# The safe share project
## Highlight report 7

**Background**

To address the need for research in the UK to use and share sensitive data securely and safely, Jisc and leading UK universities are collaborating to provide Higher Assurance Network (HAN) connectivity over the Janet network and access management mechanisms between research centres.

**Recent Major Achievements**

- **Authorisation to transition safe share HAN to service in Spring 2017**
- Successful resilience test completed of the Higher Assurance Network core infrastructure
- Additional non-health and bioinformatics use cases identified

**Project status**

Stream 1 update – Higher Assurance Network (HAN)

1. Following a full assessment by Jisc's Investment Committee, they have authorised that safe share can move to a production service in Spring 2017 based on a subscription model.
2. The safe share core resilient racks have been successfully migrated into a secure pod.
3. 'Hardening' work underway in preparation for IT Healthcheck.
4. A router configured for the Farr service slice has been implemented in Swansea.
5. End to end testing of the Farr service slice has begun between Manchester and Leeds.
6. Interest has been expressed by 2 organisations in the PSN service slice.
7. Project website updated to show new 'How safe share works; diagram: **https://www.jisc.ac.uk/rd/projects/safe-share**
8. Interview with Simon Thompson featured in 'In Health Informatics We Trust' article: **https://www.jisc.ac.uk/news/in-health-informatics-we-trust-09-nov-2016**
9. Safe share's use at Swansea and Cardiff has been mentioned in a Jisc news article: **https://www.jisc.ac.uk/news/wales-leading-the-way-in-the-information-age-with-support-from-jisc-03-nov-2016**
10. 'Sharing data makes the most of research, but how do we keep it safe?' Blog article published: **https://www.jisc.ac.uk/blog/sharing-data-makes-the-most-of-research-but-how-do-we-keep-it-safe-24-oct-2016**
11. Presentation proposal submitted for Informatics for Health 2017 conference.

Stream 2 update – Authentication, Authorisation and Accounting Infrastructure (AAAI)

1. Manchester has made progress towards implementing Moonshot for HeRC.

2. With the addition of University of Glasgow and QMUL there are now 18 organisations that have signed up to Assent. The full list can be found here[1]
3. A marketing video about Assent has been published: **https://youtu.be/IhltfJXol5s**
4. Development work to provide Mac support for Moonshot underway, expected delivery start of Q2 2017.
5. AAAI Pathfinder project has led Durham and EPCC to connect.
6. Initial SAFE integration with Moonshot accomplished, and Assent Community of Interest set up.
7. Next AAAI Pathfinder work packages just starting. GridPP has agreed to provide input to the project.

**Next Steps**

- Farr and ADRC routers to be configured and shipped to Edinburgh
- Complete testing phase with all end sites.
- PSN connection to be installed.
- IT Healthcheck (penetration testing) for PSN compliance scheduled for January 2017
- Further review then acceptance and implementation of required policies and operational procedures
- Review of original safe share objectives and whether any are outstanding prior to the last project board meeting in March 2017.
- Preparations for the safe share HAN project moving to a production service.

**Further Background**

The safe share project is working with two particular research communities that use sensitive data to pilot the infrastructure:
- Biomedical researchers e.g. through the Farr Institute and the MRC Medical Bioinformatics initiative
- Administrative data researchers e.g. through the Administrative Data Research Network.

The safe share project is piloting a high capacity, encrypted network between research centres across the Janet network and investigating using the safe share infrastructure with local authorities and the Cabinet Office to extend the reach of the Public Services Network (PSN).

The project is also piloting an Authentication, Authorisation and Accounting Infrastructure (AAAI) to demonstrate how Jisc's trust and identity services can be used to control access to sensitive data to further enhance the UK's research capacity in areas, such as medical, clinical, health and the social sciences.

*This communication was reviewed at the last Project Board meeting on 7th December 2016.*

**For more information, please contact malcolm.teague@jisc.ac.uk, see https://www.jisc.ac.uk/rd/projects/safe-share, join the Community group at https://community.jisc.ac.uk/groups/safe-share-project, and follow #jiscsafeshare**

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[1] **https://community.jisc.ac.uk/library/network-and-technology-service-docs/assent-service-customer-list**