

1 Lead Researcher:*1.1 Personal details and contact information of lead researcher*

Surname*	
First Names*	
AR Number	

2 Researcher Team:*2.1 If you are leading a research team, please provide the names and details of all members of the team. Please add more tables if required.*

Surname*	
First Names*	
AR Number	

3 Research Sponsor:*3.1 Are you carrying out this research on behalf of a third party organisation?*Yes ☐ No ☐*3.2 If you are working on behalf of a Third Party Organisation, please provide the details of this organisation below;*

Sponsor	
Institution or Organisation*	
Contact Telephone No	
Contact Email	

4 Title of the Exploratory Research*:

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5 Details of Exploratory Research*:

Please provide a short description of the purpose for which the data are requested, describing potential aims of the research. Where research is part of a larger programme, please include details below.

6 Data Required:

6.1 *Please provide the title(s) of the dataset(s)¹;*

6.2 *Why is access to legally protected data needed? Please state what other data sources have been considered, and why they are not sufficient for your purposes.*

7 Public Good:

ONS permits exploratory research by Accredited Researchers to help them to assess data and inform future research proposals that are likely to deliver public benefits.

7.1 *Please indicate how your future research project is likely to serve the public good by ticking one or more of the following;*

<input type="checkbox"/>	To provide an evidence base for public policy decision making
<input type="checkbox"/>	To provide an evidence base for public service delivery;
<input type="checkbox"/>	To provide an evidence base for decisions which are likely to significantly benefit the UK economy, society or quality of life of people in the UK;
<input type="checkbox"/>	To replicate, validate or challenge Official Statistics;
<input type="checkbox"/>	To replicate, validate or challenge existing research;
<input type="checkbox"/>	To significantly extend understanding of social or economic trends or events by improving knowledge or challenging widely accepted analyses; or
<input type="checkbox"/>	To improve the quality, coverage or presentation of existing statistical information.

7.2 *Please describe how your exploratory research is likely to meet the criteria you have chosen;*

¹ *If the applicant requests access to data within the Virtual Microdata Laboratory, they should refer to the VML Data Catalogue on the ONS website for this section:*
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus/whatwedo/statistics/requestingstatistics/approvedresearcheraccreditation>

8 Duration:

Access for exploratory research will be granted for a period of 12 months from the date of approval.

9 Publication:

No publications are permitted from exploratory analysis

If the project is to be undertaken under the Approved Researcher Scheme, then relevant information in the fields marked * will be published on the ONS website as a public record of all Accredited Researchers and their research projects.

Once completed, please return this application to ONS by email:

VMLServiceDesk@ons.gsi.gov.uk