



Pupil Parent Matched Data (PPMD): privacy notice

The Pupil Parent Matched Data (PPMD) is being carried out by 3 government departments working together:

- [The Department for Education](#)
- [The Department for Work and Pensions](#)
- [Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs](#)

For the purpose of data protection legislation, the Department for Education and the Department for Work and Pensions each act as independent data controllers for PPMD.

How we use your information

The purpose of this research is to understand how educational attainment varies with household income, and the challenges faced by those pupils in families which are not currently identified as disadvantaged.

We¹ have undertaken a feasibility study to understand if we can link data relating to children currently in education with employment, income and benefit claims information on their parents/guardians.

The resulting analysis, published in the '[Analysing Family Circumstances and Education](#)' technical consultation, highlighted the value this cross Government work could add to research and policy making in the education sector.

The Department for Education are building upon this exercise to establish an ongoing data sharing process. This will improve upon the methodology used in the feasibility study to enable new analysis to gain insight and inform policymaking.

Personal information we will use

The personal information we use to link this data together are:

¹ Three government departments are working together to link this data. Education information is obtained from Department for Education. This information is combined with benefit claim information collected by Department for Work and Pensions and employment information collected by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

- name
- date of birth
- gender
- postcode
- national insurance number

Personal identifiers from education source data are sent to The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) who match the records against their Customer Information System. We identify parents/guardians of matched individuals via HMRC & DWP benefits records. The records of parents and guardians are then linked to employment, earnings and benefit data held at DWP to produce a measure of household income. All personal identifiers are then removed.

We are linking information relating to students who were in the state funded education system between early years and 16-18 study from 2010/11 academic year onwards – this information will be updated annually to include the most recent available data.

Lawful use of personal data

To enable our use of your personal data to be lawful, we need to meet one (or more) conditions in the data protection legislation. For the purpose of this project, the relevant condition is:

- article 6(1)(e) GDPR, to perform a public task as part of our function as a department
- article 9(2)(j) GDPR, to process special category data for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes

Legislation that allows linking of data

The Small Business, Employment and Enterprise Act 2015 and sections 87 - 91 of the Education and Skills Act 2008 allow us to link education and employment and benefits data to chart the transition of learners from education into the workplace. These legal powers only allow this information to be used to make decisions about education and training policy from summary information.

For more information about the legislation that allows this sharing, read [section 78 of the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015](#) and [sections 87 - 91 of the Education and Skills Act 2008](#).

Who we will make your personal data available to

Where we need to share your personal data with others, we ensure that this data sharing complies with data protection legislation. For the purpose of this project:

- we will share your data with DWP who carry out the data linkage on behalf of all the

government departments listed above

- we may, in future, provide access to de-identified linked information to third parties for specific research purposes and when we do so, we will make sure there are secure arrangements in place for handling the linked information

Access to personal information is restricted to relevant government employees who need access to it in order to link information. Before making this information available to others (for research purposes only), we take great care to remove all personal identifiers before it is shared.

How long we will keep your personal data

We will only keep your personal data for as long as we need it for the purposes of this study. Under data protection legislation, and in compliance with the relevant data processing conditions, personal data can be kept indefinitely when processed purely for statistical purposes. We will review the retention policy and the need to hold datasets and all items within each dataset on an annual basis.

Your data protection rights

You are entitled to ask us for:

- the right to access - you can ask if we hold information about you and ask for a copy by making a 'subject access request'.
- the right to rectification - you can request to correct any information you believe is inaccurate.
- the right to erasure - you can request for your information to be erased, under certain circumstances.
- the right to restrict processing - you can request that we restrict the processing of your personal data, under certain circumstances.
- the right to object to processing - you can object to DfE's processing, under certain circumstances.
- the right to data portability - you can move your personal data to another data controller.

This means that you have the right to request information relating to you, however it is important to be aware that PPMD is produced by combining data sources collected for administrative purposes but is not, in itself, an administrative or operational dataset.

Any subject level data held in PPMD should be requested from the original source at the owning government department.

Further information about your data protection rights is available on the [Information Commissioner's website](#).

Read our [personal information charter](#) for more information about how the DfE handles personal information.

Requesting a copy of your data held in PPMD

PPMD is an analytical dataset currently used for research analysis at an aggregate level. It is made up of data sources collected for administrative purposes but is not an administrative/operational dataset. PPMD is created through fuzzy matching techniques, and it is accepted there will be false positive matches. This is when we believe we have found a correct match from one admin system (DfE) to another (DWP), when in fact it is not always a correct match - for example, the same person. We try to minimise the chances of this happening, but we accept the small risk of false positives because we're creating an analytical dataset, not an administrative one.

As such, the use of PPMD for subject access requests could result in sharing information for the wrong person in the case of a false positive match. Information relating to an individual held in PPMD should be requested from the original source at the owning government department.

Contact us

If you have any questions about how your personal information will be used, or to request a copy of your information, you should complete our [contact us form](#). Use the 'question' option and then select 'something else'. Please enter 'PPMD' as a reference.

To contact the Data Protection Officer (DPO) please complete our [contact us form](#) and mark it for the attention of the 'DPO'.

Last updated

We may need to update this privacy notice periodically so we recommend that you revisit this information from time to time. This privacy notice was last reviewed on 27 May 2021.