
Centre for Applied Data Ethics

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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

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

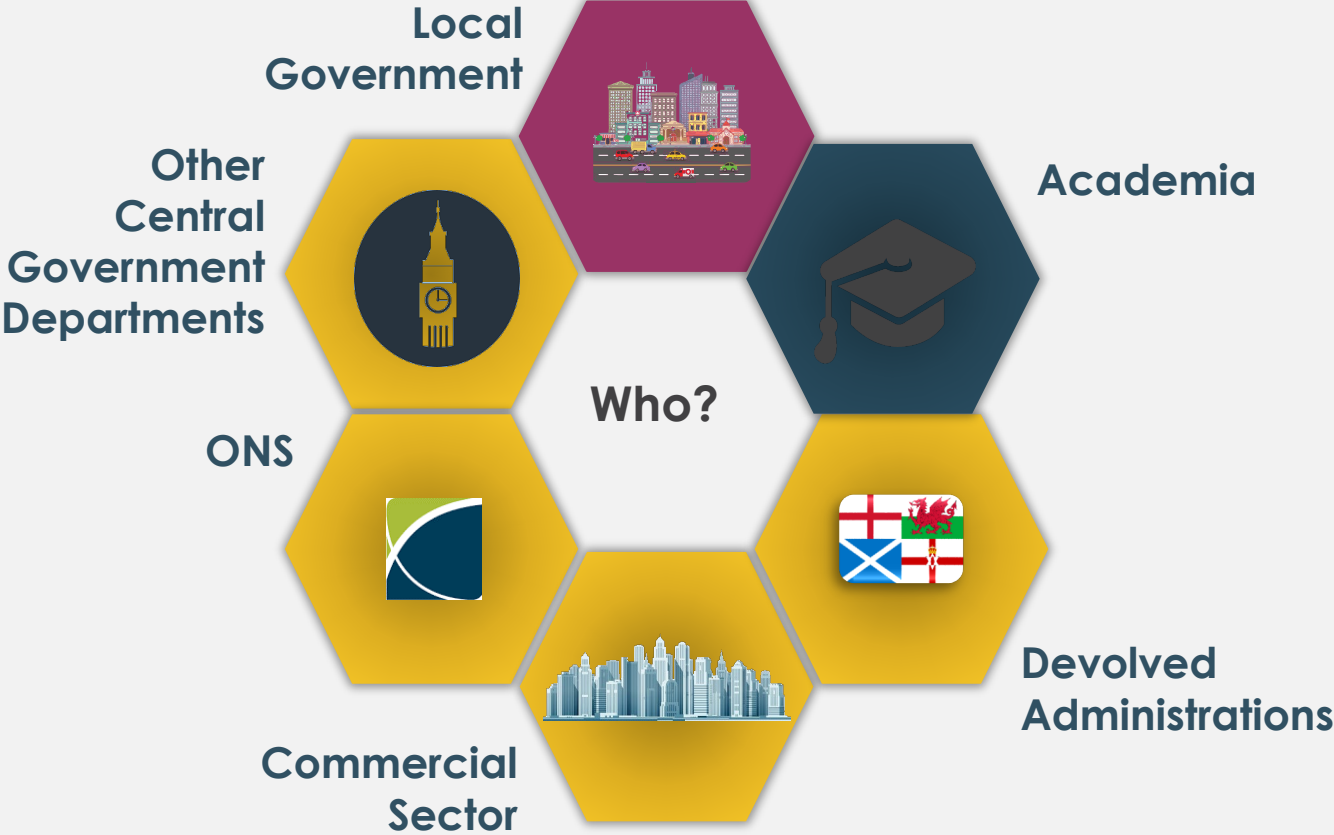
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Project requires an ethical review before proceeding

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
	Population coverage									
	Potential harm									
	Bias									
2	Direct identification								-	Score Justification
	Indirect identification									
	Data Security									
	Consent									
	Permitted use of data									
3	Validity								-	Score Justification
	Standards									
	Training									
	Human oversight									
	Potential to realise benefits									
4	Established legal gateways								-	Score Justification
	Established legal frameworks									
5	Public views								-	Score Justification
	Public engagement									
6	Public access to outcomes								-	Score Justification
	Sharing of methods or tools									
	Data curation and re-use									

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

National Statistician's Data Ethics Advisory Committee



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/>
