

# News Release

1 March 2016

## ***Delivering better statistics for better decisions***

On 29 February, the Government launched a public consultation on the *Better Use of Data in Government* which includes proposals for the use of data to support better National and official statistics, and statistical research.

Speaking today, the National Statistician, John Pullinger, welcomed the proposals:

"If the UK is to succeed in the competitive global marketplace, and if our governments are to make informed choices affecting all our lives, they need the best possible statistics.

"Access to timely and rich existing data sources from the public and private sectors can transform the quality of official statistics, and reduce our dependence on surveys which are costly to administer, and time-consuming and burdensome for respondents.

"The opportunities are huge. The UK has the potential to be a global leader in data science. But we can only be successful if we maintain the trust and confidence of the citizens and businesses that provide their data. It will be necessary to provide reassurance that ONS will keep data safe and secure, and that we will use data for one purpose only, to produce aggregate official statistics and research that support better decision-making for the public good."

The Statistics Authority has also today published a short paper to provide further background and context to the proposals for better access to data for the purposes of producing official statistics.

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***For more information please contact 07786 892263***

## Notes for Editors

1. The Government's consultation paper *Better Use of Data in Government* is available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/better-use-of-data-in-government>
2. The UK Statistics Authority's paper *Delivering better statistics for better decisions: Why we need new legislation for better access to data* (March 2016) is available online at: <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/delivering-better-statistics-for-better-decisions-data-access-legislation-march-2016/>