**Main Elements of Data Descriptors**

* Title (recommended length 110 characters or fewer)
* Abstract (maximum 170 words)
* Background & Summary (unlimited length)
* Methods (unlimited length)
* Data Records (unlimited length)
* Technical Validation (unlimited length)
* Usage Notes (unlimited length)
* Code Availability
* References
* Figures
* Tables

**General Rules**

* Cannot have been published elsewhere and cannot be submitted elsewhere while under consideration
* Primary affiliation for the author should be the institution where the majority of work was done, if moved the current address may also be stated
* Choice of which journal to submit to lies with the author if the manuscript could fall within multiple Nature Publishing Group journals
* Copies of any papers containing similar or related work that are under consideration or in press at other journals should be included with the submission as additional supplementary information. Authors are asked to discuss any related works in their cover letter. Failure to provide copies of related works may delay editorial evaluation of a submission
* At the submission stage, authors may indicate a limited number of scientists who should not review their Data Descriptor. Excluded scientists must be identified by name. Authors may also suggest potential referees. By policy, referees are not identified to the authors, except at the request of the referee.
* Required to pay an article processing charge
* Manuscripts should be understandable by scientists from diverse backgrounds- technical jargon and abbreviations avoided as much as possible
* Recommended you don’t have more than 8 figures

**Submission Process**

1. Choose a content-type (this would be Data Descriptor for publishing just the data set on laws)
2. Authors must deposit all relevant datasets in an appropriate public repository prior submission, and the completeness of these datasets will be considered during editorial evaluation and peer-review. Datasets must be made publicly available without restriction in the event that the Data Descriptor is accepted for publication.
3. Authors are encouraged to use the manuscript template: <https://www.nature.com/documents/scidata-data-descriptor-document-template.docx>
4. Authors can submit cover letters to provide additional information that is not requested in the submission system, but “manuscript comment” section is preferred for this
5. For first submissions, authors may submit a single PDF with integrated figures and tables. Accepted file types below.
   1. For article text: DOC, DOCX, TEX
   2. For figures: PDF, EPS, TIFF, JPG
   3. For tables: XLS, XLSX, DOC, DOCX
6. Submit via the online system