



# Developments in Access to DWP Data

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# Background

- DWP led the legal strand of the taskforce
- DWP has legislation
  - “Section 123” that bars us from sharing personal data
  - Many statutory gateways that allow exceptions, for specific data to specific organisations for specific purposes – but not academic research
  - Our common law powers are eroded as a result, but the extent is periodically reviewed
  - Risk aversion
  - Resource constraints

# Developments

- DWP data strategy (NB applies to analytical and operational uses)
  - Legislation
    - To increase flexibility (subject to DPA), consistency & efficiency
    - Actively involved in CO led legislation work
  - Governance Issues
    - Process
      - External Data Sharing Advice Centre (EDSAC Single Gateway) – started April 2014
      - Revised “Data Handling Protocol” to make responsibility and authority clearer (Due Aug. 2014)
    - Accountability - Senior Responsible Officers (identify, engage and support)
      - EDSAC will help proposals get this in place
      - SRO Portal (Intranet guidance) opened to offer advice
      - Culture change strategy to promote information re-use and good risk management (rather than risk aversion)
      - Reviewing departmental risk appetite, and communicating it clearly to SROs
  - Technical/operational
    - Identify range of solutions (internal suppliers, dissemination methods)
    - Identify, promote use common strategic solutions
  - Cost and capacity framework
    - Consistent approach, allowing transparency to customer (and correct prioritisation)
  - Scope potentially wider than DWP
    - DWP holds Other Govt. Depts. Data
    - Open to acting as hub (subject to agreement, privacy etc.)

## Developments (2)

- Actively engaged in ADRN Board and at working level
  - Sharing products to make ADS and EDSAC links effective & efficient
- National information infrastructure
  - Listed our data, but little interest via that route
- Continuing work with ONS on Beyond 2011
- Released restricted version of the Family Resources Survey (pilot - lessons, products can be applied to admin data)
- Welfare Sector Transparency Board (met last Thursday)
- Work in UK Anonymisation Network
- Data for Externals strand in how the DWP Analytical Community Capability Building
- Discussing proposal for employment & benefits datalab along same lines as Justice lab

# All sorted?

- Still limits
  - Legislation
    - post-election
    - balance with privacy is meaning limits from the TTP approach
  - ADRN being developed
    - Need to see security assurance approach and detailed engagement in process
  - Still resource constraints in DWP
    - Applications need prioritisation, clarity, flexibility & early engagement to manage these
  - Outside public sector may still need consent to link data
    - Needs collaboration on wording standards
- But the developments will get us a long way

# Questions