

The Local Government Data Reporting Landscape

The infographic contains high-level facts about the local government data reporting landscape.

The local government data reporting landscape is made of more than 160 different data returns, which represents more than 430 data collections per year, or 24,000 data items being reported, per local authority, per year.

These data returns are required by more than 30 different bodies, with Scottish Government accounting for over half.

Social care, education, finance and workforce accounts for 60% of the data reported.

Around 15% of the data collected is not published by the requester.

Data collections are largely still manual, relying primarily on MS Excel spreadsheets, attached to emails.

The rate of introduction of data returns has increased over the recent years. Newly introduced returns are also collected more frequently.

There is a lack of awareness or oversight of what data is being collected and where there may be duplication.

There is a lack of clarity and transparency in relation to the purpose and the use of the data collected, with a lack of focus on improvements in outcomes, prevention, predictive analyses and data quality and standards.