

Confidentiality Commitment for National Ability Supports System

The National Ability Supports System (NASS) under the management of the Health Research Board (HRB), undertakes to strictly preserve the anonymity of data received from service providers and to the publication of such data. The NASS Team is committed to ensuring that all data is compiled to the highest standard. In particular, the NASS Team adheres to the principles set out in the 'Irish Statistical System Code of Practice' <https://www.isscop.ie/codeofpractice/> and has signed a statement of commitment to ISSCoP.

The NASS Team is committed to protecting the confidentiality of all HRB NASS data, consistent with the HRB's obligations under Irish law. Broad classifications and aggregation are used to protect against disclosure of information pertaining to individuals.

Where there is a risk of potentially identifying individual people, statistical disclosure control techniques are employed to safeguard the confidentiality of information about individuals. This includes suppressing cell values less than five and further suppressing other values if, when left, they may potentially allow identification of individuals. This may reduce the level of detail published or alter a dataset in a minor way so that personal information is not identifiable.

In addition, HRB employees have a confidential clause in their contract:

"You may not discuss any information of a confidential nature relating to your work, or to the HRB, or in respect of which the HRB owes an obligation of confidence to any third party during, or after your employment, except in the proper course of your employment or as required by law. You may not remove any documents or things belonging to the HRB or which contain any confidential information from the HRB's premises at any time without proper advance authorisation from your Head of Unit or Directorate as appropriate."
