ACTIAN
a division of HCLSoftware

DATASHEET

Activate Ofgem Data Best Practices Across Your Business

Align data with Ofgem guidance while building a foundation for analytics and AI.

The UK energy system runs on data as much as it runs on power. Ofgem's data best practices raise the bar for how organizations collect, describe, govern, and share that data. It's not just a compliance expectation. It's a blueprint for better planning decisions, smoother operations, and more confident innovation.

What is Ofgem?

The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets, or Ofgem, is the government energy regulator in Great Britain. It works to protect consumer interests by ensuring fair competition while enabling investment, innovation, and a cleaner environment. This includes setting price controls, overseeing network companies, and shaping the data and digitalization standards that underpin a modern, low-carbon energy system.

What is Ofgem's Data Best Practices Guidance?

Ofgem defines how energy system data should be managed and shared. It sets expectations for roles and responsibilities, metadata, security, and discoverability so data is easier to find, understand, and reuse across the sector. The aim is to move from isolated spreadsheets and bespoke reports to interoperable, well-governed data assets that support system-wide decisions.

Why Best Practices Matter

Following Ofgem data best practices enables teams to trust the data behind key decisions, reduces duplication of effort, and makes it easier to meet regulatory demands. It supports better forecasting, connection planning, and investments. Best practices also lay the foundation for advanced analytics and AI. That's because describing, governing, and protecting data lets organizations safely activate it in new ways without increasing risk.

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Ofgem Data Best Practices at a Glance

- Identify clear roles for stakeholders of each data asset
- Use common, agreed-upon terms in data assets and metadata
- Describe data accurately with industry-standard metadata
- Provide supporting information so users can understand data correctly
- Make data assets discoverable for all users
- Prioritize data quality based on user and system needs
- Protect data using Security, Privacy and Resilience (SPaR) best practices
- Store, archive, and provide data access to ensure sustained benefits

Checklist to Activate Ofgem Data Best Practices

Stakeholder roles

- [ ] Do we have clear data owners, stewards, and users for each critical data asset?

Action: Document roles and responsibilities, including who manages data and who uses it, so everyone knows who to go to with questions or issues.

Common business language

- [ ] Are business terms and definitions consistent across systems and teams?

Action: Establish and maintain a shared business glossary for key data users and domains.

Metadata and documentation

- [ ] Can data users quickly see what a dataset contains, where it comes from, and how to use it?

Action: Apply standard metadata and give each dataset a clear description that explains what it's for, how it was created, and any limits users should know about.

Data discoverability

- [ ] Can users easily find relevant datasets without relying on IT?

Action: Implement a searchable data catalog that indexes assets across on-premises and cloud systems.

Data quality and observability

- [ ] Does the organization monitor data quality and get alerts when it drifts or degrades?

Action: Define critical quality rules and use observability to continuously track, score, and remediate issues.

Security, privacy, and resilience

- [ ] Are access, protection, and resilience controls applied consistently to sensitive data?

Action: Align policies and controls with SPaR best practices.

Lifecycle and access over time

- [ ] Will data remain usable and accessible as platforms and use cases change?

Action: Define retention, archiving, and access standards that ensure long-term value.

How Actian Supports Best Practices

The Actian Data Intelligence Platform helps activate Ofgem data best practices. It offers:

- **Data intelligence.** Discover, understand, and document energy system data with a unified catalog, automated metadata, and governance workflows.
- **Trust and observability.** Build trust in critical energy data through governance-by-design, continuous quality monitoring, and automated issue detection. Actian applies policies consistently, provides full lineage visibility, and helps teams resolve data issues.
- **Activation for analytics and AI.** Activate governed data safely across planning, reporting, and AI initiatives. Use MCP Server, semantic search, and governed, production-ready data to power advanced analytics and AI agents, all while maintaining compliance.

About Actian

Actian empowers enterprises to confidently manage and govern data at scale with flexible solutions that work across on-premises, cloud, and hybrid environments. The data and AI division of HCLSoftware, Actian delivers data management and intelligence solutions that accelerate AI-ready data delivery. Learn more at **actian.com**.

Tel +1 512 231 6000 Fax +1.512.231.6010 710 Hesters Crossing Road, Suite 250, Round Rock, TX 78681 **Actian.com**

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