

Security and Usage Policy for SRS/IDS Secure Suites at the Economics Unit c/o School of Social Sciences (EUSoSS_SRS_SUP)

Operational Owner:	Head of the Discipline (Economics)
Executive Owner:	Economics Unit SRS/IDS Liaison Officer(s)
Effective date:	10/03/2026
Review date:	10/03/2027
EUSoSS Secure Suites Location	Ground floor of the AD (Elizabeth Fry) Building – Rooms 45 AD 00 and 46 AD 00
Related documents:	Acceptable Use Policy (https://www.surrey.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2023-11/acceptable-use-procedure.pdf), and related Policies.

Approval History

Version	Created/ Reviewed by	Reason for review	Approved by	Date
1.0	Giuseppe Moscelli	First draft of the Security and Usage Policy for SRS/IDS Secure Suites at the School of Economics (SoE_SRS_SUP)	Head of Department (Maurizio Zanardi) and SoE SRS/IDS Liaison Officers (Giuseppe Moscelli, Matthias Parey)	19/10/2021
1.2	Giuseppe Moscelli	Changes to the policy due to the introduction of MFA by SRS	Liaison Officers (Giuseppe Moscelli, Matthias Parey)	07/06/2023
1.3	Giuseppe Moscelli	Changes to the policy to exclude home VPN access to SRS from common areas	Liaison Officers (Giuseppe Moscelli, Matthias Parey)	29/04/2024
1.4	Giuseppe Moscelli	Changes to the policy to warn home VPN access users of SRS/IDS of the risk due to tailgating	Liaison Officers (Giuseppe Moscelli, Matthias Parey)	08/05/2024
1.5	Giuseppe Moscelli	Update of the policy to reflect organizational changes: merger of former School of Economics (SoE) into School of Social Sciences (SoSS)	Liaison Officers (Giuseppe Moscelli)	19/05/2025
1.5	Giuseppe Moscelli	Update of the policy to include the access from University of Surrey named office rooms.	Liaison Officers (Giuseppe Moscelli, Matthias Parey, Ihsaan Bassier)	19/05/2025
1.6	Giuseppe Moscelli and Ihsaan Bassier	Update of the policy to include clause 2.1.3, and add clause 2.8.	Liaison Officers (Ihsaan Bassier, Giuseppe Moscelli, Matthias Parey)	10/03/2026

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The Security and Usage Policy for SRS/IDS Secure Suites at the Economics Unit c/o School of Social Sciences (EUSoSS_SRS_SUP) is intended to protect you as well as the University and its School of Social Sciences, and to ensure the University of Surrey's and its School of Social Sciences are not in breach of the security requested to handle research data accessed via the ONS SRS.

1.2 Scope

The rules in the Security and Usage Policy for SRS/IDS Secure Suites at the Economics Unit c/o School of Social Sciences (EUSoSS_SRS_SUP) are mandatory for all ONS Accredited Researchers (AR) that have been approved to access ONS data via the SRS/IDS access at the Economics Unit c/o School of Social Sciences (EUSoSS), either through Home Assured VPN or through the two Secure Suites available at the EUSoSS.

1.3 Definitions

User(s) - all University staff and students, temporary staff, affiliates or visitors, that are ONS Accredited Researchers (AR) as approved by ONS.

University Systems – any hardware, software, data, network access, third party services or online services provided or arranged by the University of Surrey.

EUSoSS Secure Suites – Secure Suites to access ONS data located at the ground floor of the AD (Elizabeth Fry) Building.

Assumed VPN – Secure VPN connection using the VPN software provided by the University IT services.

SRS/IDS Liaison Officers – EUSoSS staff member(s) tasked with the role of gatekeeper(s) to the EUSoSS SRS/IDS facilities and SRS/IDS Assured VPN Home Access.

SRS/IDS Booking Register (BR) – an online spreadsheet to book for SRS/IDS Secure Suites usage.

Severe Breach – any breach of this Policy or related University Policies that might endanger the present and future fruition of the access to the ONS SRS/IDS services by the EUSoSS staff.

Office Room Access (ORA) – access to the ONS SRS/IDS services for the EUSoSS staff only, from named offices located in the AD (Elizabeth Fry) Building of the University of Surrey.

2 Policy Terms

2.1 Registration to SRS/IDS services at the EUSoSS

2.1.1 The current/prospective User must notify the EUSoSS SRS/IDS Liaison Officers about the AR credentials, including their AR ID number and the ID number of their SRS/IDS project(s).

2.1.2 The EUSoSS SRS/IDS Liaison Officer(s) will provide the User with a list of documents to read, review and sign. The signed documents will need to be emailed to the EUSoSS SRS/IDS Liaison Officer(s), and in copy to the School Secretarial Admin Team (soass@surrey.ac.uk). Authorization to use the SRS/IDS services at the EUSoSS will have to be provided in writing via email, after successful provision of the requested information from the AR researcher and prospective Authorized User.

2.1.3 Upon their first access to the SRS/IDS services from the Economics Unit at the University of Surrey, it is strictly forbidden for the AR User to start accessing the SRS/IDS, from either the Secure Suite or their named Secure Room, before having completed the induction process provided by the EUSoSS SRS/IDS Liaison Officer(s). To be formally concluded, the induction process must include reading and acting on all the administrative forms required to authorize the access to SRS/IDS, e.g. filling of the AR log and reading and adhering (via signature) of this internal security usage policy (EUSoSS_SRS_SUP). Any transgressor, as well as their facilitators, will have their access to the SRS/IDS suspended for a minimum of 6 months.

2.2 Access to the SRS/IDS Secure Suites (SESUs)

- 2.2.1 The authorized User is granted access to the Secure Suites by receiving a copy of the codes to the safe box where the keys for the two Secure Suites are held.
- 2.2.2 The User must book in advance their planned access to any of the Secure Room at least 24 hours before their intended usage of the service.
- 2.2.3 The booking must be made by using the SRS/IDS Excel spreadsheet register (SRS/IDS Booking Register; BR) provided by either the School Secretarial Admin Team or the SRS/IDS Liaison Officers.
- 2.2.4 The booking must record: the day of the planned access, the day of the booking, the name of the AR User, the planned starting and ending time to access the SESU, the effective starting and ending time when the access to the SESU has occurred.
- 2.2.5 Each booking in advance cannot exceed the total duration of 4 continuative hours over a single day.
- 2.2.6 On the calendar day of the booking, Users are allowed to use the Secure Room for longer than 4 hours (e.g. the whole day) if no other User has already registered to use the service; in this instance, the User must book their extended stay in the Secure Suites as an additional, separate entry in the SRS/IDS Booking Register.
- 2.2.7 After logging off, and within 24 hours from the effective use of the SESU, the User must update the BR with the effective times of initial entry and final exit from the SESU. Failure to comply with this norm three times will incur into a one-week temporary ban from accessing the SESUs.
- 2.2.8 No food or beverage is allowed in the SESUs. Failure to comply with this term will incur a one-month temporary ban from accessing the SESUs.
- 2.2.9 No other IT equipment, either personal or provided by the University, is allowed in the SESUs. The use of mobile phones is permitted in the SESUs only to allow for Multi-Factor Authentication procedures to login to either the University of Surrey IT network, in order to access the SRS/IDS, and/or the SRS/IDS IT network. Failure to comply with this term will incur a six-month temporary ban from accessing the SESUs, with the possibility for the ban to become permanent.
- 2.2.10 The SESUs are used by the User for the only purpose of accessing ONS data via the SRS/IDS. The IT resources available within the SESUs must not be used for services that can be accessed or obtained through other University or personal resources. Failure to comply with this term will incur a two-month temporary ban from accessing the SESUs, with the possibility for the ban to become permanent.

2.3 Access to the SRS/IDS via Assured VPN Home Access

- 2.3.1 The User must notify the SRS/IDS Liaison Officer(s) that they have been granted permission to access the SRS/IDS remotely via the University VPN. The notification must occur by email.
- 2.3.2 The User must always access the SRS: (a) via the University provided VPN software / link; and (b) using compulsorily a University-maintained laptop. Failure to comply with this term will incur a four-month temporary ban from accessing the SESUs, with the possibility for the ban to become permanent.
- 2.3.3 The AR User commits to safe and responsible use of their temporary VPN access to the SRS/IDS from home, in order to prevent and/or minimize the risks for the confidentiality of the data accessed.
- 2.3.4 The AR User commits to accessing the SRS/IDS environment only from home or the designated organization premises (i.e. office rooms), excluding access from common areas such as a staff restaurant, coffee lounge, conference venues, train wagon or airport lounges.
- 2.3.5 The AR User declares that they are aware and mindful of risks related to tailgating, and that they will consistently operate to minimize such risks while accessing the SRS/IDS via Assured VPN Home Access.

2.4 Access to the SRS/IDS from named offices at the premises of the EUSoSS

- 2.4.1 The User must be a staff member of the EUSoSS and they must notify the SRS/IDS Liaison Officer(s) that they have been granted permission to access the SRS/IDS from their named

University office rooms. The notification must occur by email.

- 2.4.2 The User must always access the SRS/IDS: (a) via the University provided VPN software / link; and (b) using compulsorily a University-maintained laptop. Failure to comply with this term will incur a four-month temporary ban from accessing the SESUs, with the possibility for the ban to become permanent.
- 2.4.3 The AR User commits to safe and responsible use of their temporary VPN access to the SRS/IDS from their University office room, in order to prevent and/or minimize the risks for the confidentiality of the data accessed.
- 2.4.4 The AR User declares that they are aware and mindful of risks related to tailgating, and that they will consistently operate to minimize such risks while accessing the SRS/IDS from their University office room.

2.5 Reporting Incidents

The User must notify via email a suspected security breach and/or a SRS/IDS data leakage within 24 hours from the incident to the SRS/IDS Liaison Officer(s), the School Secretary and the Head of Discipline. Failure to comply with this term will incur a six-month temporary ban from accessing the SESUs, with the possibility for the ban to become permanent.

2.6 Policy enforcement and breach sanctioning

- 2.6.1 Violations of these above conduct rules will be liable of disciplinary actions by the University.
- 2.6.2 Breaches of conduct must be timely reported to the SRS/IDS Liaison Officers, who will administer proportionate sanctions to the User(s) in the first instance and/or report the violation(s) to the HoS in case of particular gravity. Should a breach of conduct be deemed a Severe Breach by the HoS, a trialing Panel will be formed, with a member named by the Head of the School to which the AR belongs, a member named by the Dean of the Faculty, a member named by the University Head of Information Security and a member named by the Faculty Head of Human Resources.
- 2.6.3 The trialing Panel will: meet within 14 days from the discovery of the violation; hear the AR; assess the circumstances of the said breach of conduct and their gravity; finally, decide: (a) whether to initiate disciplinary actions against the AR and (b) the severity of the said disciplinary actions, including the temporary suspension from the SRS/IDS services.

2.7 Review and Change Requests

The policy will be reviewed annually or as necessary.

2.8 User responsibility for compliance with SRS/IDS data access conditions

Users accessing ONS data via the SRS/IDS must comply with the ONS Research Accreditation framework. This includes the following:

- 2.8.1 Access to the SRS/IDS environment and ONS data is restricted to individuals holding valid ONS Accredited Researcher (AR) status and authorised for the relevant approved project. AR Users must not permit any unauthorized person to access, observe, or interact with the system under their login session, including allowing others to view or use the system while the AR User is logged in ("tailgating").
- 2.8.2 ONS data accessed through the SRS/IDS may only be used for accredited statistical research projects approved by ONS. Use of the data for any purpose outside the scope of the approved project is prohibited.
- 2.8.3 Users must complete the ONS Accredited Researcher training course to obtain AR status and must maintain accreditation by completing any required refresher training, currently every five years.

EUSoSS_SRS_SUP - User Declaration Form

(this form must be signed by the User and submitted via email to the SRS/IDS Liaison Officer(s) and to the Secretarial Admin Team (soass@surrey.ac.uk) of the School of Social Sciences)

Hereby I certify that I have read and understood the terms of the Security and Usage Policy for SRS/IDS Secure Suites at the Economics Unit c/o School of Social Sciences (EUSoSS_SRS_SUP).

PRINT name

SIGNED by

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Adherence to the content of this document and the documents cited, is obtained on

[print date]

Signed copy to be retained by the SoSS secretarial admin team, School of Social Sciences

You will be personally liable if you contravene this consent.

V1.6 as at 10th March 2026