

Understanding research data classifications

Data Types	Very Sensitive	Sensitive	Restricted	Public
Data classified by Human and Animal Ethics Committees	Classified as Very Sensitive			
Data involving information on children or young persons	Classified as Very Sensitive			
Identifiable data containing direct identifiers e.g. Name, Medical Record Number (MRN), DOB and contact details	Classified as Very Sensitive			
Re-identifiable data where direct identifiers have been removed but indirect identifiers may be present e.g. Postcode	Classified as Sensitive or Higher			
Data in datasets which is not combined with personally identifiable information	Classified as Sensitive or Higher			
De-identified data with no identifying information in aggregate data	Classified as Restricted or Higher			
Data from instruments and imaging systems. sensors, detectors, cameras, recorders that does not contain identifiable or re-identifiable information	Classified as Restricted or Higher			

Examples of research data by classification

Very Sensitive	Sensitive	Restricted	Public
Research data containing identifiable personal health or medical information including images and recordings etc.	Research data containing non-identifiable and or re-identifiable personal health or medical information including images and recordings etc.	Research data from instruments and imaging systems. sensors, detectors, cameras, recorders that does not contain identifiable or re-identifiable information.	Research data that has been made publicly available.
Research data involving information on children or young persons including images, recordings etc.	Research data containing identifiable personal information e.g. postcode, geolocation information including images and recordings etc.	Drafts of research papers and publications, that do not contain identifiable or re-identifiable information.	Open data and open access publications.
Research data involving information on people from cultural or ethnic groups including images, recordings etc.		Data sets and code that do not contain identifiable or re-identifiable information.	
Research data involving information on people with disabilities including images, recordings etc.		Research documents that do not contain identifiable or re-identifiable information.	
Research data involving information on people living in war zones or politically unstable regimes including images, recordings etc.		Data produced in the course of the Universities research that has not been published.	