

# **Statistics and Research for the Public Good**

**Ross Young**

# Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007

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- The UK Statistics Authority (and the Office for National Statistics) has the statutory objective to promote and safeguard the production and publication of official statistics to “**serve the public good**” ...
- ...And to **promote and assist statistical research**, in particular by providing access to data.

# Promoting, safeguarding, public good

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- Promoting and safeguarding...

  - **Quality** of statistics

    - Impartiality, accuracy, relevance
    - Coherence with other statistics

  - Statistical **good practice** and accessibility

  - **Comprehensiveness** of statistics

- Public good...

  - Informing the public about **society and the economy**

  - Assisting in development and evaluation of **public policy**



# Digital Economy Act 2017

## 2017 CHAPTER 30

An Act to make provision about electronic communications infrastructure and services; to provide for restricting access to online pornography; to make provision about protection of intellectual property in connection with electronic communications; to make provision about data-sharing; to make provision in connection with section 68 of the Telecommunications Act 1984; to make provision about functions of OFCOM in relation to the BBC; to provide for determination by the BBC of age-related TV licence fee concessions; to make provision about the regulation of direct marketing; to make other provision about OFCOM and its functions; to make provision about internet filters; to make provision about preventing or restricting the use of communication devices in connection with drug dealing offences; to confer power to create an offence of breaching limits on ticket sales; to make provision about the payment of charges to the Information Commissioner; to make provision about payment systems and securities settlement systems; to make provision about qualifications in information technology; and for connected purposes. [27th April 2017]

**B**E IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows: —

# Supporting UK Statistics

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- Give ONS a right of access to data for statistical/research purposes only
- Enable secure data shares with Devolved Administrations to support their statistical needs from devolution
- Protect privacy and security of data; reaffirm rigorous penalties for misuse
- Duty to consult statisticians on changes to data systems
- Statement of Principles/Code of Practice – currently in draft, public consultation...

# 6 Principles

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- **Public good**
- Confidentiality
- Transparency
- Ethical and legal
- Proportional
- Collaborative



## **Delivering better statistics for better decisions**

Why we need new legislation  
for better access to data

# Supporting UK Research

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- Sharing of public data for research purposes
- UKSA as the Accreditor
- Access to de-identified (linked) data

for accredited research purposes only

“Trusted third party” approach

Accredited **indexing**

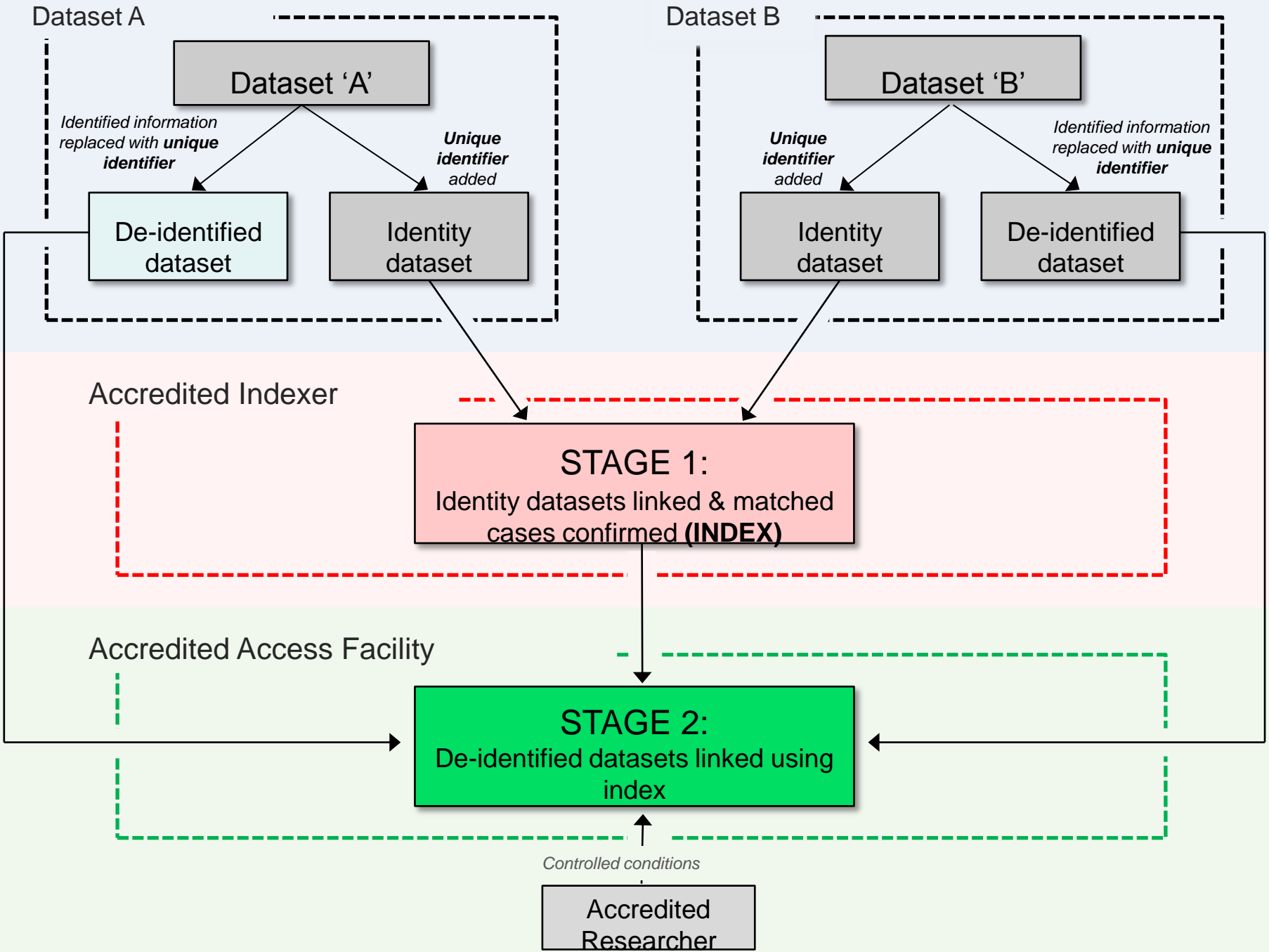
Accredited **researchers** and research projects

Accredited **access** facilities (e.g. VML)

Public good/public interest test

Code of practice and accreditation criteria





# 7 Principles

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- **Public good**
- Confidentiality
- Transparency
- Ethical and legal
- Proportional
- Accreditation and approval
- Retention and onward disclosure

# Accreditation criteria

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- Legal, **public good**, ethical, appropriate
- Research qualifications
- Training
- Transparency – public register
- Transparency – published results
- Independent accreditation panel

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# Thanks for listening

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# **The Five Safes Framework**

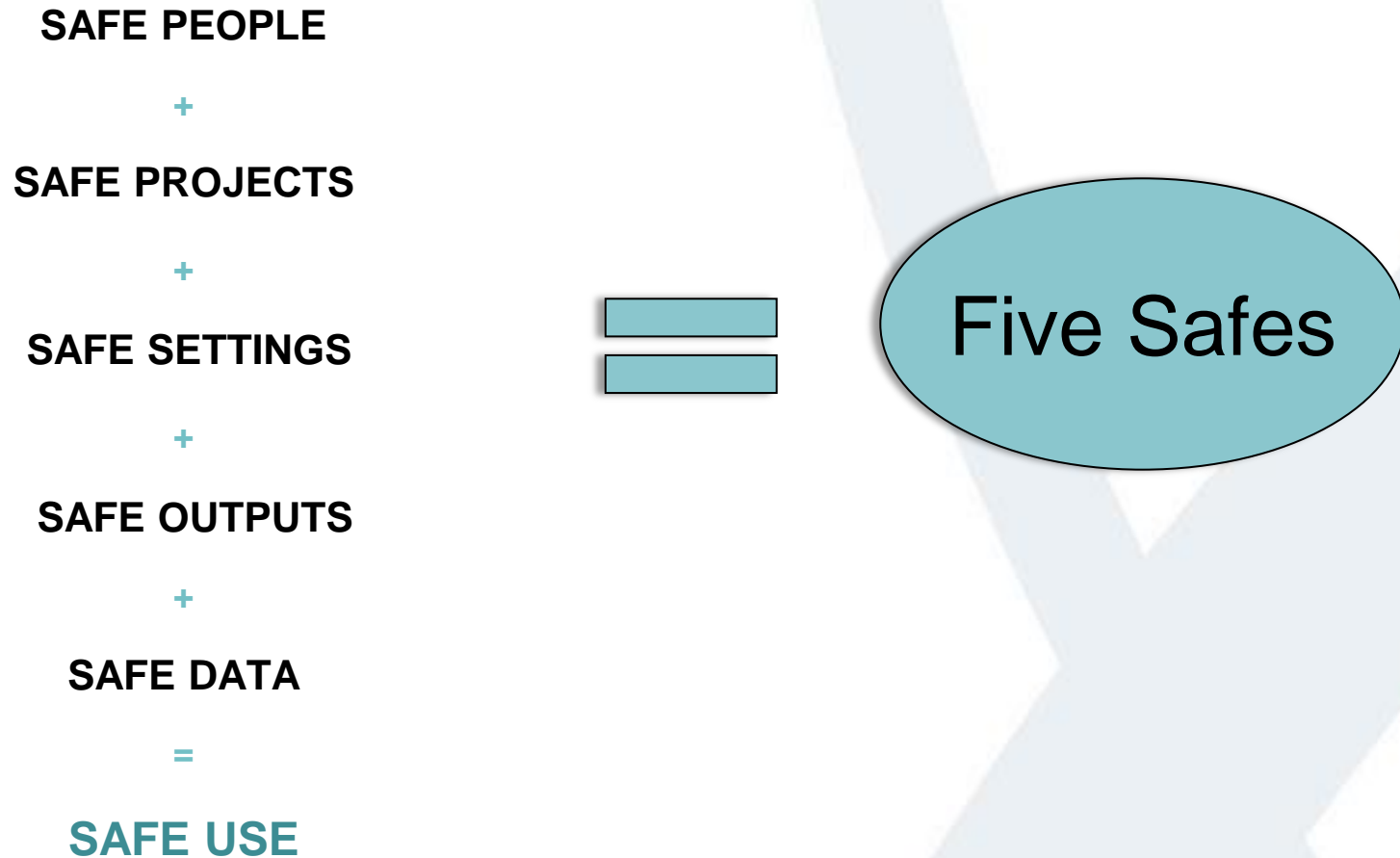
Pete Stokes

Head of Research Support and Data Access

# The Five Safes

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A set of controls and principle use to ensure safe use of data...

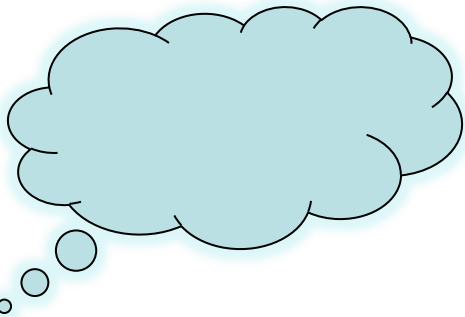


# Safe People

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Experience conducting research



safe attitudes towards data access



Able to use the data safely (demonstrates safe behaviours)

**Safe people** = users that are 'fit and proper' to access data

# Safe Projects

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## LEGAL

A legal gateway

(Approved  
Researcher  
Scheme)

(Digital Economy  
Act)

## FEASIBLE

Clear & defined  
scope

Realistic & time  
bound

Appropriate use of  
data

## PUBLIC GOOD

Benefits UK  
economy/society

Improves UK  
quality of life

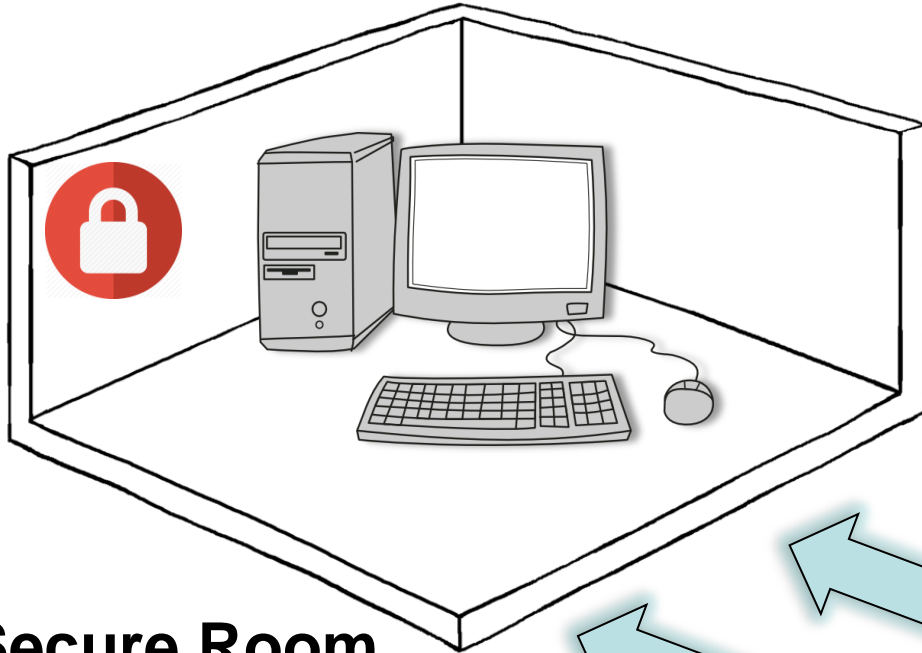
Extends  
understanding of  
social/economic  
matters

***Safe project = a project that is legal, feasible, and serves the public good***

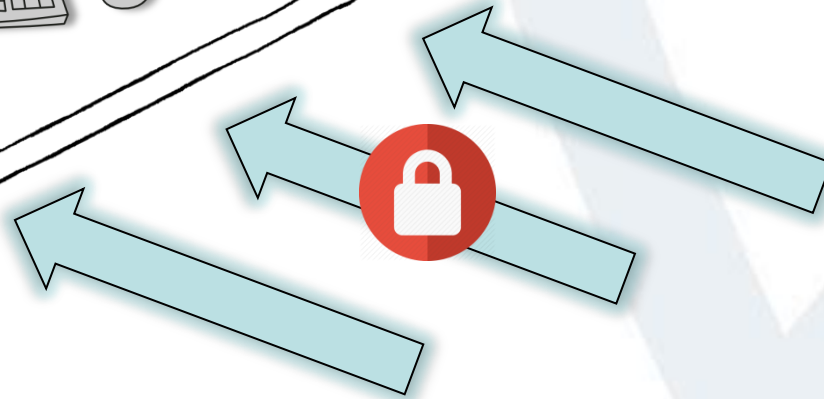


# Safe Settings

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**Secure Room**



**Secure Connection**



**Secure Servers**

# Safe Outputs

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Statistical Disclosure Control is the **risk management process** that reduces the risk of...

1) *Finding entities in data (identification)*

*and/or*

2) *Associating data with a entity (attribution)*

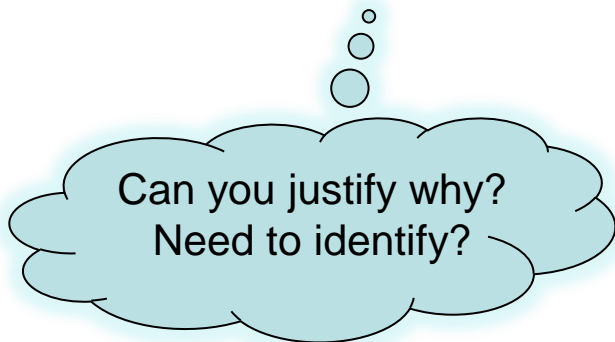
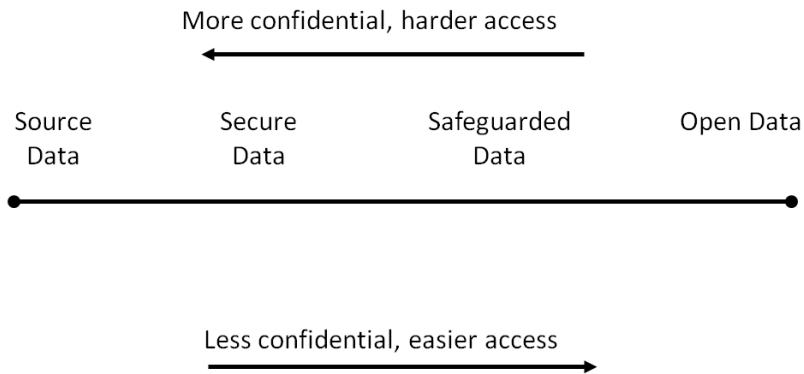


...to maintain the confidentiality of the data

***Safe output*** = *non-disclosive and maintains the confidentiality of the data*

# Safe Data

## What **level** of data do you need?



## Is the data **de-identified**?

Name	Date of Birth	Address	Car Registration, Model & Colour
Clara Boyd	09/06/1992	14 Nandos Road, SO15 7RE	HG13 GWV, Silver VW Golf
Amy Watts	04/07/1994	5 Sushi Crescent, SO16 9LP	HV58 YCD, Black Ford KA
Tony Chapple	01/06/1967	27 KFC Drive, PO16 9JB	HY55 YTB Blue BMW 1 Series

### De-identified Data

Name	Date of Birth	Address	Car Registration, Model & Colour
Female	09/06/1992	SO15 7RE	HG13, Silver VW Golf
Female	04/07/1994	SO16 9LP	HV58, Black Ford KA
Male	01/06/1967	PO16 9JB	HY55 Blue BMW 1 Series

**Safe data** = de-identified data that is proportional to its use

# The Five Safes

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DIGITAL  
LEADERS

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Office for  
National Statistics

Cyber Resilience Innovation of the Year 2017

# The Five Safes