

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Are you responding *primarily* as a data custodian, data user or data subject? (We recognise all people are data subjects and many organisations act as data guardians and data users, but please tick only one box)

Data Custodian

Data User (e.g. researcher)

Data Subject (e.g. member of the public or group representing citizens)

1. Are there any benefits of data linkage for statistical and research purposes that are not sufficiently described here?

Yes, there are further benefits No, the benefits are described fully

If you ticked 'yes', please describe the further benefits of data linkage for statistical and research purposes.

Comments

2. Are there challenges or barriers preventing more effective and efficient data linkages for statistical and research purposes taking place that are not sufficiently described here?

Yes, there are further challenges No, the challenges have been identified

If you ticked 'yes', please describe the challenges or barriers.

Speaking from experience of linking data across a number of organisations - there tends to be a general lack of awareness amongst researchers of their individual roles and responsibilities as data custodians/users if linked data are to be made publicly available (touched on in point 1. page 11). Currently there is little training provided on this and as a result we have found that individuals either link or share aspects of data that shouldn't be linked or, at the other end of the scale, we are too risk averse and do not share data. It is also not very clear which organisations/governing boards are the best places to go to for help (e.g. Information Commissioners Office).

In our own experience we had a change of lawyers half way through our linking work that provided different advice to the previous set of lawyers! For us it was important that clear consistent advice was obtained when considering data linking.

3. Are the guiding principles sufficient and appropriate? Please explain your answer fully and make suggestions for improvement.

Yes, they are sufficient and appropriate No, they are not

Please explain your answer fully and make suggestions for improvement.

Guiding principle 16 states that linked datasets should be kept for a minimum amount of time. If data are used for research and statistical purposes should the data actually be kept for a considerable/indefinite point in time, so long as the data are suitably protected and survey respondents are informed? How would the minimum amount of time be defined?

Guiding principle 19 states that risk of re-identification should be assessed by a suitable body – which bodies do you mean? Examples would be really useful here.

4a. Are the objectives set out for a Privacy Advisory Service in Section 3c the right ones?

Yes, the objectives are right

No, they are not

Please explain your answer fully and make suggestions for improvement.

Comments

4b. Do you wish to be consulted on firmer proposals for a Privacy Advisory service as and when they are developed?

Yes No

5a. Are the functions that will be led by the National Data Linkage Centre set out in section 3d the right ones?

Yes, they are the right functions

No, they are not

Please explain your answer fully and make suggestions for improvement.

Comments

5b. Do you wish to be consulted on firmer proposals for a National Data Linkage Centre as and when they are developed?

Yes No