

Facilitating research: the role of UBDC and the ESRC Big Data Network

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Mirjam Allik
Urban Big Data Centre



An ESRC Data
Investment

SASNet



Big Data Network (BDN)

ESRC investment to make better use of data collected by government departments, local authorities, businesses and other organizations

- Phase 1: Admin Data Research Network
 - Admin Data Research Centres
- Phase 2: Local Govt and/or Business
 - **Urban Big Data Centre (Glasgow)**
 - Business and Local Government Data Research Centre (Essex)
 - Consumer Data Research Centre (UCL)
- Phase 3: Third Sector and Social Media Data



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Investment

UBDC

“Promoting the use of innovative methods and complex urban data to address challenges facing cities”

- Data services – connect researchers to data
 - Data Collection
 - Data Acquisition
 - **Controlled Data Service**
- Research and training
 - Internal research programmes
 - Methods training, SASNet (with BLGRC)
- Free to researchers



Controlled Data Service

- Potentially personal data
 - Public administration data (health, social care, education, taxes)
 - Personally owned assets (car registration, houses/flats)
 - Business data (customer transactions)
 - User generated data (GPS, social media, lifelogging, images)
- Strict legal requirements
- Data controllers perceptions, fears...
- Requires safe infrastructure, data linkage
- Naturally-occurring data – not created for research purposes

UBDC provides the infrastructure needed to use such data

