Accessing LFS and APS data via the UK Data Service

Introduction to the Labour Force Survey and Annual Population Survey

UK Data Service

Economic and Social Research Council

What we'll cover

- UK Data Service
- Catalogue and accessing End User License Data (EUL)
- EUL verses Secure Access
- What do you do if you think you need Secure Access data?
- Remote access to controlled data via the UK Data Service's SecureLab

What is the UK Data Service?

- Resource funded by the ESRC
- Access to a wide range of secondary social science data
- Support, training and guidance
- ukdataservice.ac.uk

Data catalogue

Series

- Series pages contain
  - Information about series as a whole with answers to key questions
  - Links to all the datasets, grouped by type (e.g. Quarterly Labour Force Survey)
- [Annual Population Survey](#)
- [Labour Force Survey](#)

Catalogue records

- Example: [Quarterly Labour Force Survey, October - December, 2020](#)
- Catalogue records include
  - Abstract and study details
  - Documentation
  - Access to data
  - Citation information

Licenses

- LFS and APS made available under two licenses
  - End User License
  - Secure access

  - Access level can be found under the 'Details' section of the catalogue page

End User Licence (EUL) vs Secure Access

EUL
• Safeguarded: not personal data, but a risk of disclosure • Fewer and less detailed variables than secure access

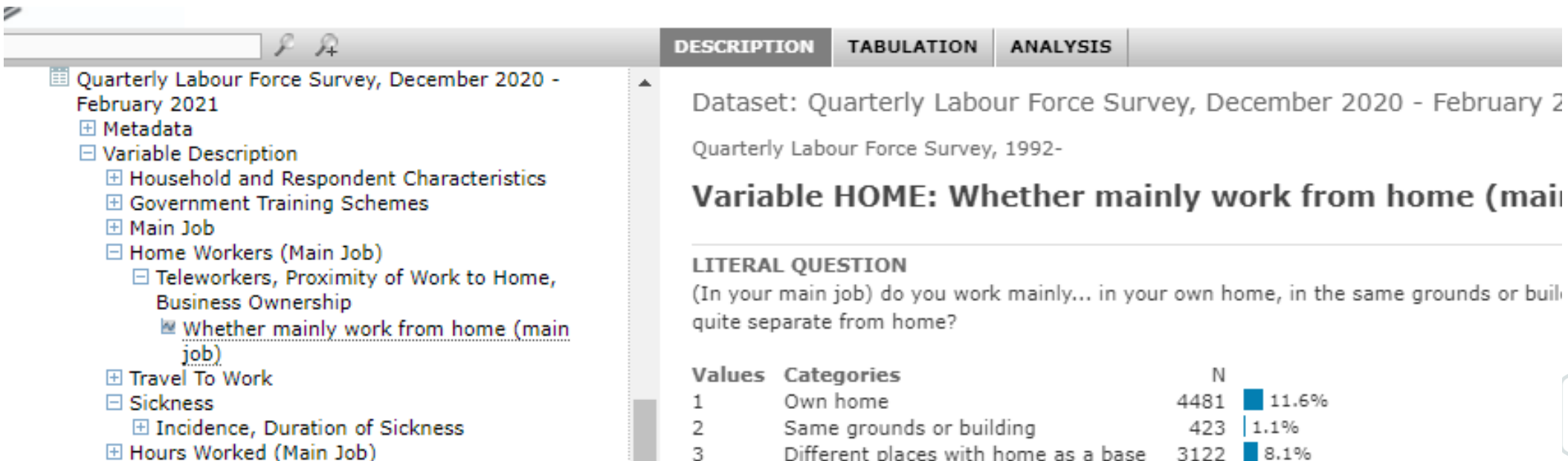| Secure Access |
| --- |
| • Data defined as 'personal' by the Office for National Statistics (ONS)
• More detailed variables for
  • Geography
  • Date of birth
  • Family characteristics
  • Education
  • Industry
  • Nationality |

Accessing EUL data

- Register with UK Data Service
- Set up a project to record use
- Download in preferred format
- Zip file with data and documentation

NESSTAR

- Option to browse online
- Simple analyses (tables, correlation)
- Download data

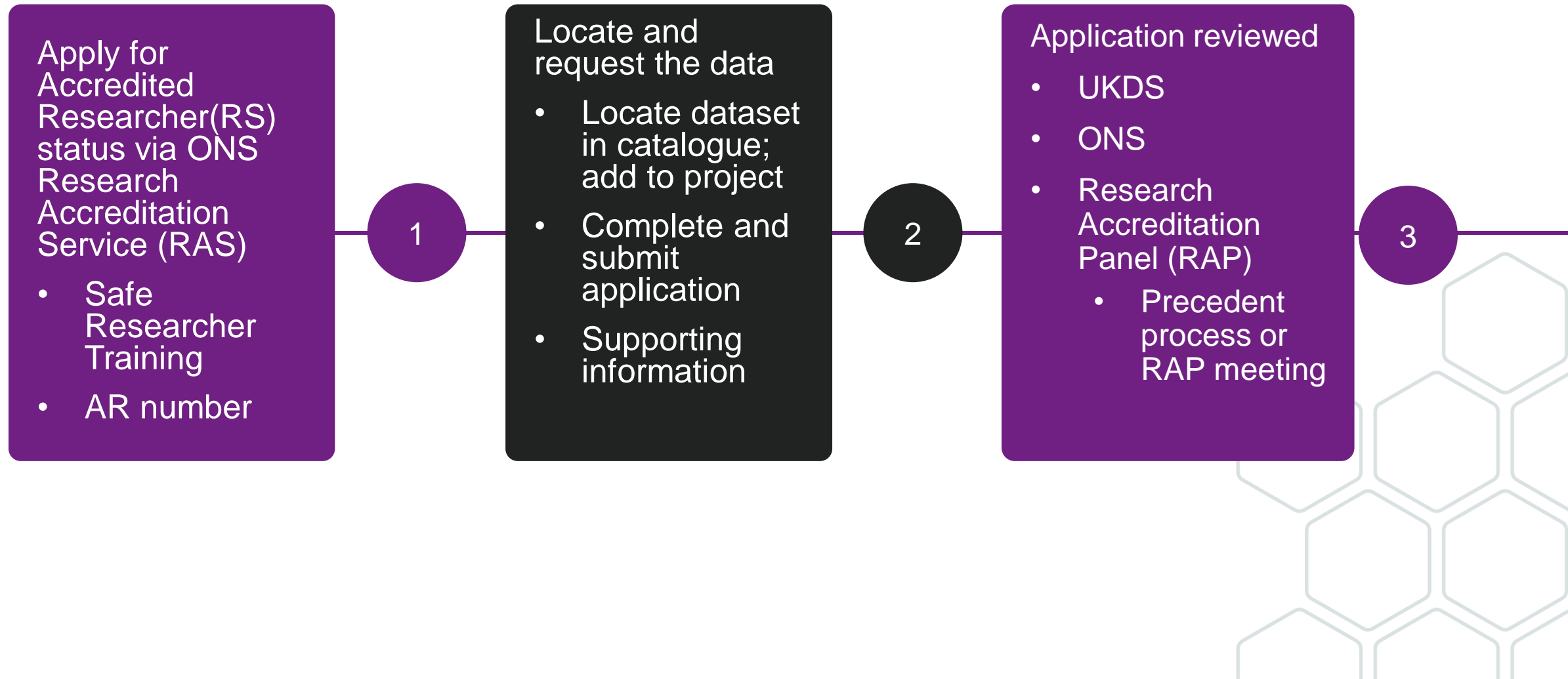# What happens if you need Secure Access data?

Legal gateway for access

- Digital Economy Act (DEA, 2017)
- Requires
    - Accredited Researchers
    - Accredited Projects
    - Accredited Processors

How to apply

Apply for Accredited Researcher(RS) status via ONS Research Accreditation Service (RAS)

- Safe Researcher Training
- AR number

1

Locate and request the data

- Locate dataset in catalogue; add to project
- Complete and submit application
- Supporting information

2

Application reviewed

- UKDS
- ONS
- Research Accreditation Panel (RAP)
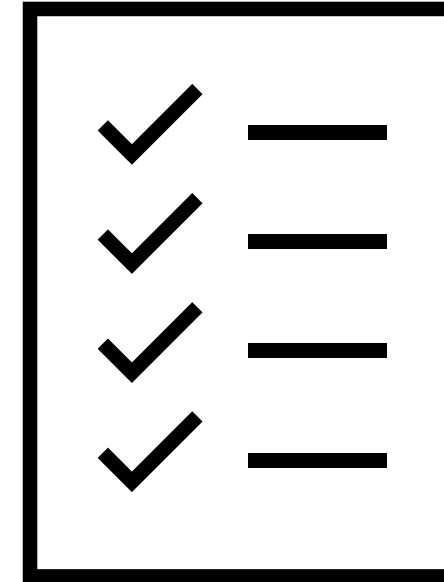 - Precedent process or RAP meeting

3

If RAP accredit project
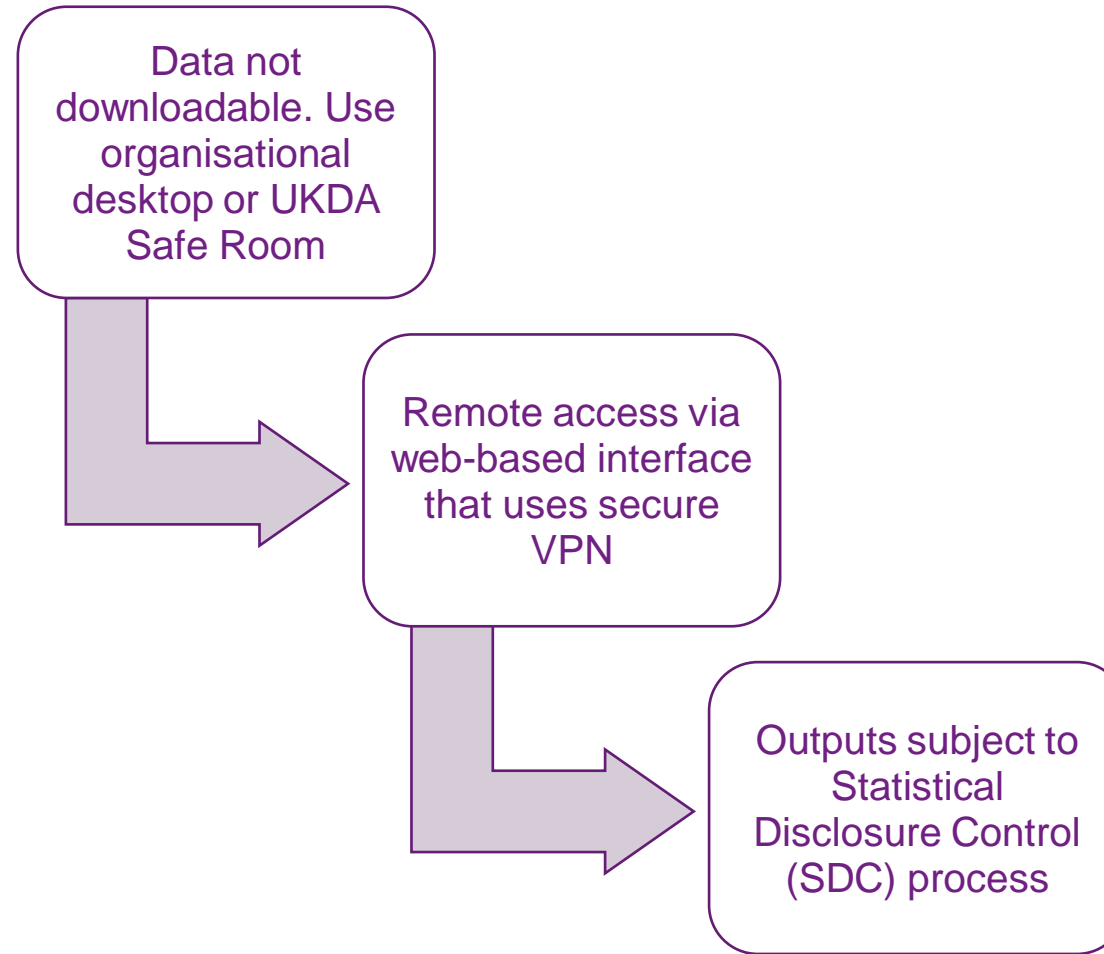
UKDS check

- for outstanding documentation
- your device

Set up SecureLab account and project

Tips for a good application

✓Follow application guidance

✓Complete all sections fully

✓Submit all required documents

✓Make it clear and concise

✓Set out specific research questions/hypotheses

✓Address all feedback in one go

Remote access to SecureLab data

Data not downloadable. Use organisational desktop or UKDA Safe Room

Remote access via web-based interface that uses secure VPN

Outputs subject to Statistical Disclosure Control (SDC) process

Available software in SecureLab

- Stata
- SPSS
- R
- SAS
- Juputer Notebook
- Qgis
- ArcGis

- Qtconsole
- Spyder
- Notepad++
- MS Access
- MS Excel
- MS PowerPoint
- MS WordMLwiN

- Anaconda3 (inc. Python)
- Acrobat Reader
- Winzip
- 7zip
- Explorer

Importing and linking data - SecureLab

- External data can be imported into the SecureLab project area
- Permission is required from the Secure Access data owner and the external data owner

Cite data

- Citations on catalogue page

- For multiple datasets, cite from the series page:
  - Office for National Statistics, Social Survey Division, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, Central Survey Unit. (2021). *Quarterly Labour Force Survey*, 1992-2020. [data collection]. UK Data Service. Series page: http://doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-8738-2