

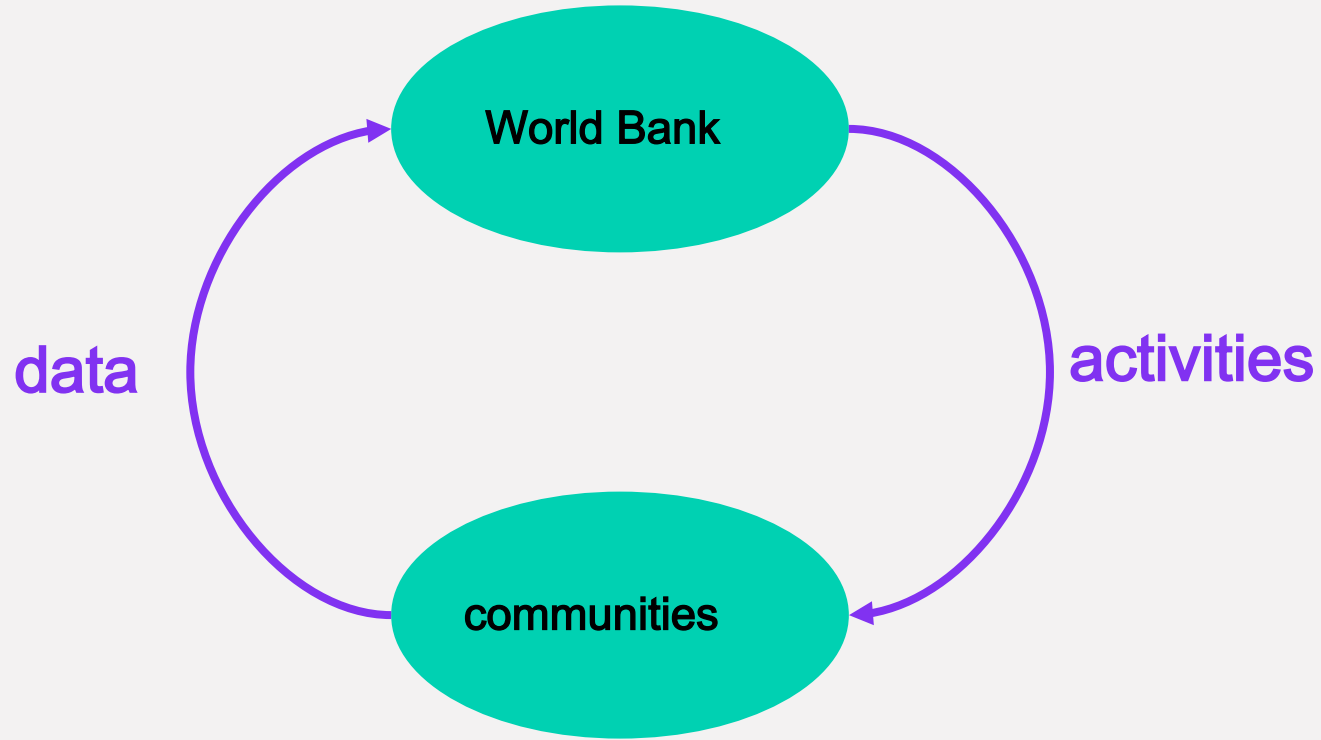
The importance of user and public voice in official statistics

Jeni Tennison ▪ @JeniT



World Bank Data Day 2019 . See <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/opendata/data-day-data-decade>

data - driven decision making





withdraw
data consent

affecting data
quality and
generalisability



avoid
services

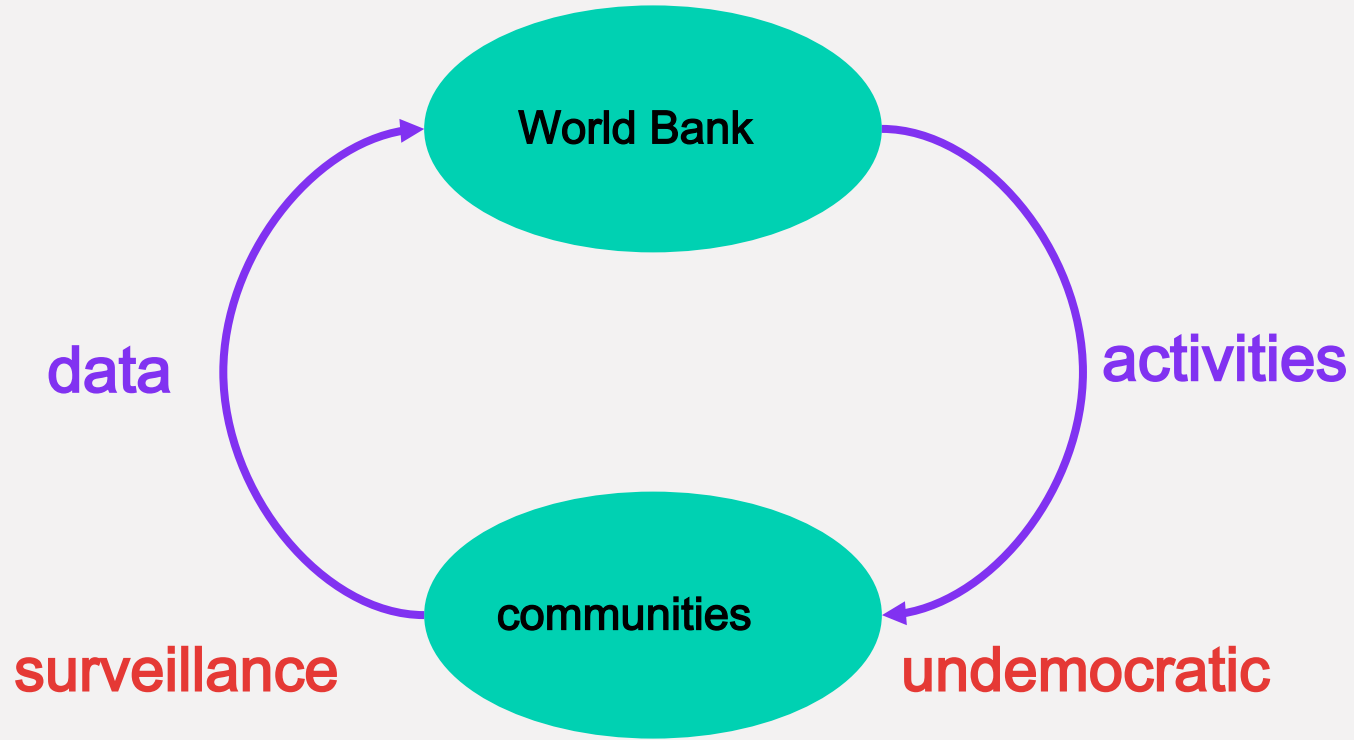
affecting public
health and
wellbeing



object and
protest

damaging
public trust

data - driven decision making





Indigenous Peoples' Rights in Data



DATA FOR GOVERNANCE

RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION

the ability to organise and control data in relation to a collective identity

RIGHT TO POSSESS



GOVERNANCE OF DATA

RIGHT TO GOVERN

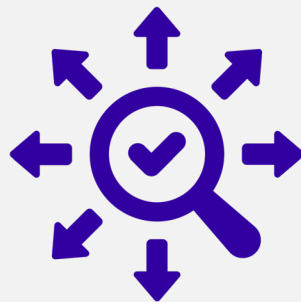
the right to lead and collaborate in the development and implementation of protocols and in decisions about access to data

Global Indigenous Data Alliance (GIDA), Indigenous Peoples' Rights in Data . <https://www.gida-global.org/data-rights>



better
quality data

improving
strength of
findings



im p a c t f u l
e v i d e n c e

demonstrating
importance of
research



a v o i d c o s t l y
f a i l u r e s

saving public
money

how do we
get there?

UK stats world

We do this by setting the standards official statistics must meet in the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#). We ensure that producers of official statistics uphold these standards by conducting assessments against the Code. Those which meet the standards are given National Statistics status, indicating that they meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and value. We also report publicly on system-wide issues and on the way that statistics are being used, celebrating when the standards are upheld and challenging publicly when they are not.

Our vision is simple. Statistics should serve the public good.

Statistics should be produced in a trustworthy way, be of high quality, and provide value by answering people's questions: providing accountability, helping people make choices and informing policy.

Our [5-year plan](#) sets out our vision and priorities for 2020-2025 and how we will contribute to fostering the Authority's ambitions for the statistics system. Our [annual business plan](#) shares our focus for the Office for Statistics Regulation, **What we do** . <https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/what-we-do/>

Home › Help › SecureLab › What is the Five Safes framework?

What is the Five Safes framework?

Search our help articles

The Five Safes framework is a security framework originated from the UK Data Service, which has become best practice in data protection.

Five Safes was adopted more recently by the Health Data Research Hub, including [Health Data Research](#).

Following the Five Safes, the UK Data Service can handle confidential data, enabling researchers to

Safe data: data is treated to protect any confidentiality concerns.

Safe projects: research projects are approved by data owners for the public good.

Safe people: researchers are trained and authorised to use data safely.

Safe settings: a SecureLab environment prevents unauthorised use.

Safe outputs: screened and approved outputs that are non-disclosive.

UK Data Service, What is the Five Safes framework?
the-five-safes-framework/

<https://ukdataservice.ac.uk/help/secure-lab/what-is-the-five-safes-framework/>

YOU KEEP USING THAT WORD.

**I DO NOT THINK IT MEANS WHAT YOU
THINK IT MEANS**

BOOK IV

I. THAT THE GENERAL WILL IS INDESTRUCTIBLE

AS long as several men in assembly regard themselves as a single body, they have only a single will which is concerned with their common preservation and general well-being. In this case, all the springs of the State are vigorous and simple and its common good is everywhere.

Finally, when the State, on the eve of ruin, maintains only a vain, illusory and formal existence, when in every heart the social bond is broken, and the meanest interest brazenly lays hold of the sacred name of "public good," the general will becomes mute: all men, guided by secret motives, no more give their views as citizens than if the State had never been; and iniquitous decrees directed solely to private interest get passed under the name of laws.

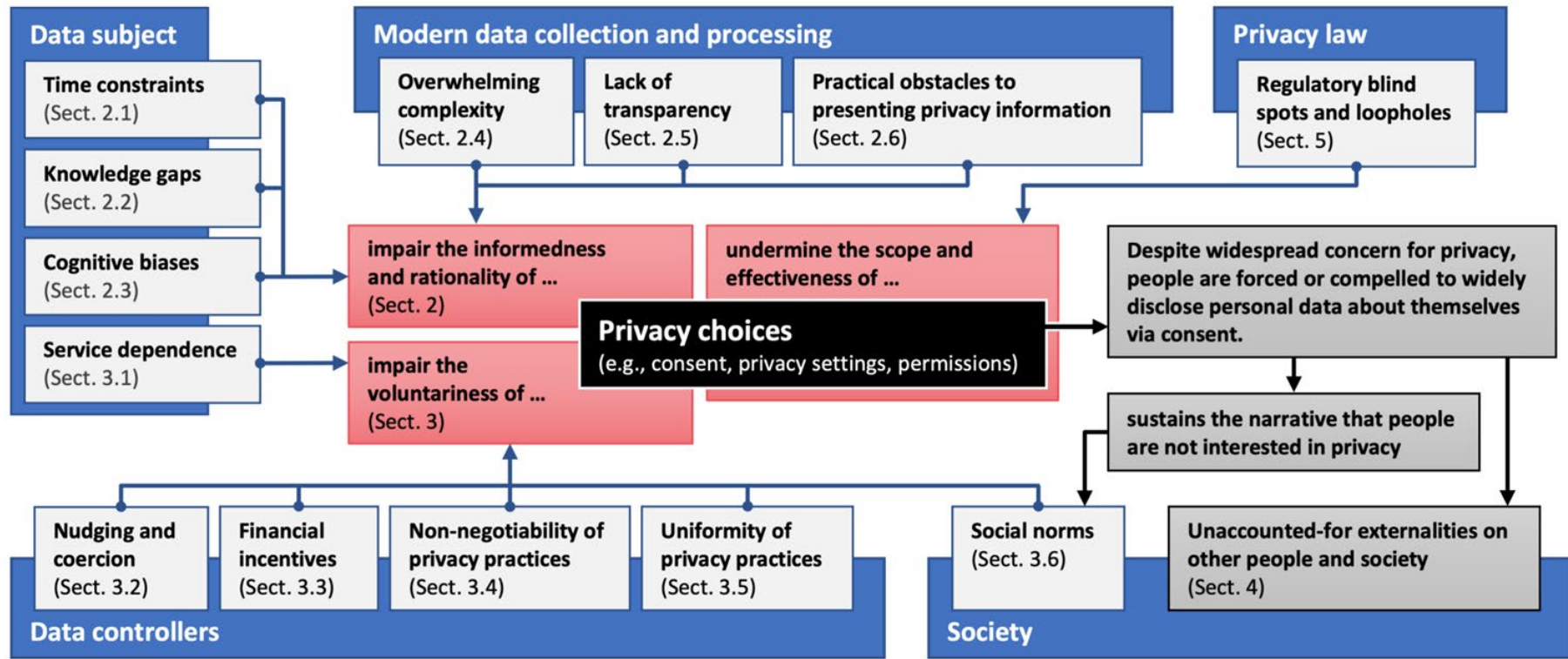
A State so governed needs very few laws; and, as it becomes necessary to issue new ones, the necessity is

Jean Jacques Rousseau (1762), **The Social Contract**

<https://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/economics/rousseau/social-contract/ch04.htm>

you have to ask people

individual consent?



Kröger, Jacob Leon and Lutz, Otto Hans-Martin and Ullrich, Stefan, **The Myth of Individual Control: Mapping the Limitations of Privacy Self-management** (July 7, 2021). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3881776>

collective data governance

A RELATIONAL THEORY OF DATA GOVERNANCE

Forthcoming, Yale Law Journal, Vol. 131

*Salomé Viljoen**

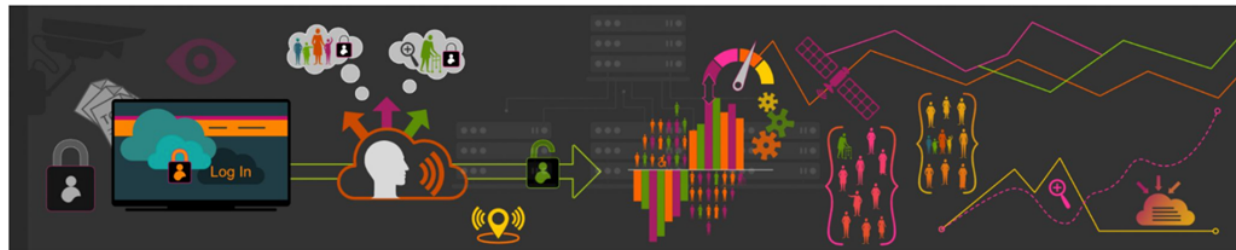
Data-governance law—the legal regime that regulates how data about people is collected, processed, and used—is the subject of lively theorizing and several proposed legislative reforms. Different theories advance different legal interests in information. Some seek to reassert individual control for data subjects over the terms of their datafication, while others aim to maximize data-subject financial gain. But these proposals share a common conceptual flaw. Put simply, they miss the point of data production in a digital economy: to put people into population-based relations with one another. This relational aspect of data production drives much of the social value and harm of data collection and use in a digital economy.

This Feature advances a theoretical account of data as social relations, constituted by both legal and technical systems. It shows how data relations result in supra-

Viljoen, Salomé, **A Relational Theory of Data Governance** (November 11, 2020). Yale Law Journal, Forthcoming, Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3727562> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3727562>

Data matters are human matters: summary of Living With Data findings

Home > Resources & publications > Data matters are human matters: summary of Living With Data findings



Living With Data (2019-2022) is finally at an end. We have produced a report of our main findings from across our research, which included:

- an evidence review
- producing visualisations and accounts of specific public sector data uses
- two waves of a survey of public attitudes to these data uses
- a series of focus groups and interviews on the same topic.

Click [here](#) → to access the report, or read on for a summary.

Living with Data (2022), **Data matters are human matters: summary of Living With Data findings**

<https://livingwithdata.org/resources/data-matters-are-human-matters-summary-of-living-with-data-findings/>

“it depends”

The **public** expect
public data to be used
for **public good** ...

... with **appropriate
safeguards**



privacy

is my data
protected from
those who
could harm me?



ethics

is our data
being used to
bring benefits?

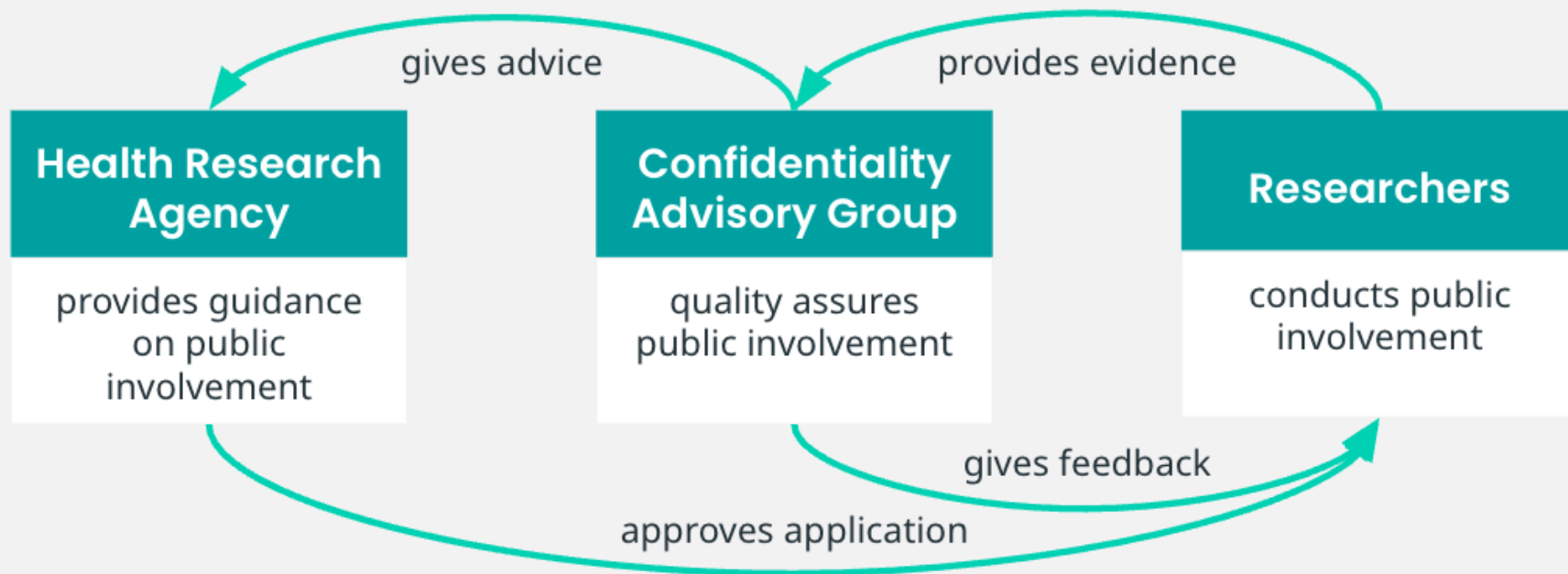


exploitation

is our data just
benefiting the
rich and
powerful?

public opinion is
diverse and
context - dependent

you have to ask people
specifically about your research



Connected by Data (2025), **How can we ensure public data is shared in the public interest?**

<https://connectedbydata.org/resources/case-study-cag>

- seen as an add on / barrier
- rubber stamp late in the process
- easy-to-reach participants

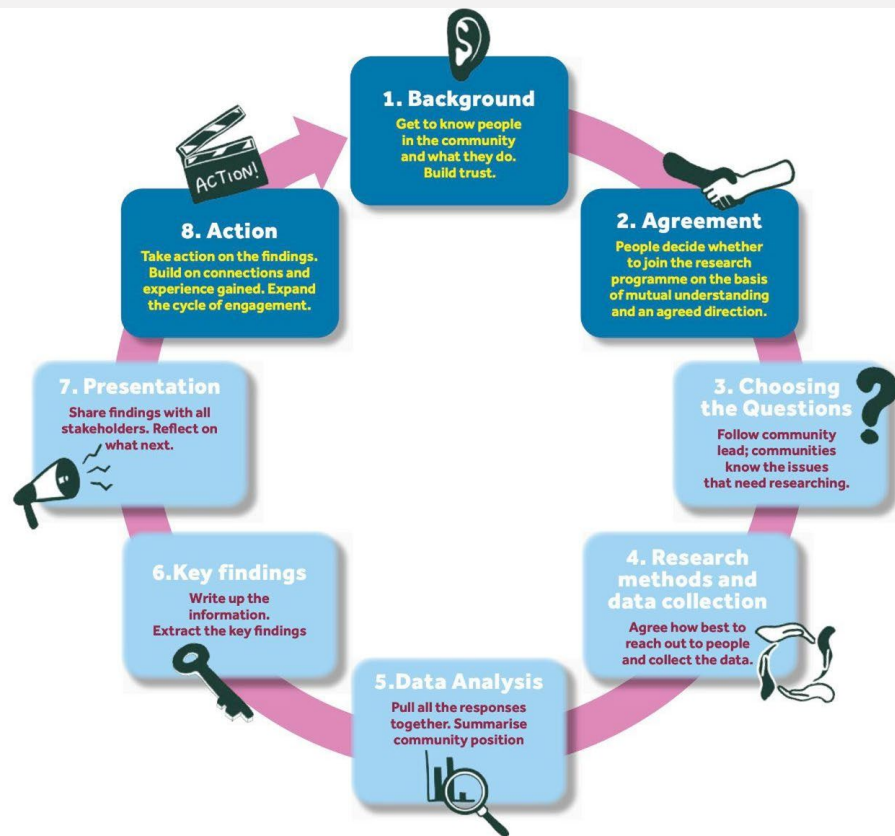
- time / cost
- representation / legitimacy
- uncomfortable truths

can you do better?

one step at a time

Participatory Action Research: A Toolkit

June 2023



University of Reading (2023), **Participatory Action Research: A Toolkit**

<https://research.reading.ac.uk/community-based-research/participatory-action-research-a-toolkit/>

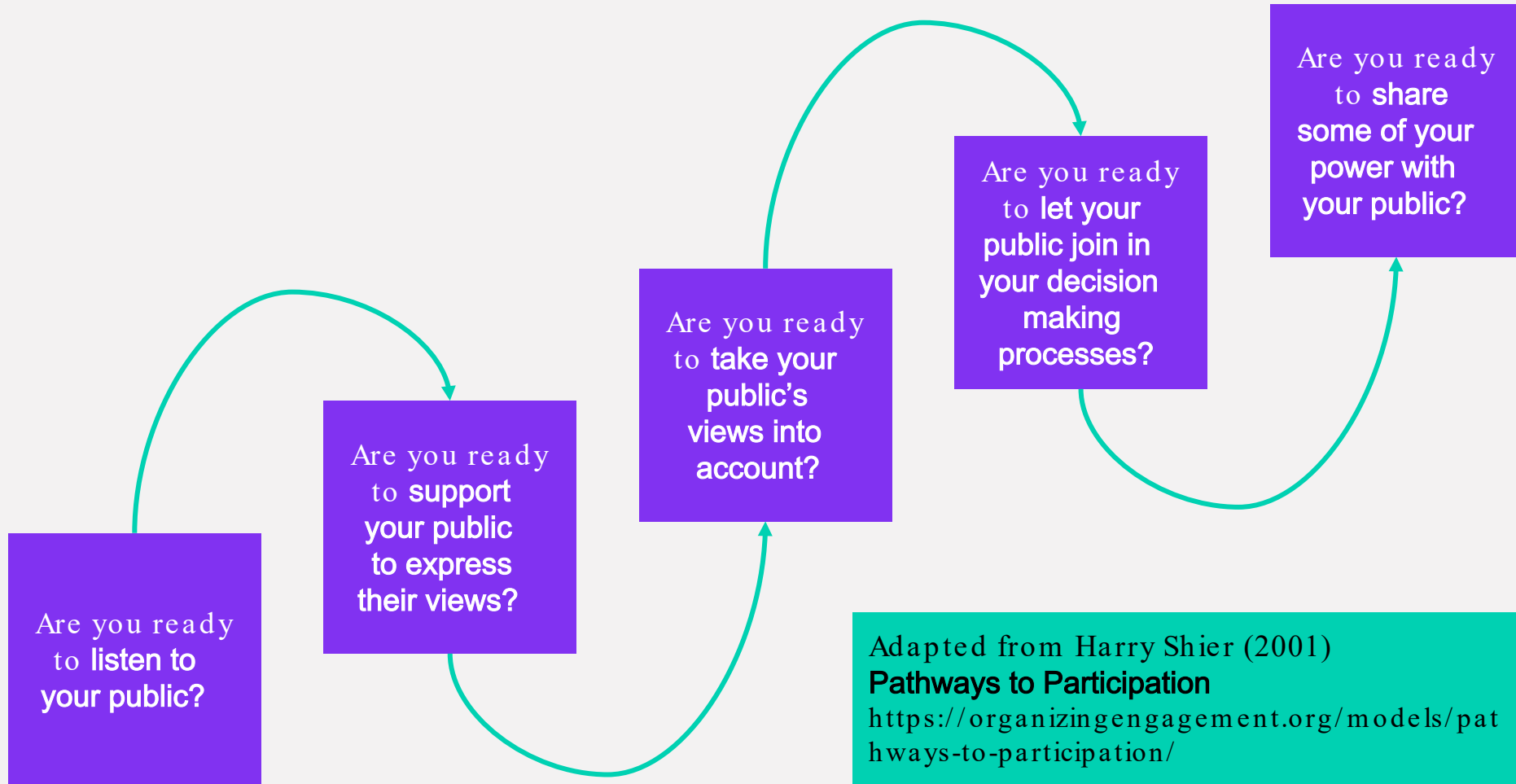


Maternity Engagement Action (2024), Findings from a community research initiative led by Black mothers in Birmingham . <https://maternityengagement.uk/campaign/see-me-hear-me-2024/>

INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION					
	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

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Federation of International Association for Public Participation (2024), IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation <https://www.iap2.org/page/pillars>



Adapted from Harry Shier (2001)
Pathways to Participation
<https://organizingengagement.org/models/pathways-to-participation/>

what did you do
differently as a result?

Championing public engagement with data and statistics

We share insights, tools and guidance for people who do data research to work well with the public.



Public Engagement and Data Research Initiative (PEDRI) <https://www.pedri.org.uk/>

Code of Practice for Statistics

Search

[Home](#)[What is the Code? ▾](#)[Applying the Code to your work ▾](#)[Voluntary application ▾](#)[Case studies](#)[Additional guidance ▾](#)

Code of Practice

Code of Practice for Statistics

The Code of Practice for Statistics sets the standards that producers of official statistics should commit to. The Code benefits all of us, as users and citizens. Compliance with the Code gives you confidence that published government statistics have public **value**, are high **quality**, and are produced by people and organisations that are **trustworthy**.

On 5 May 2022, the Office for Statistics Regulation revised the Code of Practice for Statistics, to reflect two changes to release practices, T3.1 and T3.6 in principle [T3: Orderly release](#). These changes follow a [consultation](#) on proposals to enable some greater flexibility on the timing of the release of official statistics, while the standard release time remains as 9.30am

Office for Statistics Regulation, **Code of Practice for Statistics** . <https://code.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/>

In summary...

**Data should be used
for public good**

**We can't claim public good
without involving the public**

One step at a time



CONNECTED BY DATA

Thank you

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