
CV19RR\1057

Assessing COVID-19 pandemic risk to biodiversity and community wellbeing, Uganda

The project aims to increase the awareness of the COVID-19 virus, its effects and assess the risk to human and primate community health. The project shall investigate the prevalence of the virus/disease in the area to predict the risk to communities and primates as well as the impact of the pandemic to livelihoods and biodiversity in Bugoma Central Forest Reserve landscape. Project farmers will be given additional inputs to recover from losses suffered and utilize the opportunities of increased demand.

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title Dr
Name Joshua
Surname Rukundo
Organisation Chimpanzee Sanctuary and
Wildlife Conservation Trust
Website (Work) www.ngambaisland.org
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
Email (Work) [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

OTHER DETAILS

Title Mr
Name Nebat
Surname Atuhura
Organisation Chimpanzee Sanctuary and
Wildlife Conservation Trust
Tel + [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Other
Name	Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Wildlife Conservation Trust
Phone (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Section 2 - Project Title & Previous Applications

Q3. Project Title:

Assessing COVID-19 pandemic risk to biodiversity and community wellbeing, Uganda

Q4. Existing project

Q4a. Does your organisation have an existing (or recently finished) project under either Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus or Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund?

Yes

If yes, please list the project reference and title of relevant projects (e.g. 25-001, DPLUS090, IWT099).

Reference of current/recent project:	Title of current/recent project:
25-028	Community adaptability to loss occasioned by wildlife in Uganda

Q4b. Is this proposal directly relevant to one of the projects listed above?

Yes

If yes, please list the relevant project reference and title.

25-028 "Community adaptability to loss occasioned by wildlife in Uganda"

Section 3 - Countries, Dates & Budget Summary

Q5. Which Fund's objectives will your project most directly address? (please only select one)

Darwin Initiative

Q6. Country(ies)

Which eligible country(ies) will your project be working in?

Country 1	Uganda	Country 2	No Response
Country 3	No Response	Country 4	No Response

Do you require more fields?

No

Q7. Project dates

Start Date:

04 January 2021

End date:

31 March 2021

Q8. Budget summary

Darwin/IWT Funding Request

Total request 2020/21:

59,708.26

Please note all spending must fall between 1st January 2021 - 31st March 2021

Q8a. If any matched funding arrangements are proposed, please detail them here.

No

Section 4 - Project Outcome and Summary

Q9. Outcome

What is the expected Outcome of this project?

Increased awareness of COVID-19 risk and mitigation for Bugoma Landscape communities, with 320 farmers supported with additional inputs to ensure food security, support HH incomes and reduced pressure on forests.

Q10. Summary of project

Please provide a brief summary of your project, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking. Please note that if you are successful, this wording may be used by Defra in communications e.g. as a short description of the project on GOV.UK.

The project aims to increase the awareness of the COVID-19 virus, its effects and assess the risk to human and primate community health. The project shall investigate the prevalence of the virus/disease in the area to predict the risk to communities and primates as well as the impact of the pandemic to livelihoods and biodiversity in Bugoma Central Forest Reserve landscape. Project farmers will be given additional inputs to recover from losses suffered and utilize the opportunities of increased demand.

Section 5 - Project Partners

Q11. Project partners

Please list all the partners involved (including the Lead Organisation) and provide a summary of their roles. Please upload letters, emails or other confirmation of support from any new partners.

Lead Organisation name: Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Wildlife Conservation Trust (Chimpanzee Trust)

Other partners involved: 4 Parish Community Based Organisations (Established by Project 25-028)
Bubogo Parish Community Based Organisation, Bulimya Parish Community Based Organisation, Munteme Parish Community Based Organisation, Kaseeta Parish Community Based Organisation.

32 Village Saving and Loans Associations.

Summary of roles and responsibilities in project: Chimpanzee Trust will be the lead implementer coordinating all field activities and ensuring that partners and consultants deliver on their respective mandates. The Trust will liaise with local COVID-19 task force teams and local public health teams to facilitate ring testing and increase awareness and training of village COVID-19 task force teams. The Trust will source and recruit the required consultants and supervise them.


The 4 Parish Community Based Organisations/Associations (CBO) will support in the mobilisation of its members who will be supported with inputs. The Parish CBO will also support community mobilization and engagement.

The 32 villages champions in project 25-028 will facilitate the mobilization of training communities after they have been trained in COVID-19 risk mitigation measures and monitor community contact with primates.

If you have not provided evidence of support from the Lead Organisation or partners above, please explain why: The CBOs that Project 25-028 has established are currently in their final stages of registration with the Local Government authorities and don't have legal documentation. However, we have engaged with their governance teams concerning this partnership and have an informal agreement.

Please provide a combined PDF of letters of support from the lead organisation and partner(s) as relevant.

 [Support letetr - Lead Organization \(CT\) 0001](#)

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Section 6 - Project Staff

Q12. Project staff

Please identify the core staff on this project, their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project. Further information on who should be classified as core staff can be found in the guidance. Please provide a 1 page CV for the proposed Project Leader and any co-Project Leader

if relevant.

Name (First name, surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV attached?
Dr. Joshua Rukundo	Project Leader	15	Checked
Nebat Atuhura	Project Manager	40	Checked
Silver Birungi	Project Training Cordinator	40	
John Kalonde Kintu	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	20	


Do you require more fields?

Yes


Name (First name, surname)	Role	% time on project
Samuel Otim	Accountant	20
Janepher Atuhairwe	Project Officer	80
Christine Nyamgoma	Project Assistant	100
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0

Please provide 1 page CVs for the proposed Project Leader and any co-Project Leader listed above as a combined PDF.

Ensure the file is named clearly, consistent with the named individual and role above.

 [Dr. Joshua Rukundo & Nebat Atuhura CVs](#)

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Section 7 - Problem, Method and Change Expected

Q13. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of Covid-19 and its impact on biodiversity or IWT and sustainable livelihoods. For example, what are the drivers of loss of biodiversity that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems? Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem (references can be listed in an additional attached PDF document).

There is increased pressure on biodiversity (flora and fauna) in the forests (restored private and public) with persons who have lost their employment in the closed rural institutions and the city due to COVID-19 returning to their rural homes, further increasing the pressure on these forests while also increasing the risk of COVID-19 transmission. If the problem is not addressed, previously restored forests shall be impacted hence exacerbating Human-Wildlife Conflicts and increasing the risk of COVID-19 transmission between wildlife animals and in the 32 villages in Kikuube where our current Darwin project area operates. However, this COVID-19 virus aligned pressure on biodiversity, social-economic norms and public health has not been documented in this landscape, and it would be imperative to document what is, and find action-based solutions.

While there are mechanisms that have been put in place to curb illegal activities in protected forests, such still continue to occur due to COVID-19 restrictions. Restrictions have also increased the pressure on the farming groups, such as low prices for produce due to limited movements to regional markets. Also due to the lockdown, farmers were unable to effectively plant inputs and access farming inputs, forcing many to consume seed or not adequately prepare for the next planting season. This has increased foraging in the forests for food, herbs and other forest products. This has increased fears amongst conservationists on the risk of transmission of the virus to primates, especially the chimpanzees, in the forest, whose effect remains unknown. This could later behave as reservoirs of the virus for subsequent re-infections in the communities.

The project 25-028 farmers (Informal economy) have faced an existential threat aligned to earning an income during lockdowns, many were unable to feed themselves and their families. For most, no income means no food or

Q14. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome. Provide information on:

- How you have analysed historical and existing initiatives and are building on or taking work already done into account in project design. Please cite evidence where appropriate.
- The rationale for carrying out this work and a justification of your proposed methodology.
- If relevant, how this project links to an ongoing Darwin/IWT project.
- How you will undertake the work (materials and methods).
- How you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools etc.).

Projects should also consider how best they can address inequality, especially gender inequality, as per the existing guidance for each fund.

Please make sure you read the Guidance Notes, particularly Section 3, before answering this question.

The project will be implemented around Bugoma Central Forest Reserve (CFR) in parishes of Bubogo,

Munteme, Bulimya, Kaseeta including their connecting corridor forests, in the same area where project 25-028 is currently being implemented. The project will employ 3 strategies to achieve its objectives; raising awareness and education, inputs provision and 'action-based' research.

Component 1 will focus on assessing the risk and effects of COVID-19 pandemic on farmer livelihood in the Bugoma Forest Landscape. The project will engage public health, social-economic and biodiversity Experts who will conduct action-based research that will inform future conservation projects in the landscape to prepare and incorporate possible pandemic/epidemic effects to conservation projects. The public health expert will also conduct a survey, through ring-testing, to assess the actual risk of COVID_19 in the project area. 25-028 Project M&E officer will oversee this component.

Component 2 will focus on rapid awareness-raising aligned to conservation and zoonotic disease transfer especially COVID-viruses to minimise spread in communities and transmission to wild chimpanzee populations in the Bugoma Forest Landscape. The project will prepare radio messages for DJ mentions and Radio announcements that will run on local radio stations for 2 months, building on the messages that project 25-028 run on radio. The messages will address underlying issues such as disease transfer to primates, COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and how they align to primate conservation. The project will engage conservationists, public health professionals and communicators in the region through a Conservation and COVID-19 training. 25-028 project Schools (20) are set to re-open fully in the first quarter of 2021, and this project will engage school-going children and communities on how to ensure that they follow set SOPs at school, while at home and while in the forest where they collect firewood and water. This component will be managed by 25-028 Education Coordinator and project trainer with the support of the project officers.

Component 3 will contribute to the change in cropping regime in the Bugoma landscape (25-028), by providing farming inputs to 320 farmers, affected by the total lockdown COVID-19 pandemic measures. We will provide 250 farmers with Irish potato seed and 70 farmers with onion seed. The Irish farmers will each plant half an acre totalling to 125 acres planted while the Onion farmers will plant half an acre totalling to 35 acres of onions propagated. Onions and Irish have been selected as the most successful inputs from the project 25-028 implementation. Farmers will sign conservation agreements with the project and in exchange of inputs, they will commit to having a portion of their income to growing the HWC fund at the village level. This component will be managed by 25-028 Project Manager and Project Officers. The M&E officer will ensure quality assurance of inputs and compliance with terms, post-project.

This project will utilize the Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) as the Project management tool. We have segmented the project from its impact, to outcomes, to outputs to activities, to inputs and budget.

Q15. Change expected

Detail the expected changes this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who will benefit a) in the short-term (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended). Please describe the changes for biodiversity/environment and for people in developing countries, and how they are linked. If you are proposing building on a current or past project, be clear how additional benefits will be delivered through this project.

When talking about people, please remember to give details of who will benefit and the number of beneficiaries expected. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used. If possible, indicate the number of women who will be impacted.


The project intends to build on project 25-028 to ensure that its targets are met and the project outcome is achieved, even with stalling from COVID-19 pandemic that affected its achievements.


Component 1 will provide information on how COVID-19 has impacted on farmer livelihood and niche in the Bugoma Forest Landscape. The action-based research reports from the social economic and biodiversity Experts the Chimpanzee Trust, future conservation projects and other partners in the


landscape to prepare and incorporate possible pandemic/epidemic effects to conservation projects. Component 2 intends to contribute knowledge, attitudes and practices strengthening for 50,000 community members (radio listenership) in primate conservation and zoonotic disease transmission in the Bugoma Forest Landscape and Northern Albertine Rift for example system will be put in place to ensure basic public health actions such as how communities get close to primates and how visibly unwell, they are at the time. The project through building capacity of 40 conservationists, public health professional and communicators will set up a Bugoma COVID-19 network. The project will ensure that project schools(with an estimated number of 3,000 pupils) adjust to the new norms which align with COVID -19 measures and SOPs with emphasis to forests and wildlife habitat.


Component 3 will contribute to the change in cropping regime for 320 farmers (Irish and Onion) in the Bugoma landscape (25-028), impacted by COVID-19 pandemic which led to reduced trade and hunger in some cases, forcing farmers to consume the inputs issued to them affecting the intended impact of the project. We will sign conservation agreements with farmers who will receive inputs with a benchmark set on what is expected of them. This will spur increased food production of high value, high yield, fast-growing food, ensuring food security in the area.


If necessary, please provide supporting documentation e.g. maps, diagrams, references etc., as a PDF using the File Upload below:


 [Socio-Economic-Impact-COVID-19-Uganda-Brief-1-UNDP-Uganda-April-2020](#)


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 [References COVID-19 Rapid response Application](#)

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Section 8 - Aims, Objectives and Exit Strategy

Q16. Aims and objectives

Clearly outline the aim and objectives of the project and how the achievement will be measured. Use SMART objectives if possible.

This project aims to boost livelihoods and wellbeing for communities adapting to loss occasioned by wildlife, Uganda which was exacerbated by COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Objective 1: To assess the risk and effects of COVID-19 on biodiversity, farmer livelihood, wellbeing and niche in the Bugoma Forest Landscape. This objective will be measured through the following indicators; the prevalence of COVID-19 in the area and the risk associated, the impact on the community and the biodiversity, through the published public health, social-economic and biodiversity reports.

Objective 2: To raise awareness aligned to conservation and zoonotic disease transfer especially COVID-viruses as a means of minimising spread in communities and transmission to wild chimpanzee populations in the Bugoma Forest Landscape. This objective will be measured through following indicators; number of experts to deliberate and train at workshops and meetings; number of trained trainers; number of radio and DJ mentions; number of community residents and pupils in schools reached by the awareness campaigns; primary schools reached by the education and awareness campaigns; households listed and households under the scheme.

Objective 3: To contribute to the community adaptability fund through providing farming inputs to 320 farmers in the Bugoma landscape (25-028), impacted on by COVID-19 pandemic. This objective will be measured through following indicators; the number of farmers supplied with inputs; households supported; change in average household income; business enterprises developed; members per business

enterprise per village; enterprises strengthened; enterprises groups organised; contribution to community-led compensation account; and value of the compensation fund.

Q17. Exit strategy

State how the project will reach a stable and sustainable end point, and explain how the outcomes will be sustained, either through a continuation of activities, funding and support from other sources or because the activities will be mainstreamed in to “business as usual”.

This project builds on project 25-028, and Chimpanzee Trust’s strategic direction in western Uganda where we continue to implement projects to conserve wild chimpanzees and their natural habitats. We have built strong partnerships including being part of a collaborative conservation partnership known as Northern Albertine Rift Conservation Group and with the Local Governments of Kagadi, Hoima and Kikuube districts. This project fits well within this collaborative framework, and we will continue to pursue synergies that can scale-up and sustain results during and post-project. This proposed project addresses a key threat for which there is a global concern on community and biodiversity well-being and would fit in well with the Government of Uganda programs as a means of contributing to the long-term funding mechanism for Human-wildlife conflict management strategies laid out by the Government program on wildlife compensation. The new wildlife act 2019 (Ministry of Tourism, 2019), shall offer and entry for the implementation of the compensation scheme outlined in this.

Section 9 - Budget

Q18. Budget

Provide a detailed breakdown of costs to be funded by the Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus/IWT Challenge Fund in GBP.

See [Finance for Darwin/IWT](#) for which costs sit under which budget line.

Budget Line	Cost in £ (GBP)
Staff costs	0
Consultancy costs	████
Overhead costs	████
Travel and subsistence	████
Operating costs	████
Capital equipment*	0
Other costs	0
Total (Must be less than or equal to £60,000)	59,709.00

***If you are proposing to purchase any capital items over £1,000 please detail these here and provide justification below** No

Q19. Financial Risk Management

This question considers the financial risks to the project. Explain how you have considered the risks and threats that may be relevant to the successful financial delivery of this project. This includes risks such as fraud or bribery, but may also include the risk of fluctuating foreign exchange and internal financial processes such as storage of financial data.

Chimpanzee Trust has financial internal controls in place, with a financial and procurement manual that are the benchmarks for all decisions made. There are measures in places with the Organisation's Internal Auditor carrying out monthly checks to ensure that the project meets set standards. Project Bank account is managed by the Organisation Finance Office with the Executive Director a signatory and the Board member in charge of Finance to ensure internal controls of funds for the project.

Chimpanzee Trust has a proactive request and approval process where when a request is made, the Head of Department has to approve and pass on the request to the Finance and Administration Manager who reviews the request to ensure that the payment is budgeted for, before recommending it to the Executive Director for final approval for payment. No payment is made without a payments voucher and all payments are acknowledged with receipts.

For the procurement process, the Chimpanzee Trust has a Procurements and Disposals manual, which outlines the procedures for procuring goods and services for all the Chimpanzee Trust's activities and projects. Procurements are supported by quotes, invoices, contracts, goods received notes payment vouchers and receipts.

Q20. Capital items

If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin/IWT funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end. If you are requesting more than 10% capital costs, please provide your justification here.

The project will utilize existing equipment for 25-028.

Q21. Value for Money

Please describe why you consider your application to be good value for money including justification of why the measures you will adopt will secure value for money.

The project budget has been developed from proposed activities using an activity budgeting approach. We have also used project 25-028 knowledge and experience to work out financial and time costs and to estimate the overall effort that we will take to complete stated activities.

On staff costs, we have used the organization's approved pay scales to determine the costs that we will charge. Chimpanzee Trust keeps a record of regular suppliers for products and services, and we have referred to these costs to determine the budget amounts for items and materials we have budgeted for. Overhead costs have been charged at about 10.1% which is already a very cost-effective rate ensuring that

we direct as many resources as possible to building and operating this project and to benefit the conservation of wildlife.

Budget performance and financial prudence will be the overall responsibility of Chimpanzee Trust, who will sign implementation agreements with other implementing partners. Chimpanzee Trust will manage the funds with fair accountability of any funds accounted for. Besides, Chimpanzee Trust will provide financial and technical reports for activities implemented.

The project also leverages on resources contributed by 25-028 project partners and other donors like Greensboro Science Center USA and Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA) which support to subsidize this project for education and research.

Section 10 - Ethics and Safeguarding

Q22. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting Darwin/IWT's key principles for ethics as outlined in the guidance note. Additionally, are there any human rights and/or international humanitarian law risks in relation to your project? If there are, have you carried out an assessment of the impact of those risks, and of measures that may be taken in order to mitigate them?

We are familiar with community-wildlife relations and needs in the landscape and have an ongoing relationship with local community members and leaders. This project arises from 25-028 and has a robust free prior and informed consent process that we conduct through meetings with local leaders at all levels.

Our 25-028 project has brought forward COVID-19 pandemic and livelihood issues that we are proposing to address in this project. The project survey component involves action-based investigations that provide Chimpanzee Trust with an opportunity to make informed decisions aligned to public health, biodiversity and social-economic impacts of the pandemic to frontline communities.

Q23. Safeguarding

Projects funded through the Darwin Initiative/IWT Challenge Fund must fully protect vulnerable people all of the time, wherever they work. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have appropriate safeguarding policies in place. The award Terms and Conditions set out clear requirements on safeguarding. Please confirm you have read and understand these and that you comply with them all.

Checked

Section 11 - Key Milestones

Q24. Provide an overview of your proposed project, outlining key milestones.

N.B. This should cover the period of your requested project only and the start/end dates should match with those provided in Question 7.

Date	Key Milestone
04 January 2021	START
06 January 2021	Procurement of suppliers and services for the project starts Inception meeting with key stakeholders (40 national)
15 January 2021	Contract signing with Researchers
22 January 2021	Public Health, Social Economic and Biodiversity Experts commence data collection. Sample testing also begins
27 January 2021	Conservationists, Public health professional and Communicators Workshop on Conservation and COVID-19 held
02 February 2021	Prepared DJ and Radio mentions on COVID-19 and conservation Airing of Radio and DJ mentions on COVID-19 and conservation of wildlife
19 February 2021	The procurement process for inputs completed
05 March 2021	Draft research reports presented to Chimpanzee Trust management
19 March 2021	Completion of delivery of seed inputs to all target recipients
20 March 2021	Presentation of final research reports on public health risk assessment, social- economic impact and impact on biodiversity presented to peers in a workshop
26 March 2021	Planting of all inputs completed. Monitoring ongoing.
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
31 March 2021	FINISH

Section 12 - Certification

Q25. FCDO notifications

Please check the box if you think that there are sensitivities that the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise the project's success in the Darwin/IWT competition in the host country.

Checked

Please indicate whether you have contacted your Foreign Ministry or the local embassy or High Commission (or equivalent) directly to discuss security issues (see Guidance Notes) and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

No

Q26. Certification

On behalf of the

trustees

of

Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Wildlife Conservation Trust

I apply for a grant of

£59,708.26

I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the project schedule should this application be successful.

(This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the applicant institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)





- I have enclosed a CV for the Project Leader/co-PL and letters or confirmation of support (uploaded at appropriate points in application)

Checked

Name Dr. Joshua Rukundo

Position in the organisation Executive Director

Signature
(please upload
e-signature)

 [Dr. Josh signature](#)
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Date 02 November 2020

Section 13 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including the “Guidance Notes for Applicants” and “Finance for Darwin and IWT Challenge Fund”.	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for the relevant fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for my project.	Checked
I have provided my budget in GBP.	Checked
The application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	Checked
I have included a 1 page CV for the Project Leader (and co-Project Leader if relevant).	Checked
I have included a letter or electronic confirmation of support from the lead organisation and main partner organisation(s) identified at Question 11, or an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have checked the website on GOV.UK immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on GOV.UK.	Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in this application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the latest copy of the Privacy Notice for Darwin, Darwin Plus and the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund available [here](#). This Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead organisation, location, and total grant value) on the GOV.UK and other websites.

Information relating to the project or its results may also be released on request, including under the 2004 Environmental Information Regulations and the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However, Defra will not permit any unwarranted breach of confidentiality nor will we act in contravention of our obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679).