



SLS-DSU NEWSLETTER

Summer 2025

A summer of continuous improvements!

With the Census 2022 data soon available through the SLS, we are upgrading some of our practices to maintain strong governance, and make our processes smoother for our service users!

Census 2022 Extract Update

We are planning to receive the Census 2022 extract over the summer! [Contact us](#) now to register interest in accessing the new data. We will send out the updated Data Dictionary when it is completed so you can start the application process in parallel to us preparing the Census data for research use.

NEW Online Stage 2 Publication Outputs System

We are excited to be launching an online outputs clearance system for stage 2 publication outputs. Researchers will now have their **own user account** to upload and store their Stage 2 clearance requests and outputs. Register for your user account below.

The online form is intuitive and user friendly, facilitating submission. The status of your submission is visible in your dashboard which updates when output is approved or feedback given. An email alert is also sent when output is actioned. For full details, please see our [Guidance to Using the Online Outputs Clearance System](#) (opens a Canva link), which is also accessible via our [SLS website](#) (step 12).

After registration, subsequent login is via the [CALLS-Hub website](#) (home page, bottom right 'Output Login'). This is the website of the SLS & our sister studies (ONS CeLSIUS & NILS).

From 1 July 2025 all Stage 2 publication output requests must be submitted using the new online system before dissemination. Time frames for clearance will remain the same (20 working days), and as always our NRS Project Manager will endeavour to clear requests promptly.

[Click here to create your Researcher Account on CALLS-HUB](#)

What about Stage 1 clearance?

There is no change to Stage 1 Pre-publication Output clearance. **We expect all Stage 1 pre-publication outputs to be publication ready** (eg only the tables you wish to use in the slides, papers etc) rather than intermediate outputs. We still offer synthetic data to all projects as an alternative.

Spotlight

Updated Safe Setting Instructions

We have updated the SLS Service User Agreement and Pre-Arrival Instructions for anyone visiting the Safe Setting. If you are planning to book into the Safe Setting, you are required to read the new SLS Safe Setting User Agreement (you will be asked to check a box when you login to confirm that you agree to the conditions set out in the SLS User Agreement). The user agreement and pre-arrival instructions can be found on the SLS website:

- [SLS Safe Setting Pre-Arrival Instructions](#)
- [SLS Safe Setting User Agreement](#)

There are also copies on the wall of the Safe-Setting for your convenience.

Scotland's Census 2031 - Consultation

Share your thoughts on the future Census for 2031, to help shape future needs.

[Take part in the consultation](#)



Safe Setting Closure: Friday 29 August - Monday 15 September

Within the next couple of months we will upgrade our IT infrastructure, the consequence of which is that the provider of the new IT system has planned a **complete outage of the SLS service to occur from Friday 29 August to Monday 15 September**, to allow for essential maintenance.

There will be no researcher or staff access to the SLS data during this outage period. As such, we will also be **unable to process Stage (1) Pre-publication Output SDC requests** over that period. We recognise that this interruption may impact ongoing projects and appreciate that the timing may be challenging. This work is essential for the integrity of the service.

To support your projects, the SLS-DSU team are available to assist with Stage (1) Pre-publication Output SDC requests checks in advance of the outage. Due to anticipated demand, we kindly ask that **all disclosure output requests are submitted by Monday 4 August**.

Archiving of SLS Projects - Reminder

Once your project passes its end date, it will enter a 5 year archiving period. At the end of the archiving period your project folder will be deleted. Here is a reminder of the stages for our archiving process:

- Prior to archiving, please make sure you prepare any syntax/code you wish to keep and arrange for it to receive Stage 1 and Stage 2 clearance.
- Once archived, you may still request to access your project folder to complete reviewer comments/adjustments. There is a box on the Extension Form where you can request temporary access for this purpose. Note: for projects with other linked controlled data (e.g. health data), you will also need to arrange access via PBPP.
- 6 months before the end of the archiving period, we will contact you to warn you that your project will soon reach the end of its archiving period. Please keep us up to date with a current email address otherwise we cannot warn you.
- After the 5 year archiving period ends, your project folder will be deleted. This will include all files (data, code, outputs). Once deleted, we cannot retrieve any content from your project folder and you will no longer be able to request temporary access.

SLS Team at IASSIST 2025

We were delighted to be invited to present at the IASSIST Conference in Bristol in June. Keep an eye on our LinkedIn page for our latest updates!

Lynne Adair



Gillian Raab



Spotlight

SLS in a podcast!

Listen to this fascinating episode of **Linking our Lives** podcast series, where **Tom Clemens** (SLS Director of Impact and Engagement) and Dr Paul Norman, (University of Leeds) champion the uniqueness of using the ONS and SLS datasets.

Valuable tips on accessing and using the datasets are shared.

[Episode 4, Series 3 of Linking Our Lives Podcasts produced by CeLSIUS](#)

SLS in on LinkedIn

Follow us on LinkedIn to get the latest updates on our activity, impact and research outputs.

[SLS on LinkedIn](#)

ONS Safe Researcher Training

We expect all researchers to renew their SRT every 3 years by attending an in-person or online tutor led course. A schedule of Safe Researcher Training dates is available on the [SCADR website](#).

New dates for Autumn 2025:

Monday 25 August
Monday 27 October
Monday 15 December

All 1pm - 5pm