



Research Integrity and Ethics: Good Practice in Research
Postgraduate Researcher Development resource

Research Integrity and Ethics: Data gathering

Slide 2

After your application, perhaps observations and feedback from the ethics committee, re-submission and receiving the final response (which you can download as a pdf letter from the worktribe portal), the next phase is Data gathering. It is a meticulous, laborious work, and it is essential to do it thoroughly. Also, often unsupervised.

Especially during the data gathering, the respect for and understanding of participants is critical, as well as the researcher safety and well-being.

While you are gathering data, it is important to consider confidentiality/anonymity/privacy and when they are appropriate and possible. How would you differentiate the definitions of confidentiality/anonymity/privacy?

Slide 3

'**Anonymity**' means that the participant cannot be identified by anyone (including the researcher). Truly anonymous data is that which can never be reconstituted to identify an individual or combined with other data available to identify an individual'.

'**Confidentiality**' means that the participant can be identified by the researcher but access to this information will not go beyond the researcher'.

'**Pseudonymisation**' of data (defined in [Article 4\(5\) GDPR](#)) means replacing any information which could be used to identify an individual with a pseudonym, or, in other words, a value which does not allow the individual to be directly identified (<https://www.dataprotection.ie/en/dpc-guidance/anonymisation-and-pseudonymisation>).

"**Data privacy** is the measure of control that people have over who can access their personal information".

References

Research and Innovation Office Edinburgh Napier University (n.d). *Research Guidance Note 6 Confidentiality, anonymity and data protection*. Available at <https://staff.napier.ac.uk/services/research-innovation-office/policies/Documents/CoP%20version%203%20-%20Research%20Guidance%20Note%206.pdf>