

## **PESTICIDE SURVEY UNIT - CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY**

Pesticide Usage Data are released as published reports and as custom requests to individual data users. The arable report output is also placed on the [SCOPES](#) public access database.

Pesticide usage statistics comply with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The survey statistics are published as national estimates of pesticide use. Data requests sometimes involve the release of regional estimates of use. In neither case is it possible to identify individuals or organisations or to derive personal information relating to them.

The Pesticide Survey Unit (PSU) does not currently exchange confidential statistical records with third parties. If there was a requirement to do so, [Scottish Government Policy](#) would be followed.

The pesticide survey manager signs a confidentiality agreement prior to receipt of the agricultural census data from the Scottish Government Rural and Environment Science and Analytical Services department. This contract ensures the adherence of strict rules in relation to protecting confidentiality of the census information and to those who provide the data.

To prevent disclosure of census information about individual holdings, census data relating to fewer than 5 holdings are not disclosed in report tables containing data on crop areas in relation to region and size groups.

Staff are civil servants, committed to confidentiality under the terms of the Official Secrets Act 1989. PSU Staff also sign a confidentiality agreement in relation to the pesticide usage dataset.

All confidential data is maintained on a secure server which is only accessible to PSU staff.

Survey participants are advised of confidentiality arrangements in an introductory letter and during the data collection process.