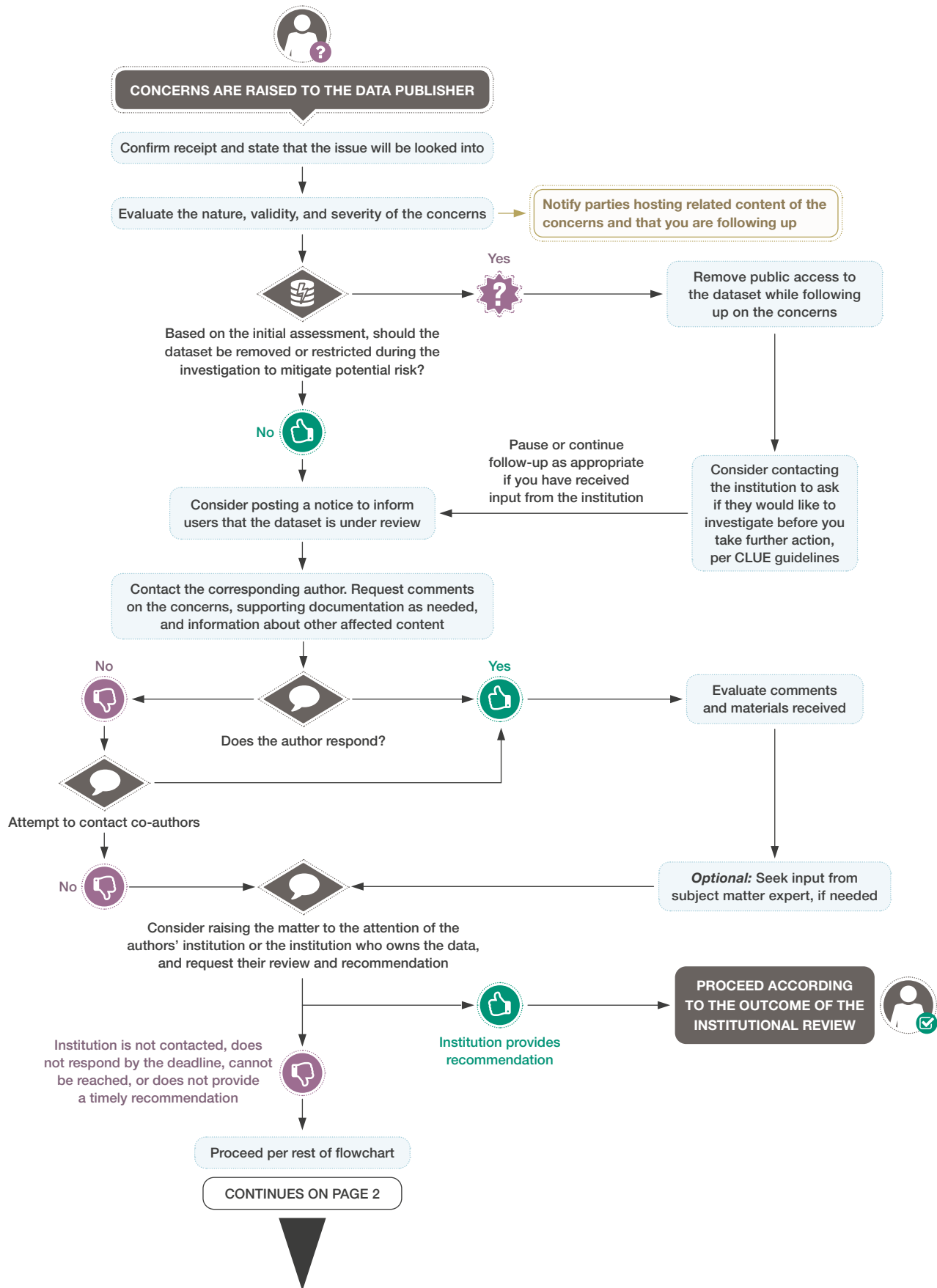


Concerns about risk (e.g. potential harm or privacy breach)

Post-publication



The FORCE11 & COPE Research Data Publishing Ethics Working Group Recommendations for the handling of ethical issues around data publication are available at <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5391293>

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Does the data publisher consider the perceived risk sufficient to warrant formal action on the dataset?

No risk



Yes¹



Can the concerns be addressed by restricting access, providing users additional information, or updating the dataset?²

No



Yes



Data concerns are resolved but a public notice is needed to provide users additional information



Issues can be addressed by dataset updates (e.g. to anonymize, deidentify, or remove data of concern)



Dataset access restrictions can address concerns

Remove the dataset

Restore access to the dataset if this was previously removed

Ask authors to provide updated dataset

Restore the dataset if it was removed at initial assessment stage and update permissions to restrict access

Prepare and publish public notice, collaborating with authors as appropriate

Complete relevant checks and publish the updated dataset

Consider posting a public notice on the dataset to provide users relevant information or to notify users of unresolved concerns³

Link the data identifier to a tombstone page⁴

NOTIFY PERSON WHO RAISED THE CONCERN, AUTHORS, AND AFFECTED THIRD PARTIES OF CASE OUTCOME



- Journal editors/publishers:** In cases where concerns are confirmed, it may be necessary to republish, retract, and/or remove the article or dataset. In deciding how to proceed, consider the extent to which the data in question affect the article, how data availability issues impact the article's compliance with editorial policies, and the extent to which the article's content needs to be modified to mitigate the risk. Pursue editorial action (e.g. correction, Expression of Concern, retraction) as warranted according to journal policies and COPE guidance.
- In cases where sensitive data comprise an essential aspect of the dataset, the data publisher may restrict access to the dataset or ask authors to make the sensitive data available upon request.
- The data publisher should consider what level of information is appropriate to include in a public notice, to avoid compromising sensitive information or informing users of sensitive information that was previously included.
- The tombstone page is a page that indicates that there was previously a data record which is no longer available, this should not note the reasons behind the dataset removal.

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