

Stream governance — Steering and Advisory Groups

Steering Group

The Steering Group is designed to gather experts that can represent water companies, regulators, research, innovation bodies and government. Its primary function is to help provide leadership and market signalling. Oversight of, and endorsement from, this group will establish a lasting set of robust governance measures ahead of and throughout the proposed Implementation phase of Stream and beyond, to ensure continuity of the project. Ultimately ensuring data is shared safely and with the correct regulations.

Purpose: To convene and represent actors from across the market, government, regulators and research and innovation bodies, that will further shape the development of a data-sharing and open data architecture for the water sector.

Outcome: The creation of a data-sharing and open data architecture, as well as the processes, ways of working and facilitating the sharing of data, to unlock water data for the benefit of customers, society, and the environment. This will address challenges such as the prevention of environmental incidents and carbon emissions reduction across the sector.

Authority: The Steering Group will define and authorise the role of the Steering Group beyond March 2023 and the creation of Advisory Groups (AGs) that help deliver the mission and its Goals. It will review the outputs from the AGs and sign-off on material direction and outputs. Goals of the Steering Group include the definition and approval of:

- Steering Group direction, scope, outcomes and key results
- Advisory Groups, their scope, outcomes and key results
- Advisory Group recommendations
- Outputs

Participant roles and time commitment

Steering Group members must assign relevant senior personnel (from either their institution, or a senior leader from a delegated organisation) to:

1. Attend meetings
2. Prepare for these meetings ahead of time
3. Help in the dissemination of the work to the relevant communities
4. Input into and sign-off documents

Quorum for these meetings is defined as having two thirds of the Steering Group Members (not observers) present. There will be introductory Steering Group meetings in January 2023 and March 2023, with more meetings to be confirmed. The time commitment for the set-up phase Steering Group is up to one (1) day in aggregate (including preparation time). The subsequent time requirements for 2023 (subject to confirmation of the next phase of funding) will be defined as part of the set-up phase Steering Group. This is not expected to exceed three (3) additional days over the year.

Stream governance — Steering and Advisory Groups

Roles and responsibilities

The initial Steering Group meetings will be co-chaired by Northumbrian Water Open Data Lead, Melissa Tallack and Icebreaker One Strategy and Development Director, Kathryn Corrick.

Steering Group members will include representatives from water companies, government, regulators, research and innovation bodies, consumer representatives and, when formed, have representation from the co-chairs of the Advisory Groups. Advisory Groups are supported by a secretariat function coordinated by Icebreaker One.

Observers

Steering Group observers are neutral parties who represent either government departments or the regulator. Their attendance is so that they remain informed of developments with Stream and its related water projects. Observers are under no obligation to comment on developments, and their participation is not seen as an endorsement of Stream. Observers may provide updates on their own strategic positioning, if deemed appropriate.

Transparency

The Steering Group will be run under the [Chatham House Rule](#). Outputs from the work will be, as deemed appropriate, transparent and open. This includes updates, published on the websites and social media on a regular basis. These will be published under an open licence (CC-BY).

Steering and Advisory Group members consent to be listed as participants. Participants shall agree to these Terms of Reference by return of email.

Advisory Groups

The purpose of the Advisory Groups is to provide expert input during the next phase of Stream, to address commercial, non-commercial and public needs and to provide guidance to the Steering Group on technical and non-technical topics and potential new use cases. Participants will include a wide range of subject matter experts to meet the diverse needs of the project, and to ensure it is representative of stakeholders.

Members of Advisory Groups will, whilst recognising the duties they owe to their employer, seek to act as a representative of their industry and not of their individual company or body: expertise must be contributed as impartially as possible. Work and outputs will build on the existing Stream research during the blueprint phase, and shall align work and best practices (e.g. ESG Data Task Force Data Best Practice Guidelines, Open Banking, Open Energy) with practical, demonstrable examples to address the mission, and to underpin the business case.

Stream governance — Steering and Advisory Groups

The ultimate objective is to navigate the delivery of a sector backed data-sharing and open data architecture, balancing user needs and cost with the sharing of Open and subsequently Shared Data in the swiftest timeframe. It will address social, economic, environmental, public and private sector needs. It will deliver cross-industry alignment on the approach, including clear use cases, a roadmap for work, definitions of risks, gaps and opportunities, and it will provide recommended approaches and resolutions.

Advisory Groups are currently in design and may include, for example:

Market and user needs to explore, prioritise and work through use cases that should be supported by Stream. This includes identifying defined users, their needs, mapping the data value chain and the broader ecosystem surrounding each use case. This Advisory Group will:

- Describe the current market needs through user stories
- Describe the current cultural challenges and opportunities in accessing water data
- Describe the needs of the future operating model, including the costs and benefits of different governance structures
- Make recommendations to the government and the regulator where appropriate

Technical requirements and operating model to understand technical challenges and opportunities in accessing water data, including:

- Understanding the expected types of datasets and data transactions required for the selected use cases
- Compliance including from a data protection, competition law, State Aid and EIRs perspective
- Understand market needs for user authentication
- Data-best-practices, security, privacy-by-design
- Licensing
- A technical feasibility assessment of existing solutions and their suitability
- review of existing governance, legislation, contracts, legacy technology and existing processes and systems
- Understand the Critical National Infrastructure (CNI) risks and impacts

Note: Sub-groups may be formed to address specific topics and issues as they emerge.

Advisory Group Skills

Skills and expertise from Advisory Group contributors will include, for example:

- Sustainability and water sector professionals who can quantify materiality
- Business analysts who can quantify impact
- Legal professionals, especially those with data and content licensing and data-related compliance expertise
- Communications professionals
- Information security, with a focus on data sharing
- Data providers, consumers and managers
- Data governance and compliance
- Policy analysts with specific expertise in data, the water sector and sustainability

Stream governance — Steering and Advisory Groups

- Data architecture / modelling

To better understand:

- Policies - conditions for participation in the water and cross-sector data ecosystem, roles, responsibilities and liabilities
- Technical outcomes: including but not limited to data licensing approaches, policy and definitions (for open data and shared data), data strategies, technology strategies
- Impact Funding models
- Understanding data production, flows and usage

Stream governance — Steering and Advisory Groups

Vision, Mission, Values

Vision

Stream's vision is to co-create a Data Sharing and Open Data Framework to unlock water data for the benefit of customers, society, and the environment. This will help address challenges such as the prevention of environmental incidents and carbon emissions reduction across the sector.

Mission

To deliver Codes of Practice that could lead to the development of a data-sharing and open data architecture for the UK water sector, and determine if and how it could be supported by a sustainable business model:

1. Refine and iterate on a clear, trusted, impactful and detailed governance framework that enables government, businesses, consumers and 3rd party developers to understand the potential of open access to water data in the UK.
2. Based around refined and prioritised use cases, create detailed descriptions of the user needs, data value chain and application of the framework in practice.
3. Refine and onboard organisations to the data-sharing and open data architecture for the UK water sector.

Values

Openness

We will:

1. share our views and plans, and share knowledge as widely as possible;
2. solicit and listen to views from end users and stakeholders;
3. make appropriate outputs available under an open licence (e.g. CC-BY, OGL).

Expertise

We will:

1. bring our expertise to the discussion as individuals;
2. use our expertise to synthesise the views of others in constructive and forward-thinking proposals;
3. use good judgement to respect privacy and confidentiality.

Collaboration

We will:

- support each other in discussion, in decisions, and in delivery;
- constructively hold each other to account on our commitments;
- ensure all voices are heard and considered carefully.