

FAQs: Ministry of Justice & Department for Education linked dataset briefing

ADR UK Research Fellowships 2025 funding opportunity

The following frequently asked questions were compiled from questions raised during a dataset briefing webinar on the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) & Department for Education (DfE) linked dataset – England, which was held to support the applications for the 2025 round of ADR UK Research Fellowships.

- [Find out more about the ADR UK Research Fellowships funding opportunity](#) – open for applications until 26 February 2026.
- [Find out more about the MoJ & DfE linked dataset.](#)
- Watch the [recorded webinar](#) about the dataset and access the [slide deck](#).

Dataset Coverage & Content

- 1. Does the linked dataset include only individuals with records in both DfE and MoJ data, or does it also include individuals with no criminal justice involvement?**
The data includes both offenders and non-offenders.
- 2. What geographical and temporal coverage does the dataset provide, and are there any notable gaps or limitations?**
The dataset covers individuals who went to school in England. For offenders, it covers those who offended in England and Wales that could be successfully matched to DfE (attended school in England).
- 3. Is there any information on victims, such as gender, to identify violence against women and girls (VAWG)?**
The dataset does not hold information on victims.
- 4. What data is available relating to child protection, such as children known to social care or on child protection plans, in addition to adverse childhood experiences and other vulnerability indicators?**
The dataset contains information held by DfE that is returned through either the Children in Need or Children Looked After data collections. This includes children who are referred to children's social care, children known to be looked after by local authorities.
- 5. Is there much information about individuals' health or medical diagnoses recorded within these datasets?**
The dataset contains information regarding a child's Special Educational Need, no other health related data is included.

6. **Are Police National Computer (PNC) flags (e.g. Domestic Abuse flag) included in the dataset?**

There is not a domestic abuse flag in the share.

7. **Is offender assessment system (OASys) data available for all individuals included in the PNC?**

For those that could be successfully matched between the PNC and OASYS, yes.

8. **Do you have an estimate of the percentage of children with an education record who ever appear in the PNC?**

MoJ and DfE looked at this briefly in their descriptive statistics publication which can be found [here](#). The cohorts of children within the analysis included all pupils who finished key stage two in 2007/08, 2008/09 or 2009/10 and were aged 10 at the start of these academic years. The analysis identified offenders within this cohort accounted to approximately 5% of the total pupil cohort.

Access & Permissions

9. **Are there any future plans to make the data available via the SAIL Databank, or is access limited to the ONS Secure Research Service?**

Access is currently limited to the ONS Secure Research Service.

10. **Is there a website or resource providing a complete list of variables, dataset descriptions, and details of current and past projects to help ensure proposals are novel?**

Please reach out to datalinkingteam@justice.gov.uk or data.sharing@education.gov.uk for the metadata. Previous approved projects can be found [here](#).

11. **Can applicants request feedback on their project ideas before applying for the fellowship?**

If resource allows, yes.

12. **To ask for feedback about a project, should applicants contact the data linking team email address?**

Please reach out to datalinkingteam@justice.gov.uk and data.sharing@education.gov.uk.

13. **Is there a separate approval process with MoJ and DfE in addition to ONS accreditation, and what does it involve?**

Yes, details on applying can be found [here](#).

Technical Support & Methodology

14. Will you consider projects using machine learning-based methodologies?

The ONS Secure Research Service permits the application of machine learning techniques on a case-by-case basis for research purposes. Those methods are subject to strict governance and security protocols. Any proposed use of machine learning must be discussed with the ONS Secure Research Service as part of the initial application.

15. Are there any training sessions or resources available for researchers new to administrative data?

This is not available at the moment.

16. Is there a synthetic dataset available for the MoJ–DfE share, and if so, how can it be accessed?

This is not available at the moment.