What is the SDE and the Five Safes?

Hey, who are you?

Hi, I'm **Secure Data Environment**. They call me this because I'm a platform that provides a safe home for data, a place where it lives and is looked after. If people want to visit my data, they have to have good intentions, to treat it with care and to go through a training process.

Ok, I'm in. Can I wear a lab coat?

You can help come up with new data projects for me. I love a good proposal!

Hi, I'm **Five Safes**! My five principles work together to keep your data safe. Let me introduce you to them:

Safe Projects – Before any research begins, projects are approved by an independent review committee, who check that the reason for using the data is for the benefit of people's health and social care. These committees usually have patients or members of the public on them, too.

Safe People – To keep data safe, all SDE users must receive appropriate training and demonstrate that they have the technical skills needed before they are approved to access data.

Safe Data – Data is treated before going into the SDE so that personal details and people's identities are kept safe. This can involve a process called pseudonymisation – see 'What is pseudonymisation?' glossary card.

Safe Settings – Access to SDE data is only possible in a secure setting. There are safeguards in place, including the use of technologies, like encryption, to protect data.

Safe Outputs – Before any research findings or statistics are released, these outputs are screened by a controller to make sure that no one can be personally identified from the data. Extra steps are taken where data is about a small group, such as a tiny village, that is more at risk of identification.

Wessex SECURE DATA ENVIRONMENT

Part of the **NHS Research Secure Data Environment Network**

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