

Presentation by

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Date

Open data: who needs it?

Open data

- In theory, open data
 - meets user needs
 - cannot guarantee confidentiality
 - can be provided at a known level of risk
- In practice,
 - we don't know user needs
 - no legal requirement to protect confidentiality in all circumstances
 - no idea whether non-confidential data will remain so
 - no meaningful measure of risk or utility
- Decisions are judgment calls
- How do we embrace risk?

Approach 1: data-centred

- data confidentiality is paramount, so
 - establish legal basis
 - review risks
 - devise solution to minimise risks
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- default-closed: don't do unless you know you can



Approach 2: user-centred

- identify need
- identify solution
- identify context-specific evidence-based risk
- meet need if financially viable

- default-open: do unless managing confidentiality is not feasible



Resources

- We have
 - 50 years experience of identifying meaningful risk
 - 50 years experience of identifying meaningless risk
 - 15 years experience of evaluating alternative effective control measures
 - new techniques (eg synthetic data, differential privacy, safe tabulators) offering inventive solutions

So....

Introduction (2)

Future facilities

- Would remote access in an international context be a better option?
- Do we see legal barriers?
- Do we see challenges to meet user requests?
- Can we think out of the box?

- Feasible, but practical problems. Ask the users to trade-off quality and timing of access

- None at all. Lawyers and laws are your friends. There are practical barriers.

- Biggest challenge: identifying user need and willingness of someone to pay for it.

- Only if the box is labelled "SDC". Otherwise just think.