

Tool 1 — Neurodata Governance Decision Tool

Supplementary Table 6

Scientist-facing decision tool for assigning a provisional functional-exposure tier (5, 4, 3, 2, 1b, 1) to the particular neurodata object or artefact for the intended recipient, and for identifying the corresponding baseline safeguards. Highest tier governs; an Unknown answer takes the more protective branch; Step 0B may raise the minimum tier. Tier assignment supports governance decisions and does not establish legal classification or authorise processing.

Tier 1b: participant-level neurodata or derivative neurodata from which direct identifiers, identifying anatomy and identifying acquisition metadata have been removed, for which no code, key or institutional mapping is available to the intended recipient, and for which a documented disclosure-risk assessment concludes that no individual or small group can reasonably be identified by means reasonably likely to be used by that recipient (for public release: by any member of the public). Minimum measures: documented de-identification method; written confirmation of the absence of a linkage mechanism; Step 8 disclosure-risk assessment; licence or access condition prohibiting re-identification; record that legal status is recipient-relative.

Step	Question	Answer	Risk tier	Required action
Applicability checkpoint	Which statutory access regimes and ex ante data-protection, privacy-impact or privacy-risk assessment requirements may apply to the proposed activity? Consider the data category, holder, purpose, jurisdiction and application date, including EHDS where relevant. Assess legal applicability separately from functional-exposure tier.	Complete checkpoint	No tier is assigned at this step. Follow the instructions in the Required action column. Any tier identified at an earlier step remains applicable unless resolved through documented reassessment.	Record potentially applicable regimes and assessment requirements in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA) Record any unresolved applicability question and refer it to the responsible legal or institutional reviewer in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA) Continue to Step 1. Completion of this checkpoint does not resolve or waive an outstanding legal requirement.
0B	Participant status. Do the neurodata relate, in whole or in part, to (a) minors; (b) adults who lacked capacity to consent at collection; (c) deceased persons; (d) members of an Indigenous people or a community-governed or otherwise defined population with recognised governance interests; or (e) persons in a dependent relationship with the collecting institution (patients, employees, students, detainees)?	Yes (select all that apply)	No tier is assigned at this step. Follow the instructions in the Required action column. Any tier identified at an earlier step remains applicable unless resolved through documented reassessment.	Record each applicable status and the consent, assent, proxy-consent, community-approval or post-mortem rule relied on under Applicable Law in the Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA). Treat the minimum tier available at the Final Decision as one tier higher than otherwise determined (Tier 1 → Tier 1b; Tier 1b → Tier 2), unless a documented ethics or community determination permits otherwise. Where (d) applies, mark Tool 4 (Supplementary Table 9) Step 17 as required. Continue to Step 1.

Step	Question	Answer	Risk tier	Required action
OB	Participant status. Do the neurodata relate, in whole or in part, to (a) minors; (b) adults who lacked capacity to consent at collection; (c) deceased persons; (d) members of an Indigenous people or a community-governed or otherwise defined population with recognised governance interests; or (e) persons in a dependent relationship with the collecting institution (patients, employees, students, detainees)?	No	No tier is assigned at this step. Follow the instructions in the Required action column. Any tier identified at an earlier step remains applicable unless resolved through documented reassessment.	Record the basis for the answer in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA). Continue to Step 1.
OB	Participant status. Do the neurodata relate, in whole or in part, to (a) minors; (b) adults who lacked capacity to consent at collection; (c) deceased persons; (d) members of an Indigenous people or a community-governed or otherwise defined population with recognised governance interests; or (e) persons in a dependent relationship with the collecting institution (patients, employees, students, detainees)?	Unknown	No tier is assigned at this step. Follow the instructions in the Required action column. Any tier identified at an earlier step remains applicable unless resolved through documented reassessment.	Record the uncertainty; obtain the information from the Principal Investigator or data steward. Apply the 'Yes' action provisionally. Continue to Step 1.
1	Does this object contain, represent or derive from human neurodata? ? Examples include MRI, fMRI, EEG, MEG, ECoG, neural implant data, BCI recordings, neural features, embeddings, predictions, or AI models trained using neurodata.	No	No tier is assigned at this step. Follow the instructions in the Required action column. Any tier identified at an earlier step remains applicable unless resolved through documented reassessment.	Record why the object falls outside this Tool's scope in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA). Record the outcome as "Not applicable" in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA). Follow the institution's ordinary data-governance procedures. End this Tool.

Step	Question	Answer	Risk tier	Required action
1	Does this object contain, represent or derive from human neurodata? ? Examples include MRI, fMRI, EEG, MEG, ECoG, neural implant data, BCI recordings, neural features, embeddings, predictions, or AI models trained using neurodata.	Yes	No tier is assigned at this step. Follow the instructions in the Required action column. Any tier identified at an earlier step remains applicable unless resolved through documented reassessment.	Record the object's human-neurodata source or relationship in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA). Continue to Step 2A.
1	Does this object contain, represent or derive from human neurodata? ? Examples include MRI, fMRI, EEG, MEG, ECoG, neural implant data, BCI recordings, neural features, embeddings, predictions, or AI models trained using neurodata.	Unsure	No tier is assigned at this step. Follow the instructions in the Required action column. Any tier identified at an earlier step remains applicable unless resolved through documented reassessment.	Record the uncertainty in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA) Obtain clarification from the Principal Investigator, data steward or technical lead before beginning the proposed sharing or analysis. Pause this assessment. Return to Step 1 when the evidence supports "Yes" or "No".
2A	Is the object under assessment itself a trained AI model, model component, model gradient, shared embedding store, synthetic-data generator, federated-learning artefact or other persistent computational artefact that was trained on, fitted to or otherwise derived from human neurodata? Examples include model weights, foundation models, federated-learning systems, synthetic-data generators, model gradients, or shared embedding repositories.	Yes	No tier is assigned at this step. Follow the instructions in the Required action column. Any tier identified at an earlier step remains applicable unless resolved through documented reassessment.	Record the artefact, its version and the form of incorporation in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA). Mark Tool 3 (Supplementary Table 8) as required for this object. Continue to Step 2B.

Step	Question	Answer	Risk tier	Required action
2A	Is the object under assessment itself a trained AI model, model component, model gradient, shared embedding store, synthetic-data generator, federated-learning artefact or other persistent computational artefact that was trained on, fitted to or otherwise derived from human neurodata? Examples include model weights, foundation models, federated-learning systems, synthetic-data generators, model gradients, or shared embedding repositories.	No	No tier is assigned at this step. Follow the instructions in the Required action column. Any tier identified at an earlier step remains applicable unless resolved through documented reassessment.	Record the basis for this answer in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA). If a model has been or will be trained on this object, note that the model is a separate object requiring its own Tool 1 and Tool 3 assessment. Continue to Step 3.
2A	Is the object under assessment itself a trained AI model, model component, model gradient, shared embedding store, synthetic-data generator, federated-learning artefact or other persistent computational artefact that was trained on, fitted to or otherwise derived from human neurodata? Examples include model weights, foundation models, federated-learning systems, synthetic-data generators, model gradients, or shared embedding repositories.	Unknown	Tier 5	Record provisional Tier 5 in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA) and apply the Tier 5 safeguards specified in Annexure 1 §3.5 to the relevant object and activity. Request technical confirmation of whether incorporation has occurred. Continue to Step 3 to identify additional exposure and safeguards. When clarification is available, return to Step 2A: if "Yes", continue to Step 2B; if "No", document resolution of this provisional finding and continue to Step 3. Do not finalise a lower tier or proceed with affected sharing, transfer or deployment while this uncertainty remains unresolved.
2B	Is there evidence, or a reasonable possibility, that neural information persists within the model or computational infrastructure in a manner capable of supporting identification, inference, reconstruction, extraction or profiling of individuals or groups? Consider model memorisation, inversion, membership inference, extraction attacks, reconstructive outputs, shared embeddings and other forms of persistent representation.	Yes	Tier 5	Record a provisional Tier 5 condition in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA) and apply Tier 5 safeguards provisionally under Annexure 1 §3.5. Record the evidence or credible technical assessment supporting continuing functional exposure in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA). Initiate or complete Tool 3 (Supplementary Table 8) and apply the Tool 3 (Supplementary Table 8) return procedure below. Continue to Step 3 to identify additional exposure and safeguards. Tier 5 remains unconfirmed until the required assessment establishes its criteria
2B	Is there evidence, or a reasonable possibility, that neural information persists within the model or computational infrastructure in a manner capable of supporting identification, inference, reconstruction, extraction or profiling of individuals or groups? Consider model memorisation, inversion, membership inference, extraction attacks, reconstructive outputs, shared embeddings and other forms of persistent representation.	No	No tier is assigned at this step. Follow the instructions in the Required action column. Any tier identified at an earlier step remains applicable unless resolved through documented reassessment.	Record the supporting technical assessment in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA). Complete Tool 3 (Supplementary Table 8) because Step 2A was answered "Yes"; this answer does not remove that requirement. Apply the Tool 3 (Supplementary Table 8) return procedure below. Continue to Step 3. Do not remove an existing higher-tier finding solely on the basis of this answer.

Step	Question	Answer	Risk tier	Required action
2B	Is there evidence, or a reasonable possibility, that neural information persists within the model or computational infrastructure in a manner capable of supporting identification, inference, reconstruction, extraction or profiling of individuals or groups? Consider model memorisation, inversion, membership inference, extraction attacks, reconstructive outputs, shared embeddings and other forms of persistent representation.	Unknown	Tier 5	Record provisional Tier 5 in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA) and apply Tier 5 safeguards under Annexure 1 §3.5. Record the unresolved exposure question in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA). Obtain appropriate specialist technical, legal, ethics or institutional review and complete Tool 3 (Supplementary Table 8). Apply the Tool 3 (Supplementary Table 8) return procedure below. Continue to Step 3 to identify additional exposure and safeguards. Do not finalise a lower tier or proceed with affected sharing, transfer or deployment until the uncertainty is resolved.
3	Is this object a derived neurodata product rather than the original neurodata? ? Examples include embeddings, feature vectors, neural fingerprints, cognitive profiles, classifiers, predictions, or reconstructed neural representations.	Yes	No tier is assigned at this step. Follow the instructions in the Required action column. Any tier identified at an earlier step remains applicable unless resolved through documented reassessment.	Record the source neurodata and the transformation that produced the object in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA). Continue to Step 4.
3	Is this object a derived neurodata product rather than the original neurodata? ? Examples include embeddings, feature vectors, neural fingerprints, cognitive profiles, classifiers, predictions, or reconstructed neural representations.	No	No tier is assigned at this step. Follow the instructions in the Required action column. Any tier identified at an earlier step remains applicable unless resolved through documented reassessment.	Record the basis for treating the object as original neurodata. in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA). Continue to Step 5 to assess direct identification and traceability.
3	Is this object a derived neurodata product rather than the original neurodata? ? Examples include embeddings, feature vectors, neural fingerprints, cognitive profiles, classifiers, predictions, or reconstructed neural representations.	Unknown	No tier is assigned at this step. Follow the instructions in the Required action column. Any tier identified at an earlier step remains applicable unless resolved through documented reassessment.	Obtain provenance or processing information from the data steward or technical lead. Retain all existing tier findings and safeguards. Pause progression beyond this step. Return to Step 3 when the evidence supports "Yes" or "No".

Step	Question	Answer	Risk tier	Required action
4	Does this derived object have excess inferential capacity, that is, can it, alone or with information reasonably available to the intended recipient: (i) support inference about neurological, cognitive, emotional or behavioural states or traits outside the purpose for which the source neurodata were authorised; (ii) identify or trace a participant by itself (for example a functional-connectome fingerprint or a high-dimensional embedding unique to a participant); or (iii) reconstruct stimuli, speech, imagery or neural signals? Standard summary derivatives that reveal no more than the source dataset already reveals (for example regional volumes, connectivity matrices or spectral summaries used for the authorised purpose) do not satisfy this question and retain the source tier. Apply Annexure 1 §4.1.6 and the §2.1 distinction between ordinary aggregate description and material group-level Functional Exposure.	Yes	Tier 4	Record a Tier 4 finding and the relevant capability in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA). Restrict access to controlled access; document permitted uses and prohibited inferences in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA); prohibit unauthorised profiling, reconstruction and general-purpose AI training; and maintain provenance records. Obtain specialist governance review and complete Tool 3 (Supplementary Table 8). Complete Neuro-TADT (Tool 2) (Supplementary Table 7) before external sharing or international transfer. Retain any higher tier finding. Continue to Step 5.
4	Does this derived object have excess inferential capacity, that is, can it, alone or with information reasonably available to the intended recipient: (i) support inference about neurological, cognitive, emotional or behavioural states or traits outside the purpose for which the source neurodata were authorised; (ii) identify or trace a participant by itself (for example a functional-connectome fingerprint or a high-dimensional embedding unique to a participant); or (iii) reconstruct stimuli, speech, imagery or neural signals? Standard summary derivatives that reveal no more than the source dataset already reveals (for example regional volumes, connectivity matrices or spectral summaries used for the authorised purpose) do not satisfy this question and retain the source tier. Apply Annexure 1 §4.1.6 and the §2.1 distinction between ordinary aggregate description and material group-level Functional Exposure.	No	No tier is assigned at this step. Follow the instructions in the Required action column. Any tier identified at an earlier step remains applicable unless resolved through documented reassessment.	Record the evidence supporting this answer in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA), including why the derivative reveals no more than the source dataset and the additional information reasonably available to the intended recipient. Continue to Step 5.

Step	Question	Answer	Risk tier	Required action
4	Does this derived object have excess inferential capacity, that is, can it, alone or with information reasonably available to the intended recipient: (i) support inference about neurological, cognitive, emotional or behavioural states or traits outside the purpose for which the source neurodata were authorised; (ii) identify or trace a participant by itself (for example a functional-connectome fingerprint or a high-dimensional embedding unique to a participant); or (iii) reconstruct stimuli, speech, imagery or neural signals? Standard summary derivatives that reveal no more than the source dataset already reveals (for example regional volumes, connectivity matrices or spectral summaries used for the authorised purpose) do not satisfy this question and retain the source tier. Apply Annexure 1 §4.1.6 and the §2.1 distinction between ordinary aggregate description and material group-level Functional Exposure.	Unknown	Tier 4	Record provisional Tier 4 and the capability requiring assessment in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA). Apply the safeguards specified in the Step 4 "Yes" row provisionally. Complete Tool 3 (Supplementary Table 8) and obtain the specialist review needed to resolve the uncertainty. Retain any higher tier finding. Continue to Step 5.
5	Does the object contain direct identifiers, recognisable identifying anatomy, identifying acquisition metadata, or intrinsic information that reasonably permits participant identification or tracing beyond linkage through a separately protected code or mapping? Examples include names, identifying DICOM headers, non-defaced facial anatomy, identifying voice or video, or device identifiers and timestamps that enable tracing. Being a raw EEG, MEG, ECoG or MRI acquisition is not, by itself, a "Yes"; linkage solely through a protected code or mapping is assessed at Step 6.	Yes	Tier 3	Record a Tier 3 finding and the identifiers or intrinsic traceability identified in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA). Store the object in a secure controlled environment with encryption, role-based access, audit logs, and formal access approval. Remove unnecessary identifiers where feasible and restrict downloads and onward sharing. Complete Neuro-TADT (Tool 2) (Supplementary Table 7) before international transfer or external access. Retain any higher tier finding. Continue to Step 6.
5	Does the object contain direct identifiers, recognisable identifying anatomy, identifying acquisition metadata, or intrinsic information that reasonably permits participant identification or tracing beyond linkage through a separately protected code or mapping? Examples include names, identifying DICOM headers, non-defaced facial anatomy, identifying voice or video, or device identifiers and timestamps that enable tracing. Being a raw EEG, MEG, ECoG or MRI acquisition is not, by itself, a "Yes"; linkage solely through a protected code or mapping is assessed at Step 6.	No	No tier is assigned at this step. Follow the instructions in the Required action column. Any tier identified at an earlier step remains applicable unless resolved through documented reassessment.	Record the basis for concluding that the specified identifiers and intrinsic traceability are absent in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA). Continue to Step 6.

Step	Question	Answer	Risk tier	Required action
5	Does the object contain direct identifiers, recognisable identifying anatomy, identifying acquisition metadata, or intrinsic information that reasonably permits participant identification or tracing beyond linkage through a separately protected code or mapping? Examples include names, identifying DICOM headers, non-defaced facial anatomy, identifying voice or video, or device identifiers and timestamps that enable tracing. Being a raw EEG, MEG, ECoG or MRI acquisition is not, by itself, a “Yes”; linkage solely through a protected code or mapping is assessed at Step 6.	Unknown	Tier 3	Record provisional Tier 3 in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA). Apply the safeguards specified in the Step 5 “Yes” row provisionally. Assign an identifier and traceability review to the responsible data steward or technical reviewer. Retain any higher tier finding. Continue to Step 6. Return to Step 5 when the review supports “Yes” or “No”.
6	Does the object still contain participant-level neurodata that can be linked back to an individual through a code, repository record or institutional key that is available to, or obtainable by, the intended recipient? Where a key exists but is held by another party under a documented undertaking not to disclose it, answer ‘No’ for that recipient and ‘Yes’ for the key-holder, and record both. Example: a pseudonymised EEG dataset whose participant identifiers are held by the originating institution (‘Yes’ for the originating institution; ‘No’ for an external recipient that has no access to the key).	Yes	Tier 2	Record a Tier 2 finding, the linkage mechanism and the responsible custodian in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA). Use controlled-access repositories; separate and protect the linkage key; encrypt data in storage and transit; maintain access logs; and restrict re-identification and onward sharing. Put any required Data Use or Transfer Agreement in place before the relevant access or transfer. Where another institution holds the key, record its custody and restrictions without obtaining or disclosing the key. Retain any higher tier finding. Proceed to the Final Decision.
6	Does the object still contain participant-level neurodata that can be linked back to an individual through a code, repository record or institutional key that is available to, or obtainable by, the intended recipient? Where a key exists but is held by another party under a documented undertaking not to disclose it, answer ‘No’ for that recipient and ‘Yes’ for the key-holder, and record both. Example: a pseudonymised EEG dataset whose participant identifiers are held by the originating institution (‘Yes’ for the originating institution; ‘No’ for an external recipient that has no access to the key).	No	No tier is assigned at this step. Follow the instructions in the Required action column. Any tier identified at an earlier step remains applicable unless resolved through documented reassessment.	Record the evidence that no linkage mechanism is available to the intended recipient (key destroyed; or key-holder identified with its undertaking recorded) in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA). If a candidate, provisional or confirmed Tier 3, Tier 4 or Tier 5 finding remains active, proceed to the Final Decision. Otherwise, continue to Step 7.
6	Does the object still contain participant-level neurodata that can be linked back to an individual through a code, repository record or institutional key that is available to, or obtainable by, the intended recipient? Where a key exists but is held by another party under a documented undertaking not to disclose it, answer ‘No’ for that recipient and ‘Yes’ for the key-holder, and record both. Example: a pseudonymised EEG dataset whose participant identifiers are held by the originating institution (‘Yes’ for the originating institution; ‘No’ for an external recipient that has no access to the key).	Unknown	Tier 2	Record provisional Tier 2 in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA). Apply the linkage safeguards specified in the Step 6 “Yes” row to any existing or potentially retained linkage mechanism. Request confirmation from the data holder or repository custodian about whether participant-level linkage remains possible. Retain any higher tier finding. Proceed to the Final Decision with the uncertainty unresolved. When confirmation is available, return to Step 6 and follow the “Yes” or “No” branch.

Step	Question	Answer	Risk tier	Required action
7	Does the object contain only aggregated or summary-level information with no participant-level records or persistent participant trace? Example: A published study reporting only group-average brain activation patterns, summary statistics, or aggregate connectivity measures with no participant-level records or re-identifiable individual data.	Yes	No tier is assigned at this step. Follow the instructions in the Required action column. Any tier identified at an earlier step remains applicable unless resolved through documented reassessment.	Record the aggregation or summarisation method and the evidence that no participant-level records or persistent participant trace remain in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA). Continue to Step 8.
7	Does the object contain only aggregated or summary-level information with no participant-level records or persistent participant trace? Example: A published study reporting only group-average brain activation patterns, summary statistics, or aggregate connectivity measures with no participant-level records or re-identifiable individual data.	No	No tier is assigned at this step. Follow the instructions in the Required action column. Any tier identified at an earlier step remains applicable unless resolved through documented reassessment.	Record that the object contains participant-level records without an available linkage mechanism (candidate Tier 1b) in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA). Continue to Step 8 for the disclosure-risk assessment. Do not record 'Unclassified' at this step.
7	Does the object contain only aggregated or summary-level information with no participant-level records or persistent participant trace? Example: A published study reporting only group-average brain activation patterns, summary statistics, or aggregate connectivity measures with no participant-level records or re-identifiable individual data.	Unknown	No tier is assigned at this step. Follow the instructions in the Required action column. Any tier identified at an earlier step remains applicable unless resolved through documented reassessment.	Record that aggregate-only status has not been established Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA). Request technical review of participant-level records, persistent traces and the aggregation or summarisation method. Pause classification and retain any existing safeguards. Do not approve release through this Tool while the uncertainty remains unresolved. Return to Step 7 when the evidence supports "Yes" or "No".

Step	Question	Answer	Risk tier	Required action
8	Could an individual or small group still reasonably be identified by means reasonably likely to be used by the intended recipient (for public release: by any member of the public), through rare conditions, small sample sizes, unique characteristics, intrinsic signal characteristics known to permit re-identification for this modality (for example residual facial features after defacing; connectome fingerprints), accompanying metadata, or linkage with data reasonably available to the recipient? Example: a dataset describing a single participant with a rare neurological disorder, a very small cohort from one clinic, or records containing unique demographic or geographic metadata.	Yes	Tier 2 (minimum)	Record Tier 2 as the minimum applicable tier and identify the disclosure mechanism in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDATA). Increase aggregation, suppress disclosive information or strengthen de-identification where feasible. Determine and record the necessary access restrictions, including controlled access where required. Reassess the modified object before release, repeating Steps 5–8 and any earlier step affected by the modification. Retain any higher tier finding unless documented reassessment resolves it. Proceed to the Final Decision.
8	Could an individual or small group still reasonably be identified by means reasonably likely to be used by the intended recipient (for public release: by any member of the public), through rare conditions, small sample sizes, unique characteristics, intrinsic signal characteristics known to permit re-identification for this modality (for example residual facial features after defacing; connectome fingerprints), accompanying metadata, or linkage with data reasonably available to the recipient? Example: a dataset describing a single participant with a rare neurological disorder, a very small cohort from one clinic, or records containing unique demographic or geographic metadata.	No — and the object is aggregate-only (Step 7 'Yes')	Tier 1 Note: A Tier 1 outcome does not automatically exclude Annexure 3 in the MDATA. Apply the exception and triggers in Annexure 1 §7.2 in the MDATA to the particular object and proposed activity, and record the reason for completing or omitting Annexure 3 in the MDATA. A Tier 1 outcome shall not override a higher candidate, provisional or confirmed tier identified elsewhere in the assessment.	Record a Tier 1 finding and the supporting disclosure-risk assessment in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDATA). Document the aggregation or anonymisation method and confirm that no participant-level record, persistent participant trace or linkage mechanism remains in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDATA). Check the triggers and exceptions in Annexure 1 §7.2 and record why Tool 3 (Supplementary Table 8) is required or may be omitted. Do not use this finding to override a higher candidate, provisional or confirmed tier. Proceed to the Final Decision.

Step	Question	Answer	Risk tier	Required action
8	Could an individual or small group still reasonably be identified by means reasonably likely to be used by the intended recipient (for public release: by any member of the public), through rare conditions, small sample sizes, unique characteristics, intrinsic signal characteristics known to permit re-identification for this modality (for example residual facial features after defacing; connectome fingerprints), accompanying metadata, or linkage with data reasonably available to the recipient? Example: a dataset describing a single participant with a rare neurological disorder, a very small cohort from one clinic, or records containing unique demographic or geographic metadata.	No — and the object is participant-level (Step 7 'No')	Tier 1b Note: a Tier 1b finding is made for a specified recipient (or for the public) and may differ from the tier applying to the Data Exporter, which may retain a key (Tier 2). A Tier 1b outcome shall not override a higher candidate, provisional or confirmed tier identified elsewhere in the assessment.	Record a Tier 1b finding and the supporting disclosure-risk assessment in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA). Document the de-identification method (including defacing, header stripping and date shifting, with software and version), the absence of an available linkage mechanism, and the recipient (or 'public') for which the finding is made. Select and record the licence or access condition required by Annexure 1 §3.1b(d), including a prohibition on re-identification attempts. Apply any uplift required by Step 0B. Check the triggers and exceptions in Annexure 1 §7.2 and record why Tool 3 (Supplementary Table 8) is required or may be omitted. Do not use this finding to override a higher candidate, provisional or confirmed tier. Proceed to the Final Decision.
8	Could an individual or small group still reasonably be identified by means reasonably likely to be used by the intended recipient (for public release: by any member of the public), through rare conditions, small sample sizes, unique characteristics, intrinsic signal characteristics known to permit re-identification for this modality (for example residual facial features after defacing; connectome fingerprints), accompanying metadata, or linkage with data reasonably available to the recipient? Example: a dataset describing a single participant with a rare neurological disorder, a very small cohort from one clinic, or records containing unique demographic or geographic metadata.	Unknown	Tier 2	Record provisional Tier 2 in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA). Obtain a disclosure-risk review addressing rare conditions, small samples, unique characteristics, and accompanying metadata. Withhold release pending resolution of this uncertainty. Retain any higher tier finding. Proceed to the Final Decision with the uncertainty unresolved. Return to Step 8 when the review supports "Yes" or "No".
Final Decision	Have all applicable steps and required classification reviews been completed?	Complete assessment	-	Record the highest applicable tier and whether it is provisional or confirmed. Do not finalise a lower tier while a higher candidate or provisional finding remains unresolved. Retain all safeguards whose underlying conditions remain present. Save the outcome, supporting evidence, outstanding actions and responsible reviewer in the assessment record; incorporate or reference it in Neurodata Governance Assessment Record (Schedule B of the MDTAA). where applicable. Complete or update Tools 2 (Supplementary Table 7) and 3 (Supplementary Table 8) where required, then proceed to Tool 4 (Supplementary Table 9) where contractual implementation is needed. Do not begin the proposed activity until required safeguards and approvals are in place. Apply any tier uplift recorded at Step 0B before finalising.