



Better Knowledge Better Society

The recommendations of
the Administrative Data
Taskforce: progress to
date



Administrative Data
Research Network

An ESRC Data
Investment

The Taskforce Recommendations

R1 An Administrative Data Research Centre (ADRC) should be established in each of the four countries in the UK

R2 Legislation should be enacted to facilitate research access to administrative data and to allow data linkage between departments to take place more efficiently

R3 A single UK-wide researcher accreditation process, built on best national and international practice, should be established

R4 A strategy for engaging with the public should be instituted

R5 Sufficient funds should be put in place to support improved research access to and linkage between administrative data

That an Administrative Data Research Network should be formed



Recommendation 1

Four *Administrative Data Research Centres (ADRCs)* established – one each in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Partnership arrangements agreed with the national statistical authorities.

Each ADRC has its own research programme.

An *Administrative Data Service (ADS)* established to coordinate the work of the ADRCs and to act as the first point of contact for potential researchers.

A Governing Body (the *ADRN Board*) has been established, reporting to the UK Statistical Authority, with the chair nominated by and from the Board of the UKSA.



Recommendation 3

Progress is being made towards the development of a single UK-wide training and accreditation programme

Recommendation 4

Public engagement is paramount to the success of this major infrastructure development

Session 1 will provide updates on these recommendations



Recommendation 2

Cabinet Office leading on the development of a Data Sharing Bill, to be introduced in the next Parliament if the next government so wishes.

Provision within the prospective Bill (the 'de-identified data strand') to provide a single legal gateway for linking data for research, where data are held by separate departments/agencies.

Provision for HMRC to be able to share data with external research groups without the requirement that the supply must be in the operational interests of HMRC.

Session 2 will elaborate on the legal situation



Recommendation 5

In his October 2012 Autumn Statement, the Chancellor announced funding for the proposed ESRC 'Big Data' infrastructure. Within this, £34m was earmarked for the development of the Administrative Data Research Network.

Announcing the awards made for the ADRCs and the ADS, the Minister for Science and the Universities stated:

'Every day the world creates 2.5 quintillion bytes of data – equivalent to over 150,000 iPads worth of information. The power of computing in analysis of massive and mixed datasets will transform science and industry in the UK and through the creation of the Big Data Network and the ADRN; we hope to be well placed to take competitive advantage of this great technology.'

David Willets MP
Mountbatten Memorial Lecture
October 10th 2013





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What more is there to do?

How can we make it happen?"



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Building up the Network

The ADRN will provide safe, secure and well-governed access to administrative data for research. To gain maximum efficiency from this major national investment, all public sector departments and agencies should make this their primary route for data linking and sharing:

- Maximising the role of the ADS
- Utilising the secure access facilities and research expertise at the ADRCs
- Benefiting from the integrated relationship with the national statistical authorities
- Utilising the training and accreditation procedures under development



What are our competitors doing?

Germany

Research Data Centres have been established to provide safe and secure access to de-identified data

(examples – Integrated Employment Biographies; linked employer/employee datasets)

USA

Census Bureau has established Census Data Centres to facilitate linkage between surveys and Census data, and experimentation with other forms of data

(examples – Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics Program)



What is the next big step forward?

The *Census Longitudinal Studies* are remarkable in terms of their scale, longevity and coverage.

Gradually, the England and Wales LS, the Scottish LS and the Northern Ireland LS have been moving towards the development of a UK-wide resource.

These studies, via data linkage, have the potential to become a *population spine* for a wide range of research interests, covering health, the environment, social care, economic development, spatial inequalities, transport planning, etc.

Use this development to integrate the work of the Farr Institute and the ADRN.



How do we make things happen?

We need a UK-wide body that represents all of the interests within the ADRN, plus research funders (and our international partners in these developments).

This body should provide strategic advice to funders regarding the long-term development of research access to de-identified personal data.

The UK Data Forum is responsible for the *UK Strategy for Data Resources for Social and Economic Research* (the 'National Data Strategy')

'Administrative data is often collected without consideration of potential wider application and use, thus often is only fit for a single purpose. There is reluctance on the part of research scientists and government social scientists to utilise it for other purposes due to the difficulties in its reuse. The existing National Data Strategy should provide good practice and guidance on expanding the number of uses and the longevity of data collected at public expense.'

(House of Commons Science and Technology 3rd Report Session 2012-2013)

