The potential and pitfalls of administrative data
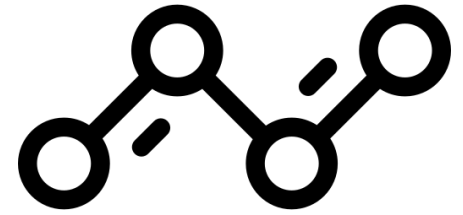
Who are the ADR UK partners?

ADR UK's approach

Investing in the development of new, linked datasets

Providing secure research access to administrative data, for projects that serve the public good

Funding research designed to inform policy, linked to ARIs

Creating sustainable, valuable resources for research

"Getting the right data in the right place at the right time is a fundamental driver of value for money in government: making services work for the people who use them, improving government's systems and processes, and supporting better decisions"

Challenges in using data across government, National Audit Office

'Data needs to be recognised and invested in as a collective national asset'

'Multiple recent parliamentary inquiries and independent reports have highlighted the need for government to do more to facilitate data sharing between departments for operational, statistical and research purposes…'

'The ADR UK investment in the ONS Secure Research Service (SRS) is enabling ONS to develop a new access platform to meet the new demands that will arise from researchers using the DEA…'

'ADR UK's new strategic investment fund is a welcome development that is being used to develop new data linkage resources… Part of the investment will go towards data quality improvements which can often be a barrier to linkage'.

Office for
Statistics Regulation

Systemic Review Programme

Joining Up Data for Better Statistics – October 2019 update

ADR UK

E·S·R·C
ECONOMIC
& SOCIAL
RESEARCH
COUNCIL

UK Research and Innovation

Lessons learned

- **Incentives are now there:** ADR UK is about meeting *government* priorities for analysis and evidence

- **Structural issues resolved:** Fewer organisations involved and strengthened role for ONS as the data infrastructure hub - key to gaining public trust and acceptability

- **Governance much tighter:** will mean a better experience for government and researchers

- **'Create and destroy' does not work:** need to invest in curated datasets designed to meet research priorities

Linking Census and educational outcomes data for England

ADR UK is currently working with ONS and DfE to link data from the 2011 Census with a bespoke extract of the All Education Dataset for England (AEDE).

Ministry of Justice

Understanding users of the justice system (e.g. civil, family and criminal) better, to improve services.
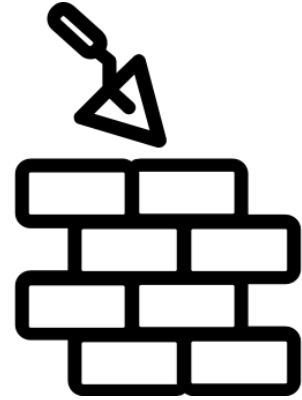
What do the public think?

- There is support for the use of linked admin data when there is **social value/public benefit**

- Tend to think that **data is already linked and shared** across government

- Happy for data to be linked and shared as long as the **necessary protections** are in place and data cannot be re-identified
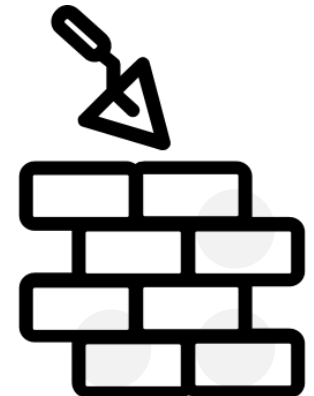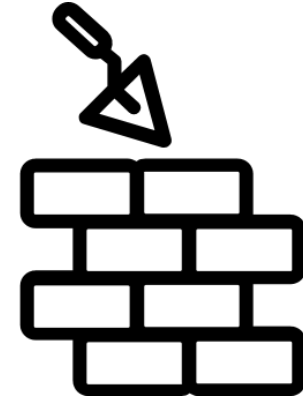
ADR UK

E·S·R·C ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RESEARCH COUNCIL | UK Research and Innovation

Why are things different now?

- The **Digital Economy Act,** supported by governance bodies (ethics, public good)

- A UK-wide government-backed **network of funded secure research services**

- **Advocates** within government and related organisations

- A body of **supportive evidence** from public engagement activities

So - why does replication matter?

- **Credibility of insights**

- **Standing up to scrutiny**

- **Long term policy and investment planning**

- **Voice**

- **Trust**

Administrative data is an invaluable resource for public good.

Let's use it.