

27 November 2024

# Research Data Scotland

Overview and Looked After Children linkage improvement project

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# Overview of Research Data Scotland

# About Research Data Scotland (RDS)

Making it faster and simpler  
to access Scotland's public  
sector data for research

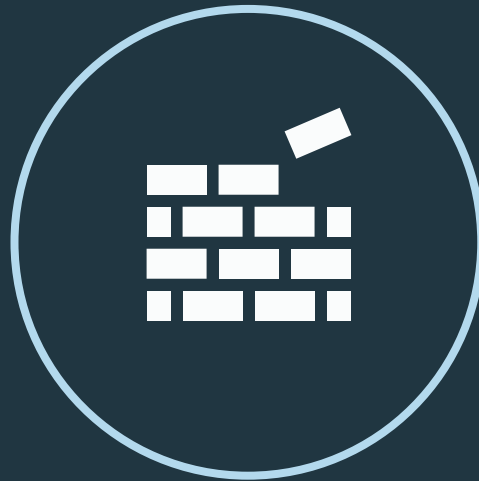


# Our business plan for 2024-25

## Four key themes:



**Aligning  
approaches,  
demonstrating  
trustworthiness**



**Shaping and  
delivering  
researcher  
services**



**A sustainable  
system**



**Unlocking  
Scotland's  
data**

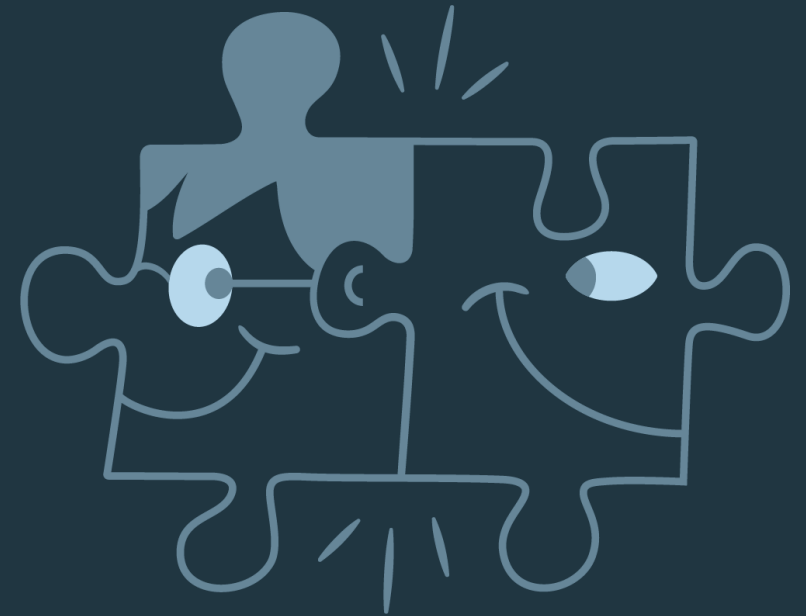
# Administrative Data Research Scotland (ADR-S)

**Making administrative data more readily linkable and conducting research on critical issues in Scotland.**

RDS are undertaking some tasks in the ADR-S programme e.g. ingest of Education Analytical Services datasets to National Safe Haven.

## **Datasets available**

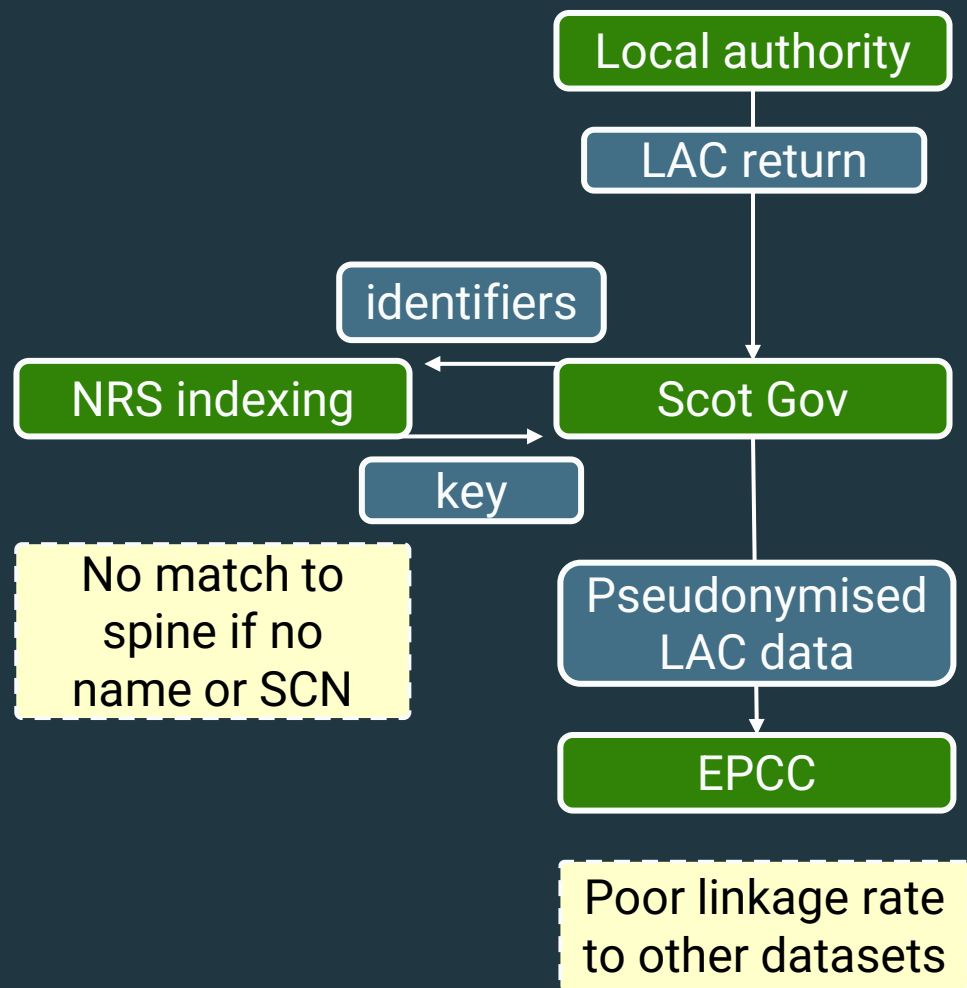
- Pupil census
- Curriculum for Excellence levels
- SQA National Qualifications
- Exclusions
- School leavers destinations
- Health and wellbeing census
- Child protection
- Looked After Children



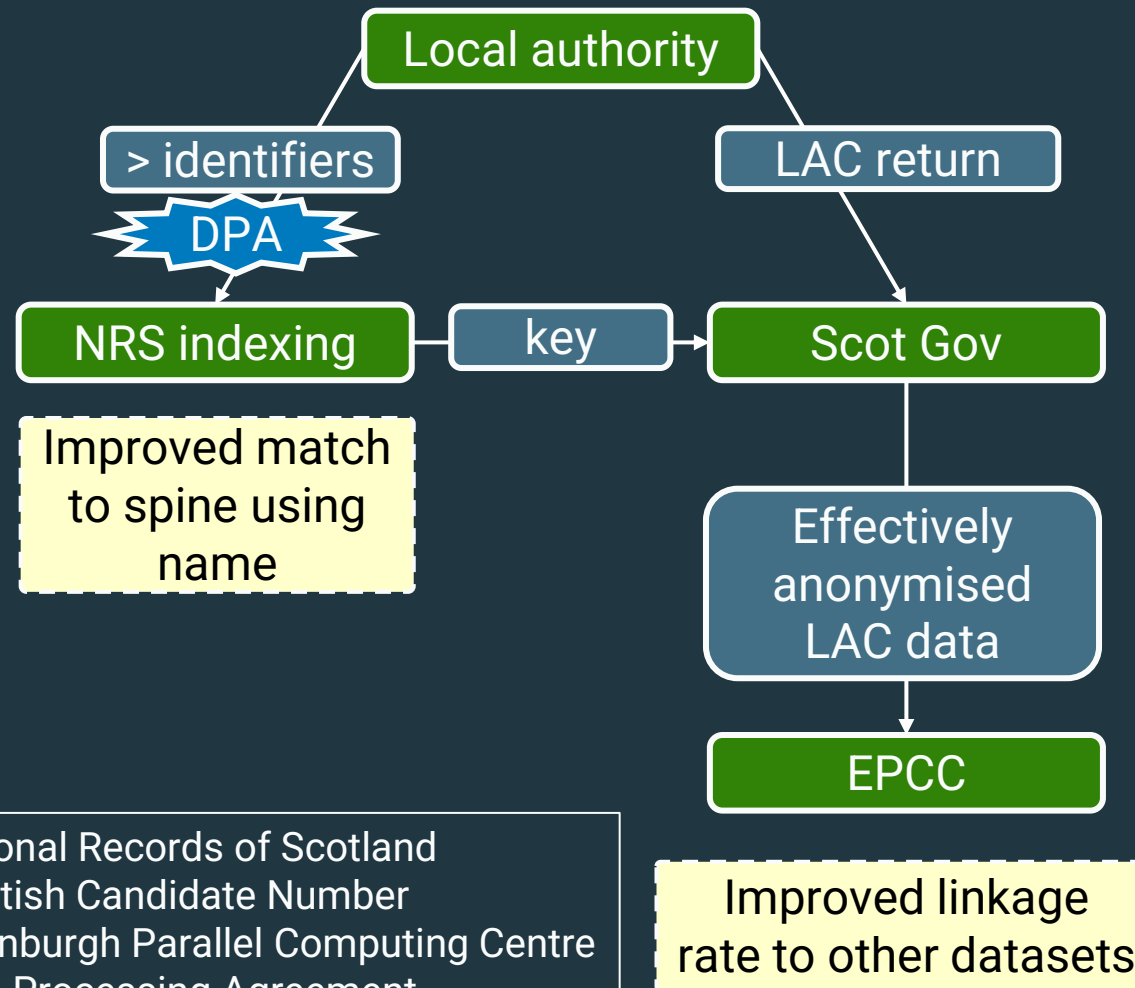
# Looked After Children data linkage improvement project

# Looked After Children linkage improvement

## Current process



## Proposed process



NRS = National Records of Scotland  
SCN = Scottish Candidate Number  
EPCC = Edinburgh Parallel Computing Centre  
DPA = Data Processing Agreement

# Benefits – improvements in:

Match rate  
to spine

Linkage to  
other datasets

Holistic  
understanding  
of LAC

Evidence-based  
decision-making

Outcomes for  
children



# Legal framework for data processing

**Lawful basis for processing is provided by Article 6(1)(e) and Article 9(2)(j) of the UK GDPR:**

“Processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the Controller”

“processing is necessary for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes in accordance with Article 89(1)”



# Question for the virtual room

**How do you feel about the proposed change in process to improve linkage rate?**

Local authorities share personal identifiable information with NRS as well as send LAC returns to Scottish Government.



# Get involved



Sign up to our monthly newsletter:

[bit.ly/rds-newsletter](https://bit.ly/rds-newsletter)



Help inform and shape our work:

[bit.ly/RDS-get-involved](https://bit.ly/RDS-get-involved)