

# SECURE DATA SERVICE

Facilitating academic research

Keeping data safe





## Quality research depends on a lifeblood of information

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Collecting, analysing and interpreting economic and social data helps researchers answer important questions about our society, informing our personal understanding and our public policies.

The Secure Data Service ensures that researchers can continue this important work. We provide qualified and specially trained researchers with controlled access to sensitive and potentially disclosive personal or organisational information which cannot currently be released for research purposes under standard licensing arrangements.

The Service was established with ESRC funding and developed in consultation with secure data enclaves around the world.

### Data available

The Secure Data Service provides access to postcode-level or grid-referenced versions of major business and social datasets, including:

#### Business surveys

- Annual Business Inquiry
- New Earnings Survey
- Business Expenditure on Research and Development

#### Social surveys

- Annual Population Survey
- British Household Panel Survey
- Understanding Society



## How we work

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- The Secure Data Service is developed and delivered by staff of the UK Data Archive, the UK's largest repository of digital research data in the social sciences and a recognised expert in data management and preservation.
- Users must become members of the Secure Data Service before they can access secure data. This requires them to register and apply to become Approved or Accredited Researchers. They must also sign a user agreement and commit to a code of practice.
- Members benefit from face-to-face training on how to use the system, statistical disclosure control and the legal responsibilities and consequences of misuse.
- All data are held centrally on a secure server, and all data analysis takes place on that server, so that sensitive data never leave the secure environment.
- Members access the data remotely via a secure connection based on Citrix technology. For some data this will be from the user's desktop; other data may require a 'safe room' at a local institution.
- The Service provides a familiar analytical environment with statistical and MS Office tools which give researchers a comfortable 'home away from home' to conduct their analyses.
- All research outputs requested by researchers are checked to ensure that the conditions specified by the data guardian(s) regarding release of research outputs are satisfied.

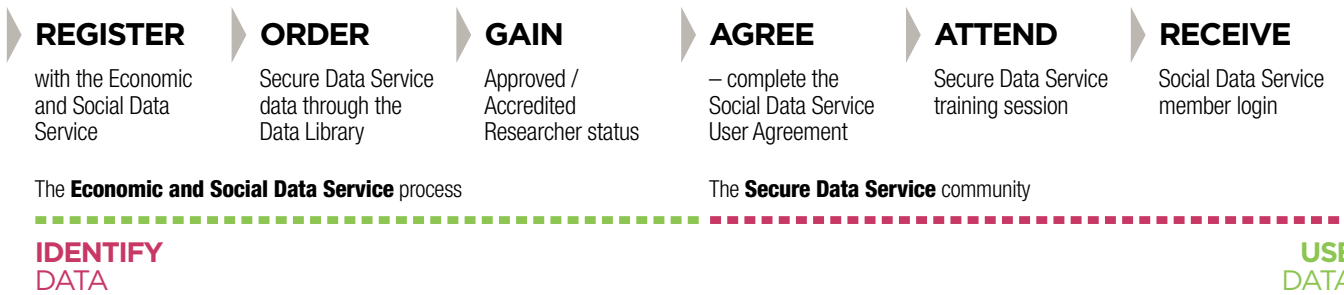
# How to become a member

Members are afforded secure, remote access to the restricted data in our catalogue.

Members also receive the training, support and advice necessary to manage and analyse the data in order to maximise research outputs while protecting respondents' privacy.

Because we take data security seriously, we offer membership only to qualified researchers who undertake a personal commitment to use our data securely. This is a two-way commitment that is enacted from registration through the end of a research project.

## There are six steps to apply to become a member



# How to entrust your data

We invite data owners to join us in our shared purpose: to enable responsible and secure access to detailed data that allows qualified and trained researchers to pursue answers to questions that benefit society.

We are happy to review your data and your needs and provide options that will allow you to maximise the research value of your data while ensuring the proper level of access and restrictions.

Please contact us directly for a consultation.

## The UK Data Archive provides a spectrum of options for data providers



Contact the **Secure Data Service** to discuss your needs

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Where you can learn more  
[securedata.data-archive.ac.uk](https://securedata.data-archive.ac.uk)

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Service delivered by the  
UK Data Archive



In partnership with the  
Economic and Social Data Service



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