

Covid-19 – Priority Bespoke Data Access Requests - Scottish Government

This note provides additional guidance further to our statement from 24 March 2020, where we indicated that we are unable to accept any new bespoke data access requests for Scottish Government datasets or NRS census data unless these are considered COVID-19 related and priority research. This is an evolving situation and guidance will be updated as the current Covid-19 public health emergency progresses. Previous guidance can be found here:

<https://blogs.gov.scot/statistics/2020/04/02/bespoke-data-access-requests-covid-19-update/>

Priority research is considered to be research that will support Covid decision making on the basis of the following criteria:

- Supporting policies and interventions for Scotland's wider national interests over the course of the current public health emergency, particularly as regards strategies and approaches for the re-opening of the country, recovery phase and consequence management
- Confirmation of feasibility / viability as well as ability to be delivered quickly, including consistent with ease of communication and compliance with current guidance, policy and legislation on Covid-19, e.g. physical distancing etc
- New studies, projects and programmes relating to Covid -19 and existing ones addressing Covid-19 elements
- Applications will be processed in order of submission

We have prepared a revised application process for these types of requests, this includes:

- Streamlined application form and guidance
- 1 week review process for NRS Census data and SG data, except Education
- 2 week review process for SG Education data
- Data sharing agreements, Data Protection Impact Assessments, Controller/ Processor agreements (where applicable) will still be required – please factor this in when applying for data.
- Data will only be accessed via remote access to the National Safe Haven

We appreciate that some projects are likely to require approvals by more than just the Statistics PBPPs, as they may draw on other data controllers data sources. eDRIS research co-ordinators will still assist with the process for gaining these permissions to ensure continued oversight and consistency.

To access our revised materials, please contact statistics.enquiries@gov.scot or your eDRIS research co-ordinator for those projects that require data linkage.

Our SG data is still accessible via the Open data platform: www.statistics.gov.scot or in over the one hundred bulletins we publish each year, most of which include data that can be downloaded.