

The benefits of sharing data with ADR Scotland

Access to anonymised administrative data is extremely valuable to research. In particular when data is linked together, it can provide the opportunity for new insight. ADR Scotland is making the data linkage process quicker and more efficient by establishing a safe and secure environment that will provide a source of up-to-date, linkable data.

Reduced burden & improved quality

- Previously, after being linked for a specific project, datasets were destroyed.
- By establishing a safe and secure environment to host public sector administrative data, data controllers will only have to provide their data to ADR Scotland once (aside from providing updates) where it will then be held securely in a reusable format.
- This will reduce the time and effort required by both data controllers and researchers to carry out data linkage projects.
- Researchers may also be able to provide feedback to help data controllers better understand and improve their data.

Guaranteed security & transparency

- Projects will continue to be assessed by statistical, research and data protection experts and only approved for statistical and research purposes if the public benefit outweighs the privacy risk.
- The ADR Scotland model has been developed through a partnership of expert stakeholders to ensure transparency and the use of standardised procedures and processes.
- Data is stored, uploaded and processed in a highly secure computing environment that is subject to external, independent scrutiny. No single organisation will have all the information about a complete dataset or an individual.
- All data held by ADR Scotland follows the '[five safes framework](#)' - a set of principles devised by the Office for National Statistics that ensure the secure and effective access and use of data, alongside relevant legal basis and gateways.

Complete support and control

- Data controllers will always maintain control of their data and are able to choose their level of involvement in the approvals process.
- ADR Scotland will also provide ongoing support and guidance for data controllers to ensure relevant agreements are in place