

Privacy notice

Lawful basis for processing your data

Under UK data protection law, we need to identify a legal basis that allows us to process your data. The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) processes your data on the basis of Legitimate Interests (Article 6(1)(f)). This is because processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by IFS. This is because as a research institution, we have a legitimate interest in collecting and using personal information to conduct research. The legal basis used to process sensitive or special category personal data will be for scientific and historical research or statistical purposes (Article 9(2)(j)).

Third party processors

Microsoft Azure Cloud Services or other secure cloud service provider: Azure are a cloud services platform that IFS currently uses to store their information and carry out processing. Azure complies with a number of data security standards (<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/compliance/>). Azure acts as a data processor for IFS but does not directly access your personal information. If the IFS chooses to use another cloud service provider in future for storage and processing, it will be a provider that complies with a similar set of security standards.

Qualtrics: We are using Qualtrics as a platform to collect your personal information. Your personal information will be stored on Qualtrics servers that are located in the US until the end of the online survey period in spring 2026. Qualtrics does not directly access your personal information. Your information will be deleted from Qualtrics after this period. Qualtrics acts as a data processor and complies with a number of data security standards: <https://www.qualtrics.com/security-statement>.

Who is your information shared with?

Your personal information is not shared with anyone else outside the research team. Once we have finished the analysis of your data and written our report, we will archive a version of your data in a research archive. This will allow other researchers to check that our work is valid and allow them to carry out their own research using your information. It will be impossible to identify you in the archived version of the data.

How long will you keep my personal data for?

Our team will securely store your personal information for up to 10 years. Your anonymous information will be kept indefinitely and stored in an archive.

Your rights

Under the UK Data Protection Act (2018), you have the right to:

- ask for access to the personal information that we hold about you;
- ask us to correct any personal information that we hold about you which is incorrect, incomplete or inaccurate.

In certain circumstances, you also have the right to:

- ask us to erase the personal information where there is no good reason for us continuing to hold it;

- object to us using the personal information for public interest purposes;
- ask us to restrict or suspend the use of the personal information, for example, if you want us to establish its accuracy or our reasons for using it.

If you wish to withdraw from the study or amend any of the information you provided, please contact the research team using the Prolific internal messaging system.

Contact information

The Institute for Fiscal Studies will act as data controllers. Our address is:

Institute for Fiscal Studies, 2 Marylebone Road, London NW1 4DF.

Please ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you have concerns or complaints about the way we have handled your information. You can contact us via the Prolific internal messaging system. Alternatively, our email addresses are provided below.

Research team

Jonathan Cribb, The Institute for Fiscal Studies (UK) – Jonathan_c@ifs.org.uk

Laurence O'Brien, The Institute for Fiscal Studies (UK) – Laurence.obrien@ifs.org.uk

Data Protection Officer

Zoe Oldfield, The Institute for Fiscal Studies (UK) – dataprotectionofficer@ifs.org.uk

You also have the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF, telephone 0303 123 1113, <https://ico.org.uk/concerns>