size. A landscape review can vary in size depending on how much breadth or depth is required, and therefore having a sense of the upper bound of size would be extremely helpful. In this case size could mean a ballpark budget, expectations around outputs (e.g number of case studies to cover), or general size of project (small -> large).	The approximate range is up to £300K including VAT. Suppliers are encouraged to come in with a budget required for this work to be delivered effectively. Value for money is one of the criteria proposals will be evaluated on.
2	The six-month contract seems a short space of time to complete the global remit and stakeholder engagement required for this project. Is there any flexibility on the contract length?	We are seeking a Supplier or group of Suppliers for up to a 6-month contract. There is no flexibility to extend this timeframe.
3	The budget is left up to suppliers to suggest, which is good but makes the project difficult to scale. Is there any guidance on the maximum budget envelope, or an indicative expectation?	Please see the answer to question 1.
4	Does social data include only those data that are generated by end-users through their interaction with digital systems, devices, and sensors by their own choice - for, e.g., through wearables, engagement with social networks, internet browsing, etc, done by an individual? Or does it include population level data being collected by institutions, for, e.g., a health facility that has data on its patients, which can be analysed in a de-identified, anonymized manner?	For our purposes, new forms of social data include both user-generated data (e.g., from wearables, social media) and institutionally collected data (e.g., patient data via wearable devices). The key factor is the digital format and the method of collection through digital systems, devices, and sensors. This broad definition covers all digitally derived data, regardless of its source. However, the main question is how this data can be accessed by researchers and used in discovery research.

5	Does social data refer only to publicly available data sets or even proprietary data sets that sit on private platforms like Fitbit, Garmin, Google, etc.	Our interest lies in new forms of social data that researchers can access and use to explore innovative questions about life, health, and well-being. Suppliers are welcome to explore both publicly available datasets and proprietary data on private platforms like Fitbit, Garmin, and Google. However, the main question is how this data can be accessed by researchers and used in discovery research.
6	Can you define the scope of social media and devices since it can be very vast in today's time?	Please see the answer to question 4.
7	We would like to know if there are a certain number of countries you'd like to be represented. Also, are you interested in country-specific initiatives (for, e.g., India, Kenya, and the like) or are country agnostic (that are looking at things like demographic trends across sub-Saharan Africa or South Asia), or both?	We have no priorities on specific geographies (save in geographies where Wellcome Discovery Research currently targets funding, as set out in the project specification). We are open to suppliers making recommendations on how to approach the global scope and meet the project specification.
8	We think that a glimpse into people's understanding of the data they are generating through these digital systems and devices could be a useful input. Therefore, we would like to suggest a small, end-user qualitative research to supplement the landscape analysis. Is this something you would be willing to consider?	We are open to suppliers' suggestions on how best to meet the project specifications.
9	Can you share some material on the Smart Data Research being carried out by UKRI?	Suppliers are welcome to explore the Smart Data Research UK website at https://www.sdruk.ukri.org/. Under Publications, they can find the SDR UK Strategy at https://www.sdruk.ukri.org/our-work/publications/
10	Can you share an indicative range for the budget to be able to recommend an appropriate methodology and approach?	Please see the answer to question 1.

11	What the expected balance between UK/HIC/LMIC focus should be in parts 1 through 3 as listed in the RfP. E.g., there may be more time spent in UK/HIC settings in part 1 due to data availability but conversely more opportunities for funder support in LMIC settings when thinking about recommendations in part 3	We don't have predefined requirements regarding the expected balance between UK, HIC, and LMIC focus. We have no priorities on specific geographies (save in geographies where Wellcome Discovery Research currently targets funding, as set out in the project specification).
12	Clarification of the term "smart data". The tender states smart data as social data but that is not the only definition of the term smart data used. Please can Wellcome clarify what they define smart data as per tender requirements.	Please see the answer to question 4.