



Government
Digital Service



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology

Alpha: Attributes Specification for Person Entity (Tranche 1)

Introduction

This document sets out the attribute specifications for the person entity (Tranche 1). In this context, Person is the domain. The items in scope are the attributes of a Person, captured as data items.

Each data item is a named piece of information about a Person (for example Place of birth or given name). For each data item, this document provides a consistent attribute specification.

This document provides a reusable specification for attributes of a person (e.g. Country of birth or given name) that teams can rely on when they capture, store, share, or compare Person data. Each attribute specification pins down the stable ID and where it sits in the Person model, gives a plain-language definition backed by authoritative sources, and sets out practical rules to reduce ambiguity (for example, whether to use free text or a code list), alongside mapping to relevant standards and any applicable legal or standards considerations.

At each attribute, the specification includes both a human-readable Data item name and a stable Data item ID.

The Data item name is a descriptive label intended to support understanding and communication. The Data item ID is a stable, immutable identifier used for governance, mapping, and version control, and will not change if labels or wording are refined over time.

The specifications for the person entity set out in this document is not an identity solution. This document alongside the data models have been developed for semantic reference purposes. A proof of concept has been developed which brings together the concepts, relationships, context, definitions and machine-readable code into a knowledge system for service design and management. This artefact has been developed for Alpha testing. The Alpha testing period will be confirmed in due course.

We encourage government bodies to map these specifications to systems and/or use cases to assess and refine attributes and definitions.

You can seek support or provide feedback by contacting the Data Standards Authority via **data-standards-authority@dsit.gov.uk**.

Specification	What it means	Example
Data item	A single attribute of a Person that can be recorded and exchanged.	Country of birth
Data item ID	A stable identifier for the data item specification (used in tracking, governance, mapping).	PER-ATTR-000009
Model path	Where the data item sits in the conceptual Person model.	Person → Person event → Birth → Country of birth
Definition	Plain-language statement of what the data item means, so teams interpret it consistently.	Place of birth: The town/city (or equivalent locality) in which a person was born.
Source of definition (links)	The authoritative references used to support the definition (captured as source IDs with links in the appendix).	S1 (ONS guidance), S2 (EU Core Person Vocabulary)
Rules	Recording/interpretation considerations to reduce ambiguity (not a compliance regime).	Place of birth: be explicit whether you are recording free text, a coded location reference, or both.
Relevant models	Recognised models/standards where the same item appears, supporting mapping and comparison.	SEMIC Core Person Vocabulary; NHS Data Dictionary
Alternative definitions	Other definitions used elsewhere (useful for mapping and stakeholder alignment).	Country of birth: alternative phrasing from another model/standard
Alternative titles / labels	Other labels used for the same concept across systems and standards.	First name: Given name; Forename

Relevant UK law	UK legislation relevant to capture/use/interpretation (where applicable).	Equality Act 2010 (ethnicity/nationality context)
Related standards	Standards relevant to representation/exchange (where applicable).	ISO 8601 (dates); ISO 3166-1 (countries)

This document uses a consistent table layout so readers can quickly compare attributes and understand how each item should be interpreted.

Document status

This document is published as part of an Alpha release. A number of data items have been agreed and developed in Tranche 1 by the Domain Expert Group for Person. This document is intended for testing and validation in real-world settings to assess its maturity, usability, and implementability. Following review of the Alpha, the Domain Expert Group on Person will expand the scope of the specifications to other attributes of a Person set out in the models. Furthermore, other Domain Expert Groups will be established to lead work on other priority domains.

Version control

Version	Date	Owner	Summary of change	Status
v0.1	Feb 2026	F&S Team	Initial draft of Person Domain Attribute Contracts (Tranche 1)	Draft
V0.2	March 2026	DEGoP	Refinements following internal review and alignment across domains	Draft
V0.9	Apr 2026	DEGoP/PRG	Updated based on PRG feedback and stakeholder engagement	Pre-Alpha
V1.0	June 2026	DSA	First Alpha release for testing and validation	DSA Steering Board

Definition of a Person

For the purposes of this artefact and the work of the Domain Expert Group, a 'Person' is defined as an individual human being.

Tranche 1 attributes

Titles	
Data item	Titles
Data item ID	PER-ATTR-000001
Model path	Person → Titles
Definition	An honorific or form of address associated with a Natural Person, used to indicate courtesy, social status, professional standing, or preference. It does not identify the person and does not imply any legal role or relationship—it's simply an attribute describing how the person chooses (or is required) to be addressed.
Usage/Context	This data item provides formal mode of address to support correspondence, service delivery interactions, and formal communication standards.
Source of definition (links)	The definition of Titles in this document is derived from a combination of authoritative sources
Rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional in many contexts. • Prefer a controlled list where one exists (a UK focused controlled list is currently being developed by the group). Internationally facing services may extend or map to additional vocabularies as required • If a required value is not available in the controlled list, an 'OTHER' option may be used, supported by a free-text value. Use of 'OTHER' should be limited to genuine edge cases. Where a free-text value becomes common, it should be reviewed for inclusion in the controlled list to preserve consistency and interoperability. • Store as UTF-8 text. • Titles may be temporal (e.g. honours, peerage). Where titles change over time, systems may record validity dates (valid from valid to) if supported. • Draft or non-endorsed standards are referenced for information only and are not normative dependencies for this specification

Titles	
Relevant model(s)	(S15) US Common Education Standards; (S21) FHIR release 5.0.0 Datatypes (S9) SEMIC Core Person Vocabulary (S17) HMRC Title and Honorifics Draft Standard (informative, non-normative) (S22) NOVA (New Operating Model and Values) Functional Reference Model
Alternative definitions	A standard form of address used to precede a person's name (NOVA (New Operating Model and Values) Functional Reference Model)
Alternative titles / labels	Personal title, Prefix, or Honorific
Relevant UK law	None specific (context-dependent).
Related standards	UTF-8 / Unicode character handling (S5)

Post-Nominal Titles	
Data item	Post-Nominal Titles
Data item ID	PER-ATTR-000013
Model path	Person → Titles → Post-Nominal Titles
Definition	Post-Nominal Titles are letters placed after a person's name that denote orders, decorations, honours, academic degrees, professional memberships, licensure, or fellowships (e.g. OBE, PhD, FRCS, CPA).
Usage/Context	They confer recognition or qualification, not forms of address, and are typically governed by awarding bodies with formal usage rules.
Source of definition (links)	The definition of Post-Nominal Titles in this document is derived from a combination of authoritative sources including US Common Education Data Standards (CEDS) (S15)
Rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional. • May be multi valued (a person may hold multiple qualifications or honours). • Prefer a controlled list where one exists (e.g. nationally defined honours); otherwise allow free text. Given the challenges in trying to factor all titles and honours from across the world, controlled lists should only allow British titles and honours • Use of 'OTHER' should be limited to genuine edge cases. Frequently used free-text values should be reviewed for inclusion in a controlled list. • Store as UTF-8 text. • May be temporal. Where suffixes change over time (e.g. awards or qualifications are gained), systems may record validity dates (valid from / valid to) where supported. • Draft or non-endorsed standards are referenced for information only and are not normative dependencies for this contract.

Post-Nominal Titles	
Relevant model(s)	(S15) US Common Education Data Standards (CEDDS) (S21) FHIR v5.0.0 Human Name datatype (suffix handling) (S9) SEMIC Core Person Vocabulary (S17) HMRC Draft Data Format Standard: Titles and Honorifics (informative, non-normative)
Alternative definitions	Part of the name that is acquired as a title due to academic, legal, employment or nobility status, etc. and that appears at the end of the name (FHIR v5.0.0 Human Name datatype)
Alternative titles / labels	Title suffix Honour suffix
Relevant UK law	None specific (context-dependent).
Related standards	UTF-8 / Unicode character handling (S5)

Given Name	
Data item	Given name
Data item ID	PER-ATTR-000002
Model path	Person → Name → Formal name → Given name
Definition	<p>Given Name is the primary personal name(s) assigned to an individual, typically at birth or legal registration, and used to identify the person within family, social, and formal contexts.</p> <p>It represents the individual's personal identifier within their full name structure and appears as the first name in many Western naming conventions, but may represent one or more names depending on cultural naming patterns.</p>
Usage/Context	This may exist in multiple forms (legal, preferred, informal), depending on the name sub-domain.
Source of definition (links)	The definition of Given Name in this document is derived from a combination of authoritative sources
Rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not force strict first last structures. Store the given name as recorded. • Allow compound or multi-part given names to be stored as a single value where recorded. Preserve order. • Store as UTF-8 text and support punctuation and diacritics (hyphens, apostrophes, spaces). • Support non-Latin scripts. Do not require transliteration (if you do transliterate, keep the original). • Preserve the original recorded value. If you create a normalised form for matching, keep it separate. • If the value changes over time, keep history and effective dates where available. • The separation of a name into given name, other given name(s), and family name is intended to support interoperability and specific UK use cases. It does not mandate that services must capture or store names in this way.

Given Name	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where naming conventions do not align with this structure, services should preserve names as recorded and map to these attributes only where meaningful
Relevant model(s)	<p>(S9) SEMIC Core Person Vocabulary (S6) GOV.UK Design System (Names); (S7) W3C personal names guidance; (S16) HMRC standard on Person Name; (S15) US Common Education Standards; (S21) FHIR vers 5.0.0; (S23) New Zealand - Register of Govt Mandated Data Standards; (S22) NOVA (New Operating Model and Values) Functional Reference Model</p>
Alternative definitions	<p>The name(s) that identify the Person within a family with a common surname (SEMIC Core Person Vocabulary); The forename(s) or given name(s) of a person (POLE)</p>
Alternative titles / labels	<p>Forename; First name (these alternative titles are provided to support interpretation and mapping across systems. They represent permitted synonyms for this data item and do not imply separate attributes or different capture requirements)</p>
Relevant UK law	<p>Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953 (L1) (e.g. name on recorded on the birth certificate is the legal name at birth; parents can change a child's forename within 12 months via re-registration)</p> <p>Gender Recognition Act 2004 (L5) (allows individuals to obtain a GRC which enables them to update their legal name and gender on official record)</p>
Related standards	<p>UTF-8 / Unicode character handling (S5)</p> <p>ISO/IEC 7501-1 Machine Readable Travel Documents (machine-readable passport (MRZ) format, names are represented using a specific structure: surname(s) followed by given name(s), with each name separated by a single filler character (a space or "<") and the end of the primary identifier indicated by a double filler)</p> <p>W3C Internationalisation (I18N) Guidelines (best practices for handling names in web applications)</p>

Given Name

X.500 (standard for directory services - components cooperate to manage information about objects such as names)

Middle Name	
Data item	Middle Name(s)
Data item ID	PER-ATTR-000003
Model path	Person → Name → Formal name → Middle name
Definition	<p>Middle Name refers to any personal name component that appears between the Given Name and the Family Name in an individual's full name structure.</p> <p>It may consist of one or more name elements, and may serve cultural, familial, religious, or administrative purposes.</p> <p>It is a core structural name attribute but not always used in every naming tradition.</p>
Usage/Context	Middle Names may appear in legal/formal contexts or as optional identity components depending on the jurisdiction.
Source of definition (links)	The definition of Middle Name in this document is derived from a combination of authoritative sources
Rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional. • Allow zero or more values. Preserve order. • Apply the same UTF-8, punctuation, diacritics, and multi script rules as First name. • Do not assume a single middle name. Middle name(s) are treated as other given name(s)' where used. • Keep history and effective dates where the source supports it. • Middle name(s) represent additional given names beyond the primary given name. This attribute is intentionally multi-valued and corresponds to what some standards refer to as 'other given name(s)' or 'subsequent given names'
Relevant model(s)	<p>(S9) SEMIC Core Person Vocabulary;</p> <p>(S6) GOV.UK Design System (Names);</p> <p>(S7) W3C personal names guidance;</p>

Middle Name	
	<p>(S16) HMRC standard on Person Name; (S15) US Common Education Standards; (S21) FHIR vers 5.0.0; (S23) New Zealand - Register of Govt Mandated Data Standards;</p> <p>(S22) NOVA (New Operating Model and Values) Functional Reference Model</p>
Alternative definitions	The forename(s) or given name(s) of a person (POLE)
Alternative titles / labels	Additional forename(s)
Relevant UK law	Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953 (L1) (does not distinguish between first, middle or last names - parent can choose any number of names; middle names are treated as part of the full legal name on the birth certificate)
Related international standards	<p>UTF-8 / Unicode character handling (S5)</p> <p>ISO/IEC 7501-1 Machine Readable Travel Documents (machine-readable passport (MRZ) format, names are represented using a specific structure: surname(s) followed by given name(s), with each name separated by a single filler character (a space or "<") and the end of the primary identifier indicated by a double filler)</p> <p>W3C Internationalisation (I18N) Guidelines (best practices for handling names in web applications)</p> <p>X.500 (standard for directory services - components cooperate to manage information about objects such as names)</p>

Family name	
Data item	Family name
Data item ID	PER-ATTR-000004
Model path	Person → Name → Formal name → Family name
Definition	<p>Family Name (also known as surname, last name, or patronymic/matronymic element depending on culture) is the inherited or legally recorded component of a person's name that identifies their family, lineage, or household grouping.</p> <p>It is a core identifier used across legal, administrative, and social systems and is typically stable across life except where changed through legal processes.</p>
Usage/Context	<p>This data item enables consistent identification of a person across systems</p> <p>Family Name forms one of the principal anchors of identity and is part of the official full name in most naming systems worldwide.</p>
Source of definition (links)	The definition of Family Name in this document is derived from a combination of authoritative sources
Rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not assume a single word surname. • Allow multi-part surnames (spaces, prefixes, hyphens) and preserve punctuation and diacritics. • Allow one or more surnames where the source records multiple. Preserve order. • Store as UTF-8 text and preserve the recorded value. • Keep history and effective dates where the value changes.
Relevant model(s)	<p>(S8) Office for National Statistics (ONS) guidance</p> <p>(S9) SEMIC Core Person Vocabulary;</p> <p>(S6) GOV.UK Design System (Names);</p> <p>(S21) FHIR vers 5.0.0;</p> <p>(S10) Schema.org (community-maintained vocabulary</p>

Alternative definitions	The hereditary surname of a family (SEMIC Core Person Vocabulary)
Alternative titles / labels	Family Surname; Last name
Relevant UK law	<p>Marriage Act 1949 (L6) / Civil Partnership Act 2004 (L7) (a person can take their spouse's surname after marriage or civil partnership without a deed poll; after divorce a person can revert to their previous surname)</p> <p>British Nationality Act 1981 (L3) (a passport must match the surname on a birth certificate, marriage certificate, or deed poll)</p>
Related standards	<p>UTF-8 / Unicode character handling (S5)</p> <p>ISO/IEC 7501-1 Machine Readable Travel Documents (machine-readable passport (MRZ) format, names are represented using a specific structure: surname(s) followed by given name(s), with each name separated by a single filler character (a space or "<") and the end of the primary identifier indicated by a double filler)</p> <p>W3C Internationalisation (I18N) Guidelines (best practices for handling names in web applications)</p> <p>X.500 (standard for directory services - components cooperate to manage information about objects such as names)</p>

Preferred Name	
Data item	Preferred Name
Data item ID	PER-ATTR-000012
Model path	Person → Name → Informal Name → Preferred Name
Definition	Preferred Name is the non-legal, self-chosen name an individual wishes to be addressed by in day-to-day communication, services, internal systems, or user-experience contexts. It may or may not match the person's legal or formal name. Preferred Name may change over time as the individual's preferences evolve.
Usage/Context	<p>Preferred Name may be a shortened form of the legal given name, a culturally chosen name used in social or professional contexts, an anglicised or localised form, or a chosen first name reflecting personal identity. Preferred Name is authoritative for communication purposes, but is not valid for legal, regulatory, or identity verification purposes. It supports user experience and appropriate forms of address across services while maintaining clear separation from legal identity.</p> <p>It is distinct from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nickname (informal, casual name used in social contexts) • Alias (documented alternative name in professional/legal/operational contexts) • Formal Name (legal or official name)
Source of definition (links)	The definition of Preferred Name in this document is derived from a combination of authoritative sources including POLE (NPCC) Minimum POLE Data Standards Dictionary (S18)
Rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional • May have multiple values over time (a person may change their preferred name). • At any given time, a person has one active preferred name for formal communication.

Preferred Name	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be self-chosen by the individual. Do not invent or assume preferred names. • Must be kept separate from legal or formal names. • Used to capture the name an individual wishes to be addressed by. Not for informal nicknames or documented professional aliases • Preferred Name may represent a full name or part of a name. Do not assume alignment with given name and surname structure • Store as UTF-8 text and preserve punctuation and diacritics (for example: Müller, O'Brien, José) • Apply validation to prevent: consecutive spaces, leading or trailing spaces, and empty values. • Where the value changes over time, systems must record valid from and valid to dates and retain history. This tracks when an individual's preferred name changed (for example: marriage, personal choice, cultural naming changes) • Record provenance where possible (source and confirmation of self-selection).
Relevant model(s)	(S9) SEMIC Core Person Vocabulary; (S7) W3C personal names guidance; (S18) Minimum POLE Data Standards Dictionary (S11) SAVVI (S13) NHS Person name classification
Alternative definitions	<p>May be a shortened or familiar form of the GivenName (e.g., Betty or Lizzie vs Elizabeth), by which the person is generally known by family & friends (SAVVI)</p> <p>Preferred Name" as distinct from birth name, married name, and alias (NHS Person name classification)</p>
Alternative titles / labels	Chosen name; Service name; Display name; Known as (informal)
Relevant UK law	Not applicable. Preferred Name is a communication preference, not a legal designation. No specific UK legislation addresses preferred name governance.

Preferred Name	
Related standards	UTF-8 / Unicode character handling (S5) , POLE (NPCC) Minimum POLE Data Standards Dictionary (S18) SAVVI Person logical model (S11) W3C personal names around the world (S7) SEMIC Core Person Vocabulary (S9)

Nick Name	
Data item	Nick Name
Data item ID	PER-ATTR-000011
Model path	Person → Name → Informal Name → Nick Name
Definition	A Nick Name is an informal, non-legal, personally or socially used variant of an individual's name. It is a familiar, casual, or culturally specific form that the person may be known by in social, internal, or low-formality contexts. It is not legally authoritative, not used for identity verification, and must only be stored when voluntarily self-reported.
Usage/Context	<p>A Nick Name may shorten a formal name (for example: Ben for Benjamin), modify it culturally (for example: Sasha for Alexander, Lulu for Louise), be an informal or affectionate form (for example: Buddy, Ace), or be used only in certain communities or internal teams. Nicknames support user experience and communication in informal contexts while maintaining clear separation from legal and formal identities.</p> <p>It is distinct from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alias (documented alternative name in professional/legal/operational contexts) • Preferred Name (self-chosen name for formal day-to-day communication) • Formal Name (legal or official name)
Source of definition (links)	The definition of Nick Name in this document is derived from a combination of authoritative sources
Rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional • May be multi-valued (a person may have multiple nicknames in different social contexts). • Must be kept separate from legal or formal names. • Used to capture informal, casual, or affectionate name variants. Not for documented professional or legal alternative names.

Nick Name	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nick Name may represent a full name or part of a name. Do not assume alignment with given name and surname structure. • Must be voluntarily self-reported. Do not invent or assume nicknames. • Store as UTF-8 text and preserve punctuation and diacritics (for example: Müller, O'Brien). • Apply validation to prevent: consecutive spaces, leading or trailing spaces, and empty values. • Where the value changes over time, systems may record valid from and valid to dates and retain history. • Record provenance where possible (source and self-reported status)
Relevant model(s)	(S9) SEMIC Core Person Vocabulary; (S7) W3C personal names guidance; (S18) Minimum POLE Data Standards Dictionary (S11) SAVVI
Alternative definitions	Given name, with Use = nickname (e.g. Jock) (SEMIC Core Person Vocabulary)
Alternative titles / labels	Known as; Pet name; Casual name; Familiar form
Relevant UK law	Not applicable. Nicknames are informal and not legally authoritative. No specific UK legislation addresses nickname governance.
Related standards	UTF-8 / Unicode character handling (S5), POLE (NPCC) Minimum POLE Data Standards Dictionary (S18) SAVVI Person logical model (S11) W3C personal names around the world (S7)

Alias	
Data item	Alias
Data item ID	PER-ATTR-000005
Model path	Person → Name → Informal Name → Alias
Definition	An Alias is an alternative name that an individual uses in a specific professional, legal, operational, cultural, or pseudonymous context, distinct from their legal name, preferred name, or informal nickname.
Usage/Context	<p>Aliases may include professional names, stage names, pseudonyms, maiden names used professionally, or documented historical names used in particular roles or activities. An Alias is not self-evidently a legal name but may still require governance depending on usage. Aliases are used where a person is known by multiple identities in different legitimate contexts.</p> <p>It is distinct from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preferred Name (self-chosen name for day-to-day communication) • Nickname (informal, casual name used in social contexts) • Formal Name (legal or official name)
Source of definition (links)	The definition of Nick Name in this document is derived from a combination of authoritative sources
Rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional • May be multi valued (a person may have multiple aliases different contexts) • Must be kept separate from legal or formal names • Captures documented alternative names used in professional, legal, operational, or cultural contexts. Not for informal nicknames or casual name variations • Alias may represent a full name or part of a name. Do not assume alignment with given name and surname structure.

Alias	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Store as UTF-8 text and preserve punctuation and diacritics. (e.g. é, ñ, ü, hyphens, apostrophes) • Apply validation to prevent consecutive spaces, leading or trailing spaces, and empty values • Where the value changes over time, systems may record valid from and valid to dates and retain history • Where possible, capture the type of alias (e.g. preferred name, nickname, former name), but do not require this where the source does not provide it • Record provenance where possible (source and verification status)
Relevant model(s)	(S9) SEMIC Core Person Vocabulary; (S7) W3C personal names guidance; (S18) Minimum POLE Data Standards Dictionary (S11) SAVVI
Alternative definitions	<p>A name a person is also known as or referred to by others or themselves. This could be a part of a person's name which is used to describe family, clan, tribal group or marital association but could also be a previous name, a name that relates to a physical characteristic of a person, a previous incident a person was involved in, a name that has been used to hide the true identity of a person and so on.</p> <p>(Minimum POLE Data Standards Dictionary)</p>
Alternative titles / labels	<p>Known as, Professional name, Stage name, Pseudonym, Alternative name, aka</p>
Relevant UK law	<p>Nonspecific (context-dependent).</p> <p>Aliases are not illegal but their use is restricted in certain situations, particularly where identity verification is required.</p> <p>British Nationality Act 1981 (L4)/Road Traffic Act 1988 (L8) (if a person uses an alias they must provide documentary evidence (deed poll) to update their official records</p>

Alias	
	<p>Money Laundering Regulations 2017 (L9) (financial institutions must verify a person's true identity, even if they use an alias)</p> <p>Companies Act 2006 (L10) (Company Directors must disclose all names for business purposes, including aliases)</p> <p>Representation of the People Act 1983 (L11) (a person must register to vote under their legal name, not an alias)</p> <p>Fraud Act 2006 (L12) (using a false name to gain a financial or personal advantage is fraud by false representation)</p>
Related standards	<p>UTF-8 / Unicode character handling (S5), POLE (NPCC) Minimum POLE Data Standards Dictionary (S18), SAVVI Person logical model (S11), W3C personal names around the world (S7), NHS Person name classification (S13)</p>

Date of Birth	
Data item	Date of Birth
Data item ID	PER-ATTR-000006
Model path	Person → Person event → Birth → Birth Date → Date of birth
Definition	Date of Birth (DOB) is the official calendar date on which an individual was born, as recognised by the appropriate civil authority or as evidenced by legally accepted documentation.
Usage / context	<p>It is a core identity anchor, used across legal, administrative, operational, and analytical systems. It is typically immutable once verified. Services use it for age-based rules and checks, including eligibility, access control, safeguarding, and identity verification.</p> <p>It is distinct from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth Registration Date (administrative date of registration) • Birth Notification Date (clinical/operational notification date)
Source of definition (links)	The definition of Date of Birth in this document is derived from a combination of authoritative sources
Rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use ISO 8601 for exchange. • Support partial precision (year / year-month) where recorded. Do not invent missing components. • The value must not be in the future, reported age should not exceed 120 years at time of data entry, and should not be later than the person's recorded date of death. Record provenance where possible (source and whether verified). • Avoid language that implies a formal registration process. Treat as the date of birth as recorded on an official or operational record, not necessarily formally registered
Relevant model(s)	(S20) Adult Social Care Digital Social Care Record: Minimum Operational Data Standard (MODS)

Date of Birth	
	<p>(S9) SEMIC Core Person Vocabulary;</p> <p>(S1) HMG has mandated ISO8601 for the exchange and communication for date and time-related data;</p> <p>(S18) Minimum POLE Data Standards Dictionary Schema.org (community-maintained vocabulary; supplementary context only, non-normative)</p>
Alternative definitions	<p>The point in time on which the Person was born (SEMIC Core Person Vocabulary:)</p> <p>The date of birth of a person (Adult Social Care Digital Social Care Record: Minimum Operational Data Standard (MODS) and Minimum POLE Data Standards Dictionary)</p> <p>The date a person was born (NOVA)</p>
Alternative titles / labels	DOB; Birthdate
Relevant UK law	<p>Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953 (L1)</p> <p>Health and Care Act 2022 (L13)</p>
Related standards	ISO 8601 (S1),(S2)

Estimated Date of Birth	
Data item	Estimated DOB
Data item ID	PER-ATTR-000010
Model path	Person → Person event → Birth → Birth Date → Estimated DOB
Definition	Estimated DOB is a data quality indicator that records whether the Date of Birth is verified and confirmed, or estimated/unknown due to incomplete records, lack of documentation, or uncertainty (for example: yet-to-be-born, historical records without certification).
Usage / context	<p>This attribute supports data provenance, quality assessment, and appropriate handling of birth date information across systems. It explicitly documents the verification status of the Date of Birth, enabling systems to apply appropriate validation rules and trust levels to identification data.</p> <p>It is distinct from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date of Birth (the actual calendar date) • Birth Registration Date (administrative date of registration) • Date Verified (when verification occurred)
Source of definition (links)	The definition of Estimated Date of Birth in this document is derived from a combination of authoritative sources
Rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record "Yes" where Date of Birth is estimated, uncertain, or unverified (based on available evidence) • Record "No" where Date of Birth is verified and confirmed from an authoritative source. • Leave blank where no Date of Birth has been recorded or determined (for example: yet-to-be-born records where a DOB cannot yet be established) • When value is "Yes", the Date of Birth must not be in the future, reported age should not exceed 120 years at time of data entry, and should not exceed any recorded date of death.

Estimated Date of Birth	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document provenance where possible (source of estimation, method used to derive estimate).
Relevant model(s)	(S18) Minimum POLE Data Standards Dictionary (S9) SEMIC Core Person Vocabulary;
Alternative definitions	Estimated date of birth; DOB estimated flag; DOB verification status
Alternative titles / labels	DOB estimated; Estimated DOB indicator; Is estimated DOB
Relevant UK law	Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953 (L1)
Related standards	(S18) Minimum POLE Data Standards Dictionary; (S9) SEMIC Core Person Vocabulary

Registered Date of Death	
Data item	Registered Date of Death
Data item ID	PER-ATTR-000007
Model path	Person → person event → Death → Registered date of death
Definition	<p>Registered Date of Death is the official date on which a death is formally recorded by the competent civil authority (e.g. civil registry, vital statistics office, municipal registration authority).</p> <p>It reflects the administrative timestamp at which the death was legally recognised and entered into the official civil registration system.</p>
Usage/Context	<p>This attribute underpins legality, auditability, entitlement cessation and identity lifecycle closure.</p> <p>It is distinct from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date of Death (the factual date the individual died)
Source of definition (links)	The definition of Estimated Date of Birth in this document is derived from a combination of authoritative sources
Rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use ISO 8601 for exchange. • Support partial precision (year / year-month) where recorded. Do not invent missing components. • Record provenance where possible (source and whether verified). • Record the registered date of death exactly as recorded by the civil authority where available. Do not adjust or correct this value to align with the actual Date of Death; keep both attributes distinct. Where formal registration does not exist, this attribute may be empty.
Relevant model(s)	(S20) Adult Social Care Digital Social Care Record: Minimum Operational Data Standard (MODS)

Registered Date of Death	
	<p>(S9) SEMIC Core Person Vocabulary; (S1) HMG has mandated ISO8601 for the exchange and communication for date and time-related data;</p>
Alternative definitions	<p>The date on which a person died or is officially deemed to have died. This is as recorded on the death certificate (Adult Social Care Digital Social Care Record: Minimum Operational Data Standard (MODS))</p>
Alternative titles / labels	<p>Date of death; DOD</p>
Relevant UK law	<p>Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953 (L1) Health and Care Act 2022 (L13)</p>
Related international standards	<p>ISO 8601 (S1), (S2)</p>

Place of Birth	
Data item	Place of Birth
Data item ID	PER-ATTR-000008
Model path	Person → Person event → Birth → Place of birth
Definition	Place of Birth is the geographical location where the birth took place, as recorded by the relevant civil authority or evidenced through legally recognised documentation
Usage/context	<p>Used in supporting identity verification, eligibility checks, historical lineage, and demographic reporting. It denotes the physical location of the birth event.</p> <p>It is distinct from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents' domicile or residence at time of birth • Ancestry or ancestral origins • Nationality or country of birth (political jurisdiction) • Registered address or usual residence
Source of definition (links)	The definition of Place of Birth in this document is derived from a combination of authoritative sources
Rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always record the correct current name for the place of birth • Be explicit whether you store free text, a coded identifier, or both. • If using free text, store as UTF-8 and preserve punctuation and diacritics. (e.g. Düsseldorf, Saint-Étienne, São Paulo) • If using free text, allow a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 35 alphanumeric characters. The field must not contain consecutive spaces. • For international cases, free text entry may be necessary to accommodate different location formats • Keep separate from Country of Birth (which records political jurisdiction, not physical location) • Leave blank where not applicable (only applicable once a person has been born)

Place of Birth	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only applicable once a person has been born. Leave blank where not applicable. • Refer to HMPO guidance on place and country of birth where a person's birth place is unknown or if they were born on a ship, hovercraft or aircraft.
Relevant model(s)	(S9) SEMIC Core Person Vocabulary; (S18) Minimum POLE Data Standards Dictionary (S10) Schema.org (community-maintained vocabulary)
Alternative definitions	<p>The village, town, city or area where a person was born (HMPO Guidance – Place and Country of Birth)</p> <p>A person's town of birth (Minimum POLE Data Standards Dictionary)</p>
Alternative titles / labels	Birth place; Birth locality
Relevant UK law	Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953 (L1)
Related international standards	UTF-8 (S5)

Country of Birth	
Data item	Country of Birth
Data item ID	PER-ATTR-000009
Model path	Person → Person event → Birth → Country of birth
Definition	Country of Birth is the sovereign state or recognised territory in which an individual was born, recorded as part of the Birth life event
Usage/context	<p>It reflects the geopolitical jurisdiction at the time of birth, typically captured using ISO-3166-1 country codes, and is often used as part of a person's core identity record.</p> <p>It is distinct from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place of Birth (full locality: region, town, facility) • Nationality (legal status) • Self-Identified Nationality (identity expression) • Ancestry or ethnicity (demographic domain)
Source of definition	The definition of Place of Birth in this document is derived from a combination of authoritative sources including HMPO guidance on Place and country of birth.
Rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always record the correct current name for the place of birth • Use the Geographical names index (maintained by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)) or the islands, places and territories list for all country and place names • Avoid free text for exchange. If free text is collected locally, keep it as recorded and map to codes for exchange with traceability. • Leave blank where not applicable (only applicable once a person has been born) • Refer to HMPO guidance on place and country of birth where a person's country of birth is unknown or if they were born on a ship, hovercraft or aircraft.

Country of Birth	
Relevant model(s)	(S9) SEMIC Core Person Vocabulary
Alternative definitions	Country where the birth happened (HMPO Guidance – Place and Country of Birth) Country of birth is the country in which a person was born (ONS Guidance on using country of birth, nationality, and passports held data)
Alternative titles / labels	Birth country
Relevant UK law	None specific (context-dependent).
Related standards	(S3) ISO 3166-1 (country codes)

Appendix A: Reference list (Sources)

Source ID	Publisher	Short title
S1	GOV.UK Open Standards	Date, times and timestamps standard (ISO 8601 profile)
S2	ISO	ISO 8601 overview page
S3	GOV.UK Open Standards	Country codes must be represented using ISO 3166-1, with UK-specific extensions applied where required. The current version of ISO 3166-1 is maintained by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and is available via the ISO Online Browsing Platform: https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#search/code/
S4	ISO	ISO 3166 country codes overview
S5	GOV.UK Open Standards	Cross-platform character encoding profile (UTF-8)
S6	GOV.UK Design System	Names pattern
S7	W3C	Personal names around the world
S8	Office for National Statistics	Guidance on using country of birth, nationality and passports held data
S9	SEMIC / Interoperable Europe	Core Person Vocabulary v2.00
S10	Schema.org	Person
S11	SAVVI	Person logical model
S12	NHS England (NHS Data Dictionary)	Person title (archive)
S13	NHS England (NHS Data Dictionary)	Person name classification (includes alias)
S14	Government Analysis Function	Ethnicity harmonised standard
S15	US Common Education Data Standards (CEDS)	US Common Education Data Standards
S16	HMRC	Draft Data Format Standard: Person's Name (internal reference; link TBC)
S17	HMRC	Draft Data Format Standard: Titles and Honorifics (internal reference; link TBC)
S18	POLE (NPCC)	Minimum POLE Data Standards Dictionary
S19	HM Passport Office	Place and Country of Birth
S20	NHS England	Adult Social Care Digital Social Care Record: Minimum Operational Data Standard (MODS)

S21	HL7 International	FHIR Release 5.0.0 Datatypes (including HumanName)
S22	UK Government (DSIT / Cabinet Office)	NOVA (New Operating Model and Values) Functional Reference Model (Person domain reference). This is an internal government reference and is not publicly available; access is restricted to civil servants
S23	New Zealand Government	Mandated data standards (New Zealand Government)

Law ID	UK law
L1	Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953
L2	Equality Act 2010, Section 9 (Race: includes nationality and ethnic origins)
L3	Equality Act 2010, Section 9
L4	British Nationality Act 1981
L5	Gender Recognition Act 2004
L6	Marriage Act 1949
L7	Civil Partnership Act 2004
L8	Road Traffic Act 1988
L9	The Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Transfer of Funds Regulations 2017
L10	Companies Act 2006
L11	Representation of the People Act 1983
L12	Fraud Act 2006
L13	Health and Care Act 2022