MONARCH Study Update and FAQs – May 2025

I am delighted to post the most recent FAQ document for the MONARCH Study. This primarily covers progress and developments since the previous iterations, but also includes answers to questions I am asked about MONARCH. This is a fairly short update as the main focus is the development and evaluation of the dashboard.

My role involves managing relationships with charities within the Armed Forces Charity Sector to ensure as much data is made available to the Project as possible. I'm here to keep you updated, answer any questions you may have, and to take back suggestions for future developments to Professor Matt Kiernan and his team. Do get in touch with me at meri@mericonsulting.co.uk if there is anything I can help with, that you'd like to discuss, or if you'd like to become involved.

Meri Mayhew

Charity Stakeholder Relationship Manager to the MONARCH Study

What has happened with the MONARCH Study so far in 2025?

Work has continued on the development of the MONARCH interactive dashboard. The geospatial element has added important search functions to the dashboard allowing searches to be undertaken by region, local authority area, NHS area, and Integrated Care Board area. This is in addition to demographic and needs-based searches e.g. by Service (RAF, RN, Army and RN), as well as a range of other searchable features. We are adding text boxes to help explain how to use the dashboard.

The dashboard evaluation is due to start this month, where we will ask users to test the dashboard and provide feedback so that we can continue to improve and refine it through 2025.

Other MONARCH developments include:

a. Secure repository for data to be uploaded. We are now successfully using a secure repository function for organisations to upload their data into MONARCH. This removes the need to send data using a password-protected excel spreadsheet.
b. Data Strategy Working Group (DSWG). The most recent meeting in February 2025 was an opportunity to demonstrate the latest iteration of the MONARCH dashboard and explain the planned evaluation. The meeting was also Sir Andrew Gregory's last meeting as Chair and we are currently waiting to understand some other important sector initiatives around data before seeking a new chair for the Data Strategy Working Group.
c. Cobseo Executive Committee meeting. Professor Matt Kiernan and I were invited to provide a short update on MONARCH to the March Cobseo Executive Committee meeting, with the option to join a longer and more comprehensive meeting on MONARCH and its functionality.

d. Stakeholder engagement. We have continued to liaise closely with MOD and OVA, they were very interested in the dataset and dashboard and have agreed to help us test the dashboard. In addition, we are continuing to engage with a range of stakeholders around the UK.

I hope this short update is helpful, and if you have any questions on MONARCH Study then please don't hesitate to contact me.