

Expectations of the OfS from the Designated Data Body

Following consultation, and a recommendation made by the Office for Students (OfS), the Secretary of State designated Jisc to be the data body for England, with effect from 4 October 2022.

As the designated data body (DDB), Jisc has duties to compile, provide and publish information about higher education providers that are registered with the OfS. Annex A sets out the information duties prescribed for the DDB via the Higher Education and Research Act 2017 (HERA).

In its capacity as the DDB, Jisc has the following expectations of the OfS:

1. The OfS will have regard to the DDB's views when making decisions about what information it is appropriate to compile, make available or publish under ss.64-65 of HERA.
2. The OfS will act promptly to give any consent or take any action required by this Statement of Expectations.
3. If the DDB asks, the OfS acting reasonably will consider the use of any of its regulatory powers in support of the discharge by the DDB of any responsibility of the DDB.
4. OfS will provide administrative support for monthly meetings with Jisc.
5. OfS will send suitable representatives with the appropriate authority to meetings with the statutory customers whenever any issue that impacts on DDB activities is under discussion.
6. OfS acknowledges that as a registered charity Jisc is under a duty to act in the interests of the charitable objectives and consider how best to apply its resources to the discharge of its charitable objectives. Jisc is not permitted to allow a third party to constrain the exercise of those charitable duties and functions. OfS will act accordingly.
7. OfS will support Jisc's autonomy and professional judgement on technical and operational matters relating to its role as a Producer of Official Statistics and the production of statistics in accordance with the Code for Official Statistics. OfS will undertake to highlight where OfS requirements may lead to risks for Jisc being in breach of the duties that are imposed on it as a body producing official statistics, including but not limited to adherence to the Code of Practice for Official Statistics as revised from time to time, so that any risks can be neutralised or escalated in good time.
8. OfS will respect Jisc's autonomy as regards its non-DDB functions and activities (provided Jisc has taken reasonable steps to identify, avoid and mitigate possible conflicts of interest).
9. OfS will provide reasonable notice to the DDB of required changes to the terms of this Statement of Expectations.
10. This document takes effect from October 2025, for the third year of Jisc's designation as the DDB. It shall remain in force until further notice or it is superseded.