

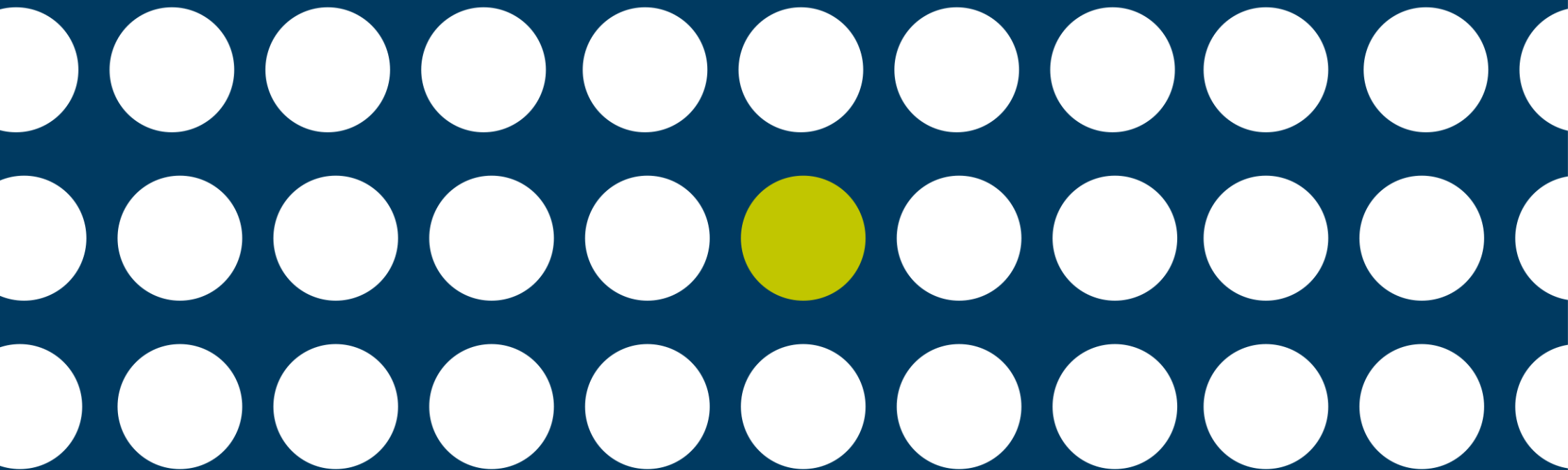
Candidate Pack

Committee Members

*National Statistician's Data Ethics
Advisory Committee*



Office for
National Statistics



Thank you for your interest
in this position.

It is an **exciting** opportunity to
work with a **radical, ambitious,
inclusive and sustainable**
organisation.

Welcome

The National Statistician's Data Ethics Advisory Committee (NSDEC) has been established to advise the National Statistician that the access, use and sharing of public data, for research and statistical purposes, is ethical and for the public good.

NSDEC was established in November 2014. Chaired by Helen Boaden, NSDEC considers project and policy proposals, which make use of innovative and novel data, from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), the Government Statistical Service (GSS) and beyond, and advise the National Statistician on the ethical appropriateness of these.

Specifically, the Committee:

- Provides ethical consideration that the collection, access, use and sharing of data for research and statistical purposes, is ethical and for the public good.
- Provides researchers and statisticians with independent and expert ethics advice and guidance at the design phase of a research project enables researchers to confidently move forward with important analysis, with the knowledge that such research meets the UK Statistics Authority's ethical principles, and that any ethical risks

have been appropriately thought through and mitigated against.

- Promotes transparency around data shares.
- Provides advice to the National Statistician on the basis of the UKSA's ethical principles.

The Committee is seeking new members, both from expert and non-expert backgrounds. The role of an NSDEC member offers the chance to be part of ensuring public data is being used ethically in research and statistical production.

Candidates should demonstrate expertise in relevant fields such as data ethics or linkage, and/or demonstrate that they can represent the general public in complex discussions about maintaining trust in the UK statistical system.

Professor Sir Ian Diamond



Why ONS?

The Office for National Statistics (ONS)

At ONS, our people are our strength, and we aim to be a brilliant and inclusive employer to over 5,000 colleagues, who work flexibly across all our sites and in co-located teams.

We have people in offices in Edinburgh, London, Manchester, Newport (South Wales), Titchfield (Fareham) and in the Darlington Economic Campus, alongside other departments. We also have a large team of interviewers, who are based throughout the UK.



What do our people say about us?

'A brilliant place to work with a genuine focus on people and career development'

Ross, Macroeconomic Statistics and Analysis

'One of my favourite things about working in ONS is that it is packed with committed and inspiring people who genuinely care about the impact we have across the whole of society in the UK.'

Anne, Population and Public Policy

'A modern and flexible working environment with a focus on staff and culture'

Tom, Recruitment Services

Inclusion & Diversity



The Prince's
Responsible
Business Network

Race at Work Charter signatory



ONS is dedicated to creating an inclusive environment to attract and retain top talent from diverse backgrounds and we aim to foster a workplace where differences are celebrated and colleagues can be their authentic selves, aligning with our mission to produce statistics for the public good. We are proud of our progress recognised through many awards.

We provide modifications to the recruitment process for applicants with disabilities or long-term health conditions. We also offer accessible versions of recruitment documents upon request. Please contact the recruitment team to discuss either of these or to assist candidates with any part of the application process at scs.recruitment@ons.gov.uk or call us on 01633 455556.



Our Mission

“High quality data and analysis to **inform the UK, **improve lives** and build the **future**.”**

Official statistics are for the benefit of society and the economy generally. They allow the formulation of better public policy and the effective measurement of those policies; they inform the direction of economic and commercial activities; they provide valuable information for analysts, researchers, public and voluntary bodies; and they enable the public to hold to account all organisations that spend public money, thus informing democratic debate.

[UKSA Website](#)

About the Role

Committee Members
National Statistician's Data Ethics Advisory
Committee (NSDEC)

Remuneration: Voluntary
Closing date: 16th May 2025

Background

To support him in his role, the National Statistician has created a set of advisory committees and panels to provide advice on a range of topics. In November 2014, the National Statistician's Data Ethics Advisory Committee (NSDEC) was established to advise the National Statistician that the access, use and sharing of public data, for research and statistical purposes, is ethical and for the public good. Chaired by Helen Boaden, NSDEC considers project and policy proposals, which make use of innovative and novel data, from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), the Government Statistical Service (GSS) and beyond, and advise the National Statistician on the ethical appropriateness of these. We are seeking members for the next term of the Committee

The work of NSDEC

NSDEC provides ethics advice to the statistical system. This goes beyond just researchers and statisticians within the ONS, but also those across the GSS and the wider research community and academic sector, that use public authority data for research and statistical production.

The Committee:

- Provides ethical consideration that the collection, access, use and sharing of data for research and statistical purposes, is ethical and for the public good.
- Provides researchers and statisticians with independent and expert ethics advice and guidance at the design phase of a research project enables researchers to confidently move forward with important analysis, with the knowledge that such research meets the UK Statistics Authority's ethical principles, and that any ethical risks have been appropriately thought through and mitigated against.
- Promotes transparency around data shares.
- Provides advice to the National Statistician on the basis of the following ethical principles:

- The Public Good
- Confidentiality and Data Security
- Methods and Quality
- Legal Compliance
- Public Views and Engagement
- Transparency

You can see examples of projects that have benefitted from the independent scrutiny the Committee provides in meeting minutes. Projects considered include:

- Student Suicide Statistics (ONS)
- Investigating vulnerabilities linked to serious youth violence using linked DfE & MoJ data (DfE & MoJ)
- Incidence of SARS-CoV-2 infection and prevalence of immunity to SARS-CoV-2 in the UK general population as assessed through repeated cross-sectional household surveys with additional serial sampling and longitudinal follow-up (ONS & University of Oxford)
- Vulnerable Persons and Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (ONS & Home Office)
- Measurement of Vulnerability of Children and Young People in England (Alma Economics (commissioned by the Children's Commissioner for England))

Responsibilities

Reporting and governance

NSDEC advises the National Statistician who is a member of the UK Statistics Authority Board.

Role specification

We are seeking candidates (both expert and lay) with an interest in enabling ethical collection, access, use and sharing of data for research and statistical purposes.

Person Specification

For expert members, candidates should have experience in one or more of the following fields:

- Data Ethics
- Social research
- Economic research
- Data science
- Data linkage
- Engaging with public organisations on the use of data

For lay members, we are looking for candidates who:

- Feel they can represent a general public audience;
- Can comprehend complex information and engage in discussion;
- Can provide robust challenge; and
- Are interested in helping to maintain public trust in the UK statistical system.

The successful applicant will contribute sufficiently to Committee discussions such that it may effectively discharge its duties as set out in the terms of reference.

Further information

Members commit to attending NSDEC meetings for 4 half-days per year. Committee members are also asked to review up to 3 applications for ethics review per month, sent via email correspondence.

The successful candidates will be appointed by the end of June 2025, with their first meeting scheduled on week commencing 21 July 2025. The other meeting date for 2025 is:

- Week commencing 20 October 2025

NSDEC meetings are usually virtual meetings, although the committee may, on occasion, meet in person with a venue provided in London for those attending.

This position is non-remunerated. All reasonable travel and subsistence costs will be reimbursed.

The appointment will be for an initial period of three years. The possibility of renewal for a further similar period will be available at the discretion of the Chair.

Conflict of interest and consideration of reputational issues

Holders of public office are expected to adhere and uphold the [Seven Principles of Public Life](#) and the Code of Conduct for Board Members of Public Bodies. Before you apply you should consider carefully:

- any outside interests that you may have, such as shares you may hold in a company providing services to government or which could be affected by access to market sensitive statistics;
- any possible reputational issues arising from your past actions or public statements that you have made;
- and/or - any political roles you hold or political campaigns you have supported;

which may call into question your ability to do the role you are applying for.

Many conflicts of interest can be satisfactorily resolved and declaring a potential conflict does not prevent you from being considered. If you are shortlisted, we will discuss any interests that would be likely to conflict with their responsibilities, including any proposals you may have to mitigate them. Please declare any potential conflict of interest as early as possible in the selection process and disclose information or personal connections that might, if successful, be open to misperception

Details of declared political activity will be published when the appointment is announced, as required by the Governance Code (political activity is not a bar to appointment, but must be declared).

Recruitment Timetable

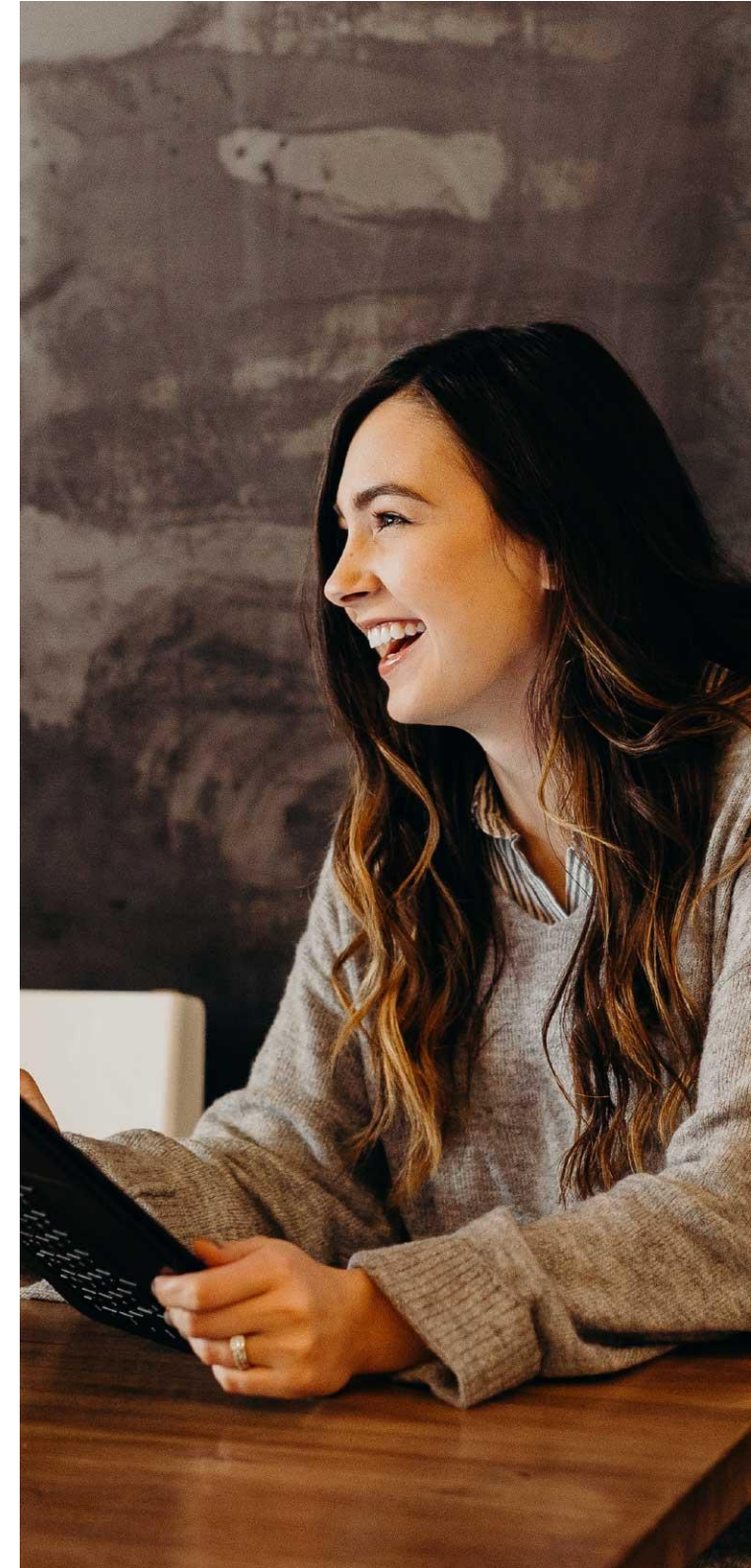


Vacancy live
16th April 2025

Closing date
23:55pm on 16th May 2025

Informal Conversations
WC 2nd or 9th June 2025

Members appointed
June 2025



Selection Approach

Applications should include:

1. A **covering letter** explaining why this post interests you and how you meet the person specification on page 8, using examples to demonstrate how you meet the requirements for either expert or lay members.
Your covering letter should be no longer than one side of A4.
2. A **curriculum vitae** which includes:
 - Details of education and professional qualifications
 - Full employment history
 - Relevant achievements in recent posts

Please send your completed application to SCS.recruitment@ons.gov.uk with your CV and statement as attachments.

Applications will be sifted following the closing date and shortlisted candidates will be invited for an informal discussion aligned to their experience and the criteria set out in the person specification. Conversations will be with the NSDEC Chair and other panel members.

If you are unsure that you meet the eligibility required, please contact scs.recruitment@ons.gov.uk before applying.

Contact

**Thank you for your
interest in this
position.**

Please send your completed application
to SCS.recruitment@ons.gov.uk

If you have any questions,
please get in touch:

Hiring Contact

E: Nikhil.Harsiani@ons.gov.uk

Recruitment

E: SCS.recruitment@ons.gov.uk

T: 01633 455556