

SLS-DSU NEWSLETTER

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SLS-DSU

SCOTTISH LONGITUDINAL STUDY
DEVELOPMENT & SUPPORT UNIT

Winter 2025/26



New look for the SLS Data Dictionary!

We have updated the SLS Data Dictionary with a **new design!**

This will make it easier and quicker for current and potential SLS researchers to view our variables database.

It can now be downloaded as a zip file of eight Excel spreadsheets, **organised by census wave and topic**. This should allow our researchers to browse the Data Dictionary without needing to use MS Access.

The new structure provides additional clarity on the overall structure of the data.

Some researchers may also find it easier to fill out SLS applications, as they can simply copy relevant fields from the Data Dictionary Excel files to their own application spreadsheet

[Click here to access the SLS Data Dictionary.](#)

We are working in the background on a brand new app version of the Data Dictionary. Keep an eye out for upcoming news!

SLS Safe Setting closures

Please note the SLS Safe Settings will be **closed** on the following days:

- Last day of access is Friday 19 December 2025 and re-opening on Tuesday 6 January 2026
- Thursday 15 January 2026 all day

REMINDER

To book into the SLS Safe Setting, email sandrine.flower@ed.ac.uk by the Wednesday the week prior to your access

SLS on Social Media

For our latest updates, follow us on:

[LinkedIn](#)

[BlueSky](#)



The SLS Team wish you a happy festive holiday!
Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year 2026!

Highlight on 2025 Conferences

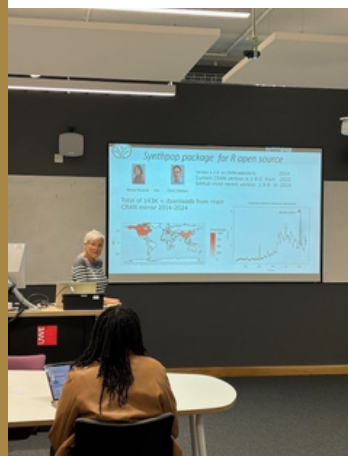
The SLS team attended a number of events over the course of 2025:

- IASSIST (International Association for Social Science Information Services and Technology), Bristol - June
- BPS (British Society for Population Studies), Swansea - September
- ADR (Administrative Data Research) - September
- TRE Community Conference - Leeds, September

It was a great opportunity to learn from other research groups, and to showcase the SLS.

Read the latest ADR Conference proceedings:

- [Lynne Adair \(SLS Head of Research Support Service\)](#)
- [Lee Williamson \(SLS Co-Director\)](#)
- [Joseph Barbour \(SLS Database Developer\)](#)



In other news...

2026 will bring exciting changes!

We have been working on a couple of updates to improve the researcher's experience:

- a new data management system: we're currently building a future-proof system to replace our aging database servers.
- the Census 2022 data should be linked to the SLS database in summer 2026! [Contact us now](#) to register interest in accessing the new data. You can use the [Data Dictionary](#) to help prepare your application.

We will notify you when these are in place!

Stage 2 Outputs Clearance and No Reuse

In order to clarify our process and to help us monitor SLS outputs, we request that **all** Stage 2 outputs are cleared, and we **no longer allow reuse of cleared output**. Please use the online outputs clearance system to submit all Stage 2 (final) outputs clearance requests via [CALLS-HUB](#) First time users - please [contact us](#) to set up your access.

We operate 20 working days clearance for Stage 2 (final) outputs and 10 working days for Stage 1 (pre-publication) outputs.

SLS at the Festival of Social Sciences 2025



Tom Clemens (Director of Impact and Engagement at SLS) and Sandrine Flower (SLS Admin Assistant) were joined by Andrew Williams and Luis Soares (UoE School of Health in Social Science) to deliver a fun activity to 45 Primary 7 children across two Livingston schools (Riverside and Letham) as part of the [ESRC Festival of Social Sciences](#).

Designed by the team at [GroundsWell](#), the activity is called Data Detectives, and teaches schoolchildren about environmental data, and the benefits of data linkage to inform decision-making.

Children offered engaging insights on how they would like to use data to improve their local area!