New Wellcome Trust OA Policy FAQs

What is the Rights Retention Strategy?

The Rights Retention Strategy (RRS) is an initiative of cOAlition S, intended to allow researchers to publish wherever they wish.

Do I have to deposit into ORA and Europe PMC?

The publisher may deposit into Europe PMC on your behalf, if not the author will have to deposit.

The University’s OA Publications Policy asks that a copy of the paper is included in ORA, and a copy does need to be deposited into ORA for REF compliance.

Will Wellcome pay for other publication charges (page, colour)?

No, Wellcome will no longer pay for other publication charges.

What is the story with Nature/Science/Cell/The Lancet?

Currently these journals have embargo periods which are too long to be compliant. The Journal Checker Tool – journalcheckertool.org – advises compliance via the cOAlition S Rights Retention Strategy.

Can I contact Wellcome about this directly?

Certainly, there is an email address for queries – openaccess@wellcome.org
I don’t have to apply for a new grant for at least 12 months, does this affect my publications from 1 Jan 2021?

Yes, it does. The requirement is being applied to existing grants.

What happens if I forget to include the required text with my submitted manuscript?

The text needs to be included so that the publisher has “prior notice” of the CC BY licence assigned to the Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM).

Are Wellcome REALLY going to impose sanctions if I don’t comply?

Yes, they have been very clear about compliance and are willing to impose sanctions on individuals, research groups and (in extremis) institutions.

Are there any changes to the existing/separate RDM policy as well?

No, but there is a requirement in the new policy for research articles to include a statement explaining how other researchers can access any data, original software or materials underpinning the research.

Does this apply to monographs too?

No, the new policy only applies to research articles. The existing policy stays in effect for all other publication item types.
What if I have an agreement now to publish in a special issue in a non-compliant journal that is not due to be submitted until 2021?

The policy applies to any paper submitted from 1 January 2021.

There was mention of the OA block grant. Does it usually last the whole year, or does it sometimes run out before then? Would there be a notice on the OA page if this happened?

If we ran low and were unable to obtain further block grant funds (which has not happened to date) we would fully communicate this to Wellcome funded researchers.

If a contributing author in a 50 author paper has Wellcome trust funding how should this be addressed regarding funder compliance?

The paper would need to be compliant with the new policy, regardless of whether the author is a corresponding or contributing author.

Will the journal checker take into account institution-specific arrangements (e.g. through Route 3)?

Yes, the journal checker tool requires three pieces of information – Funder + Journal title + Institution. Including the Institution means that any institution-specific arrangements will be taken into account.

How can a CC BY licence be obtained, if submitting to a no-agreement hybrid journal?

Including the required text will assign a prior licence to any resulting AAM.
Does Oxford have a read and publish deal with Oxford University Press?

No, we do not currently have a R&P deal with OUP.

On the Wellcome Trust website it says “You must include the following text in all submissions” in regards to the Rights Retention Strategy. Does that “all” include even fully open access journals or journals with transformative agreements?

Yes, it does. Deposit into PubMed Central and Europe PMC is only required if following Route 2, but OAOxford recommends doing it anyway.

Wiley has already published a statement that they will not honour the Plan S Rights Retention Strategy; if we have to include this text in all publications (even under the transformative agreement), does that mean no Wiley journal is complaint with the new WT policy?

Unless Wiley refuses to accept any submissions which include the text, the transformative agreement should take precedence (and a fee/APC charged), and the paper will be WT compliant.

What would classify as a “reasonable fee”?

Wellcome are monitoring the APC charges of publishers, but leaving the interpretation of "reasonable" up to researchers at the present time. WT have made it clear that they care about the quality of the research published, not where it is published.

Is it the case that by publishing under an hybrid journal OA green route, you cannot select a CC-BY license on the VoR? Or are you still allowed to select a CC BY license but the VoR is just subject to an embargo period?

That would depend on the publisher/journal and the licences it offered. If publishing in a hybrid (non-transformative) journal, the AAM would need to have a CC BY licence and be made available upon publication via the Rights Retention Strategy.
In the event that an author pays the APC to a hybrid journal (with non WT funds) and chooses a CC BY license, but that journal does not participate in uploading the publication to PMC; Could the author upload the VoR to PMC instead?

Yes, and it would be necessary upload either the VoR or AAM to be compliant. The mechanism for upload is Europe PMC Plus - https://plus.europepmc.org/home

I’m a DPhil student, does this apply to me?

Yes, it applies to all recipients of a Wellcome Trust grant regardless of their career status.