

# Accessing LFS and APS data via the UK Data Service

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Introduction to the Labour Force Survey and Annual Population Survey

20<sup>th</sup> May 2021

# What we'll cover

- Introduction and accessing EUL data
- What do you do if you think you need Secure Access data?
- Remote access to controlled data via the UK Data Service's Secure Lab

# What is the UK Data Service?

- Resource funded by the ESRC
- Access to a wide range of secondary social science data
- Support, training and guidance
- [ukdataservice.ac.uk](http://ukdataservice.ac.uk)



# How we work

- Communication via helpdesk – queries directed to right team internally
- Teams
  - Access (University of Essex)
  - User Support and training (for LFS at University of Manchester, Cathie Marsh Institute)
  - Secure Access/Secure Lab (University of Essex)

# Series records

- [Annual Population Survey](#)
- [Labour Force Survey](#)
- What?
  - Information about each series as a whole
  - Links to all the datasets, grouped by type
    - Quarterly Labour Force Survey

# Catalogue records

- Example: [Quarterly Labour Force Survey, October - December, 2020](#)
- What?
  - Abstract and study details
  - Documentation
  - Access data
  - Citation

# Licenses

- LFS and APS made available under two licenses
  - End User License
  - Secure access

# Accessing EUL data

- Register with UK Data Service
- Project to record use
- Download in preferred format
- Zip file with data and documentation



# NESSTAR

- Online browsing of data
- Simple analyses (tables, correlation)
- Download data

The screenshot shows the NESSTAR web interface. The left sidebar contains a tree view of the dataset structure, with the following items expanded:

- Quarterly Labour Force Survey, December 2020 - February 2021
  - Metadata
  - Variable Description
    - Household and Respondent Characteristics
    - Government Training Schemes
    - Main Job
      - Home Workers (Main Job)
        - Teleworkers, Proximity of Work to Home, Business Ownership
          - Whether mainly work from home (main job)**

The main content area has three tabs: DESCRIPTION, TABULATION, and ANALYSIS. The 'DESCRIPTION' tab is active, showing the following information:

Dataset: Quarterly Labour Force Survey, December 2020 - February 2021  
Quarterly Labour Force Survey, 1992-

**Variable HOME: Whether mainly work from home (main job)**

**LITERAL QUESTION**  
(In your main job) do you work mainly... in your own home, in the same grounds or buildings as your home, in different places quite separate from home?

Values	Categories	N	
1	Own home	4481	11.6%
2	Same grounds or building	423	1.1%
3	Different places with home as a base	3122	8.1%

# Cite data

- Citations on catalogue page
- For multiple datasets, cite from the series page:
  - Office for National Statistics, Social Survey Division, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, Central Survey Unit. (2021). *Quarterly Labour Force Survey, 1992-2020*. [data collection]. UK Data Service. Series page: <http://doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-8738-2>

# Questions

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# What do you do if you think you need Secure Access data?

Maddison A. Jones, Data Access Services  
Alix Taylor, Data Access Services

Online workshop: Introduction to the Labour Force Survey and  
Annual Population Survey  
20 May 2021

# What we'll cover

- What's available in the Secure Access versions
- Legal gateway for access
- How to apply
- Tips for a good application

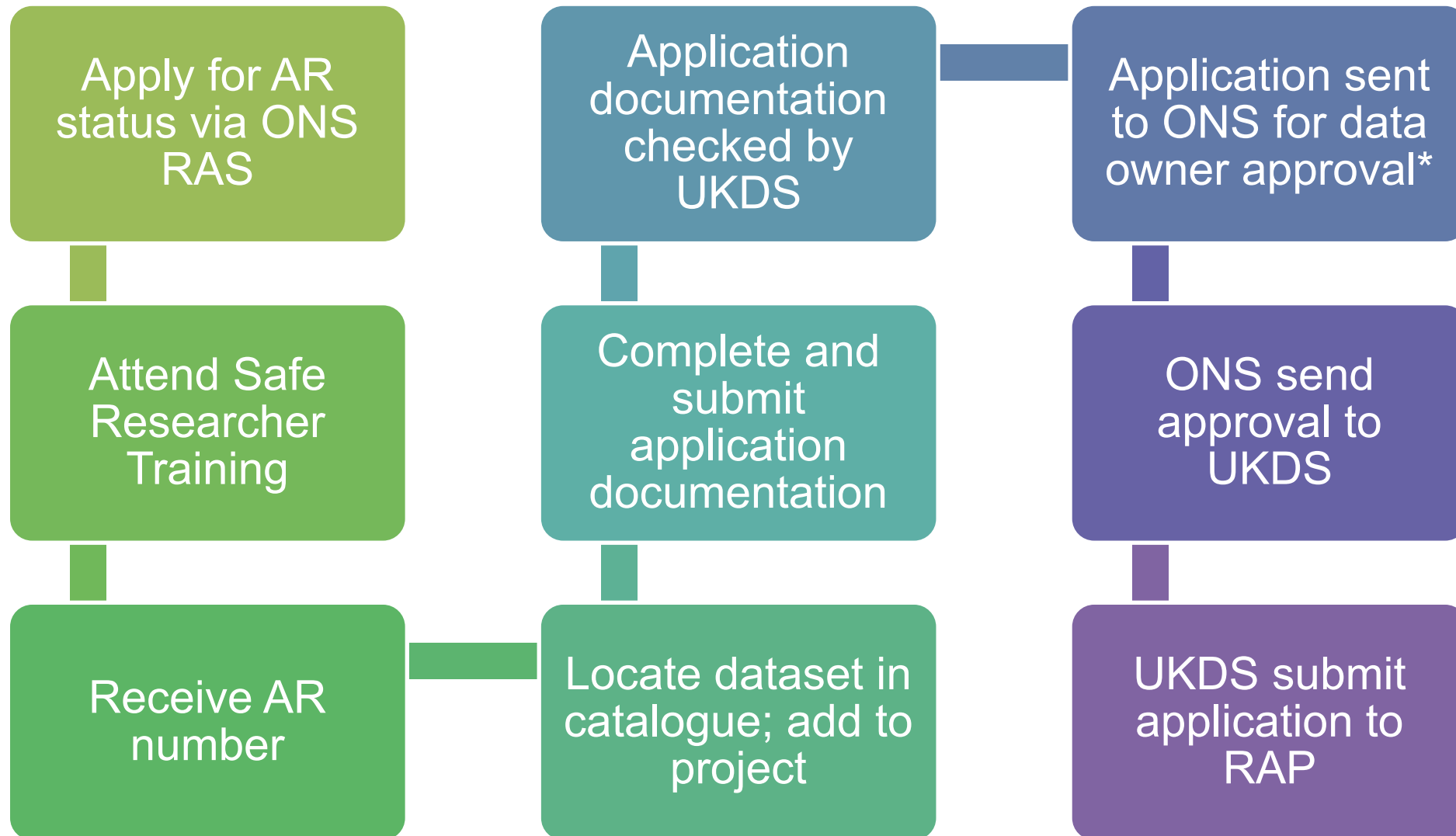
# Secure Access vs. End User Licence

- More detailed variables
- Check catalogue records
- Check data dictionaries
- Data defined as 'personal' by the Office for National Statistics (ONS)

# Legal gateway for access

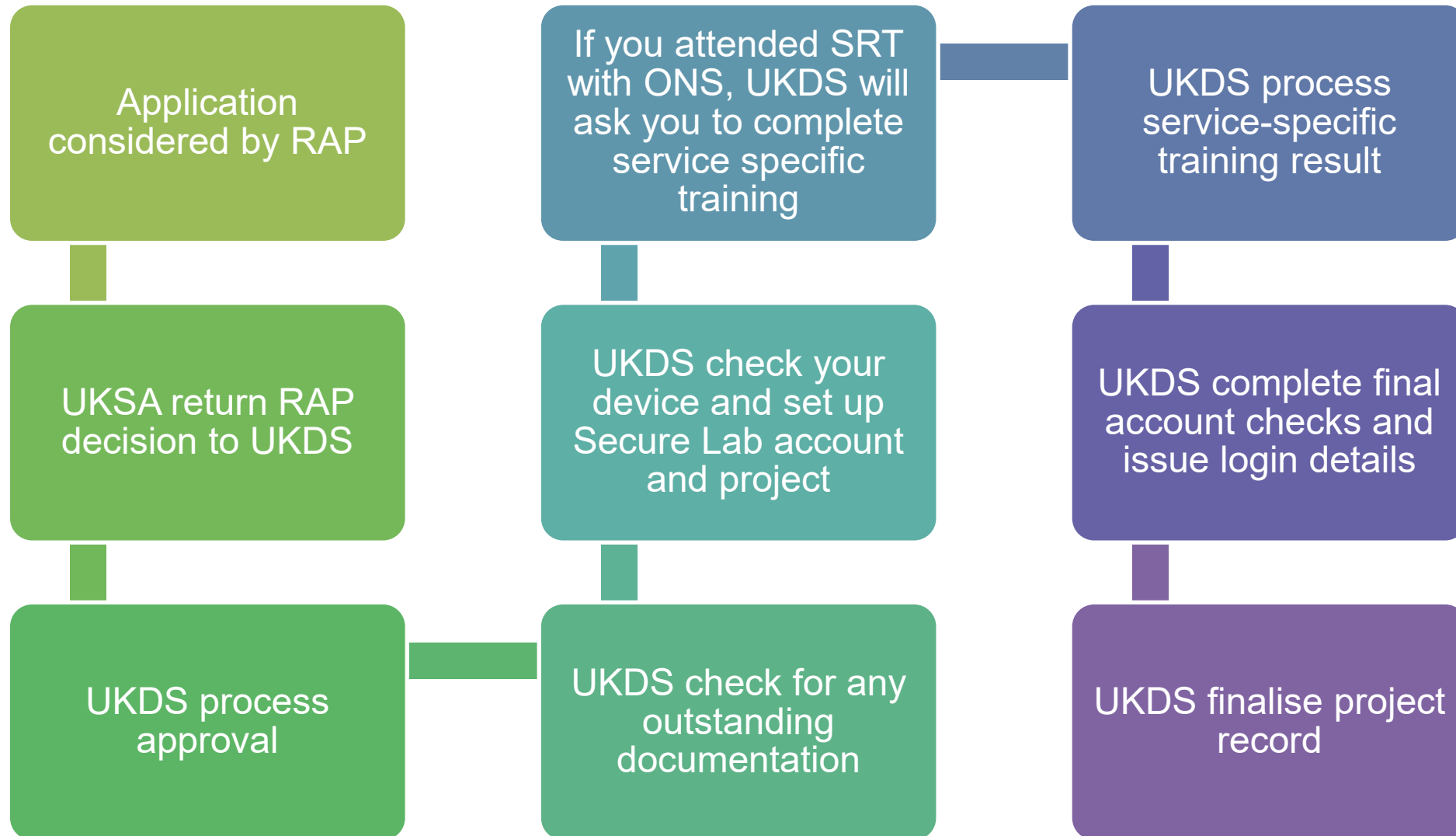
- Digital Economy Act (DEA, 2017)
- Accredited Researchers
- Accredited Projects
- Accredited Processors

# How to apply





# How to apply (continued)



# Tips for a good application

- Submit all required documents
- Follow application guidance
- Use clear, concise language
- Write for people that don't know your subject

# Tips for a good application (continued)

- Set out specific research questions/hypotheses
- Complete all sections fully
- Address any and all feedback
- Check, double-check and triple-check content

# Questions

# Remote access to controlled data via the UK Data Service's Secure Lab

Beate Lichtwardt, User Support and Training

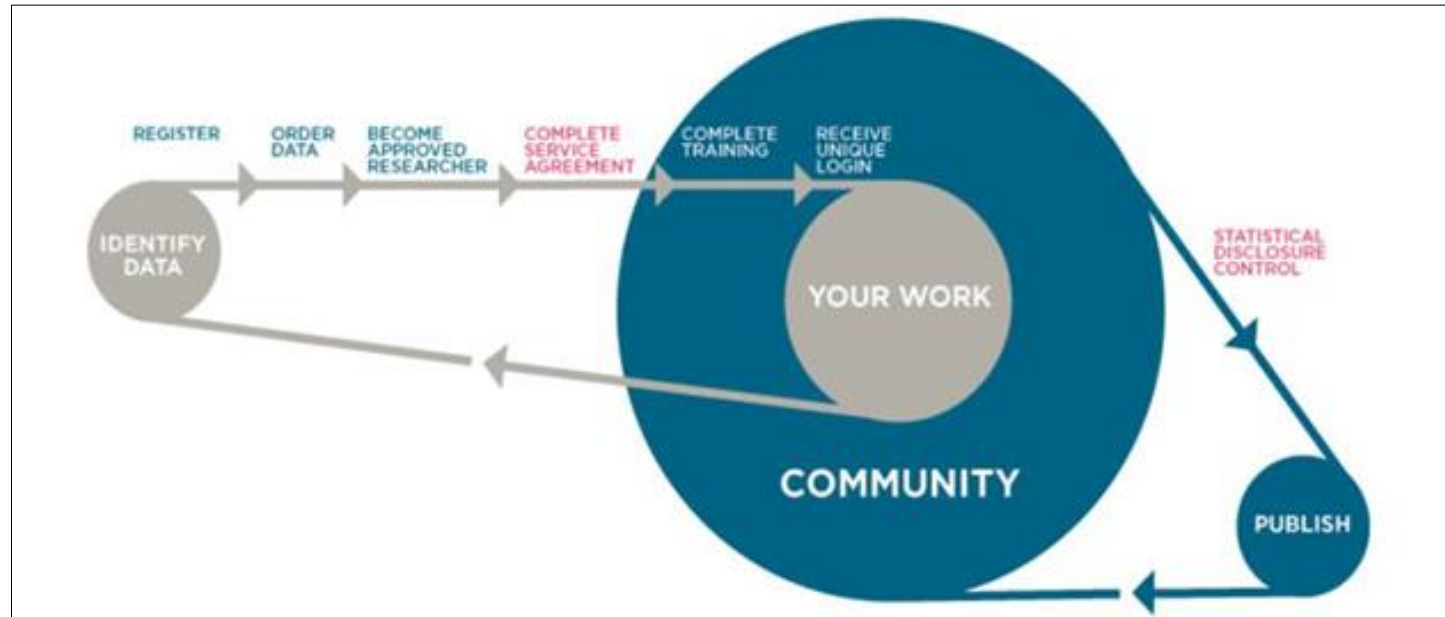
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# Roadmap

- How does it work – Remote access to Secure Lab data, Security Philosophy
- Available software in Secure Lab
- Importing and linking data
- Using Secure Lab efficiently
- Accessing international controlled data for comparative research

# Remote access to Secure Lab data



- Access via web-based interface that uses secure encrypted Citrix Virtual Private Network technology
- Data not downloadable, access remotely from organisational desktop (or UKDA Safe Room)
- Outputs subject to Statistical Disclosure Control (SDC) process

# Security Philosophy: Five Safes framework

- **Safe data:** data is treated to protect any confidentiality concerns
- **Safe projects:** research projects are approved by data owners for the public good
- **Safe people:** researchers are trained and authorised to use data safely
- **Safe settings:** a Secure Lab environment prevents unauthorised use
- **Safe outputs:** screened and approved outputs that are non-disclosive



# Available software in Secure Lab

- STATA
- SPSS
- R
- SAS
- Jupyter Notebook
- QGis
- ArcGis

- MLwiN
- Anaconda3 (inc. Python)
- Acrobat Reader
- Winzip
- 7zip
- Explorer

- Qtconsole
- Spyder
- Notepad++
- MS Access
- MS Excel
- MS PowerPoint
- MS Word

# Importing and linking data - Secure Lab

- External data can be imported into the Secure Lab project area of a researcher and linked to ONS business data  
**! Permission is required from the Secure Access data owner and the external data owner !**
- ONS business data can be linked to one another in Secure Lab

# Using Secure Lab efficiently

We return statistical results (rather than data) to researchers, subject to a statistical disclosure control process, to ensure that no individual or organisation can be identified from the results.

For full details on using the Secure Lab, please see our [User guide](#).

If you require more information about how our secure access facilities work, please [get in touch](#) with the support team.



[Secure Lab: How it works](#)

# Accessing international controlled data for comparative research

Safe Room Remote Desktop Access available for data from:

- Institute for Employment Research (IAB), Germany (information on available datasets: IAB RDC on-site use files at [https://fdz.iab.de/en/FDZ\\_Overview\\_of\\_Data.aspx](https://fdz.iab.de/en/FDZ_Overview_of_Data.aspx))
- Secure Data Access Centre (CASD), France (available datasets: <https://www.casd.eu/en/available-data-on-casd/>)

-> via UK Data Service Safe Room, University of Essex

# Questions

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