Centre for Applied Data Ethics

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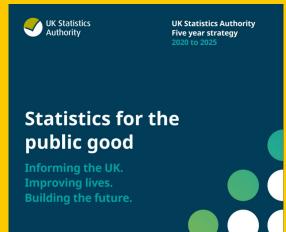**Lily O'Flynn**

Data Ethics Service Manager, UK Statistics Authority

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Our ambition

To be recognised leaders in the **practical application** of **data ethics** for **statistics** and **research**.

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

Why is ethics important?

Reduce potential harm to all individuals involved in research.

Key factor in maintaining public acceptability around the collection and use of public information.

Enables researchers to access and harness data that supports the production of statistics for the public good.

Ethical 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.

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

We want to hear **your feedback on the self-assessment tool**.
Have your say now: https://s.surveyplanet.com/YrL1hqV51

National Statistician's Data Ethics Advisory Committee

Who?

- Local Government
- Other Central Government Departments
- ONS
- Commercial Sector
- Academia
- Devolved Administrations

Project	Organisation
Student Suicide Statistics	ONS
Investigating vulnerabilities linked to serious youth violence using linked DfE & MoJ data	DfE & MoJ
COVID-19 Infection Survey	ONS & University of Oxford
Vulnerable Persons and Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme	ONS & Home Office
Measurement of Vulnerability of Children and Young People in England	Alma Economics (commissioned by the Children's Commissioner for England)

Our future plans for data ethics support

Continue to develop the **self-assessment tool and guidance** and provide **independent expert ethical advice** through **NSDEC.**

New online ethics training for the research and statistical community across **Government, academia and the commercial sector.**

A new ethics user support service for the research and statistics community to **provide ethics advice at the research design phase**.

Publish **new guidance on cross cutting ethical issues** in research and statistics.

Leadership of an international ethics work programme

Review of international ethical best practice.

Lead the development of international data ethics standards for research and statistics.

Work with other NSI's to consider and enable the application of ethical principles across different contexts.

These activities will be delivered by the **UKSA data ethics team** and guided by:

- ✓ An **independent** Advisory Committee
- ✓ Engagement with **international** and **domestic stakeholders**
- ✓ Engagement with **user groups** in the research and statistical community

What next?

User review

- **We need your feedback on the user self-assessment tool!** https://s.surveyplanet.com/YrL1hqV51

Landscape review

- We have published an initial landscape review of data ethics guidance and support in the UK.

Geo-location guidance

- We are currently collaborating with others to develop user guidance on the ethics of geo-location data.

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

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