



Data Principles

Applying these Principles will enable us to transform the way we design, share and use data. This will enable the integration and service transformation required to deliver the outcomes in the Defra Strategy.

They underpin the data design objectives in the Defra Target Operating Model and form the governance layer of our Data Framework.

The principles must be applied to all data at all stages of the Data Lifecycle.

They also form part of our Enterprise Architecture Principles, so must be considered in all technology, transformation and business projects, and will form the basis of data assessments at approval gates.

1. Understand data needs

Research to develop a deep knowledge and understanding of: the business outcome you're trying to achieve; the things you'll need to know; who'll use the data; and their user needs.

2. Identify an owner for your data

All data must have an owner from the most relevant business area.

3. Standardise your data

Develop a data standard to help users understand: what the data is; how it is structured; its quality; its format; and how it can be used.

4. Understand and maintain the quality of your data

It is important to understand the quality of data and to understand if investment is required to meet the needs of users.

5. Share your data as widely as possible

Defra group's data is open by design. You must share your data as widely as possible.

6. Make your data easy to use, linkable and portable

Your data must be easy to use, from source, in common formats and if feasible as linked data. It must be easy to switch technology solutions without affecting the data.

7. Make your data easy to find

It's essential you make it easy for users to find your data and understand: its quality; how it was made; and how they can use it.

8. Protect your data

Ensure your data is protected appropriately and comply with all relevant data policies and legislation.

9. Build a community around your data

Build a community around your data that includes the data owner, data managers and users. Seek feedback from this community and act to improve the data in response.