

Privacy Notice for UK Emissions Trading Scheme Cost of Compliance Research

GC Insight has invited you to take part in research about the cost of complying with the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (UK ETS).

Before you agree to take part, we want you to know exactly how your personal data is going to be used.

This Privacy Notice should give you all the information you need to help you to decide if you want to take part in the research. If you would like to find out more, there are details at the end of this document about how to get in touch, and we would be happy to help.

What is this about?

The UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), managed by the UK ETS Authority (a joint body of the UK, Scottish, Welsh governments and the Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs) is a cap-and-trade system that aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the UK. The scheme sets a limit on total emissions from key sectors covering UK's power sector, energy-intensive industries, and emissions from domestic flights and flights from the UK to the EEA and Switzerland. Companies must surrender a number of allowances equal to their annual emissions in tonnes of CO2 equivalent greenhouse gas. They can buy their allowance from government auction or the secondary market. Some operators receive some allowance for free to protect them against carbon leakage. Trading of allowances creates a carbon price, incentivising investment in lower-carbon technologies.

The UK Government Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), acting on behalf of the UK ETS Authority, has commissioned GC Insight and our research partner, CAG Consulting, to estimate the costs incurred by relevant organisations in complying with the UK ETS. We will do this through:

- Qualitative interviews with stakeholders, such as regulators, which were completed in 2025.
- Requesting information on time and money spent on compliance from UK ETS participants.
- Analysis to monetise the time, before reporting in aggregate to the UK ETS Authority.

What will it involve?

Relevant UK businesses:

You will receive an email further explaining the purpose of the research, together with an attached Excel-based data collection tool to submit your information. The request for information aims to capture the amount of time it takes you to complete each compliance step, as well as costs related to external consultants or other organisations supporting you with compliance.

You DO NOT HAVE to take part. It is completely up to you whether you do or not. And if you decide at any time to change your mind about taking part, you can do so without giving a reason.

Which organisations are involved in the research?



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UK government department (DESNZ) which acts as the resource pool for the UK ETS Authority and manages the cost of compliance research contract with GC Insight on behalf of the Authority.



GC Insight is the independent consultancy asked by DESNZ to help monetise the cost of compliance with the UK ETS.



CAG Consultants is the research partner of GC Insight for this project.

What information will you have about me?

Ahead of asking you to take part in the research, your contact details such as your name, organisation, telephone number and email address, have been shared with us by DESNZ on behalf of the UK ETS Authority.

If you choose to take part in the research, we will additionally collect information relating to your views and opinions on the Scheme.

How will my information be stored?

Your personal data will be stored securely on GC Insight's digital environment. Our systems and internal processes comply with GDPR and other data processing regulations. As part of the project outputs, we will share linked data (your organisation's name and the cost of compliance) with DESNZ officials working within the UK ETS Authority resource pool. This data will underpin the development of a cost of compliance model. Your linked data will neither be reported or disclosed beyond the UK ETS Authority.

Your personal data will not be kept by GC Insight for any longer than six months after we have finished the project. At the moment, we expect this to be September 2026.

What can I do if I'm not happy with how my information is being used?

At any point, you can choose to not take part in the research, or for your information to be shown to you, changed or deleted. If you want to make a complaint about how your information is being stored or used, you can contact:



0161 528 1660 or dataprotection@gcinsight.co.uk

0303 123 1113 <https://ico.org.uk>

Is there any other information I might need to know?

Because we are looking after your personal data, there are certain laws that we need to obey, and certain things that we need to share with you.

Laws and codes	We follow the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act (2018).
Data controller and data processor(s)	The data controller for your personal data for data protection purposes is the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. The data processors are GC Insight and CAG Consultants.
What is 'personal data'?	Personal data is defined under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as "any information relating to an identifiable person who can be directly or indirectly identified by reference to an identifier".
Lawful basis for processing	Under the UK GDPR, the lawful bases we are relying on for processing your data are: Public Task – Contact data has been shared with GC Insight and CAG Consulting from DESNZ under the lawful basis of Public Task as referenced in their Privacy notice for METS and their Privacy Notice for the UK ETS Registry. The processing relates to collecting evidence to create a better evidence base for policy decision-making in the DESNZ and other relevant government departments. Consent – the information you share with us when you participate in the interviews is done so under 'consent'. This means that you have told us that you are happy to share this information with us.
Where your data is stored	All of the information we have about you, or we collect during the research will be kept in either the UK or the European Union. Your data will be stored in restricted access folders on our secure servers.

<p>Important details about GC Insight</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our address: Lee House, 90 Great Bridgewater Street, Manchester, M1 5JW• Our phone number: 0161 528 1660• Our email address: enquiries@gcinsight.co.uk• Our company number: 3162288• We are registered with the Information Commissioner’s Office and our number is: ZB696723
<p>Who else might have access to your personal data</p>	<p>We may have to share your personal data with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Third party service providers that provide the necessary IT systems and software for us to be able to work.