



# Making linked administrative data available for research: a new UK-wide network

## How does it work?

A robust governance process will ensure that research proposals and the researchers themselves are subjected to independent scrutiny before access to data is allowed.

The ADRN, in turn, will provide a secure environment within which the researcher will access the data.

**No disclosive data will be released** – identifying information is removed from data before it is accessed by researchers and controls will be in place to ensure confidentiality of individuals is maintained.

We are currently testing and refining our procedures, with plans to be operational in Autumn 2014.

## Who's involved?

The Administrative Data Research Network is coordinated by the Administrative Data Service, led by [University of Essex](#).

It has four Administrative Data Research Centres – one in each country of the UK:

- ▶ England: led by [University of Southampton](#)
- ▶ Northern Ireland: led by [Queen's University Belfast](#)
- ▶ Scotland: led by [University of Edinburgh](#)
- ▶ Wales: led by [Swansea University](#)

The overall number of partners involved in the ADRN is far greater as the network spans:

- ▶ 4 countries
- ▶ 3 devolved governments (& England)
- ▶ 3 national statistics agencies
- ▶ 15 universities

## The key principles?

The Administrative Data Research Network aims to have the highest standards of secure data sharing, consistent across the network. Our services are built around the following principles:

- ▶ **safe projects and trusted researchers:** only accredited researchers whose projects have been approved by our Independent Approval Panel (IAP) will have access to the ADRN's services
- ▶ **de-identified data:** All data handled across the Network will be de-identified and cannot be directly associated with any specific individual
- ▶ **safe environments:** state-of-the-art technology and procedures will provide physical, hardware and software security across the whole network

Consultation is currently ongoing to determine the specific details of the policies and procedures by which the ADRN will operate.

# What is the ADRN?

The Administrative Data Research Network (ADRN) is a UK-wide partnership between universities, government departments and agencies, national statistics authorities, funders and the wider research community.

We help academic, government and third- sector researchers carry out social and economic research on linked, de-identified administrative data - information that is routinely collected by government organisations.