

## Public Good Project Checklist

Potential Risks	Potential Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Is there potential for your work to be used to make decisions about individuals (e.g., as may be the case with predictive modelling projects) or to identify individuals? What ramifications may this have for these individuals?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Is there potential for your work to be used to make decisions about, or to identify, particular groups or communities within society? What ramifications may this have for them?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Are there any potential data gaps in your work that could lead to harm, stigmatisation or distress for individuals or groups who are under-represented in your analysis (i.e., those who may be missing from your data)? How could this be mitigated?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Is there potential for bias in the data sources and/or data collection methods used? Are any assumptions and constraints in the data and methods clearly identified and communicated?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Is there potential for harm, stigmatisation or distress for individuals or groups who are (a) included as data subjects in your project or (b) may be impacted as a result of the findings of the research (including social, environmental, economic, physical or mental health impacts)? If so, how can these risks be minimised?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Is there potential for negative impacts for organisations who are (a) included as data subjects in your project or (b) may be impacted as a result of the findings of the research (including reputational impacts)? If so, how can these risks be minimised?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> What are the specific envisaged public benefits of your work? And how will you achieve these benefits? (revisit the 'What is public good' section if needed)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> What is the evidence-base behind your justification of potential benefits? Is it peer-reviewed? How confident are you that these benefits will be realised?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Are there any limitations in your project approach that may limit the impact of potential benefits? What are these and how have they been minimised?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> How many people are likely to be affected by the potential benefits arising from the work? And who/what sections of society do they represent? Focusing on a small section of the population is fine, but make sure that you have a clear justification for doing this.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Has the rationale behind, and benefits of, your work been clearly articulated and documented? Is this easily accessible and understandable to relevant groups?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Is the work focused on enhancing trust in statistics or statistics producers (e.g., challenging or validating official statistics)? By what means will it do this?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Is the work addressing a topic that requires urgent or timely data to aid decision-making? If so, what is the rationale for this?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Is the work addressing data gaps in statistics? If so, which ones?</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Is there potential for harm or distress to members of the research team, research facilitators, or other individuals involved in activities related to conducting the project? If so, how can these risks be minimised?</li>   <li><input type="checkbox"/> Does your work involve using data related to sensitive or personal information or protected characteristics, sensitive cultural or social contexts, or engaging with vulnerable groups? How are these aspects being managed?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Will your work effectively communicate findings so that public benefit can be maximised across different audiences who may engage with your project results? What communication methods and channels will you use to ensure this?</li>   <li><input type="checkbox"/> Does your project approach uphold the principles of trustworthiness, quality and value in statistics? In what way?</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>For each risk identified, think through any possible mitigations that could be applied to minimise this.</b> For example, if researchers are dealing with sensitive or unpleasant information arising from a study on children’s mental health, how can you ensure that the appropriate support services are in place for researchers, as well as participants?</li>   <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>For each benefit identified, think about how likely it is that the benefit will be realised</b> (i.e., the probability of the benefit occurring).</li> </ul>	
<p><a href="#">Key Points to Remember</a></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Potential harms are not solely related to data collection and primary research, the use of secondary data also has the potential to cause harm!</li>   <li><input type="checkbox"/> A project collecting and/or analysing data in one country or cultural context may present substantially different risks than if conducted in a different country or context, due to differing data governance, cultural sensitivities, or potential harms related to identification of data subjects. It is important to consider the wider societal context that your project relates to.</li>   <li><input type="checkbox"/> Assessing public good is an inherently subjective process and the relative benefits and risks of any project are likely to differ according to the particular methods and data sources used, the rationale for the work, and the particular context in which the work is undertaken. It is therefore very important to document your process for defining and evidencing the public good of your project.</li>   <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that your work is as transparent as possible to help maintain public confidence in the use of data for research and statistics.</li> </ul>	
<p><a href="#">Final Points</a></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Are there any other risks and benefits related to this particular project that you can think of that have not been considered? This list is unlikely to be exhaustive!</li>   <li><input type="checkbox"/> Can you justify all of the remaining risks that are associated with your work? Are these proportionate to the proposed public benefits of the project?</li> </ul>	