RCSLT

ROOT data access project

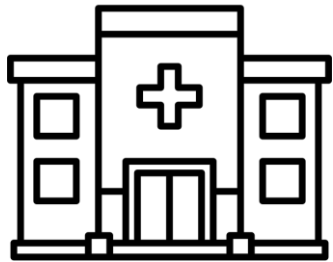August 2025

RCSLT

'RCSLT' stands for the <u>R</u>oyal <u>C</u>ollege of <u>S</u>peech and <u>L</u>anguage <u>T</u>herapists.

Speech and language therapists help people with:

- Communicating

- Eating and drinking

Speech and language therapists work with babies, children and adults.

Speech and language therapists work in many different places including:

- Hospitals

- Clinics

- Schools

- People's homes

The RCSLT supports speech and language therapists in the United Kingdom. We do not give speech and language therapy.
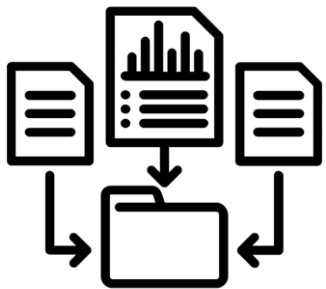
We do things like:

- Share information and guidance

- Support research

- Talk to government

'ROOT' stands for RCSLT Online Outcome Tool.

It is a large, online database.

A database is a place where we keep information.

We sometimes call this information 'data'.

The ROOT database holds data about speech and language therapy.

It contains over 100,000 records from all over the United Kingdom.

"Folder" icon by Zulfa Mahendra from Noun Project (CC BY 3.0)

The ROOT tells us things like:

- Why people have speech and language therapy

- When they had speech and language therapy

- What changes happened after they had speech and language therapy. We call these changes 'outcomes'.

The information in the ROOT is anonymised.

This means that it does <u>not</u> include information like the name of the person or their address.

Some people think that it would be a good idea to let researchers use the ROOT data to learn more about speech and language therapy.

'Researchers' are people who find out new information about a topic. They often work in universities.

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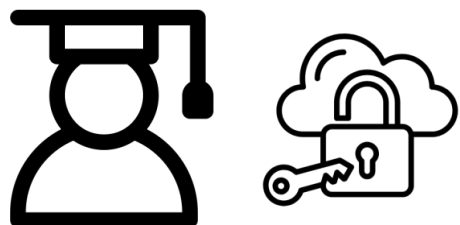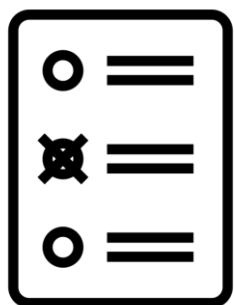This project is called the 'ROOT data access project'.
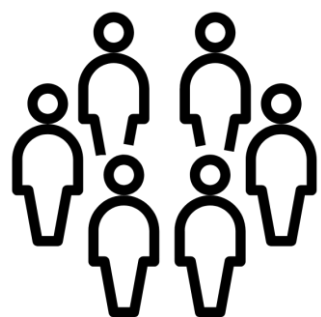
ROOT

data

access

The RCSLT needs to set up a way for researchers to ask for access to the data.

We also need a way to decide which research projects should have access to the data, and which should not.

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We want to find out what different people think about sharing data in the ROOT with researchers.

We want to ask people who have had speech and language therapy, and their carers. We call these people 'service users'.

"think" icon by Adrien Coquet from Noun Project (CC BY 3.0); "focus group" icon by Studio 365 from Noun Project (CC BY 3.0)

We are holding a 'focus group' to find out what service users think.

A 'focus group' is a type of meeting where a small group of people talk about their views and opinions.

We are also holding online interviews for people who cannot come to the focus group.
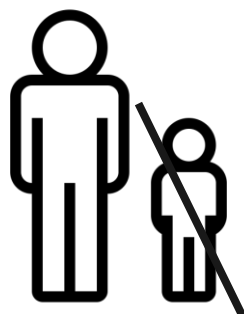
An 'interview' is a conversation where one person asks the questions and the other person answers the questions.

Service users who take part will be asked what they think about:

- Sharing ROOT data with researchers

- How researchers ask for access to the ROOT data

- How we decide which research projects should have access to the data and which should not

- Whether a service user should help the RCSLT to make decisions

"think" icon by Adrien Coquet from Noun Project (CC BY 3.0)

People who take part must:

- Be 18 years or older

- Have had speech and language therapy (or cared for someone who has)

- Be able to use a computer and email

People who take part need to:

- Agree to keep all discussions private. This means that you agree that you won't tell other people things like who else took part and what they said.

- Take part in meetings in English. We can give you extra help or make changes so that you can join in.

It will be helpful if the people who take part:

- Have helped with other projects like this before

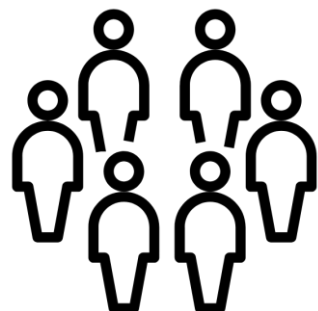- Know a bit about patient data and why it matters

You do <u>not</u> need to know lots about things like speech and language therapy, research, data sharing or law.

You need to fill in the application form. Tell us if you need help.

You need to email the form to

root@rcslt.org

We want to speak to people who:

- live in different parts of the country

- have had speech and language therapy for different reasons

- had speech and language therapy as a child

- had speech and language therapy as an adult

But, we only have a small number of places.

"focus group" icon by Studio 365 from Noun Project (CC BY 3.0)

This means that we may not be able to speak to everyone who wants to take part.
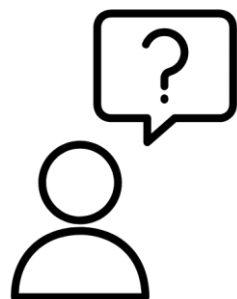
We will email you to tell you if you have a place in the focus group or we would like to speak to you in an online interview.

We will also email you if we don't have enough space for you to take part this time.

We will email you some more information about:

- The project

- The data access process we have created

- What will happen at the focus group or interview

You will have a chance to speak with someone from the RCSLT to ask us questions.

![RCSLT]

People who are chosen for the focus group will need to travel to London to take part.

People who are chosen for an interview can choose the date and time that is good for them.
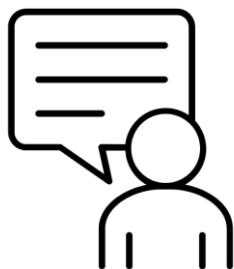
We will send you an email about:

- What people said during the focus group and interviews

- What we have learnt

- What we are going to do next

We call this a 'summary'.

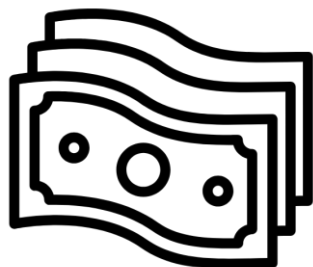You will be asked whether you agree with the summary.

You can also tell us about anything else that you haven't already told us but you think we should know.
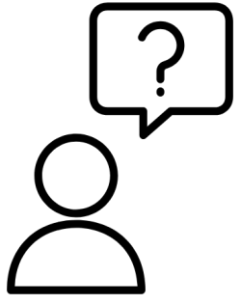
You will get paid for taking part.

You will be paid for the time that you spend:

- Preparing ('getting ready') for the focus group or interview

- Taking part in the focus group or an interview

- Telling us what you think about the summary

We will tell you more information about this if you are chosen to take part.

Please email the RCSLT with your questions:

root@rcslt.org

RCSLT

Thank you for listening

🌐 rcslt.org

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💬 @RCSLT