

An introduction to ADR Scotland

ADR Scotland is transforming the way researchers access public sector data to enable better informed policy decisions that will improve people's lives. This will be done through the creation of a portfolio of data that can be reused multiple times by researchers with a secure route for accredited researchers to use de-identified, linkable data from across the public sector.

Who we are

- ADR Scotland is a public sector partnership led by the Scottish Government and the Scottish Centre for Administrative Data Research (SCADR). Our key partners are NHS Scotland/Public Health Scotland, National Records of Scotland and EPCC at the University of Edinburgh.
- We form part of ADR UK (Administrative Data Research UK), which is a UK-wide, ESRC grant funded partnership comprised of three national partnerships and the Office of National Statistics (ONS).

How your data will be used

- ADR Scotland intends to hold linkable ready datasets in the custom built secure environment on a long-term basis, on behalf of data controllers. This will reduce the time and effort required by data controllers, data processors and researchers to provide and access data.
- The ADR Scotland approach is designed to ensure data controllers maintain control and visibility over how their data is used and have confidence that the data is secure.
- Data controllers may only need to go through the process of provisioning data once, rather than every time the data is requested for a research project and therefore benefit from a reduced administrative burden.
- ADR Scotland intends for researchers to be able to use comprehensive metadata to more easily identify suitable datasets and variables that can answer critical questions. This also has the potential to allow data controllers to better understand their data with feedback between researchers and data controllers being used to improve data quality.

How we keep your data secure

- The infrastructure that ADR Scotland uses is centred on a highly secure computing environment, which is linked to a trusted research environment known as the National Safe Haven. No single organisation will have access to all the information about a complete dataset or an individual.
- Data that is put into the system and used by researchers and analysts will have had all direct personal identifiers removed and outputs will be statistically checked before they leave the infrastructure to ensure individuals or small groups cannot be identified.