



HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY 香港金融管理局

Banking Supervision Department

銀行監理部

Our Ref.: B1/15C

12 October 2026

The Chief Executive
All Authorized Institutions

Dear Sir/Madam,

Practice Guide on Data Excellence

I am writing to draw your attention to a newly released “Practice Guide on Data Excellence” (Practice Guide). The Practice Guide sets out industry good practices that the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) expects Authorized Institutions (AIs) to take into account in strengthening their risk data management capabilities. It supports the HKMA’s continued efforts to promote Data Excellence under the New Risk Data Strategy of the Fintech Promotion Blueprint¹.

Data Excellence is a foundational enabler for the transformation of AIs’ business models. It offers the opportunities to reshape internal operations and redefine how products and services are delivered. By building robust risk data management capabilities, AIs are better positioned to unlock the potential of advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence and distributed ledger technologies. Ultimately, these enhanced capabilities improve institutional agility across the rapidly evolving business and risk landscape.

Through its ongoing engagement with AIs, the HKMA has observed proactive efforts of AIs to enhance their risk data management capabilities. These good practices are set out in the Practice Guide, covering the following three key focus areas:

- 1. Governance and Accountability** – AIs have defined roles and responsibilities across the data management lifecycle, from acquisition to processing and oversight. This includes designation of data owners and data stewards, as well as establishment of cross-functional working groups to facilitate alignment between business and technology functions. These arrangements are supported by enterprise-wide data management policies and standards, which promote the consistent application of data definitions across business functions.
- 2. Data Quality Management and Control** – AIs have established dedicated functions to oversee data quality. These functions monitor data quality metrics against predefined service level agreements (SLAs) for Critical Data Elements (CDEs). This

¹ Press release on “HKMA unveils Fintech Promotion Blueprint: From adoption to advancement”, February 2026. (<https://www.hkma.gov.hk/eng/news-and-media/press-releases/2026/02/20260203-3/>)

helps AIs prioritise remediation according to business criticality. AIs are also increasingly adopting automated validation throughout the data pipeline. These measures can prevent errors at source and improve data accuracy in downstream systems and processes.

3. **Data Infrastructure** – Some AIs have established data ingestion strategies that support the timely and cost-effective onboarding of data while accommodating evolving business requirements. Some AIs have adopted data mesh architectures to enable interoperability across data platforms. Under these architectures, data ownership can be decentralised to business domains within an institution-wide governance framework. Data catalogues have also been implemented to improve data discoverability. Some AIs are exploring the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenA.I.) to automate metadata documentation and support data mapping across systems.

Further details are set out in the **Annex**.

Alongside the Practice Guide, the HKMA has launched an industry consultation on Granular Data Reporting (GDR) 3.0³. GDR 3.0 will serve as a catalyst for AIs to further enhance their risk data management capabilities, while the Practice Guide provides a practical reference to support AIs in these enhancements.

In parallel with the established industry consultation channels, the HKMA is piloting a GDR 3.0 Co-design Mechanism. The mechanism enables individual AIs to pinpoint specific data fields and propose changes or comments directly in a machine-readable format. It also serves as an initial step towards the development of an artificial intelligence-ready data dictionary.

Should you have any questions regarding the Practice Guide, please contact us at all-banks-go-fintech@hkma.gov.hk. For any enquiries regarding the GDR 3.0 initiative, please contact us at gdr@hkma.gov.hk.

Yours faithfully,

Carmen Chu
Executive Director (Banking Supervision)

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³ Circular on “Granular Data Reporting 3.0”, April 2026. (<https://brdr.hkma.gov.hk/eng/doc-ldg/docId/getPdf/20260402-1-EN/20260402-1-EN.pdf>)