

Privacy Notice

Project title: Kinship Allowances Pilot evaluation

Alma Economics is conducting an independent evaluation of the Kinship Allowances Pilot, developed by the Department for Education (DfE). The data described below will enable Alma Economics to monitor programme implementation progress, inform programme evaluation, and support the identification of implementation challenges. The data will also be used to track access to kinship allowances through the programme and to identify any groups of carers or children who are not accessing the allowance.

What is personal data?

Personal data is defined under the [UK General Data Protection Regulation](#) (UK GDPR) as ‘any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person’.

What personal data will you be collecting from me as part of this research?

Your local authority will collect personal data from you that will pseudonymise and pass to Alma Economics as the evaluator of the Kinship Allowances Pilot. The data passed to Alma Economics will include: the Kinship Carer URN (this is an anonymous number your local authority assigns to you to record information on you), information on your kinship arrangement, your source of information about the programme, dates of kinship allowances application, information on the allowances you will be receiving as part of the pilot (including whether your local authority is paying in excess of the Fostering NMA rate or not), participation commencement and payments, your ethnicity, household type (e.g. single-carer household, two-carers household) and employment status, and the following information for the child(ren) you are caring for: age, gender, ethnicity, Special Educational Needs (SEND) provision, and SEND type of need. Alma Economics will not access any data on names or addresses. Our research and research outputs will not identify any individuals.

The lawful basis we rely on for processing your personal data is **public task**, under article 6(1)(e) of the UK GDPR. When we use your special category data it is because we have a substantial public interest under article 9(2)(g) of UK GDPR.

How will my data be stored, for what period and who will have access to it?

Alma Economics will store your data passed by your local authority securely electronically. Your data will be retained by Alma Economics indefinitely and used for any legitimate purpose in the future (e.g., scientific research to inform policy).

We may share anonymised or pseudonymised data from this project with our project partners (Coram and CoramBAAF), the Department for Education, and Foundations (the What Works Centre for Children & Families) for research and statistical purposes. This may include building on the project’s results, comparing findings with other studies, or conducting additional related research. All data shared will be processed in accordance with data protection laws and will not identify individual participants.

All of our computers use full disk encryption. This ensures that the whole disk will remain unreadable in case of accidental loss or theft. If we destroy the data, the full disk encryption means any retrieved deleted files are unreadable.

For more information about Alma Economics IT & Data Security Policy please send an email to: itsupport@almaeconomics.com.

What are my rights regarding the data I provide?

You have several rights under UK GDPR, including the right to request access to and/or to withdraw your personal data for the period we hold it (i.e. before it is destroyed). Note that since your data will be pseudonymised before being shared with Alma Economics, we will not be able to withdraw it, because we will not know which data is yours.

You can read all of your rights under UK GDPR here: <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/uk-gdpr-guidance-and-resources/data-sharing/data-sharing-a-code-of-practice/the-rights-of-individuals/>

Your local authority's Data Protection Officer (DPO) is responsible for explicitly addressing all matters relating to GDPR. Our security policies have been revised to meet GDPR and we have ready-to-use protocols for participants wanting to access or delete data and for data breaches. For more information, you can contact the DPO (xxxxxxx) by sending an email to:

What if I have concerns about how my data is being handled?

If you have concerns on how we have processed your personal data, you can contact (DPO of the local authority).

You also have the right to raise any concerns you have with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) or another data protection regulator.

You can find details about how to contact ICO at <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/contact-us-public/>.