

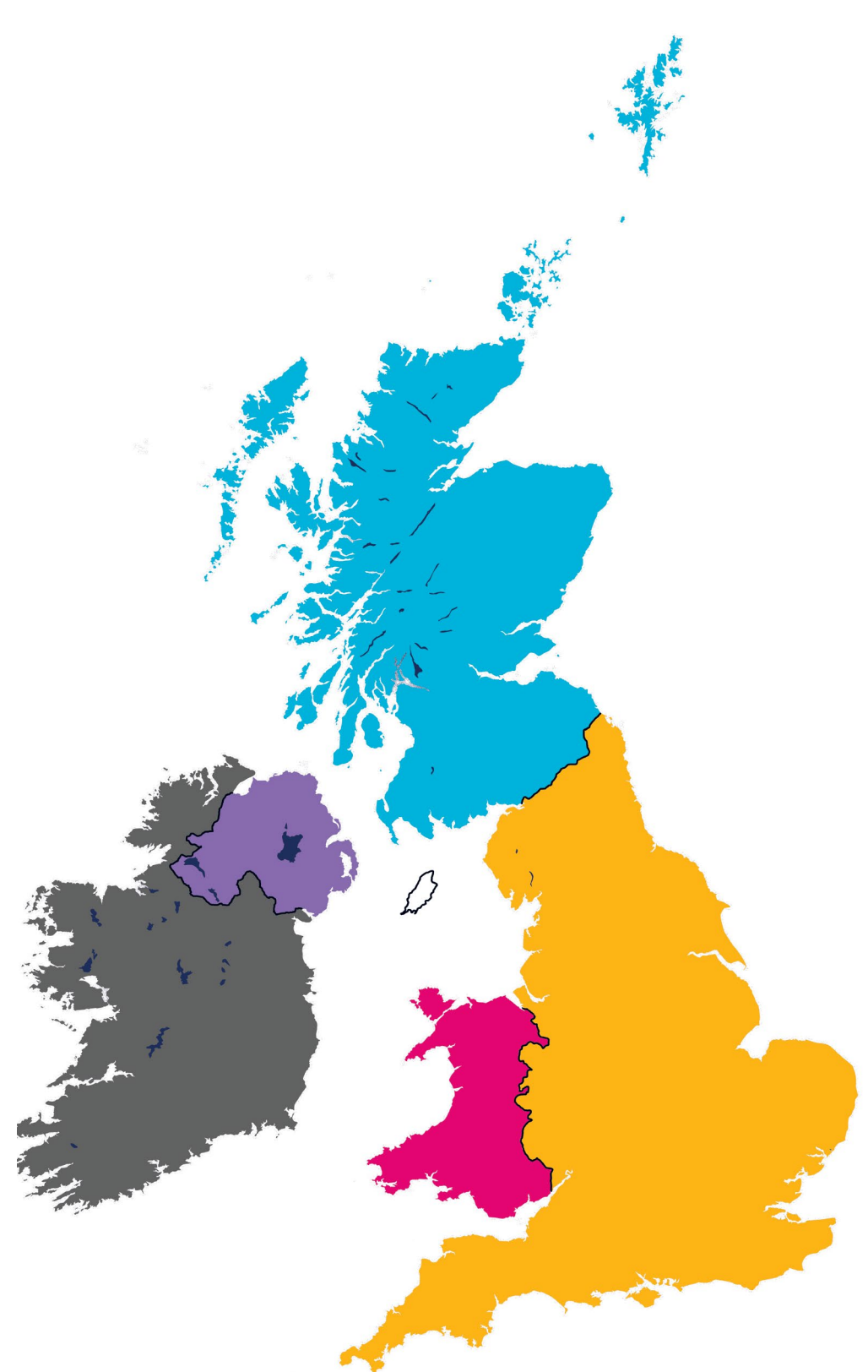
# Let's meet in the middle

## facilitating access to administrative data in the UK

## Administrative data in the UK

### Administrative data

- ▶ are collected by government departments and other organisations
- ▶ are collected for the purposes of registration, transaction and record keeping, usually while delivering a service or for day-to-day operations - not research
- ▶ cover the whole of the UK population
- ▶ give us a detailed picture, leading to greater understanding of our society and better informed government policy



### In the UK

- ▶ different levels of legislative, administrative & budgetary autonomy for each country (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) mean administrative records are collected differently
- ▶ acquiring them requires coordination and negotiation with multiple data custodians
- ▶ their use for research in the UK involves different legal pathways
- ▶ time-consuming, resource intensive to get
- ▶ data retention policies vary

The **Administrative Data Research Network (ADRN)** builds on the Administrative Data Liaison Service and the Administrative Data Taskforce, and has established a UK-wide network to facilitate access to administrative data.

## About the ADRN

We help academic, government and third sector researchers carry out social and economic research on (linked) de-identified administrative data.

We facilitate ground-breaking research which improves our understanding of society – and which can help governments, councils and charities shape policies and target their work in ways which will benefit society.

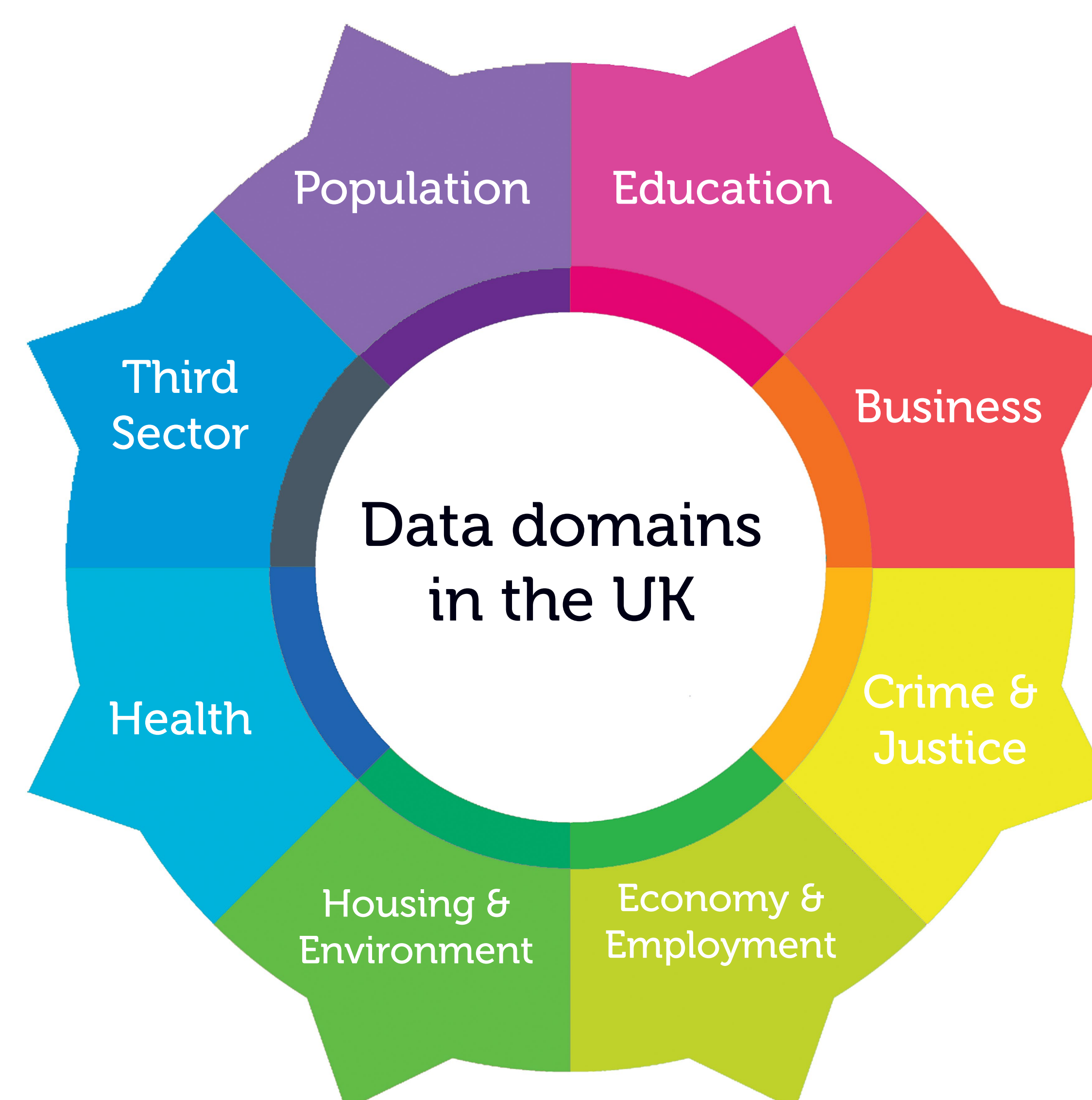
The Network is coordinated by the **Administrative Data Service**, led by the University of Essex and has four **Administrative Data Research Centres**

- ▶ England, led by the University of Southampton
- ▶ Northern Ireland, led by Queen's University Belfast
- ▶ Wales, led by Swansea University
- ▶ Scotland, led by University of Edinburgh

## Work we do

- ▶ Identifying and developing pathways to access
- ▶ Negotiating access to data on behalf of researchers
- ▶ Providing a secure linkage service via Trusted Third Parties
- ▶ Implementing a secure national infrastructure to enable data analysis to be carried out with the minimum risk of disclosure

## Working to facilitate access to linked administrative data for socio-economic research with potential public benefit



Not just about **data**  
meeting in the middle,  
it's primarily about **people**.

## Researcher support

- ▶ Defining exact dataset
- ▶ Identifying the legal gateway
- ▶ Agreeing access conditions
- ▶ Establishing data sharing agreements
- ▶ The final say rests with the data guardians

## Key to the ADRN model

- ▶ Transparency (e.g. policies and procedures online)
- ▶ Independence (e.g. universities lead, no government interface)
- ▶ De-identification & linkage
- ▶ No commercial access to administrative data via the ADRN
- ▶ Public benefit
- ▶ Understandable accurate messages and guidance

### The **5 Safes Principle**

- ▶ **Safe projects**: only approved projects with a clear potential public benefit and scientific merit
- ▶ **Safe researchers**: only researchers who received specialised training to safely handle de-identified data
- ▶ **Safe environments**: only access to data in a secure facility
- ▶ **Safe outputs** only released after statistical disclosure control
- ▶ **Safe access to data**: This set of safeguards allows us to provide safe access to sensitive, de-identified data

## Model implementation and inclusivity

- ▶ Public involvement in decision making
- ▶ Ongoing consultation
- ▶ Animations to develop understandable messages
- ▶ Researchers must prove they cannot get data elsewhere (e.g. via UK Data Service)
- ▶ Trained researchers accessing data secure centres
- ▶ De-identified data only
- ▶ No massive linked database...

## Who are our partners



Scan this QR code  
to see our data  
linkage video

### Authors

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