

Framework for assessing the merit of a data sharing activity to deliver 'public benefit'

Checklist covering key elements of 'public benefit'	Where does your data sharing proposal lie on the scale?						
1. That the use of data enables high quality service delivery which produces better outcomes for people, enhancing their wellbeing.	Does the individual's whose data is being used directly benefit from improved service provision?	○	○	○	○	No direct benefit provided to the individual	Clear and direct benefits provided to the individual
	Is the use of data able to deliver long term, life changing benefits to individuals?	○	○	○	○	Unlikely to deliver long-term benefits	Very likely to deliver long-term benefits
	Will the use of data have punitive impacts on individuals?	○	○	○	○	High risk of punitive impacts for individuals	Very low risk of punitive impacts
	What is the risk that individuals or communities will suffer unintended negative consequences as a result of the data sharing i.e. as a result of stigma, discrimination or inappropriate targeting?	○	○	○	○	High risk of unintended negative consequences	Very low risk of unintended negative consequences
2. That the use of data delivers positive outcomes for the wider public, not just individuals;	Does the use of data deliver wider social benefits?	○	○	○	○	The benefits are just for individuals	There are multiple types of beneficiaries
	Does the initiative address the root causes of social problems/issues?	○	○	○	○	The approach addresses the symptoms	It addresses the root cause
	Can the use of data inform strategic service changes in ways that could have significant impacts on both public service providers and community wellbeing in the future?	○	○	○	○	Limited strategic value to inform service changes	High strategic value to inform service changes
3. That the initiative uses data in ways that respects the individual, and their privacy, not just in the method of sharing but also in principle.	Is only data that is necessary to achieve the purpose being shared?	○	○	○	○	Wide data sets shared without filtering	Sharing strictly limited to necessary data
	Does the use of data respect the privacy of the individual data subject?	○	○	○	○	Data routinely shared in personally identifiable forms	Data anonymised where possible and/or proactive steps taken to reduce privacy intrusions
	If data is being shared without consent, is it practical to gain informed consent without compromising the value of the data?	○	○	○	○	No efforts have been made to seek consent	Gaining informed consent is not viable
	Could the public reasonably expect data about them to be used for this purpose?	○	○	○	○	Very unlikely to expect data to be used this way	Very likely to expect data to be used this way
	How compatible is this use with the reason the data was originally collected?	○	○	○	○	Very incompatible	Very compatible
4. That the use of data both represents, and supports, the effective use of public resources (money, time, staff).	Does the use of data enable the delivery of 'better' public services, able to respond to what the majority of people need/want?	○	○	○	○	Unlikely to lead to more responsive service provision	Likely to deliver better, more responsive public services
	Does the use of data enable strategic planning that will deliver long-term efficiencies?	○	○	○	○	Unlikely to deliver efficiency savings	Likely to deliver efficiency savings
5. That the use of data creates benefits that are visible, recognised and valued by service providers and the wider public.	Are the benefits tangible and measurable?	○	○	○	○	Benefits are difficult to define	Benefits are tangible and measurable
	Are the benefits delivered able to be clearly attributed to the use of data?	○	○	○	○	Benefits not directly attributable.	Benefits clearly attributable
	Are the benefits able to be clearly communicated to the public?	○	○	○	○	Will need considerable explanation to demonstrate value to the public	Benefits will be immediately recognisable to the wider public
	Is the organisation able, and willing, to defend their use of data in this way if objections were raised?	○	○	○	○	Maybe not.	Absolutely