

The National Pupil Database

Paul Sinclair
Department for Education
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Department for Education

What is the National Pupil Database?

- A longitudinal database linking individual pupil/student characteristics (e.g. Ethnicity) to information about their attainment at each Key Stage.
 - pupil level attainment and characteristics in schools;
 - attainment and characteristics in early years;
 - attainment and characteristics in alternative provision and pupil referral units;
 - Pupil absences and exclusions;
 - Looked after children and children in need; and
 - Detailed geographic breakdowns
- Information is held for all children in maintained schools in England back to 2002; with some sources dating back to 1996.



How have we opened up access to the data?

- **The Department has powers under data sharing regulations** which allow us to share data from the NPD.
- **A wide and varied range of 3rd parties** have accessed the data subject to terms & conditions over the last 10 years - circa 400 enquiries / requests pa.
- **At the end of July 2012 we launched an updated process** to request access to data from the NPD under terms and conditions, raising awareness and encouraging a wider range of third parties to request access to the data.
- **Different tiers of access are available** so that 3rd parties can request access to the information that is important to them, subject to 3rd parties signing up to our terms and conditions and demonstrating that they have appropriate data security arrangements in place.



Different tiers of access are available

Information Tier / Type	Description
1. Individual pupil level data - Identifying and / or Identifiable and Highly Sensitive	Individual pupil level extracts that include identifying and highly sensitive information about pupils and their characteristics.
2. Individual pupil level data – Identifiable and Sensitive	Individual pupil level extracts that include sensitive information about pupils and their characteristics
3. Aggregate School level data – Identifiable and Sensitive	Aggregated extracts of school level data from the Department’s School Level Database.
4. Individual pupil level data – Identifiable	Individual pupil level extracts that do not contain information about pupils and their characteristics which is considered to be sensitive.



What do 3rd parties have to do to get access to the data?

- The level of governance and scrutiny applied to requests for access to the data is proportionate to the sensitivity of the data being requested.
- Third parties requesting data in any tier are required to complete a standard application pack and provide:
 - a signed non-disclosure agreement;
 - assurances that everyone who will access the data will meet the terms and conditions; and
 - evidence of the security and data protection arrangements that they will apply to the data (the data security form).
- We operate a 'fast track process'. Once accredited third parties are not required to complete the data security form each time they apply for the same tier.



Requests for access to the most sensitive data...

- Third parties requesting access to the most sensitive information have to provide additional assurances to get their applications approved. For example requests for:
 - any sensitive data (e.g. information about ethnicity, Special Educational Needs and Free School Meal eligibility) are required to provide additional information explaining why they require access to the data.
 - the most sensitive data are required to provide additional information about the security arrangements they have in place to store and process the data.
- These requests are placed under extra scrutiny and are escalated to a panel of senior officials for approval.



New developments

New paperwork / access arrangements

- We have reviewed the paperwork and will be soon be issuing some updated documents.

Using the data from the NPD for a wider range of purposes

- The Department has decided to broaden the sharing of data from:
 - persons *‘conducting research into the educational achievement of pupils’*; to
 - *‘persons who, for the purpose of promoting the education or well-being of children in England are—*
 - *conducting research or analysis,*
 - *producing statistics, or*
 - *providing information, advice or guidance,*
 - *and who require individual pupil information for that purpose’*



New developments

Linked Data

- We are working with colleagues in BIS and HESA to open up access to linked data (NPD / ILR / HESA) held by DfE.
- DfE will process requests on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency and HESA.
 - 3rd parties will make one application.
 - Each party will make their own decisions about what to release.
 - 3rd parties will enter into a licence agreement with all the relevant parties.
 - DfE will process and send the linked data to accredited 3rd parties.



Useful sources of information

www.education.gov.uk/npd

[**npd.requests@education.gsi.gov.uk**](mailto:npd.requests@education.gsi.gov.uk)



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Any Questions?



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