



**National Federated
Compute Services**
NetworkPlus

**Spring Conference
26-27 February 2026**

ACCoRD

Dr Claire Ellul

Katie Buntic

UCL 





Introducing ACCoRD

Government committed to laying the foundations to enable AI in the UK

1. Access to data
2. Access to (sovereign) compute

The basis for the infrastructure exists: we need them to work together

“A research data contract defines how data is stored, managed, transferred and used”



AI Opportunities Action Plan. Ramping up AI adoption across the UK to boost economic growth, provide jobs for the future and improve people's everyday lives.



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology

Policy paper

AI for Science Strategy

Published 20 November 2025



“Data sharing should be smooth, my research has been obstructed several times by delays and complexities. I am dreading starting a new process as we speak.....”



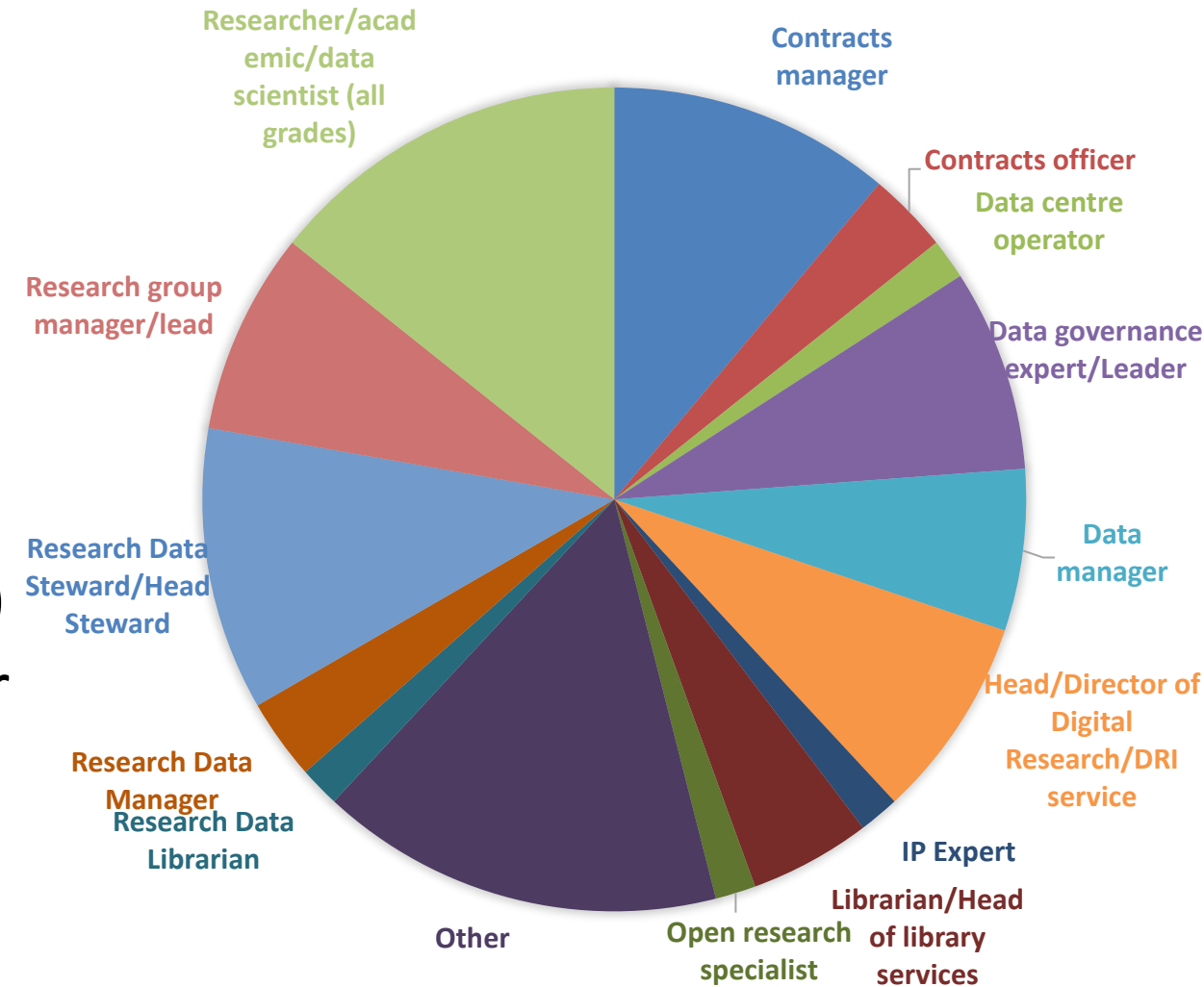


ACCoRD will deliver:

- Evidence and a roadmap to improve research data contracting
- The community of stakeholders and practitioners to take the work further

So far ..

- Launched a community (70+ sign ups)
- Held two workshops and one webinar
- Generated 850+ data points
- Launched a survey





ACCoRD Survey: Emerging Findings and Reflections

The survey builds towards the evidence base and roadmap for a framework for research data contracting across the UK's Digital Research Infrastructure.

Why did we run the survey?

How did we develop the survey?

What did the survey involve?



Who took part?

- Respondents' role
- Background
- Relevant training
- Types of data they work with



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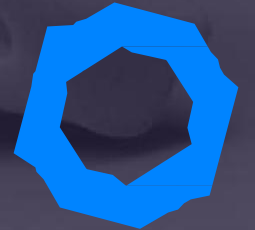




"Too many people involved with conflicting priorities"

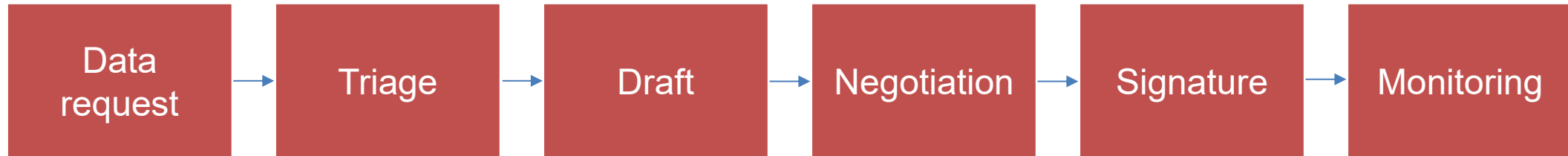
"Researchers don't understand legal requirements"

"Legal teams don't understand research needs"



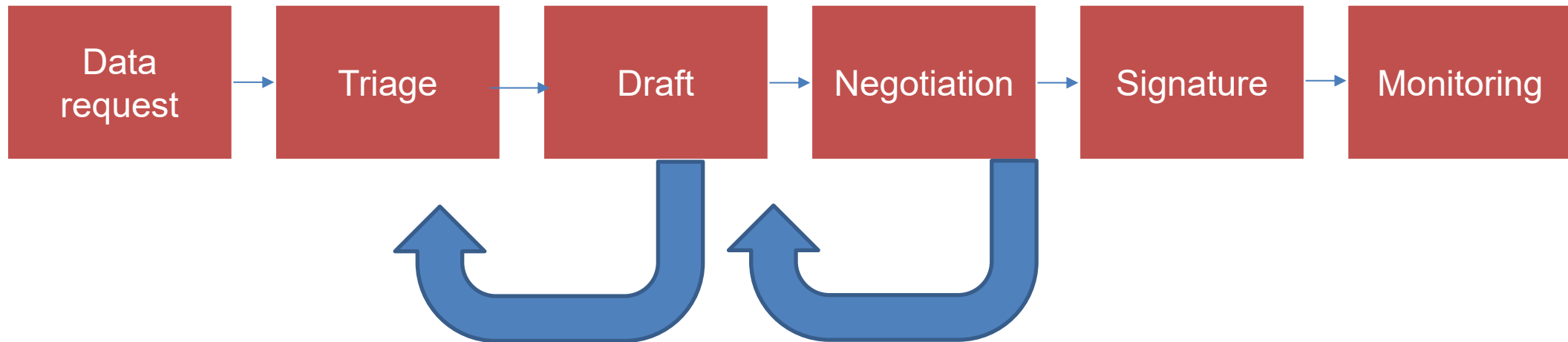


Research Data Contracting Process





Research Data Contracting Process



Respondents described *many variations* on this process

Steps often overlap or repeat

Ownership shifts between teams



Good Practice



Early engagement with the right stakeholders



Clear articulation of data use and risk



Shared understanding between teams

A large yellow five-pointed star with a black outline, positioned to the right of the 'Shared understanding between teams' text.

Training



Challenges

Unclear ownership and roles

Insufficient or inconsistent information

Contractual rigidity and negotiation bottlenecks

Capacity, turnover, and slow processes

External dependencies and misaligned incentives



Which contract terms are most consistently challenging to agree?



Liability and indemnities



Intellectual property and publication rights

What new terms would need to be included in contracts to make the contracting process progress more efficiently?

Existing provisions are often sufficient

Need for clarity, not novelty

Standardisation and consistency matter more than new wording



Suggestions

Some final suggestions from participants for how to improve and standardise data contracts





Next Steps

- **AULP member?** Register for our AULP road mapping exercise, online, **27th March** 9.30am – 10.30am
- **Everyone:** Final ACCoRD Road Map Prioritisation Workshop, **14th May**, in person in London
- ***Wanted: roles/job-titles for the people in your organization who deal with risk***

Join Our Community:





Questions?

