



Office of the Information Commissioner
Queensland

Appendix – Guideline: Dataset publication and risk assessment

Privacy risk assessment matrix

The risk assessment matrix below will assist agencies in conducting an assessment of the risk in publishing de-identified datasets. It is adapted from the risk matrix in the OIC's Privacy self-assessment guide and can be used to supplement an agency's own assessment and treatment of privacy risk in publishing data.

Likelihood of personal information being disclosed in published data	Almost Certain 5	HIGH Do not publish without further controls	HIGH Do not publish without further controls	EXTREME Do not publish Audit current controls	EXTREME Do not publish Audit current controls	EXTREME Do not publish Audit current controls
	Likely 4	MEDIUM Publish and review on a regular basis	HIGH Do not publish without further controls	HIGH Do not publish without further controls	EXTREME Do not publish Audit current controls	EXTREME Do not publish Audit current controls
	Possible 3	MEDIUM Publish and review on a regular basis	MEDIUM Publish and review on a regular basis	HIGH Do not publish without further controls	HIGH Do not publish without further controls	EXTREME Do not publish Audit current controls
	Unlikely 2	LOW Publish and monitor	MEDIUM Publish and review on a regular basis	MEDIUM Publish and review on a regular basis	HIGH Do not publish without further controls	EXTREME Do not publish Audit current controls
	Rare 1	LOW Publish and monitor	LOW Publish and monitor	MEDIUM Publish and review on a regular basis	HIGH Do not publish without further controls	EXTREME Do not publish Audit current controls
		Insignificant 1	Minor 2	Moderate 3	Major 4	Critical 5
Consequences of disclosure						



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Likelihood of disclosure

The *likelihood of disclosure* refers to the chance of an individual being identified from the published dataset.

Level	Descriptor	Description
5	Almost certain	The identity of individuals is apparent or reasonably ascertainable from the data. For example – the data includes full names, e-mails or addresses.
4	Likely	It is likely that individuals can be re-identified. Directly identifying information has been removed but one or more other potentially identifying fields remain. Other identifiers could include: date of birth, gender or street name.
3	Possible	Re-identification may occur. Steps have been taken to aggregate remaining identifying information but small values, outliers or unique results have not been altered.
2	Unlikely	Re-identification is not likely. Data has been manipulated to reduce the risk of re-identification and matching with other available datasets has been considered.
1	Rare	Re-identification would occur only in exceptional circumstances, or it is highly unlikely to occur. Specialist techniques or algorithms have been applied to prevent re-identification and re-identification risk has been specifically tested.



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Consequences of disclosure

The *consequences of disclosure* refer to the potential impact of one or more individuals being identified.

Level	Descriptor	Description
5	Critical	The outcome of the event would cause significant damage to a number of individuals' reputation or finances and/or emotional distress.
4	Major	The outcome of the event would cause considerable damage to an individual's reputation or finances and/ or emotional distress.
3	Moderate	The outcome could have moderate impact on an individual, such as the exposure of some sensitive information but further exposure is limited.
2	Minor	The outcome might be of low consequence for an individual and impacts addressed by additional measures.
1	Insignificant	The outcome would be of low consequence to an individual and readily rectified.

For additional information and assistance please refer to the OIC's other guidelines on dataset publication, or contact the Enquiries Service on 07 3234 7373 or email enquiries@oic.qld.gov.au.

This guide is introductory only, and deals with issues in a general way. It is not legal advice. Additional factors may be relevant in specific circumstances. For detailed guidance, legal advice should be sought.

If you have any comments or suggestions on the content of this document, please submit them to feedback@oic.qld.gov.au.

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Changes to legislation after the update date are not included in this document