

# Triennial Assembly: Proposed Contribution to the Topic of PROVIDING BETTER ACCESS TO OPEN DATA

**Themes:** Improving public access to supporting data for govt statistics, for the purpose of further analysis, Collaboration

## **Introduction:**

Better Statistics associates considered this to be an important Topic to discuss at the Assembly and we propose that **all** public data should be openly and fully published at the lowest/rawest level of aggregation that is consistent with respecting individual privacy.

The discussion will present User arguments for better access to data, the benefits that better access would bring to all, concerns with the current limitations placed on access, the reasons for those concerns, and how Users could work with ONS to address potential improvements.

## **Suggested briefing material (ie recommended Pre-reading):**

[UK Data Service Strategy](#)

## **Topics for Discussion:**

1. Why ONS should be a leader in open data provision, showing the way for other bodies, with the encouragement of OSR.
2. Examples of the work that could be achieved with full open access will include additional analysis of the **Second Survey of Aircraft Noise Annoyance around London (Heathrow) Airport 1967** - Tony Dent and Phyllis Macfarlane, Directors of BSC were both involved in the original survey work on the Noise and Number Index. The data is available at [UK Data Service](#).
3. Promotion of the mechanisms already in use within ONS to facilitate re-use of public data by analysis professionals:
  - Achieving consistency in the publication of data and their metadata for external analysts to use
  - The importance of Reproducible Analytical Pipelines for each product. These make processes transparent even when data cannot be fully disclosed.

**Conclusions** would identify genuine user requirements and concerns, and recommendations for ways forward. The issues where user consultation would be useful, and identification of a possible public User group to support development

**Proposed Facilitator/ Speakers:** Iain MacKay Plus ONS data person

**Proposed Mode:** presentations from speakers, open debate