

# UK Data (Use and Access) Bill

22 January 2025

The UK Data (Use and Access) Bill, introduced to Parliament on 23 October 2024, aims to modernize the nation's data framework by enhancing data accessibility and security across various sectors. This legislation is designed to unlock the potential of data to boost the UK economy, improve public services, and simplify daily interactions for individuals and businesses. [GOV.UK](#)

## Legislative Progress and Upcoming Events

The Bill was introduced in the House of Lords on 23 October 2024 and had its second reading on 19 November 2024. It was anticipated to enter the Lords' Committee stage in December 2024. [Privacy World](#)

As of 17 January 2025, the Bill is in the Committee stage in the House of Lords. [Parliamentary Bills - UK Parliament](#)

Following the Committee stage, the Bill will proceed to the Report stage and Third reading in the House of Lords before moving to the House of Commons for further consideration.

## Proposed Implementation Timeline

If the Bill progresses without significant delays, it is anticipated to receive Royal Assent by mid-2025. [Shakespeare Martineau](#)

Following Royal Assent, the government will outline specific timelines for the implementation of various provisions within the Act. Some measures may come into effect immediately, while others could be subject to phased implementation to allow organizations and individuals adequate time to adapt to the new requirements.

## Key Provisions and Objectives

The Data (Use and Access) Bill seeks to:

- **Enhance Data Accessibility:** Facilitate secure data sharing between public and private sectors to drive innovation and economic growth.

[GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

- **Modernize Digital Identity Verification:** Establish a framework for digital identities, enabling individuals to verify their identity online securely and efficiently. [The UK's technology trade association](#)
- **Reform Data Protection Regulations:** Amend existing data protection laws to reduce burdens on businesses while maintaining high standards of privacy and data security. [CRS](#)
- **Improve Public Services:** Leverage data to enhance the delivery and efficiency of public services, including healthcare and law enforcement.

[GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

## Benefits and Criticisms

### *Benefits:*

- **Economic Growth:** The Bill is projected to boost the UK economy by an estimated £10 billion, fostering innovation and creating new business opportunities. [Privacy World](#)
- **Streamlined Services:** Digital identities will simplify access to both government and commercial services, reducing administrative burdens for individuals and organizations. [The UK's technology trade association](#)
- **Enhanced Security:** Modernized data protection measures aim to safeguard personal information against misuse and cyber threats. [CRS](#)

### *Criticisms:*

- **Privacy Concerns:** Advocates have raised issues regarding the potential for increased surveillance and data misuse, emphasizing the need for robust safeguards. [Pinsent Masons](#)
- **Digital Exclusion:** There is apprehension that reliance on digital identities may marginalize individuals without access to technology or digital literacy. [CRS](#)
- **Implementation Challenges:** Businesses and public sector organizations may face difficulties adapting to new data standards and processes, incurring additional costs and requiring comprehensive training. [CRS](#)

## **Context of Digital Identification**

The introduction of digital IDs is not inherently problematic, as various forms of identification already exist. The critical consideration is the scope and manner of their use. For instance, proposals to allow digital IDs for age verification in pubs and clubs have sparked debates about potential overreach and the balance between convenience and privacy. [The Times & The Sunday Times](#)

Conversely, the government's intention to abolish compulsory ID for voting in elections highlights a nuanced approach to identification requirements, aiming to balance security with accessibility.

In summary, the Data (Use and Access) Bill represents a significant step toward modernizing the UK's data infrastructure. Its successful implementation will depend on addressing privacy concerns, ensuring inclusivity, and providing clear guidance to stakeholders throughout the transition period.