**ESRC Open call for research and innovation ideas to address research priorities relevant to the Department for Economy (DfE) Northern Ireland economic policy:   
  
BDR brief application form**

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) is responsible for the Business Data for Research (BDR) NI. Please refer to the BDR research call criteria and variable list when completing this form.

**Section 1: Research plan and datasets**

Section 1 will be used to assess the feasibility of the research proposal.

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| 1.1 Please provide a brief description of the datasets that you require and explain how the BDR data is uniquely placed to contribute to the study. (max. 1000 words) |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |

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| 1.2. Please provide a brief summary of what is known to date about your chosen topic and how the proposed research would contribute. (max. 1000 words) |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |

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| 1.3. Please define the project’s deliverables and describe and justify how these will provide/lead to benefit(s) relating to the [Department for Economy (DfE) Northern Ireland economic policy](https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/topics/economic-policy) and will support research priorities for the DfE NI [10X Economy - An Economic Vision For A Decade Of Innovation](https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/publications/10x-economy-economic-vision-decade-innovation). (max. 1000 words)  Include the aims and objectives of the project here and how the data will answer them. |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |

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| 1. 4. Please summarise your design and methodology. It should be clear exactly what will happen to the data. Please put this in language which would be easily understood by a lay person. (max. 1000 words)  (Please include any potential limitations with using the proposed data for this project. Any assumptions or use of proxies/inferences should also be noted. Also include any potential disclosure issues and how these will be addressed). |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |

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| 1.5 Please list the variables required using the proforma provided  Please complete this section using the BDR variable list. Please add more rows as necessary. It is important that all variables required are included in this list. Please refer to the BDR variable list. Other data cannot be added to BDR. | | | |
| **Table Name**  ABI/BESES, BRES or EES | **Year/s** | **Variable Name** | **Justification for Inclusion**  (necessary for all variables) |
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**Section 2: Investigators**

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| 2.1 Please provide evidence that the team has the necessary expertise (including expertise within the remit of business research), track record and contacts to undertake the proposed work and ensure its impact. (max. 250 words) |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |

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| 2.2 Please provide evidence of accredited researcher status under the Digital Economy Act (2018).  Please include the Accredited Researcher (AR) number for the PI and all co-investigators. To become an Accredited Researcher, please complete the Accredited Researcher application form available on the [UK Statistics Authority website](https://uksa.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/digitaleconomyact-research-statistics/better-useofdata-for-research-information-for-researchers/). |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |

**Section 3: CVs**

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| 3.1 Please provide a CV for the PI and Co-PIs. Each CV to provide relevant key publications/outputs and grants and other relevant information indicating their suitability to lead/support the research as described in the application (no more than 2xA4 page per CV using Arial 11 point). |
| Attached at the end of this document. |

**Section 4: Institutional approvals**

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| 4.1 Please confirm approval and support from the host institution/ company/ organisation |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |

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| 4.2 The data will be made available through the Office for National Statistics Secure Research Service (ONS SRS). If the researcher is planning to access the data through their organisation’s Safe Room, then their organisation must have [Assured Organisational Connectivity](https://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus/whatwedo/statistics/requestingstatistics/approvedresearcherscheme) in place prior to applying for funding. AOC accreditation is not required if the data will be accessed through a [SafePod](https://safepodnetwork.ac.uk/safepod/) or [NISRA](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/support/research-support).  Please confirm your how you plan to access data |
| * [Assured Organisational Connectivity (AOC)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus/whatwedo/statistics/requestingstatistics/approvedresearcherscheme) * [SafePod](https://safepodnetwork.ac.uk/safepod/) * [Via NISRA](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/support/research-support) |

I agree to protect the confidentiality of the BDR data.

I will read the NISRA RSU Policies document and sign the RSU Project Agreement upon approval of this application.

I will complete a Data Insight Report, Data Explained Report during the project and meet with NISRA to discuss the report[[1]](#footnote-1).

Signature: Date:

PI:

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Institutional approval:

*Eg. Research office or Head of Department.*

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**A Guide to Completing the Application Form**

**Section 1: Research plan and datasets**

Section 1 will be used to assess the feasibility of the research proposal.

**1.1 Please provide a brief description of the datasets that you require and explain how the BDR data is uniquely placed to contribute to the study.**

The project should illustrate how the BDR is uniquely placed to contribute to the study and indicate the researchers understanding of how the data might help answer the research question. The researcher must also state their knowledge of the research that has been undertaken in their field of research and how their study aims to improve understanding.

**1.2. Please provide a brief summary of what is known to date about your chosen topic and how the proposed research would contribute.**

The project should provide clear evidence of the value of the research to the current knowledge of the Northern Ireland economy.

**1.3. Please define the project’s deliverables and describe and justify how these will provide/lead to benefit(s) the research priorities for the** [**DfE’s 10X Economy - An Economic Vision For A Decade Of Innovation.**](https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/articles/10x-economy-economic-vision#:~:text=On%2011%20May%202021%2C%20the%20Department%20for%20the,benefits%20for%20all%20the%20people%20of%20Northern%20Ireland.)

The researcher should specify whether their project intends to use the ABI/BESES, BRES or EES or all three. Include the aims and objectives of the project here and how and which dataset will answer them. The project should also provide specific information on how the project will support the development or delivery of research priorities for the [[Department for Economy (DfE) NI economic policy](https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/topics/economic-policy)](https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/topics/economic-policy), specifically the [[DfE’s 10X Economy - An Economic Vision For A Decade Of Innovation](https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/publications/10x-economy-economic-vision-decade-innovation)](https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/publications/10x-economy-economic-vision-decade-innovation).

**1. 4. Please summarise your design and methodology. It should be clear exactly what will happen to the data. Please put this in language which would be easily understood by a lay person.**

The proposal should acknowledge potential limitations and consider how these will be addressed; outlining realistic expectations on the quality of the data, any gaps/constraints and the potential impact on the proposal. The proposal should also outline what types of data will be used as baseline data in order to better capture outcomes. Any assumptions or use of proxies/inferences made must be clearly noted.

**1.5 Please list the variables required using the proforma provided**

Researchers should refer to the BDR variable list and add more rows as necessary. The researcher must list in detail the relevant dataset (ABI/BESES, BRES or EES), all variables that are required and justification for each variable. Only variables that will be included in the finalised dataset should be included here. Researchers must ensure that all variables are justified for inclusion, for example, “SOA (i.e. Super Output Area geographic indicator) is required to determine area factors that relate to …”.

The expectation is that the researchers should specify all the variables required at the outset in the initial application. However, variables new to the project can be added at a later date where sufficient justification is provided.

**Section 2: Investigators**

Researchers should provide evidence of previous expertise in the area of research. As all researchers in the project will have to be accredited under the DEA, researchers should either provide detail of the Accredited Research number or confirmation that they have initiated the process. Details can be found on the [UK Statistics Authority website](https://uksa.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/digitaleconomyact-research-statistics/better-useofdata-for-research-information-for-researchers/).

**Section 3: CVs**

Attached at the end of this document. This should be no more that 2 sides of A4 per named applicant.

**Section 4: Institutional approvals**

This can come from an appropriate head of department or School. The application must demonstrate institutional approval before being submitted. Applicants must have arrangements for accessing the data in place before making an application. **Due to timeline constraints, it will not be possible to process applications from Organisations who do not have AOC status or other approved access arrangements (SafePod or NISRA) already in place.**

1. NISRA are requesting that successful applicants complete a Data Insight Report and a Data Explained report during the project. This will cover outcomes of the research, data access, documentation, data quality issues and future research areas. Templates will be issued to the successful applicants. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)