

Administrative Data Taskforce

Purpose

The ADT seeks to propose new mechanisms and collaborative agreements to enable and promote the wider use of administrative data for research and policy purposes.

Terms of reference

The key role of the Taskforce was:

- identification of potential benefits and risks from increased research use of administrative data
- the development and introduction of common procedures to provide more efficient research access to administrative datasets
- clarification of the legal situation governing the research use of routine data
- clarification of when consent is required and what consent procedures should be used
- identification of possible need for legislative change to improve research access to administrative data for research
- the development of agreed methods for data linkage
- procedures to raise public awareness of the benefits arising from research use of administrative data and data linkage
- identification of likely resource implications arising from increased research use of administrative data.

Some secondary priorities for the Taskforce **could** include:

- further development of a 'metadata authority' to assemble and disseminate information relating to the research use of administrative data for research, for details of data linkage procedures and for the preservation of information relating to the quality of various administrative datasets as research resources
- agreement regarding the potential preservation and reuse of linked data
- guidance on data access, including the use of 'safe-settings' and how the research environment should be controlled
- proposals for how the quality of administrative data may be assessed.