
Implementing responsible data stewardship practices

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UK Statistics Authority

UK Statistics Authority

- Independent body at arm's length from the Government.
 - Promote and safeguard the production and publication of official statistics that 'serve the public good'. This includes:
 - informing the public about social and economic matters;
 - assisting in the development and evaluation of public policy; and
 - regulating quality and publicly challenging the misuse of statistics.
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**UK Statistics
Authority**

Strategy



UK Statistics Authority
Five year strategy
2020 to 2025

Statistics for the public good

Informing the UK.
Improving lives.
Building the future.

Our Mission

High quality data and
analysis to **inform** the
UK, **improve lives** and
build the future.

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

Principles

Public Good

The use of data has clear benefits for users and serves the public good.



Confidentiality, data security

The data subject's identity (whether person or organisation) is protected, information is kept confidential and secure, and the issue of consent is considered appropriately.



Methods and Quality

The risks and limits of new technologies are considered and there is sufficient human oversight so that methods employed are consistent with recognised standards of integrity and quality.



Legal Compliance

Data used and methods employed are consistent with legal requirements such as Data Protection Legislation, the Human Rights Act 1998, the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, public equalities duty and the common law duty of confidence.



Public views & engagement

The views of the public are considered in light of the data used and the perceived benefits of the research.



Transparency

The access, use and sharing of data is **transparent**, and is communicated clearly and accessibly to the public.



Embedding these principles

“I believe that it is important that as the UK’s national statistical institute, we play a lead role in providing statisticians, researchers and analysts with applied sources of advice, guidance and other tools to help them ensure they use data in ethically appropriate ways.” (Sir Ian Diamond, February 2021)



Self-Assessment Tool

The self-assessment tool consists of 3 main sections for a researcher to complete:

1) Basic information

2) Weightings

3) Item scoring scales

Self-Assessment Form Version 2.1

Project Title

Project Timeline Please provide some details about your project timeline (e.g. start date, end date, any key dates for dissemination activities)

Project Summary Please provide some details about your project (e.g. data sources, how data are collected, used, processed and shared)

Public Benefit Please describe the public benefit of undertaking this project

	Weight level	Type 1 if applicable
Is this a data linkage project?	10%	
Does the project involve the use of sensitive personal data (under the DPA and GDPR)?	20%	
Does the project involve the use of patient health data?	40%	
Does the project include data on children or vulnerable adults?	40%	
Data Sources		
Social media	10%	
Rich media sources	15%	
Metadata or Paradata	5%	
Web scraped data	5%	
Big Data (inc. sensor and mobile data)	5%	

Result

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Project requires an ethical review before proceeding

Item	Principle	Score	Please type "1" in the appropriate box below to indicate your rating for each question. Please add a comment in the far right column to briefly justify your selection					Score per principle	Please use this section to give a short justification of your selected rating	
			1	2	3	4	5			N/A
1	Public benefit								-	Score Justification
2	Population coverage									
3	Potential harm									
4	Biases									
	Principle 2	Score							-	Score Justification
5	Direct identification									
6	Indirect identification									
7	Data Security									
8	Consent									
9	Permitted use of data									
	Principle 3	Score							-	Score Justification
10	Validity									
11	Standards									
12	Training									
13	Human oversight									
14	New technologies									
15	Potential to realise benefits									
	Principle 4	Score							-	Score Justification
	Established legal gateways									
	Established legal frameworks									
	Principle 5	Score							-	Score Justification
	Public views									
	Public engagement									
	Principle 6	Score							-	Score Justification
	Public access to outcomes									
	Sharing of methods or tools									
	Data curation and re-use									

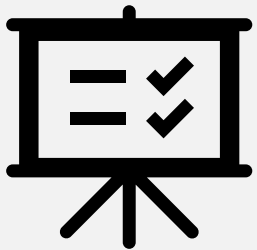
Support Services



User support service



Online training



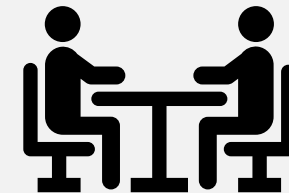
Engagement programme to raise visibility



International data stewardship programme



Guidance on cross cutting issues



NSDEC secretariat

Guidance



Use of geospatial data for research and statistics

Considering public good

Considering public views and engagement regarding the use of data

Using data from third parties

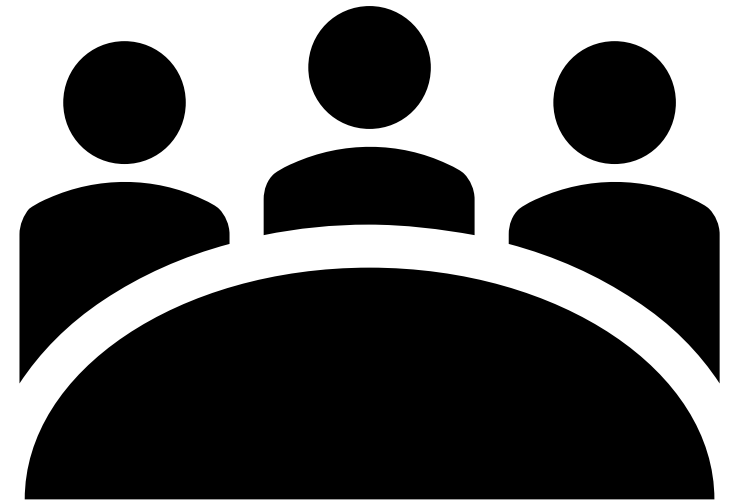
Use of machine learning

Inclusivity of data

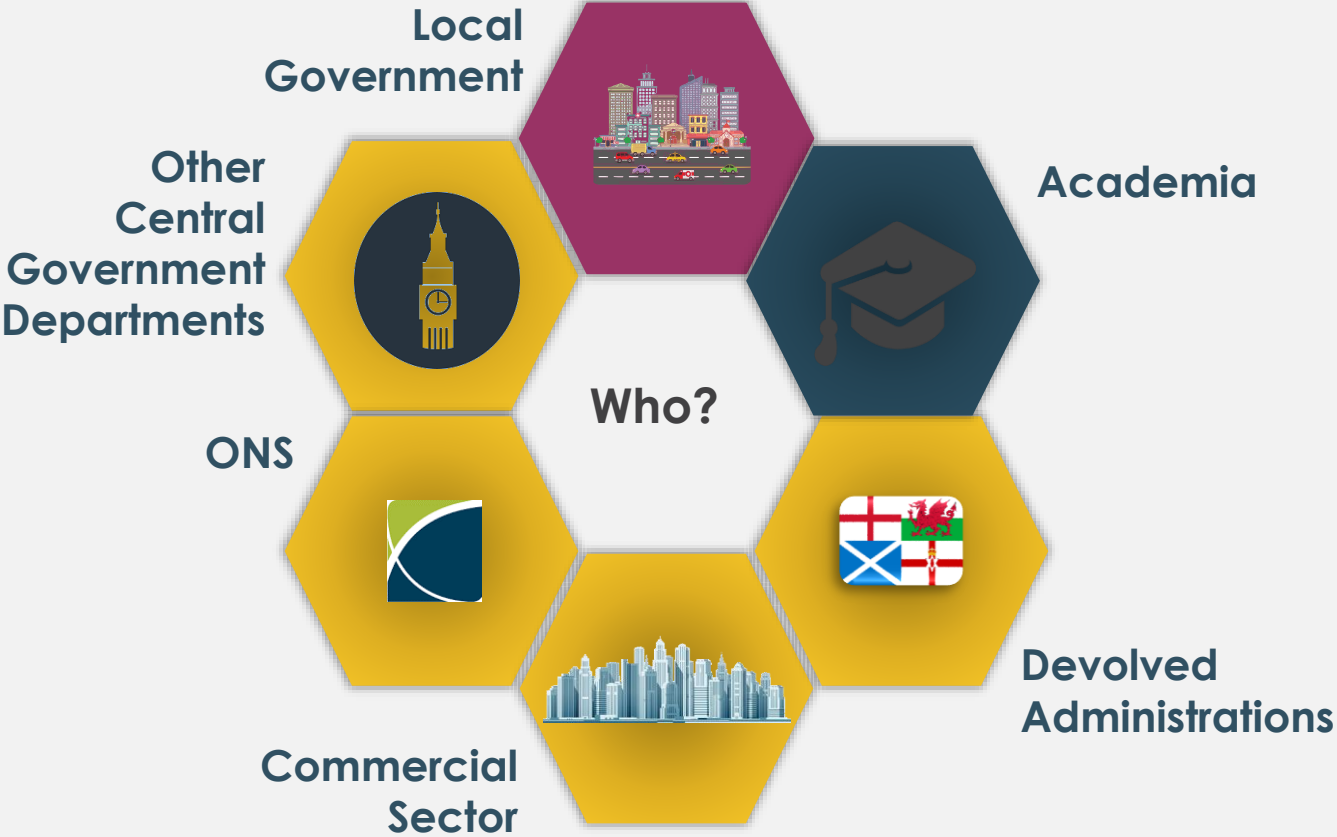
Qualitative Research methods

National Statistician's Data Ethics Advisory Committee

Provide **independent** and **transparent** advice to the National Statistician on the ethics of data collection and use for analytical purposes.



National Statistician's Data Ethics Advisory Committee



Project	Organisation
Assessing the algorithmic feasibility of COVID-19 specific vocal biomarker detection	JBC
Investigating vulnerabilities linked to serious youth violence using linked data	DfE & MoJ
COVID-19 Infection Survey	ONS & multiple partners
EU Settled Status Scheme (EUSS) Data Linkage Project	Welsh Gov & ADR Wales
Health and Work Support Pilot and Fair Start Scotland evaluation data linkage project	Scottish Gov
Management and Expectations Survey (MES) feedback and trial	ONS, ESRC, ESCoE & Be the Business

Impacts

512 research projects

8 guidance pieces

23 training events.

Communicated our work
at 38 events

UNECE data ethics deep
dive

Partnerships with
countries working with
ONS's international
development team to
provide advice on data
stewardship

Lessons learned on our journey

Support of senior leaders.

Identify best practice and create frameworks to apply best practice

Person/group responsible to support and provide training to NSO staff to use frameworks

Independent evaluation committee. to oversee use of the frameworks

Communicate work widely to increase trust and ensure NSOs are a thought leader.

Contact us: **Data.ethics@statistics.gov.uk**

Or visit our website:

<https://uksa.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/data-ethics/>
