



EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON QUALITY IN OFFICIAL STATISTICS 2024 ESTORIL - PORTUGAL



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The ethics self-assessment; a tool for the ethics of data use and re- use.

What is this tool? How and why we facilitate its use in the UK Statistics Authority?

Focus on data re-use.



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The conference is partly
financed by the European Union

Pamela Ambrossen June 2024



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Data re-use legislation in the UK

Administrative data is legally-protected data.
Access to it is governed by the Digital Economy
Act 2017 (DEA).

A legal and safe way to share data (admin and
survey) for research is the DEA.

The powers of the DEA allow to share de-
identified data for research in the public interest.

Ethics must be considered and the public good
must be clear among other conditions (training,
accreditation of researchers, etc).





Self-assessment tool.

The Centre for Applied Data Ethics (CADE) at the UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) plays an important role in reviewing the ethics of projects prior to them accessing data through Trusted Research Environments.

The tool is based on the UKSA's principles and sub-principles.



Self-Assessment Form Version 3.0

Project Title:

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

Project Timeline:

Please provide a detailed description of your project's research aims/questions including project partners and sponsors

Project Purpose:

Please provide some details about your project (e.g. how data are collected, used, processed and shared, as well as the research environment used)

Research Question:

Please provide detail of what data is being used, and what kind of data it is (i.e. Survey, Admin, Social Media, Web scrape etc)

Data Sources:



When completing the paper and online forms please provide a brief description of the data source and location with the project to understand the context of your project and how it is being undertaken

	Y/N or if applicable
Is this a data linkage project, or include linked data?	Y
Does the project involve the use of sensitive personal data (under the DPA and GDPR)?	Y
Does the project involve the use of patient level health data?	Y
Could this research or its outcomes relate to individuals based on their protected characteristics, as defined by the Equality Act 2010, or those deemed to be at greater risk of disadvantage?	Y

Result (Red/Amber/Green)	
-	Form not complete, please select an option in each of the drop down boxes and provide justifications

Item	Public Good	Drop Down	Justification Explanations	Score Justification
1	Public benefit	Please find our comprehensive public good guidance via this link	Please select an option in cell D29	
2	Population coverage		Please select an option in cell D30	

The tool in more detail



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Item	Public Good	Drop Down	Justification Suggestions	Score Justification
1	Public benefit	<p>Please find our comprehensive public good guidance via this link</p> <p><i>This research will provide a significant public good in line with best practice guidance</i></p>	<p>Please explain the public good for this project. A link to our public good guidance can be found to the left of the drop down statement</p>	<p>Analysing these datasets will provide stronger evidence base for policy-making.</p>
11	Standards	<p><i>The research organisation has established and tested procedures, and complies with recognised standards</i></p>	<p>Please explain the established research standards of the research organisation</p>	<p>Research will take place in a DEA Accredited secure research environment. All researchers are DEA-accredited or accredited under the SRSA Approved Researcher gateway. Research outputs will be subject to detailed peer review as part of the publication process. Conducting this work in a DEA accredited environment ensures compliance with recognised standards regarding capability (training, policies and procedures) and security.</p>
12	Training	<p><i>Researchers are appropriately trained to recognised standards</i></p>	<p>Please explain the training that researchers have received to do this research</p>	<p>All researchers have been accredited under the research strand of the Digital Economy Act 2017 or the approved researcher gateway under the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007.</p>

- Links with guidance.
- Over 1,000 projects reviewed using this framework.
- One day turnaround average time (with comments, mitigations, suggestions, escalation or sign off).
- Sign off the appropriate use of the tool. Our sign off is used to access data for re-use (all sectors).
- An excellent way to support researchers and statisticians to consider the ethics of their projects.



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Thank you!



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Contact us: data.ethics@statistics.gov.uk

Or visit our website:
<https://uksa.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/data-ethics/>