

Anonymisation: theory and practice

Mark Elliot
Manchester University
UK Anonymisation Network
www.ukanon.net

The Anonymisation Decision Making Framework

What is the ADMF?

- A system for developing anonymisation policy.
- A practical tool for understanding your data situation.
- Not a checklist.

Your responsibility

1. Understand how a privacy breach might occur.
2. Understand the possible consequences of the breach.
3. Reduce the risk of a breach occurring to a negligible level.

10 point process

1. Describe your data situation
2. Understand the legal and governance issues
3. Know your data
4. Understand the use case
5. Meet your ethical obligations
6. Identify the processes you will use to assess disclosure risk
7. Identify the disclosure control processes that are relevant to your data situation
8. Identify who your stakeholders are and plan how you will communicate
9. Plan what happens next once you have shared or released the data
10. Plan what you will do if things go wrong

Data Situation Audit

1. Describe your data situation
2. Understand the legal and governance issues
3. Know your data
4. Understand the use case
5. Meet your ethical obligations