




LONGITUDINAL STUDIES REVIEW 2017: JULY UPDATE

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 information

Welcome to ESRC's update on the [Longitudinal Studies Review](#): a new regular series to keep you informed on the progress of the review. This edition reiterates the purpose, activities and timeline of the review, and includes the results of further analyses of the [Consultation](#) responses.

Timeline

- October 2016:
[International Review Panel](#) and [Steering Group](#) appointed 
- November 2016:
 Initial [Consultation](#) via online survey and [initial report](#) 
- January 2017:
[Workshop](#) at Nuffield College, Oxford 
- March 2017:
 Commission evidence-gathering Workstreams 
- April—July 2017:
 Workstreams in progress
- July—September 2017:
 Collation of evidence from workstreams
- October 2017:
 Draft panel report to ESRC
- December 2017:
 Final panel report to ESRC
- February 2018:
 Presentation of report to ESRC Council by panel chair

The Review's purpose is to...

- Explore longitudinal studies' continued and future **scientific relevance, sustainability and contribution** to the wider portfolio of data and longitudinal research resources in the UK and internationally
- Assess the continuing **priority social and interdisciplinary scientific needs** for our longitudinal studies
- Consider how **our investment** in longitudinal resources could best be positioned to meet the needs of **future interdisciplinary research challenges**
- Build upon the [ESRC 2006 Strategic Review of Panel and Cohort Studies](#) and [MRC 2014 Strategic Review of the Largest UK Population Cohorts](#)
- The review's recommendations will inform **our future strategy, funding, management and commissioning decisions**, including what to **continue, change, stop and start**



Activities



We used an online survey to seek a wide range of views on the continuing relevance of the priorities identified in the [2006 review](#) and to suggest new priorities for the future. See the [report](#) and [infographic](#) for initial results, with more results to follow as part of our Briefing Paper Series (see below).

Outputs from the Consultation helped inform a Workshop where experts explored:

- Future scientific and policy needs for information traditionally gained from longitudinal data
- How to meet these needs and any key challenges

See a summary of the discussions [here](#).

Outputs from the Workshop have helped inform the [Review Panel's](#) thinking about the priorities for the four evidence-gathering Workstreams that they are currently leading.

The evidence gathered in the Workstreams will be assessed by the Panel and inform their final report and recommendations to the ESRC, to be presented to Council in February 2018.

Briefing Paper Series New!

Alongside the [main findings](#) of the Consultation, we have commissioned short briefing papers that examine key themes from the data in more detail.

1. [Key areas of scientific and methodological interest to policy makers](#)
2. [The policy relevance of longitudinal studies – contributions and barriers](#)
3. [The capacity and infrastructure for longitudinal research](#)
4. [Use and accessibility of longitudinal resources](#)
5. [International comparisons and opportunities](#)
6. [What did respondents say about birth cohort studies?](#)
7. [Data linkage](#)
8. [New forms of data collection](#)
9. [Comparability and harmonisation](#)
10. [Representativeness and study design](#)



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