Department for
Digital, Culture,
Media & Sport

National Data Strategy

September 2020

Background and context

National Data Strategy

Background: This slide sets out work completed on the National Data Strategy (NDS) to date.

Original commission

- Delivering a national data strategy was a commitment under the previous Conservative government; announced by the then DCMS Secretary of State Matt Hancock in June 2018.

2019

- In summer 2019, DCMS delivered a public-facing call for evidence and undertook a round of stakeholder engagement across the UK.
- This evidence and engagement has helped to build the published NDS document.

2020

- The National Data Strategy framework and consultation was launched on 9th September 2020.
- The consultation is open for 12 weeks, closing on 2nd December.

Related strategies

The NDS has been developed alongside other strategies, which are linked to this work:

Digital Strategy: The Digital Strategy will set out government's vision and approach to harnessing digital to support the UK's recovery from Covid-19.

Due: Autumn/Winter 2020

Integrated Review: The IR will set out HMG's strategic priorities to develop its defence and security strategy to 2030. Tech and data are key enablers and areas of focus.

Due: Autumn 2020

The UK Research and Development Roadmap: The R&D Roadmap will further strengthen science, research and innovation across the UK - commitment to increase public funding for R&D to £22 billion per year by 2024/25

Published 1st July 2020

Relevant existing strategies:

The UK Industrial Strategy (2017)
The UK Digital Strategy (2017)
The Online Harms White Paper (2019)
The National Cyber Security Strategy (2016)
The National AI Strategy (2019)
The Geospatial Data Strategy(2020)

NDS alignment with HMG objectives and priorities

The Strategy is designed to stimulate growth and innovation in line with wider UK government priorities:

1. Driving the fast growing digital environment needed to make the UK a world leader in data.
2. Supporting international data flows, helping deliver the commitment for 80% of UK trade to be covered by free trade agreements in the next three years.
3. Levelling up opportunities across the country - unleashing the potential of regions across the UK to benefit and thrive from better use of data and tech.
4. Placing data and digital tech at the heart of our response to Covid-19 and economic recovery.

NDS purpose and content

Purpose

The NDS serves a number of functions/purposes :

Ambition:

Sets a high ambition for the use of data to drive economic growth and transform public services, positioning the UK as a global champion of data, driving the flow of information across borders while ensuring data protection standards are maintained.

Narrative:

Drives an ambitious, pro-growth narrative on data that holds that all can benefit when data is used responsibly, and that withholding data can negatively impact society.

Policy:

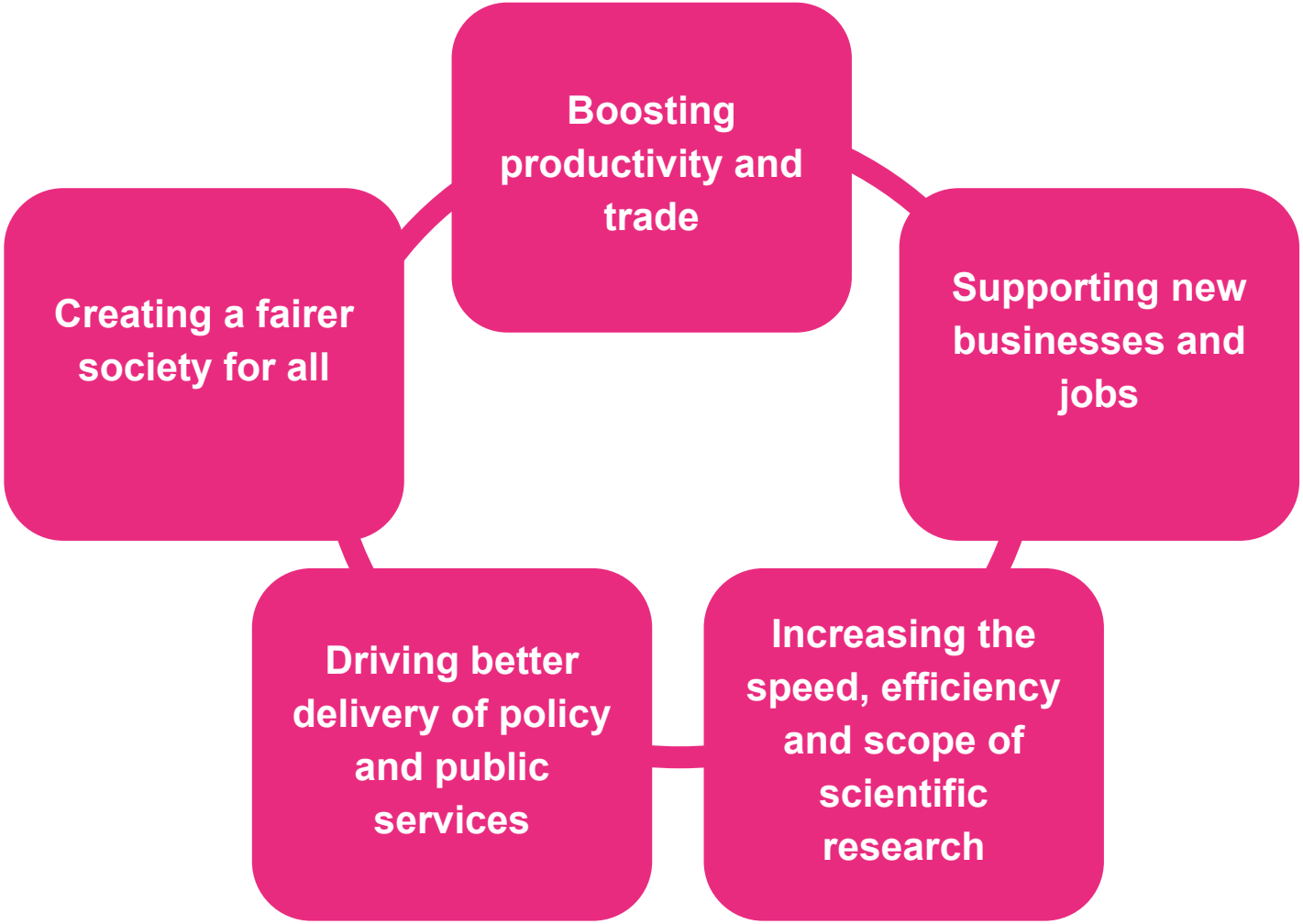
Provides a framework for new policy issues around use of data, driving the alignment of data-led work across government while creating a shared understanding across the economy of how data is used.

Commitment to action:

Creates a framework for the action the UK government will take on data. With focus on the delivery of 5 **missions**, priority areas of action where we think we can have a significant impact.

The Data Opportunity

We have identified five concrete and significant opportunities for data to positively transform the UK



Pillars

A number of interconnected issues currently prevent the best use of data in the UK. These are reflected in the core pillars of this strategy:

Data Foundations

Ensuring data is fit for purpose

Data Skills

Ensuring data skills for a data-driven economy and data rich lives

Data Availability

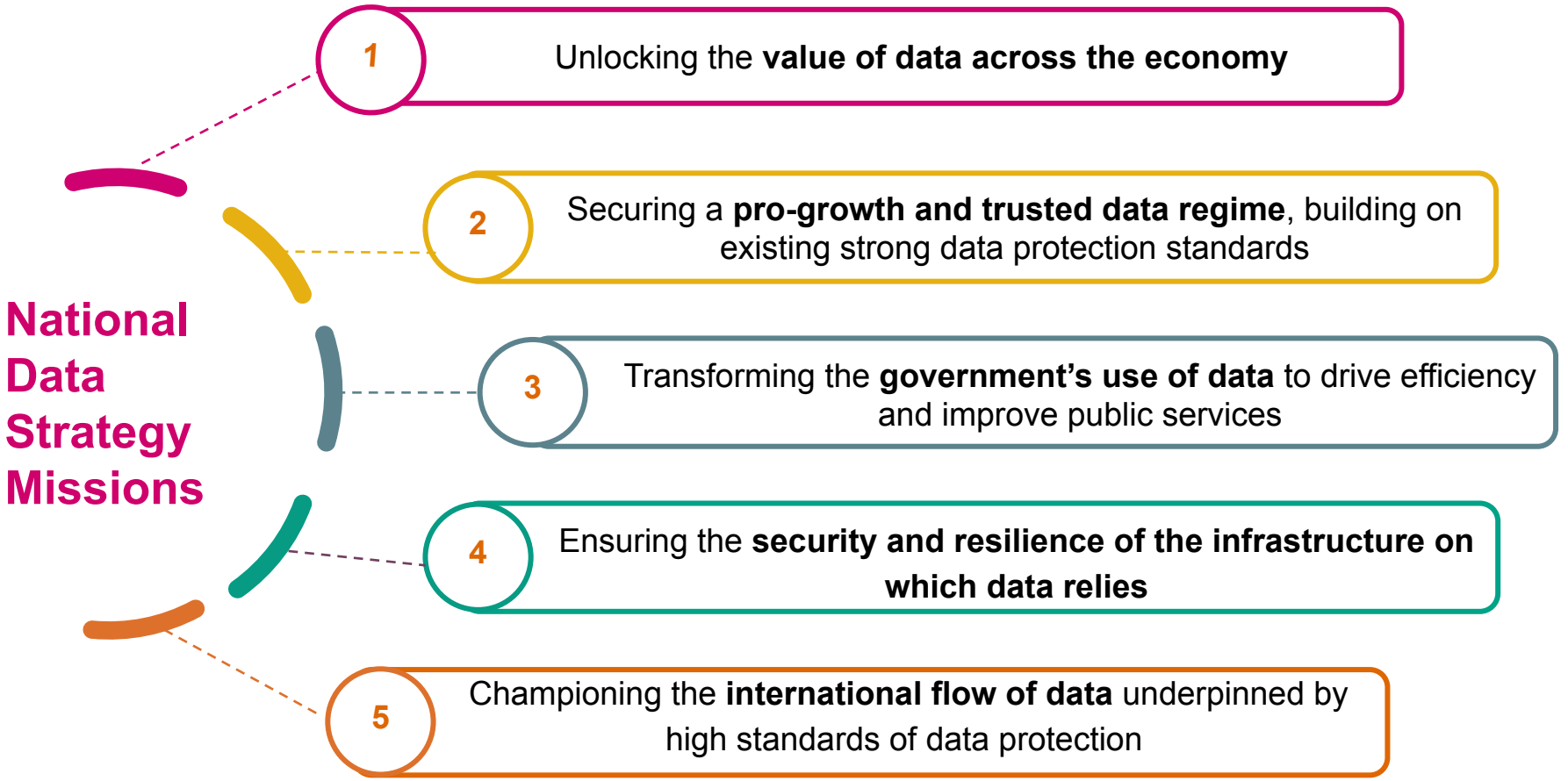
Ensuring data can get to where it is needed

Data Responsibility

Driving safe and trusted use of data, including through high data protection standards

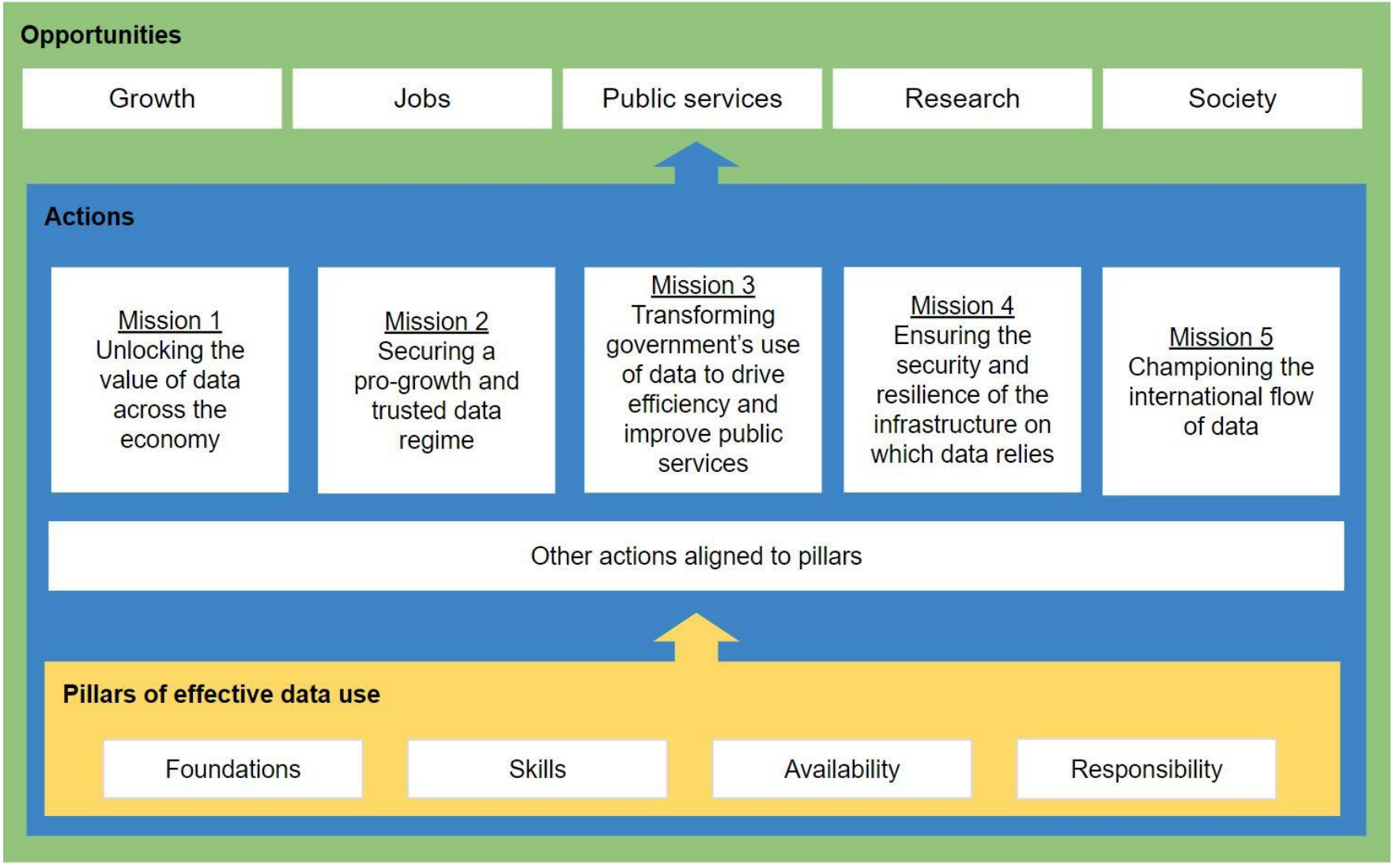
Missions

Through these pillars, we have identified five priority areas of action. These missions address key challenges that can prevent us from taking advantage of the opportunities that data offers:



How the opportunities, pillars, missions come together

Together, the steps identified in this strategy build on UK strengths to drive better use of data – data use that is more secure, more innovative and more widely recognised as a force for good.



Next steps

Consultation

The NDS framework document opens a 12 week consultation process.

Our decisions will have an impact beyond government, extending into the wider economy and society. We therefore need to ensure we have received proper scrutiny and input from a diverse range of stakeholders.

The consultation seeks views on:

- **the framing and core principles of the strategy** (as outlined in consultation questions 1-4).
- **the NDS missions, associated areas of focus and policy proposals** (as set out in questions 5-19).

Next Steps

Our current focus in on planning for a future NDS publication and successful NDS implementation.

Future publication

- Consultation responses will be analysed and will inform the development of a future publication.
- Scope of future publication to be set with Ministers

Monitoring and evaluation

- Each proposed priority mission and action will be delivered by an accountable owner across government.
- In order to drive successful implementation, we will develop a monitoring and evaluation process for the strategy.
- This will monitor the NDS' delivery and help ensure that it is achieving its intended outcomes.

Governance

- We are drawing up plans to bring together a governance framework to oversee the monitoring and reporting of the strategy's delivery.