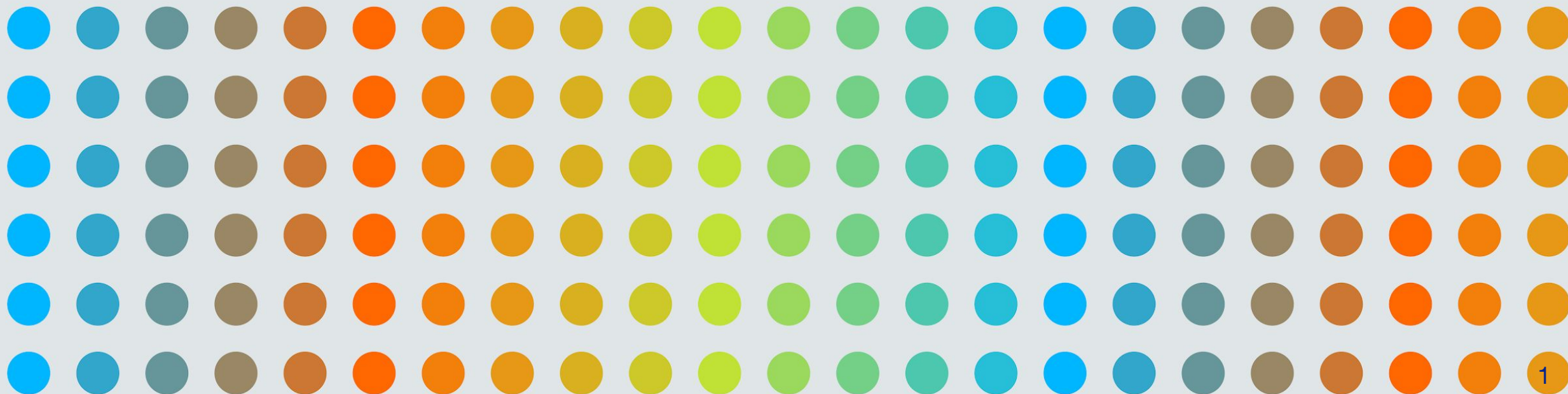




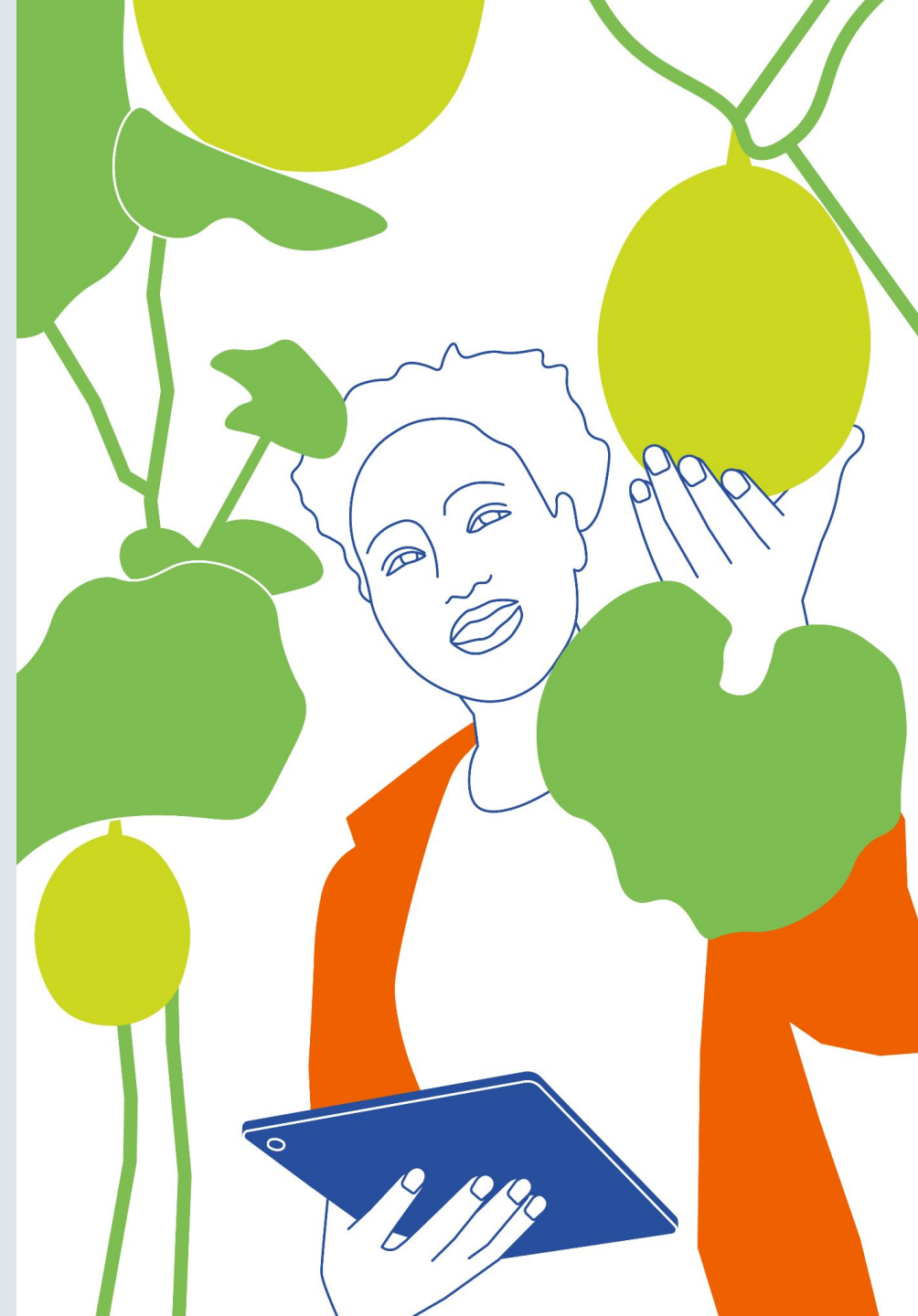
Volunteering Data Standards Working Group

18 February 2026



Contents

1. Welcome & project overview (10m)
2. Data Model Updates
 - Resources (5m)
 - Accessibility (15m)
 - Crisis Response Requirements (15m)
3. What information needs to be recorded to enable data sharing? (10m)
4. Next Steps (5m)



Welcome

Notices

This meeting will be recorded.

Chatham House Rule - Please don't Share AI summaries that identify individuals or organisations.

Inform the chair or secretariat if you think there is a risk of:

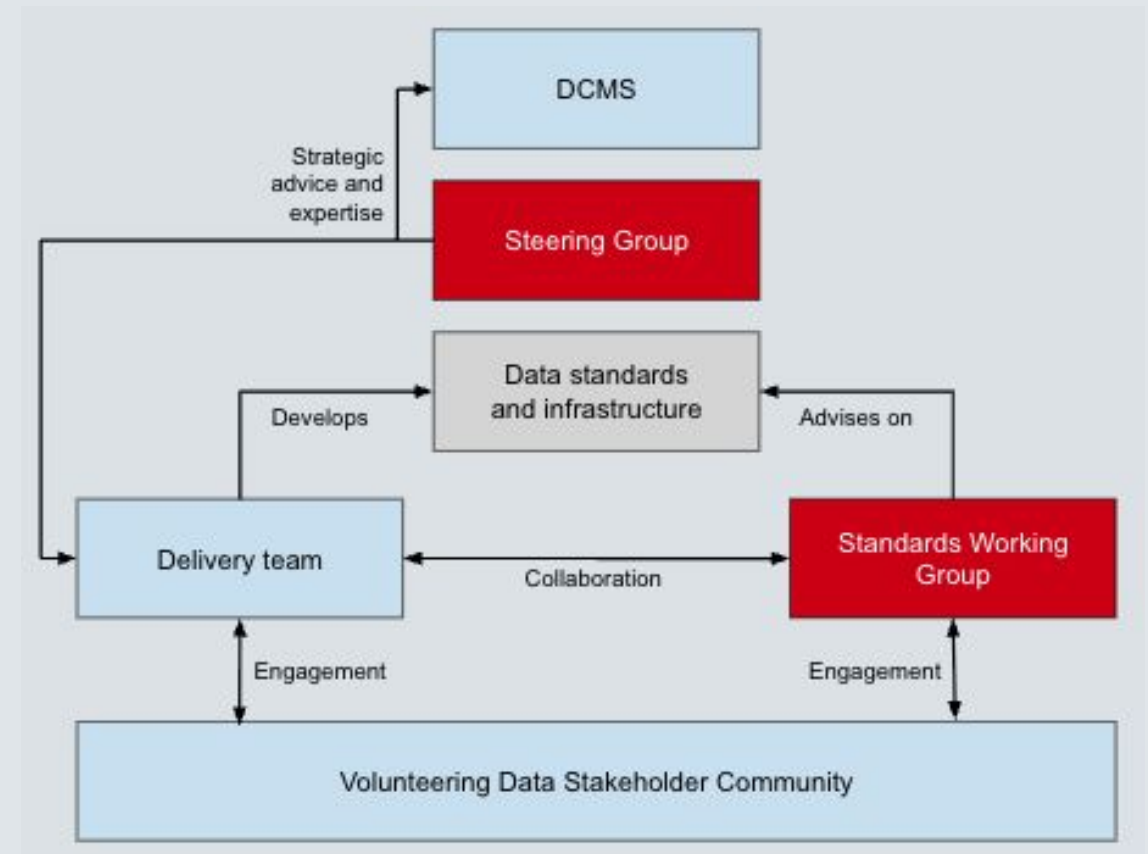
1. Conflicts of Interest: A personal or professional interest that might have undue or improper influence on a decision made in this meeting.
2. Engaging in anti-competitive activities: We must not discuss pricing, market sharing, or other matters that could be perceived to restrict competition.
3. Misuse of Intellectual Property: Concerns about how your contributions or ideas are being or could be used.

The Standards Working Group

A community of subject matter experts including: Thematic experts, data experts and software providers collaborating to agree standards.

Ensuring standards and infrastructure are developed that meet the needs of all stakeholders.

[Terms of Reference](#)



Working together

1. Every voice matters.
2. Please join the conversation, we don't want this to be one way.
3. If you're happy to, keep your camera on.
4. Please raise your hand if you want to come in, or drop your ideas in the chat.
5. Respect the diverse viewpoints in the room, assume positive intent and remain open to different perspectives and experiences.
6. We will be using Miro to support our discussions today.

Facilitation tools

We will use Miro today...

- Free, no sign up required, works in most browsers and most organisations.
- Big screen is better.
- We will walk you through the activities.

Today's link: https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVG_TGKwY=/

If you can't use Miro please contribute to discussions and share your thoughts in the meeting chat.

The miro board will be accessible after the meeting in 'View and Comment' mode.

Project Overview

Project Team



Funded by



Department
for Culture
Media & Sport

Sector technology partners



Why is ODI interested in volunteering?



Image generated by Gemini

Timeline

Activity	Sept		Oct					Nov				Dec				Jan-Mar 26			
	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W1	W2	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4	W1	JAN	FEB	MAR
Kick Off																			
Stage 1 Discovery																			
Stage 1 Alpha																			
Stage 2 Beta (TBC)																			

Christmas period. ODI office closed 24 Dec - 1 Jan

Real world implementations

Today



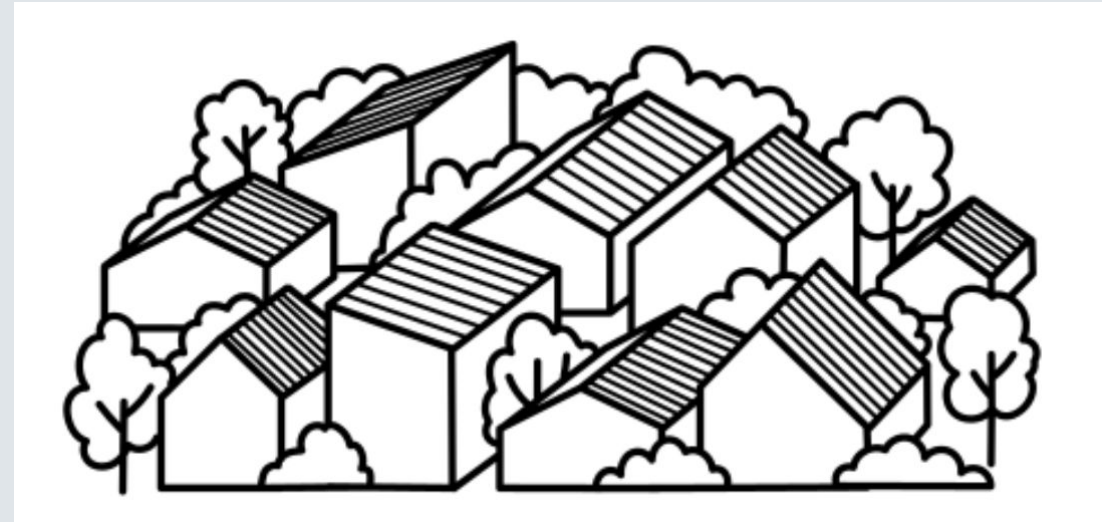
National interoperability pilot: The Big Help Out

1. Test aggregation, search, and redirection across multiple providers.
2. Refine the data model, API, and documentation.
3. Practical insight into adoption drivers for large-scale initiatives.
4. Evidence of interoperability at a national scale: opportunities providers publish once and gain additional visibility through the campaign.



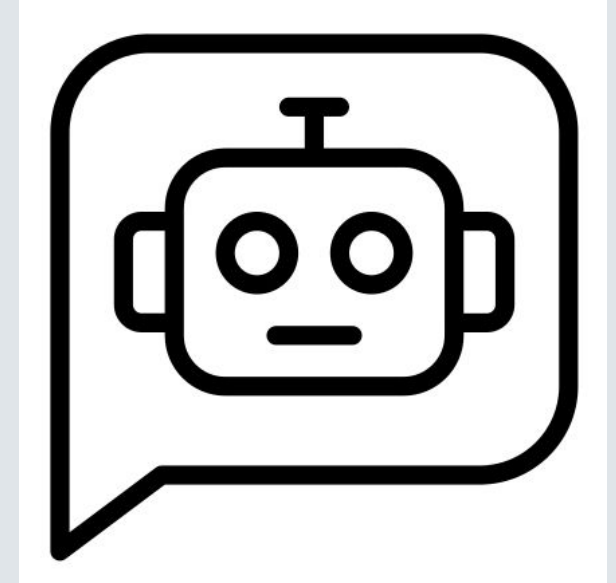
Smaller, grassroots organisations onboarding and tooling

1. Clear insight into the tooling, guidance, and support required to enable grassroots adoption.
2. Evidence on whether the draft standard is usable in low-resource, low-digital-capacity settings.
3. Improvement to the 'data culture' across the volunteering sector, building capacity through accessible resources.



AI-readiness

1. Evidence of whether the draft standard and APIs are suitable for AI.
2. Identification of gaps or ambiguities that limit effective machine interpretation of volunteering data.
3. Recommendations to improve AI-readiness, including changes to API structure, metadata, and documentation.



Data Model Update

Resources

<https://model.volunteeringdata.io/>

- A public space for the standard
- Contribute your knowledge through discussions
- Raise ecosystem awareness of the working groups
- Facilitate more contributions and focused discussions
- Everyone's knowledge and expertise is welcome and needed

<https://api.volunteeringdata.io/>

- Example implementation of standard
- API and sample data
- Example API Calls

Volunteering Data Model

[Use cases](#)[Hackathon](#)[Versions](#)[FAQ](#)

Volunteering and Social Action Ontology

The volunteering and social action ontology aims to standardise the representation of volunteering opportunities and volunteer-involving organisations so that data and associated tooling become reusable and can be shared across the Voluntary, Community, and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector.

Standard data models designed to address the challenges faced by a sector are the base for information systems interoperability. Their adoption lowers both the cost and technical barrier for entry into a data ecosystem.

The adequacy of a standard model enables simple solutions to use cases that may otherwise be challenging to address.

Ultimately, information systems relying on adequate standards enable a diverse, equitable and inclusive data ecosystem allowing us to focus time and efforts on users and improving processes that directly address their needs.

Process

Standards must be grounded in practical knowledge and experience of the sector they're designed for. Subject Matter Experts (SME), that is, a diverse group of people with varied and extensive experience of the sector, are the first point of contact in any standardisation effort. SMEs shared knowledge constitutes the base and justification for every data modelling decision in a standard.

Following that principle, the volunteering and social action ontology is developed in the open with volunteering specialists, software providers, and data experts, bringing the necessary domain expertise to collaborate on the standardisation effort.



How to Contribute in GitHub

Please contribute to the [discussions](#) on the volunteering data model repository.

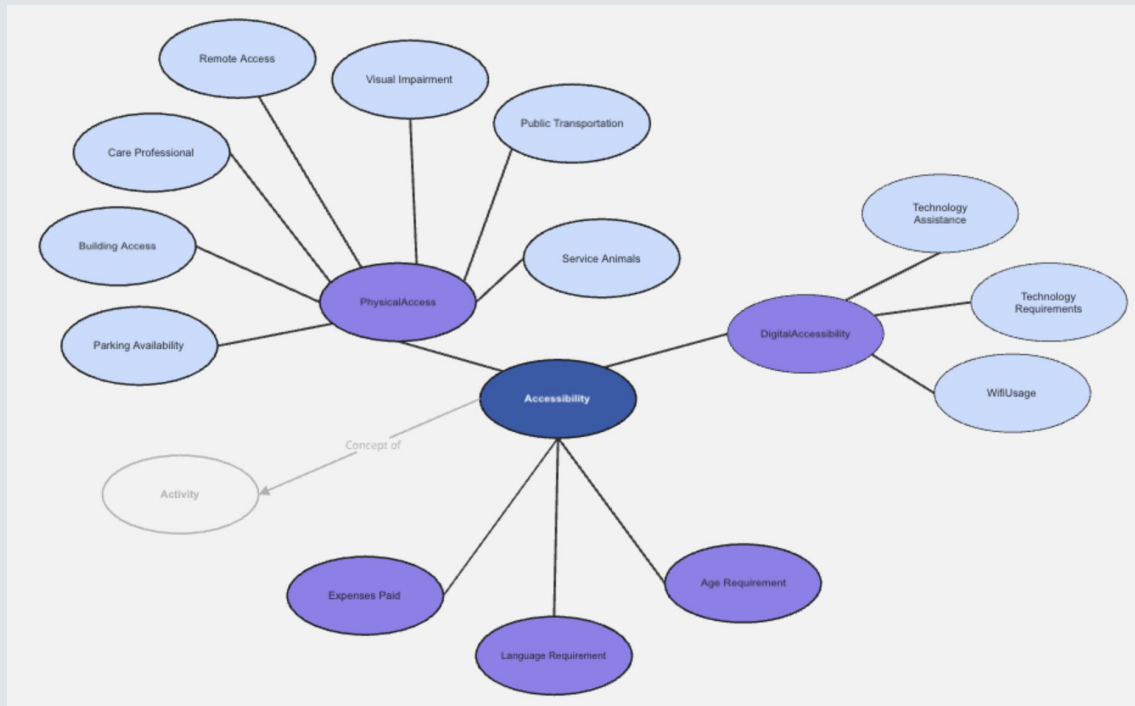
We have 8 categories for focused discussions on specific modeling and requirements topics:

- [Accessibility](#)
- [Data Governance](#)
- [Emergency Response](#)
- [Geographical Location](#)
- [Roles and Skills](#)
- [Value Mapping](#)
- [Volunteer Involving Organisation](#)
- [Volunteering Opportunities](#)

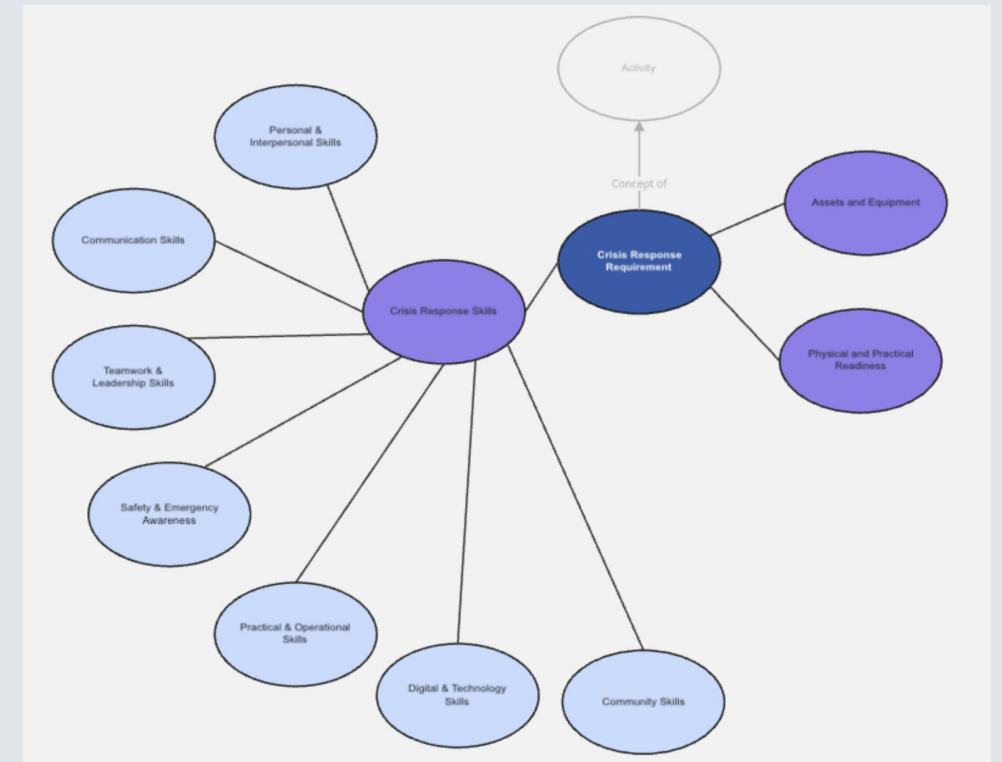
Also accessible from model.volunteeringdata.io

Standards Development

Accessibility



Crisis Response Requirements



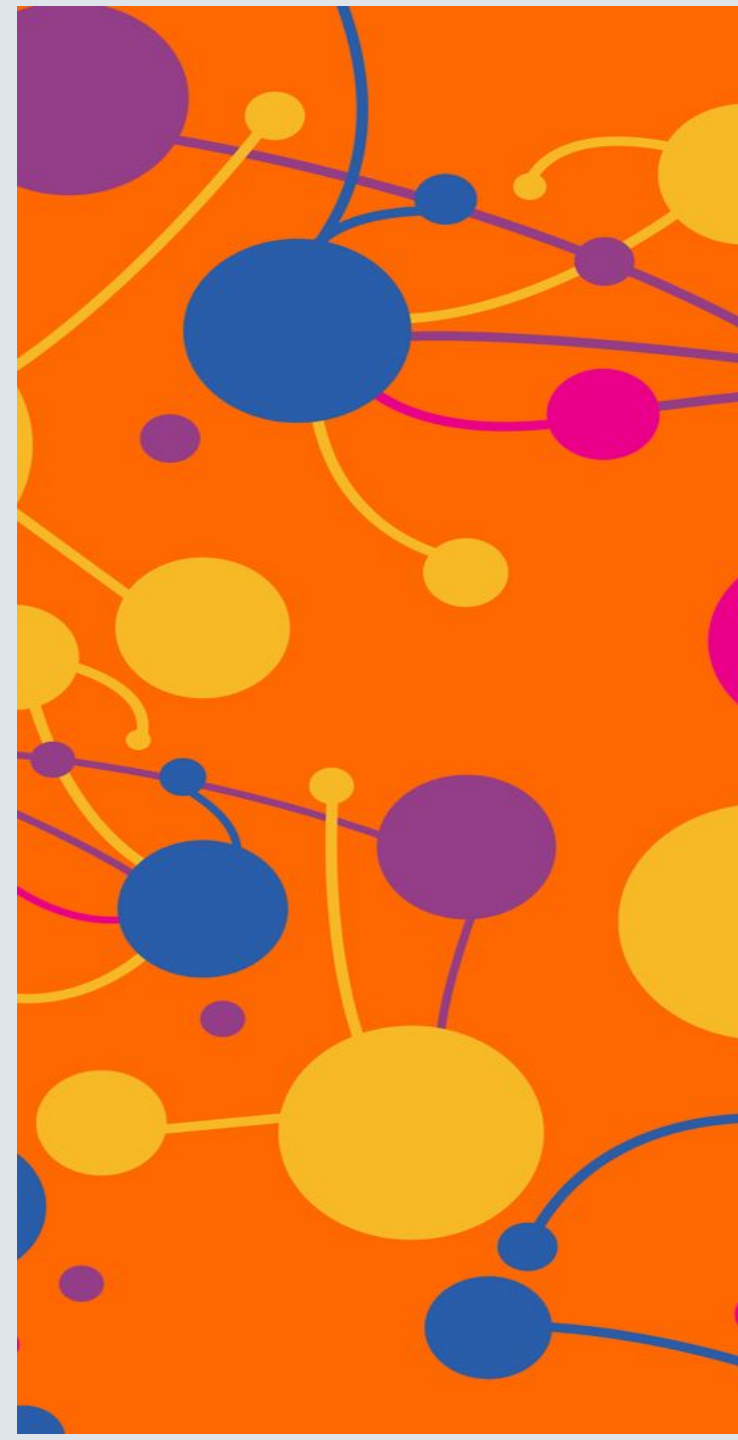
Go to: https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVG_TGKwY=

Data to enable data
sharing

(Metadata!)

What is metadata?

“Metadata is structured information that describes, explains, locates, or otherwise makes it easier to retrieve, use, or manage an information resource. Metadata is often called data about data or information about information.”



Why Metadata Matters

Discoverability - Where can I find data about?

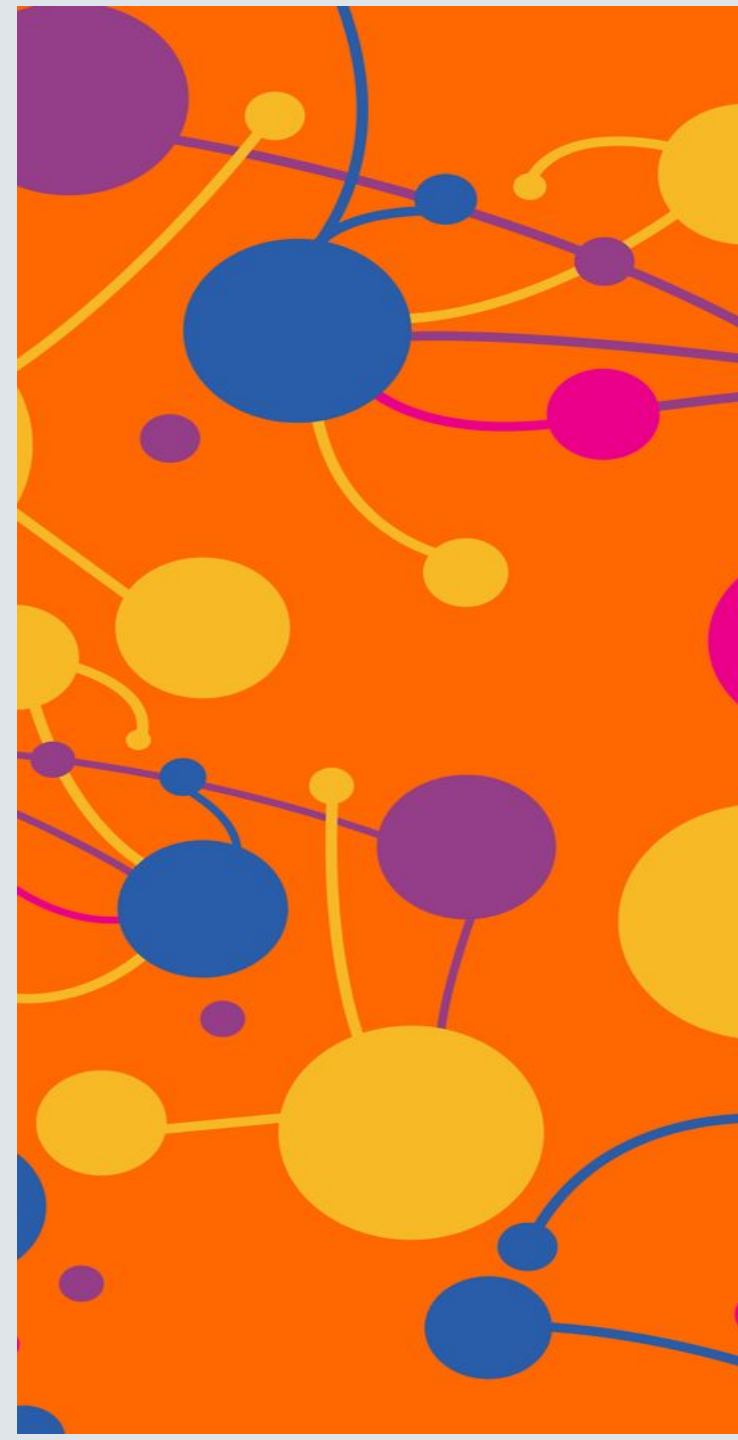
Documentation - What is included in this dataset?

Sensitivity - How do I need to handle this data?

Provenance - Who created this data?

Interoperability - How can I use this data?

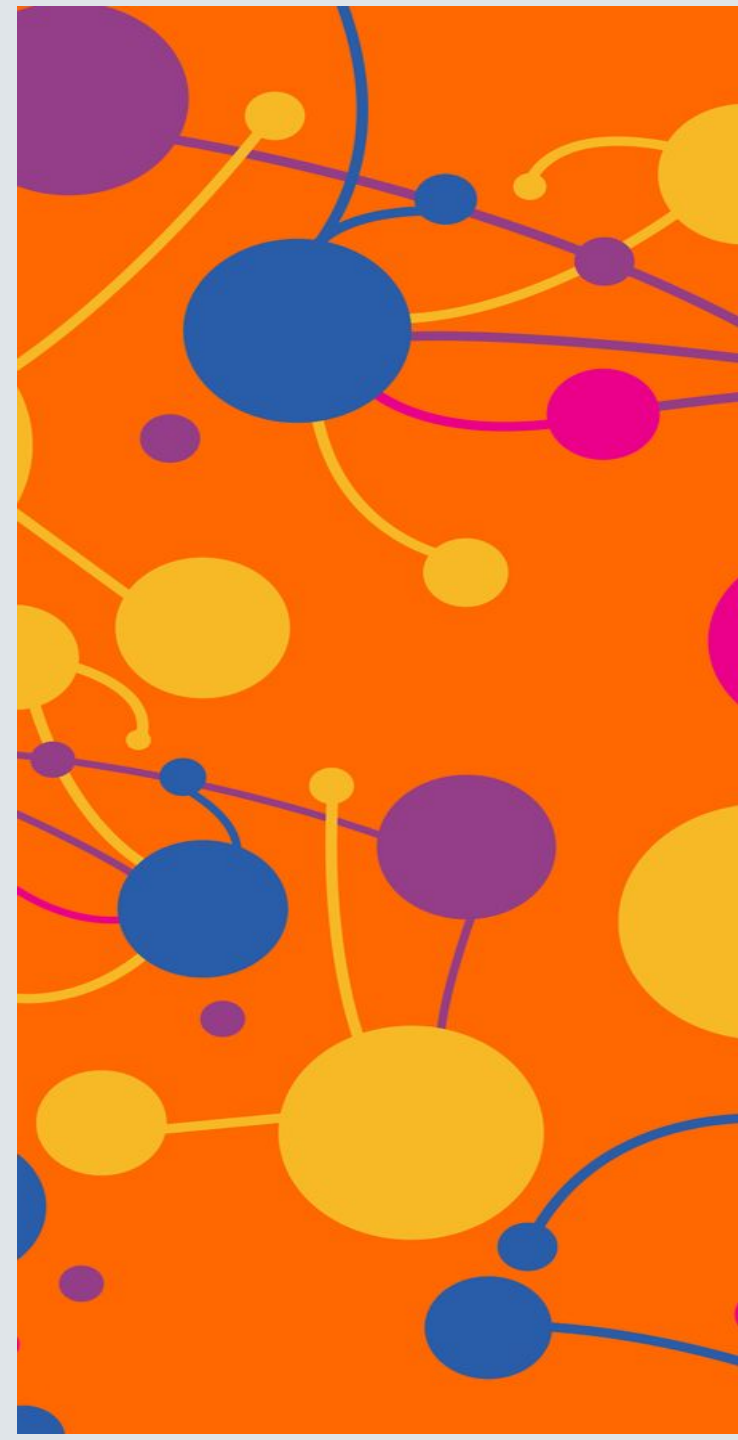
Governance - Who does this data belong to? Can I licence it? Who do I speak to about...



What is the essential information you need when accessing volunteering data?

What do you want to know about the data?

What information would assure you that data is suitable for your use?



Next Steps

What's Next?

Meeting 5 (04/03/26)

We will focus on describing the value of volunteering as data, this will include the value to people volunteering and the value to the volunteer involving organisation.

Meeting 6 (18/03/26)

This will be a retrospective, we will present the work of the working group and our achievements and seek your views on what went well, what didn't go well and your ideas for the future.

Thank you

www.theodi.org

- andrew.newman@theodi.org
- research@theodi.org

Open Data Institute

Kings Place

4th Floor

90 York Way

London N1 9AG

United Kingdom

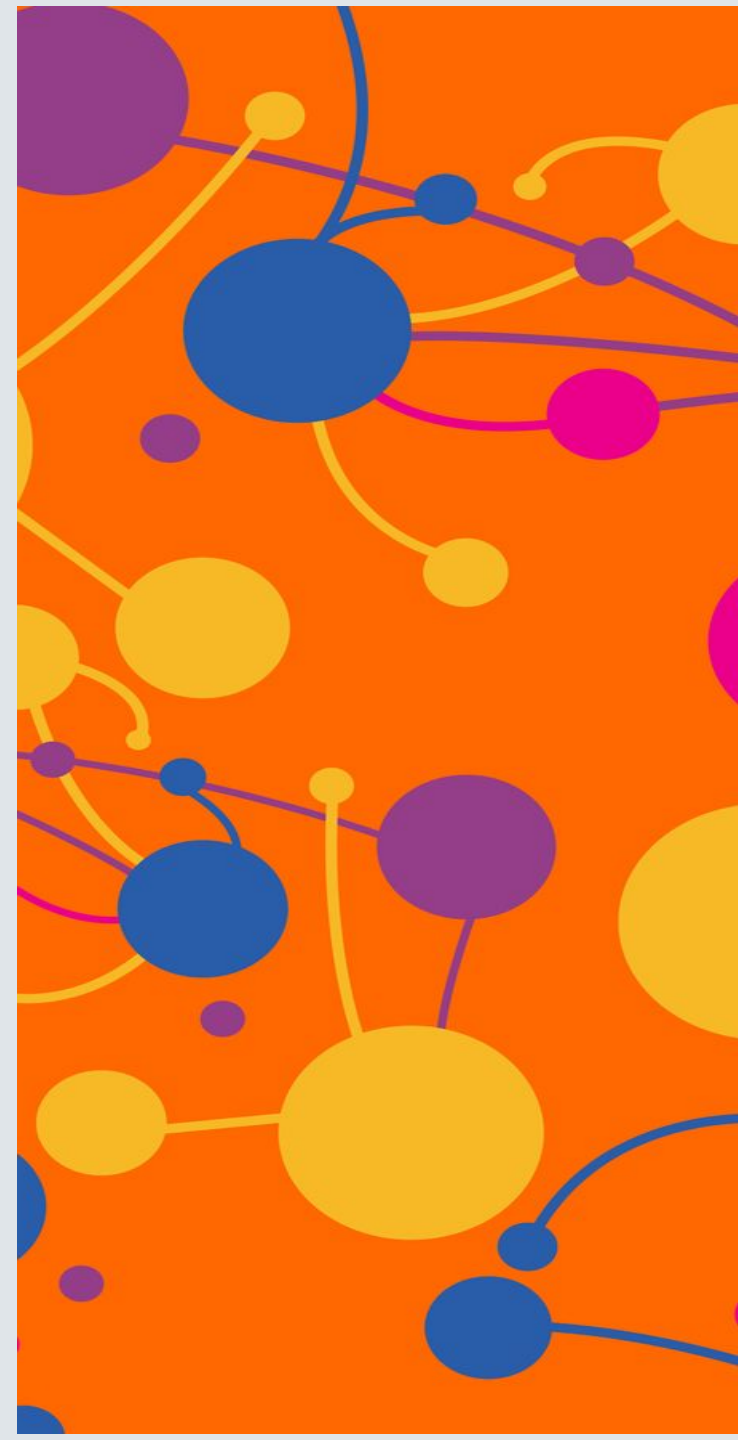
info@theodi.org

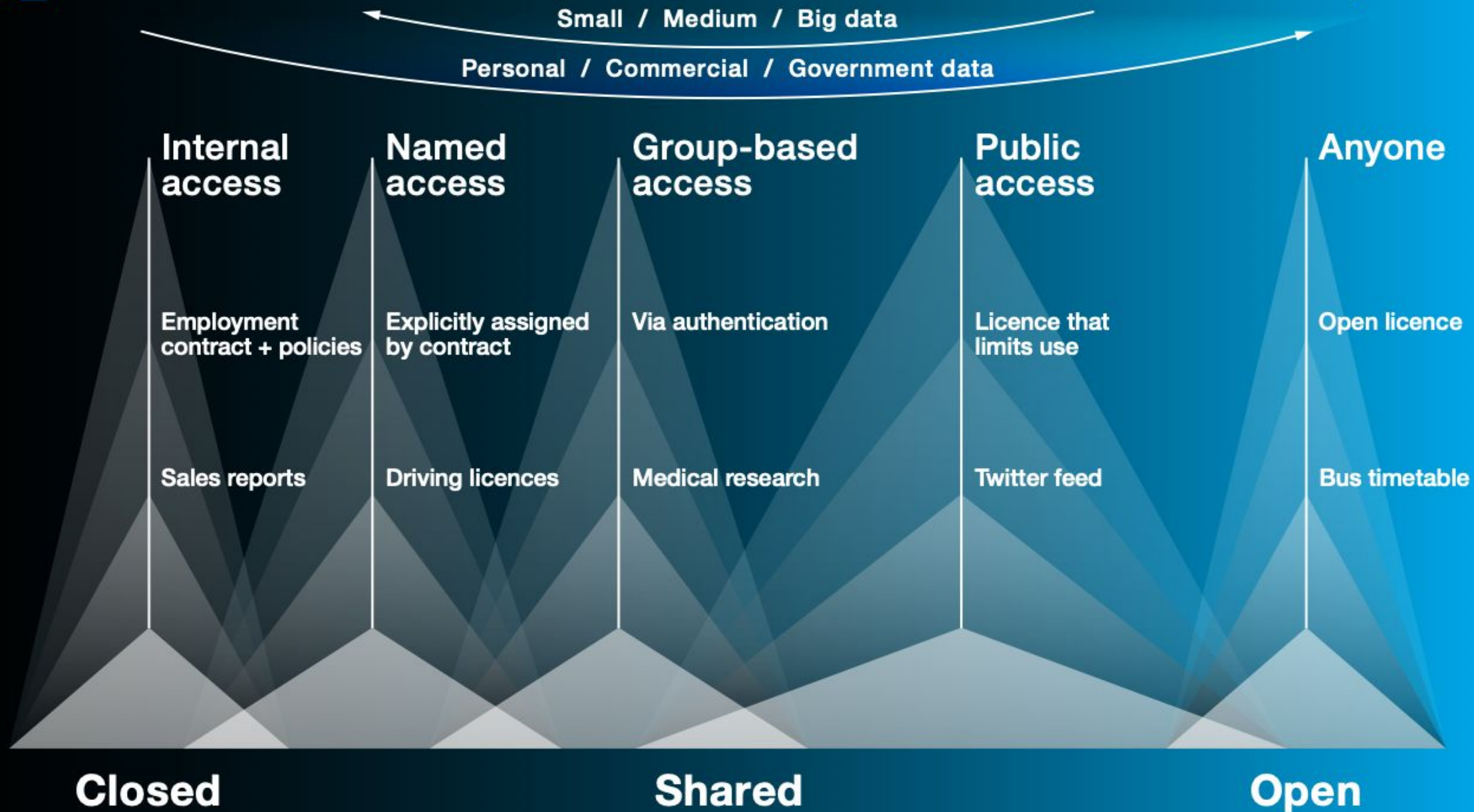
+44 (0)20 3598 9395

Additional Information

(not presented)

Open data is data
that anyone can
access, use or
share.





Data infrastructure

The data.

The policies and standards that define and control the data.

The technical infrastructure that provides access to the data.

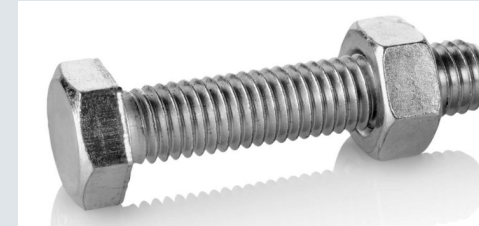
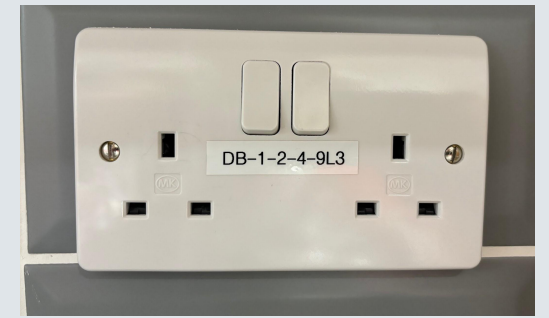
The organisations and people that contribute to, and steward, these things.

Open data standards

Standards are documented, reusable agreements that solve a specific set of problems or meet clearly defined needs.

An open standards are available for anyone to access, use and share, they are developed using open processes.

Open standards for data help us publish, access, share and use better quality data.



One metre is the length of the path travelled by light in vacuum during a time interval with duration of $1/299\,792\,458$ of a second (BIPM.ORG)



Develop a modern, open, data infrastructure for volunteering to:



**Power
Innovation
& increase
impact**



**Enable data
sharing**



**Build a data
culture**

Use Cases

