



“What is the future for UKSA?”

Tuesday 19th September
2023.

Royal Statistical Society, 12 Errol Street,
London EC1Y 8LX

Better Statistics CIC

Unit 1, 4a Canberra House
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Call for Contributions

About the conference:

This one day conference is intended to contribute to the review of the United Kingdom Statistics Authority (UKSA) presently in progress under the leadership of Professor Denise Lievesley CBE.

UKSA is a non-ministerial department established by the Statistics and Registration Services Act of 2007 and the terms of reference for the review are to establish how the organisation is performing in delivering necessary services as efficiently as possible. The review will also consider whether the Authority has clear governance and lines of accountability. Presently the authority reports directly to the UK Parliament, the Scottish Parliament, the Welsh Parliament and the Northern Ireland Assembly and is sponsored by the Cabinet Office. Full details of the terms of reference are available at [UKSA Review](#) and we are seeking contributions to our conference within the context of each of the four areas representing the focus for the review:

- **Efficacy** - Is the UKSA producing statistics that respond to genuine user need? What value is the designation of a ‘National Statistic’? What should be the role of the National Statistician? How do we recognise ‘the public good’? Is the integration of administrative data improving data quality? Are we making effective use of the information available from the health service? How can we measure the productivity of microenterprise?
- **Governance** – What are the implications of the massive expansion of data over the past 16 years? What are the potential effects of AI on analysis and reporting? Should the regulatory function be separated from the production of statistics as recommended by the UN? Are we maintaining appropriate standards now we’ve left Eurostat? How has devolution affected the production of our statistics?

- **Accountability** – How effective is the code of practice? Are we getting value for money? What should be the role of the new analysis function? How should we identify misleadingness? How satisfactory is access to the Integrated data service? What should be the penalty for false information?
- **Efficiency** – Do we have the right priorities for our National Statistics? Is ‘going digital’ losing representation of the elderly and those with lower literacy skills? How do we ensure we gain the benefits of AI without losing further inclusion? Can increased user engagement aid efficiency? How do we make surveys more economic by improving response rates?

We would prefer that each of the 4 areas should be covered by an open forum discussion to include a moderator, who would provide a short introduction and then 2 or 3 panel members, each allowed 4 or 5 minutes to express their views, followed by contributions / questions from the audience. If any of the above questions inspire you to answer yes or no then please get in touch!

Although it will be a hybrid (in person / zoom) meeting, we would prefer all speakers should attend the event in person.

To cover the cost of catering for the event there will be a fee of £60 for those attending in person. The event is free for those attending via Video link, also Better Statistics are seeking sponsorship for this important event.

Deadline for contributions: 20th August 2023. The full program will be confirmed no later than 6th September. Please contact a member of the programme committee if you require further advice.

Finally, I am pleased to say that Professor Lievesley has expressed interest in attending the meeting although she does not expect to contribute, other than to possibly ask a question!

Programme Committee:

Directors of Better Statistics CIC

Tony Dent

Phyllis Macfarlane

Iain MacKay

Dr. Deana Leadbeter: Chair, Health Statistics User Group

Tom King: Deputy Chair, Ethics Committee, Royal Statistical Society

Vicky Pryce: Chief Economic Advisor, Centre for Economics and Business Research

Sir Robert Chote: Chair UK Statistics Authority

Sir Vince Cable: former Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills

Please send suggested contributions to Tony@Betterstats.net by 20th August 2023.