



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

UK Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR)

User research highlights for discussion



Forestry Commission
England



Environment
Agency

Agenda

- UK PRTR Overview
- Scope of UK PRTR
- Data collection, assurance and publishing
- User research overview
- Feedback from operators, regulators and public
- Effectiveness of current systems
- Improvement opportunities (public facing website)
- Next steps
- Questions & feedback

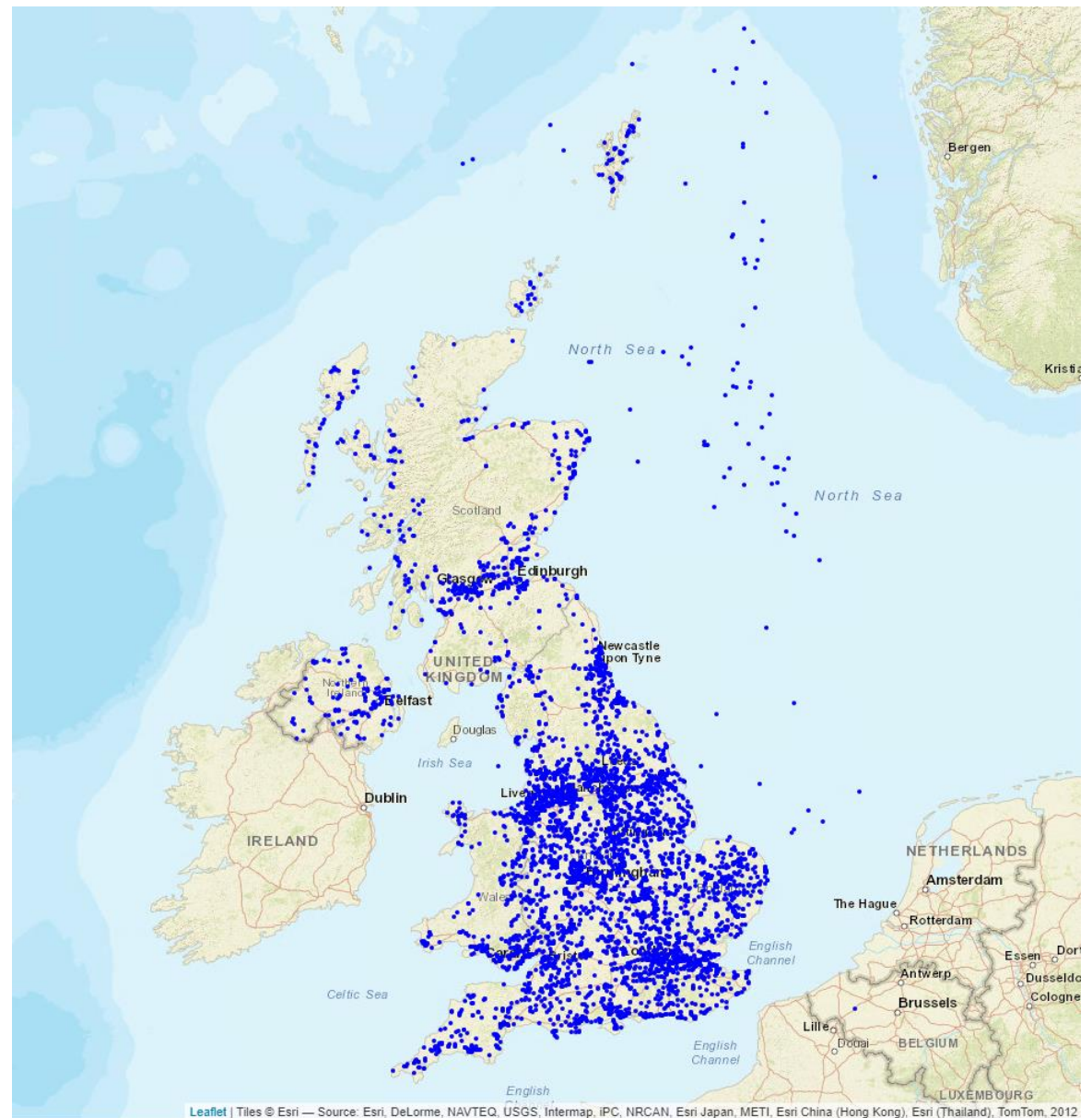
UK PRTR overview

- The United Kingdom (UK) has been signatory of UNECE's Kiev Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR) since 2003 and its ratification subsequently (in 2009).
- The aim of PRTRs is to enhance public access to environmental information. This is achieved by the UK's PRTR inventory – a free of charge searchable database, providing information on industrial emissions in mainland UK and offshore facilities.
- UK compiled a national implementation report (NIR) on implementation of the Protocol through a consultative process. The NIR was submitted by 21 January 2021 including a [summary of the responses](#) received to the consultation on gov.uk

Scope of UK PRTR

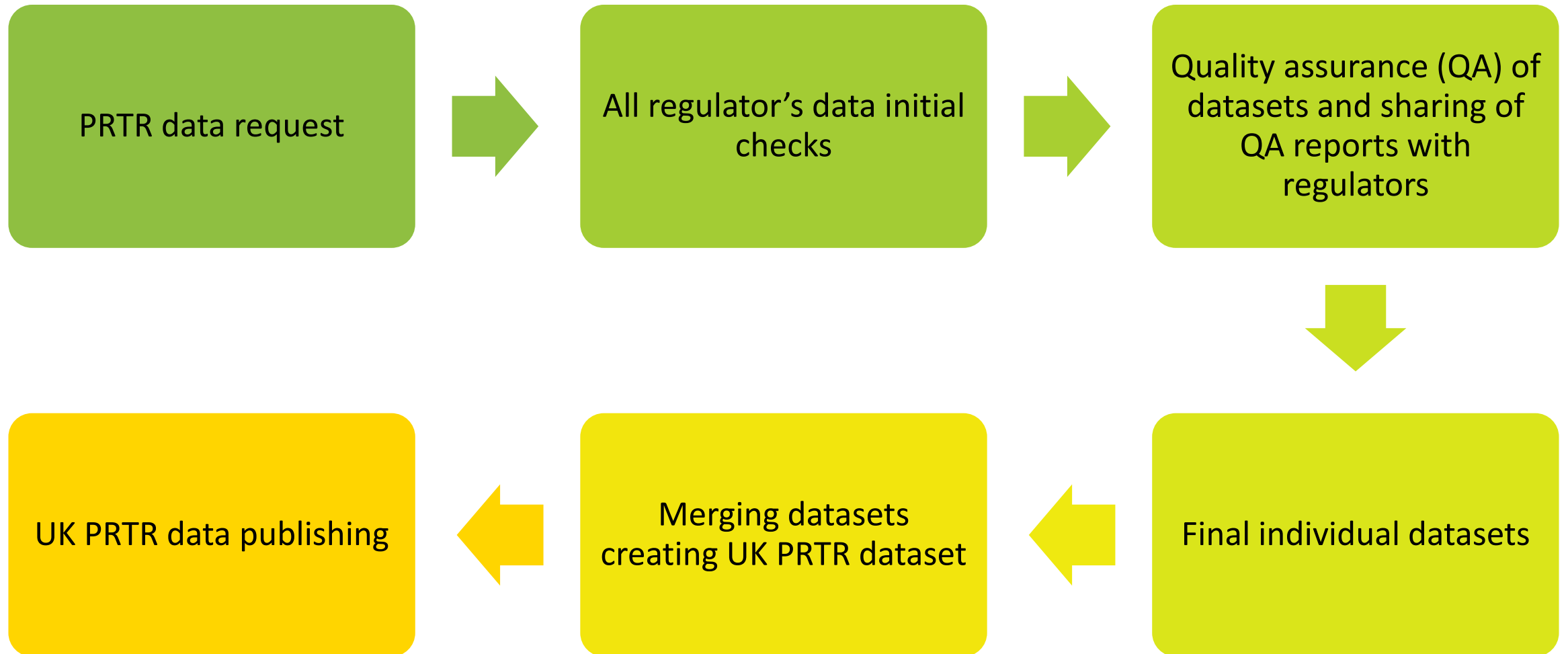
- The UK PRTR scope covers:
 - 9 industrial sector activities, sub-categorised into 99 economic sectors (NACE)
 - 91 substances
 - Data from 2007
- The data reporting is kicked off annually by sending out requests to UK regulators including:
 - Environment Agency
 - Scottish Environment Protection Agency
 - Natural Resources Wales
 - Northern Ireland Environment Agency
 - The Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning
 - Local authorities
- UK PRTR includes approximately 6,000* industrial facilities across including offshore facilities.

* Facility numbers can fluctuate due to UK PRTR regulation's activity and pollutant thresholds.



Note: UK PRTR coverage, blue dots are indicative number of facilities and not linked to their pollutant contributions

Data collection, assurance & publishing

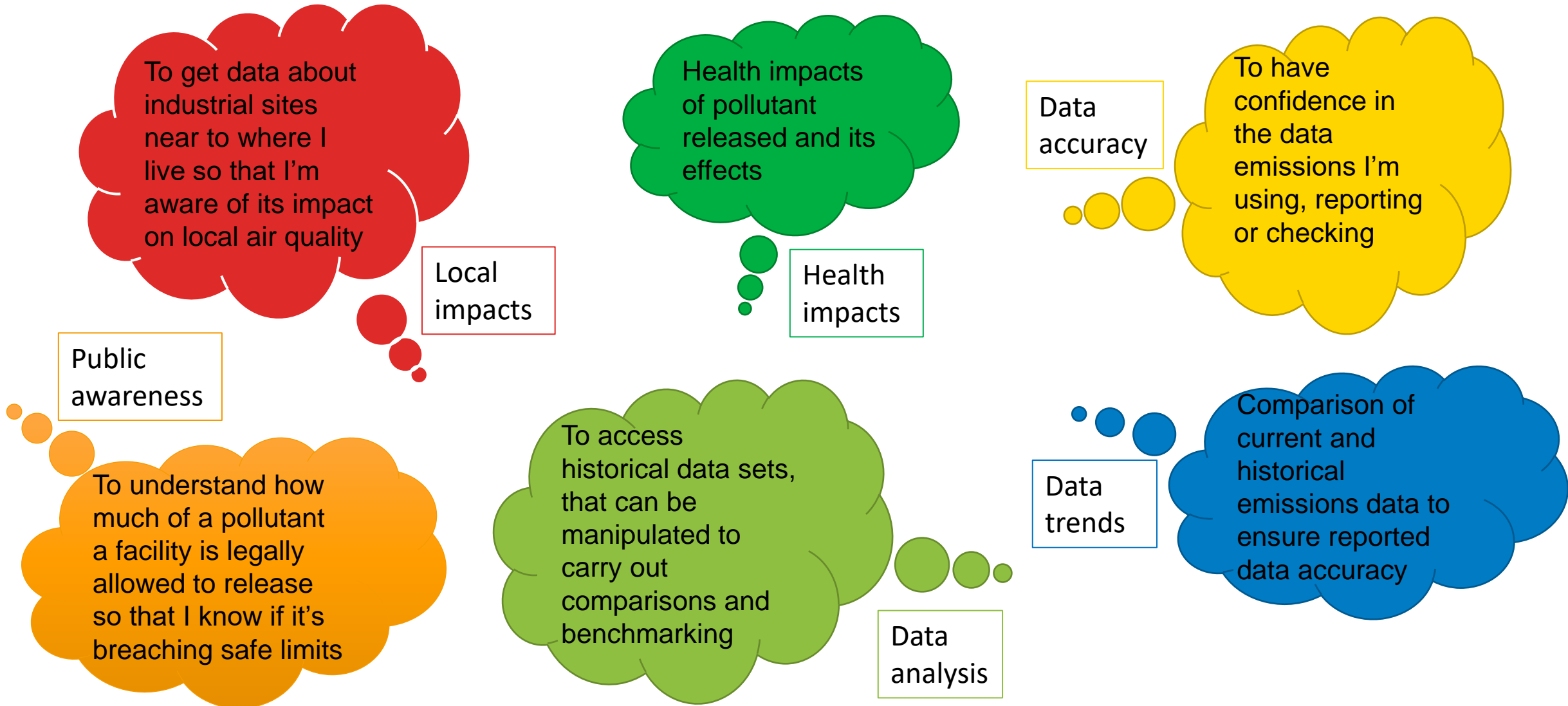


Research overview

- UK is currently exploring the effectiveness of UK PRTR systems, including both the data entry portal and the public facing inventory. This research includes contributions from public, academics, environmental NGOs, regulators, industry operators and other interested parties. This work highlights public needs, pain points and opportunities to take forward.
- Following the initial research phase, the scope of this digital work is now expanded to include other air quality related inventories. This work will look at common themes and synergies across these landscapes, what the public would like to see and useability of pollution related information for users.
- Multiple workshops were conducted with interested parties to gauge effectiveness of current systems, process regarding data collection and its dissemination.
- The outcomes will ensure the public is provided with timely and relevant information. It is also guided by our wider air quality digital aim: to communicate actions people can take to limit their personal exposure and impacts of air pollution on their health including their own influence on air quality.

Feedback from operators, regulators and public

- Highlights from research sessions held with subject matter experts and public on industrial emissions data.



Effectiveness of current systems

- Research feedback suggests that the public is interested in information such as:
 - Understanding environmental data,
 - Impacts on public health
 - Whether the data reports 'good' performance.
- Key questions include:
 - How far should we go to educate the public or stakeholder groups?
 - Contextualising emissions data and their health impacts?
 - How far can we go in making the data meaningful?
 - How much could we automate processes?

Improvement opportunities (public facing website)

- Feedback is related to UK PRTR's public facing website and data entry portal including its specific processes
- Below are highlights for the public facing website from an initial assessment and extracts from the research conducted

Process	Feedback
Data aggregation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Combine, reconcile multiple inventories and datasets for one view of the truth
Front end language and guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clear and simple naming and language• Good content design, taxonomy and search functions• Simpler language enabling better search and accessibility• Clear benchmarks for public awareness
Front end usability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Efficient user journey• Easier search functionality• Reliable technology to support user experience• Reliable, clear data downloads in multiple formats

Considerations moving forwards

- Explore merging other related inventories, but balance of this with keeping clarity of PRTR data
- Making industrial emissions information more meaningful for public awareness
- Wider views from parties on PRTR data dissemination questions arising from this research:
 - Educating public
 - Contextualising data
 - Health impacts
 - Simplifying for public needs
 - Making data more useful through baselining



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Questions & Feedback

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