



Understanding Longitudinal Population Study Data and the Law

Digital Economy Act (DEA) 2017

For more information
ukllc.ac.uk/lps-data-and-the-law

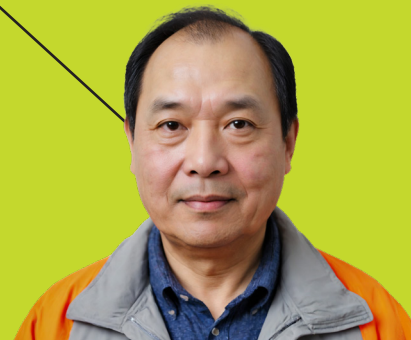
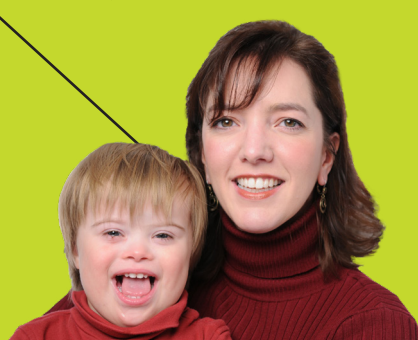
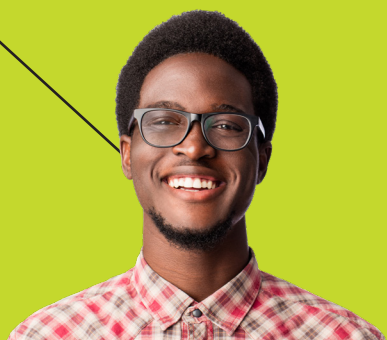
Section 64 of this law states that de-identified¹ data generated by government service providers, excluding NHS data, as part of their day-to-day functions, may be shared for public good research. It also makes sure there is privacy, clarity and consistency in how the data is shared.

“I’m a longitudinal population study participant, how does the Digital Economy Act affect me?”

“**Not all** longitudinal population studies **link to administrative data**, so it’s not something that happens automatically.”

“My longitudinal population study data can be linked to de-identified **administrative data**. For example, education, employment, tax, benefits and criminal justice records.”

“I can **object to or withdraw** permission² to have my study data linked to administrative data.”



“What does the Digital Economy Act mean for the longitudinal population study I’m part of?”

Your study may process and link study data with administrative data. Government service providers can share data for research as long as data is de-identified and held in a highly secure computing environment called a Trusted Research Environment.

Linking longitudinal population study data and administrative data offers researchers a broader range of information to learn about our society.

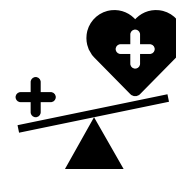
Benefits for linking administrative data



**Improve
departmental policies
and service delivery**



**Identify occupations
that pose higher
health risk**



**Enable more
inclusive research**

¹ De-identified data means that personal information such as name, birthdate and address of an individual is removed and replaced with a number or a code.

² You can contact your longitudinal population study team to request to opt-out or withdraw consent from your data being linked to administrative data.

Information correct at time of publication (v1, July 2024).
If you have any questions about how your data is making a difference for research, please contact your study team directly.

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