

Research, Archiving and Statistics Provisions - Consultation on Updated Guidance

Overview

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is consulting on [updates to our guidance on the Research, Archiving and Statistics \(RAS\) Provisions](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fico.org.uk%2Ffor-organisations%2Fresearch-archiving-and-statistics-provisions%2F&data=05%7C02%7CLaura.Brockbank%40ico.org.uk%7Cf93fe754789247def30d08de75599db3%7C501293238fab4000adc1c4cfefba21e6%7C0%7C0%7C) <<https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fico.org.uk%2Ffor-organisations%2Fresearch-archiving-and-statistics-provisions%2F&data=05%7C02%7CLaura.Brockbank%40ico.org.uk%7Cf93fe754789247def30d08de75599db3%7C501293238fab4000adc1c4cfefba21e6%7C0%7C0%7C>> .

The updates to our guidance follow the introduction of the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 (DUA Act 2025). Your responses will help us provide any further clarity needed in the final guidance update.

We have revised our criteria for scientific research after requests for more clarity in this area. We particularly welcome your views on the new text.

We would also welcome your views on our position around the new disproportionate effort exemption (under section 77 of the DUA Act 2025) from the requirement to inform data subjects that you intend to re-use previously collected data for research purposes.

We welcome feedback to the questions set out in the survey. This survey is split into the following sections:

- Section 1: About you
- Section 2: About your organisation
- Section 3: Your views on our draft updated guidance
- Section 4: Your views on the impact of our updated guidance
- Section 5: Final comments

The consultation will remain open until 23.59 on 27 April 2026. We may not consider responses received after this deadline.

Privacy Statement

For this consultation, depending on your preference, we may publish in full the responses received from organisations or a summary of the responses. If we do publish any responses, we will remove email addresses and telephone numbers from these responses. Please do not to share any information in your response which you would not be happy for us to make publicly available.

Should we receive an FOI request for your response we will always seek to consult with you for your views on the disclosure of this information before any decision is made. For more information about what we do with personal data please see our [privacy notice](https://ico.org.uk/global/privacy-notice/) <<https://ico.org.uk/global/privacy-notice/>> , and the section on [responding to our consultations and surveys](https://ico.org.uk/global/privacy-notice/responding-to-our-consultation-requests-and-surveys/) <<https://ico.org.uk/global/privacy-notice/responding-to-our-consultation-requests-and-surveys/>> .

Please note that we are using the platform Citizen Space to gather this information on our behalf. Citizen Space is provided by a UK supplier, Delib. You can read Delib's privacy policy [here](https://www.delib.net/legal/privacy_notice/) <https://www.delib.net/legal/privacy_notice/> .

About you

1 Are you answering:

(Required)

Please select only one item

- On behalf of an organisation
- As an academic or researcher
- As an individual acting in a professional capacity
- As an individual acting in a private capacity (for example, providing your views as a member of the public)

About your organisation

2 Which of the following sectors best describes your organisation?

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Private sector
- Public sector (for example, local authority, government department, NHS)
- Third sector (for example charity, not for profit)
- Other (please specify)

If you answered "other", please specify what best describes your organisation here.

3 Approximately how many employees does your organisation have?

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Zero employees or sole trader
- 1 to 9
- 10 to 49
- 50 to 249
- 250 to 499
- 500 or more

4 Where is your organisation based?

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Headquartered in the UK
- A multinational organisation with a UK presence
- Solely based in the UK
- Unsure/ don't know
- Other (please specify)

If you answered "other", please specify what best describes your organisation here.

5 Which of these best describes the main industry that your organisation operates in?

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing
- Mining and Quarrying
- Manufacturing
- Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
- Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities
- Construction
- Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles
- Transportation and storage
- Accommodation and food service activities
- Information and communication
- Financial and insurance activities
- Real estate activities
- Professional, scientific and technical activities
- Administrative and support service activities
- Public administration and defence; compulsory social security
- Education
- Human health and social work activities
- Arts, entertainment and recreation
- Other service activities
- Don't know / unsure
- Other (please specify)

If you answered "other", please specify what best describes your organisation here.

6 To what extent do the Research, Archiving and Statistics (RAS) Provisions affect strategic or business decisions within your organisation?

Please select only one item

- The RAS provisions are a major feature in most of our decision-making
- The RAS provisions are a major feature but only in specific circumstances
- The RAS provisions are a relatively minor feature in our decision-making
- The RAS provisions do not feature in our decision-making
- Unsure/don't know

Your views on our draft updated guidance

7 Did you find the draft guidance clear and easy to read or use?

Please select only one item

- Yes
- Unsure/don't know
- No

What did you like about the draft guidance?

What could be improved about the draft guidance?

8 To what extent do you agree that the updated guidance clearly explains the changes to the RAS Provisions under the DUA Act 2025?

Please select only one item

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Don't know/unsure
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please explain your answer

9 To what extent do you agree that the guidance makes it clear when and how you are able to use the provisions?

Please select only one item

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Unsure/don't know
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please explain your answer

10 To what extent do you agree that the definitions of scientific/historical research, archiving in the public interest and statistical purposes are clear and helpful?

Please select only one item

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Don't know/unsure
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please explain your answer

11 To what extent do you agree that the additional criteria for scientific research are clear and helpful?

Please select only one item

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Don't know/unsure
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please explain your answer

12 To what extent do you agree that our guidance on when and how you can use the Section 77 exemption is clear and helpful? This is the exemption from the requirement to inform data subjects that you are going to re-use data you collected previously for research purposes if to do so would entail disproportionate effort.

Please select only one item

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Don't know/unsure
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please explain your answer

13 Is there anything missing that you would like to see added to the final guidance?

Please add your answer here

About the impact of our updated guidance

14 Do you think that the updated guidance presents additional:

Please select only one item

- Costs or burdens to your organisation or profession
- Benefits to your organisation or profession
- Both
- Neither
- Unsure/don't know

Please explain your answer

Final comments

15 We may wish to contact you for further details on your response. If you are happy to be contacted, please provide an e-mail address below.

Please provide your e-mail address

16 Before completing this consultation, do you have any final comments that you have not made elsewhere?

Please add any final comments here