Exercise: reasons not to share data

The UK Data Service has listed a number of reasons given by researchers for not sharing or publishing their data. Are these valid arguments? Can you think of counterarguments or solutions?

UK Data Archive (UK Data Service), *Managing and sharing data. Training resources* (2011), 9-12.

<http://ukdataservice.ac.uk/manage-data/training.aspx>

1. My data is not of interest or use to anyone else.
2. I want to publish my work before anyone else sees my data.
3. I have not got the time or money to prepare data for sharing
4. If I ask my respondents for consent to share their data then they will not agree to participate in the study.
5. I am doing highly sensitive research. I cannot possibly make my data available for others to use.
6. I am doing quantitative research and the combination of my variables discloses my participant’s identity.
7. I have collected audiovisual data and I cannot anonymise them, therefore I cannot share these data.
8. I have made promises to destroy my data once the project finishes.
9. My data have been gathered under complete assurance of confidentiality.
10. My data collection and resulting transcripts are in a foreign language.
11. It is impossible to anonymise my transcripts as too much useful information is lost.
12. My data collection contains data which I have purchased and it cannot be made public.
13. Other researchers would not understand my data at all – or may use them for the wrong purpose.
14. There is IPR in the data.