Research Data Governance Board (RDGB)

Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference

Scope

1. The Research Data Governance Board (RDGB) acts as a central point for application receipt, screening, review and prioritisation of data requests prior to accessing the Central Statistics Office (CSO) service which will facilitate secure and controlled access to data in the COVID-19 Data Hub.
2. The data available to researchers will be limited to datasets provided to the CSO in the context of the Ministerial release letter for COVID-19 analysis.
3. The RDGB will consider research that is defined as health research according to the Health Research Regulations 2018 (Regulation 3(2)(a)). <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2018/si/314/made/en/pdf> .   
   All research should be compatible with statistical use and confidentiality requirements from the Statistics Act, 1993.
4. The RDGB will determine if a research study or proposal is related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and therefore eligible to apply to the Central Statistics Office for access to relevant COVID-19 health data.
5. The RDGB will ensure consistency of decisions in relation to projects, researchers, and data or ethical standards.
6. As needed, the RDGB may be asked to consider the scale and feasibility of applications versus the value of the research.
7. The RDGB will require evidence of approval from both a Research Ethics Committees (REC) and from the Health Research Consent Declaration Committee (HRCDC) when making its final recommendation.
8. The RDGB will provide this recommendation to the Central Statistics Office.
9. The RDGB will assist in the identification of new data sources of potentially high value for research purposes.

Membership

One Chair plus six members.

Term

The RDGB’s term will be 18 months, or when COVID-19 has been declared no longer a national public health emergency, whichever comes first.

Secretariat

Health Research Board