

The DWP Employment Data Lab

15 August 2019



Department
for Work &
Pensions

What is the Employment Data Lab?

The Employment Data Lab will be a service provided by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), designed to enable the evaluation of employment related interventions carried out by third party organisations.

When will it be available?

The Employment Data Lab **not** is available yet. Following a successful feasibility study, a pilot phase, involving a small number of organisations, is planned for Autumn and Winter 2019. The full Employment Data Lab is currently being developed and is planned for roll-out in Summer 2020.

How will it work?

The Data Lab will use benefits and employment data to compare the outcomes of people who have received an intervention from organisations working with citizens to those of a similar, comparison group who did not receive the intervention. This will be used to estimate the impact of the intervention. The results will be shared with the partner organisation and published online. The Data Lab will be free and easy to use, with the Data Lab team carrying out analysis on behalf of the partner organisations.

Who is it for?

Any organisation (whether a charity, or in the private or public sectors) who has worked with citizen groups to help them into employment can contact the Data Lab.

Why are we doing this?

DWP has a core objective of supporting people to enter into, and progress in, work. Identifying which, and what types of, interventions are the most effective has benefits for both DWP, participating organisations and the wider public.

It is often difficult for individual organisations to assess the impact of their own interventions due to a lack of information or a suitable comparison group. The Employment Data Lab is well situated to address these issues.

What's next?

During the coming months the Data Lab team will begin piloting the Data Lab before building up to a wider roll-out. We will communicate again through our partner organisations as work progresses.

For an example of how it may work see the Justice Data Lab, developed by the Ministry of Justice: www.gov.uk/government/publications/justice-data-lab

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