



GSS Conference 2018

Better Statistics,
Better Decisions: **50** Years of
Excellence



2nd - 3rd October 2018
Mercure Manchester Piccadilly Hotel



Chairs' Foreword



Welcome

As the co-chairs of this year's organising committee, we're honoured to be celebrating the best of the last 50 years of the GSS and looking forward to the next 50.

On behalf of the organising committee, we'd like to welcome you to Manchester! With the legacies

Manchester holds, we've been inspired to create a totally unforgettable conference for you.

We encourage you to be inspired by the wide-ranging talks from our brilliantly skilled presenters, to make the most of our networking and exhibitors room in the Park Suite on Floor 4, and to create new connections across the GSS.

Most of all, we hope you enjoy the conference!

Alix and Sophie

Timetable

Tuesday 2nd October	
9.30—10.15am	Registration & Networking
10.15—10.30am	Introductions & Welcome
10.30—11.30am	Keynote - Will Moy (Full Fact)
11.30—11.45am	Break & Networking
11.45—12.45pm	Parallel Session 1
12.45—2.15pm	Lunch at Level 3 Restaurant
2.15—3.15pm	Parallel Session 2
3.15—3.30pm	Break
3.30—4.30pm	Panel Session - Universally Challenged
6.00—6.45pm	Drinks Reception at Level 3 Restaurant
6.45—7pm	Introduction from John Pullinger
7pm	Evening Dinner
Wednesday 3rd October	
9.30—10am	Networking
10—11am	Keynote - Siobhan Carey (NISRA)
11—11.15am	Break & Networking
11.15—12.15pm	Parallel Session 3
12.15—1.45pm	Lunch at Level 3 Restaurant
1.45—2.45pm	Parallel Session 4
2.45—3pm	Break
3—4pm	Keynote - Síle Lane (Sense About Science)
4—4.15pm	Final Remarks & Close



General Event Information

Badges

Conference attendees are asked to wear their badges and lanyards at all times while in the Conference. Your badge has a list of parallel sessions and your lunch slot allocation. Badges will need to be shown when entering a talk and lunch.

Session Locations

Keynote sessions will be held in the International Suite. Please see the parallel session section (pg 9 - 22) for room information.

Dietary Requirements

For those attendees who have notified the organisers of dietary requirements, the conference organisers have made arrangements for the lunch and evening meals. If there are any extra requirements needed, please contact a member of the Conference committee.

Getting Help

If you need help with anything during the conference, just grab a member of the Conference Committee - we're wearing purple so should be easy to find!

Luggage

A luggage store will be available for use during check in. It will be open between 9.00am and 10.45am on the first day, and between 3.30pm and 4.45pm on the second day. The store will be locked at all other times - if you need access please talk to a member of staff or a committee member.

Mobile Phones

We ask that you switch your mobiles phones and other hand held devices to silent when you are in the sessions. If you need to respond to emails or make any calls, please use the Level 3 Restaurant or registration area.

Wi-fi Access

Mercure Manchester Piccadilly Hotel provides free Wi-Fi for all delegates, no access code is required.

Rooms

As the conference is so big this year, we will be spread out over several floors. We've listed all the rooms used below (and what they're used for) to help you find your way around. If you need any more help, come grab one of the conference team and we'll be happy to show you around!

There are lifts to all floors, and all rooms are accessible.

Room	Use
Floor 1	
Portland	Parallel Sessions
Floor 2	
Senate	Parallel Sessions
Floor 3	
International Suite	Parallel Sessions Keynote Speakers & Panel Session Evening Meal
Level 3 Restaurant	Drinks Reception
Floor 4	
Park Avenue	Parallel Sessions
Park Lane	Parallel Sessions
Park Suite	Posters & Exhibitions Networking
Floor 5 (accessible only via staircase on Floor 4)	
Balcony	Luggage and Cloakroom

Sponsors & Exhibitors

ESRI (UK) - Official Event Partner



ESRI, the global market leader in geographic information systems (GIS), offers the most powerful mapping and spatial analytics technology available. ESRI UK has helped customers unlock the full potential of data to improve operational and business results, and engineering the most advanced solutions for digital transformation, Internet of Things, and location analytics to create the maps that run the world.

SAS - Gold Sponsor



SAS is the leader in advanced analytics and AI. Through innovative solutions, SAS can help you automate your business decision making at speed and scale and augment human cognition.

Mango Solutions - Bronze Sponsor



At Mango, we firmly believe that any decision can be better made using analytics and data. We also know that a company's success is increasingly dependent on becoming data-driven. Since 2002, our mission has been to empower organisations to make informed decisions using data science and advanced analytics to drive bigger gains, lower costs, and optimize performance

Exhibitors

This year's exhibitors are

- Royal Statistical Society
- Jumping Rivers
- Cathie Marsh Institute
- Methods@Manchester
- ONS Learning & Development

Keynote Speakers

Will Moy - Full Fact

Will has been the Director of Full Fact since 2010, through three referendums, the Leveson Inquiry into press standards, the European Parliamentary and 2015 and 2017 general elections.

He appears regularly on TV, radio, and at events to discuss Full Fact's work and fact checks, as well as giving evidence to the Leveson Inquiry and select committee inquiries.

Before Full Fact, Will worked for the non-party affiliated peer Lord Low of Dalston and the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Transport Safety.



Siobhan Carey - NISRA

Siobhan has been Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency since 1st September 2016. Siobhan is passionate about the role of data in decision making and in supporting public debate.

Before joining NISRA, Siobhan was Chief Statistician and Head of Profession at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) in London. She has worked in the Office for National Statistics in both London and Newport and in the Central Statistics Office in Cork on social demographic, business and economic data.

She also spent some time as Chief Statistician in the Department for International Development. This involved supporting statistical offices in developing countries in building their capability and working with multilateral donors to find the right funding model so that developing countries have the necessary evidence and data to support the big choices they need to make.

In 2017, Siobhan was awarded an Honorary CBE for services to government statistics.

Siobhan has been Head of Profession for both the Government Statistical Service and the Government Social Research community so has a broad range of interests.



Keynote Speakers

Síle Lane - Sense About Science

Síle is head of international campaigns and policy, leading our current campaigns which include AllTrials, a global campaign for the registration and reporting of all clinical trials and Ask for Evidence, a public campaign to help people request for themselves the evidence behind news stories, marketing claims and policies. Síle was one of the original founders of the AllTrials campaign, alongside Ben Goldacre, growing it from a simple petition to a high profile, worldwide campaign. In 2016 she gave the keynote speech at TEDxMadrid, “The Hidden side of Clinical Trials”. Síle previously worked on the Libel Reform campaign which called for reform of the libel laws to protect open scientific discussion. The groundswell of support for the campaign led to the passing of the Defamation Act 2013 that changed the law in England and Wales.



In the policy arena, Síle works closely with our director Tracey, to promote transparency in UK government processes. She also oversees the organisation’s Brussels office, which calls for EU citizens, researchers and the European parliament to scrutinise and share evidence behind European policymaking. Most recently, Sense about Science organised public-led events in Westminster and the European parliament, to remind elected officials that evidence matters to the public.

A sought-after chair, panellist and engaging public speaker, Síle has appeared on RTÉ and the Today programme, as well as writing for the Guardian among other publications. Síle is passionate about science communication and spends a lot of time helping researchers, regulators, policymakers, companies and NGOs to talk about science and evidence openly, humanly and without stigma and intimidation. She founded the Dublin office of Sense about Science in 2016 and recently



Parallel Sessions

All parallel sessions are organised into streams. For ease of reference, each stream is represented by a colour in the programme:

Methodology

Training

Data Collection

Data Dissemination

Collaboration

Data Improvement

External

Data Linking

Parallel Session 1 - Tuesday 2 October, 11.45 to 12.45

Session 1.1	Data and analysis to support health and care integration, service transformation and population health improvement in Manchester
Room: Senate	Speaker: Neil Bendel et al (Manchester Council)
<p>This session will describe the data warehouse that has been developed to support work in respect of health and care integration, service transformation and population health improvement in Manchester. There will be a number of short presentations giving examples of how the data warehouse innovative analytical work in early help, smoking cessation and the impact of health and social care integration in the city.</p>	

Session 1.2	RSS Introduction to Python Training Session
Room: International Suite	Speaker: Robert Mastrodomenico (Royal Statistical Society)
<p>The intention of this session is to show the power of Python with relation to analyzing data. To do this we will perform a live data analysis and show how powerful the package pandas is when it comes to working with data.</p>	

Session 1.3	25 Years of the Family Resources Survey
	Investigation in payments administrative data to measure households
Room: Park Avenue	Speaker: Joanna Littlechild (DWP), William Perks (ONS)
<p>1: The Family Resources Survey is a large-scale household survey which has been running since 1994/95. The survey provides data which is the basis of analysis used to shape DWP policy, and is used throughout government and by external users. This presentation will highlight some of the developments to the survey, how it got to be a gold standard piece of work, and its uses over time, and will look ahead to future plans.</p> <p>2: This work stream aims to investigate the use of payments administrative data to measure Household expenditure. To investigate, we have compared new data sources by merchant category against products collected in the Living costs and foods survey (LCF) and categories in RSI. The LCF survey is both a small and expensive survey with several sources of error. The data sources investigated in this talk may have the potential to improve our statistics in terms of accuracy, comprehensiveness and timeliness.</p>	

Parallel Session 1 - Tuesday 2 October, 11.45 to 12.45

Session 1.4	RightCare: Improving Value in the NHS
	Cancer Survival in England Official Statistics by PHE and ONS
Room: Portland	Speaker: Philip Wilcock (DHSC), Marta Emmett (PHE)
<p>1: NHS RightCare is a national programme introduced by NHS England to help ease the pressures and to improve value in the NHS. NHS RightCare identifies key indicators across the patient journey, and 'joins the dots' across the entire NHS and social care system, allowing data to be presented in a new and focused way. The presentation will outline the RightCare methodology and focus using intelligence in innovative ways to help improve healthcare whilst deploying resources more effectively.</p> <p>2: Since June 2017, all Cancer Survival Official Statistics have been done within the Civil Service by PHE - Adults, Stage and Childhood produced together as a compendium. In terms of methodology, we used appropriate survival methods: overall survival by Kaplan-Meier (childhood), net survival using Pohar-Perme (adults, stage and geographical patterns) and net survival using flexible parametric models (CCG-index).</p>	

Session 1.5	Evidence in Policy Making - Scottish Government data linkage
	How to build an accessible and engaging Evidence Compendium
Room: Park Lane	Speaker: Lisa Fallon (SG), Jennifer Kemp (DEFRA)
<p>1: In recent years, the Scottish Government has been a lead partner in the ground breaking and challenging arena of data linkage, within Scotland and the wider UK. We will present some examples of successful data linkage projects, including collaboration between Scottish Government, the third sector, NHS Scotland and academic partners. We will present the scope of each project, and the policy impact.</p> <p>2: Following the decision to leave the EU, the Government will be solely responsible for domestic agricultural policy for the first time in 40 years. The Future Farming and Environment Compendium was constructed to inform different audiences on the current state of agriculture so that better decisions can be made on a future that will impact us all. Feedback on the compendium has been very positive. This talk will use the compendium as a case study to guide you through the steps involved in building your own accessible & engaging Evidence Compendium.</p>	

Parallel Session 2 - Tuesday 2 October, 14.15 to 15.15

Session 2.1	Why 'Where' Matters
Room: International Suite	Speaker: Stephen Croney (ESRI UK)
<p>In the 50 years of the GSS we have experienced huge change. No more so than in the demand for accurate, timely and usable information, driven by the explosion of data and our ability to process it. Unlocking the value of this data is challenging for government departments and businesses. At the same time this can provide real benefits through enhanced understanding and insight to inform decision making, deliver operational efficiencies and drive economic development.</p> <p>In November 2017 the Chancellor announced the formation of a new Geospatial Commission to unlock the hidden value of government data. The Commission is evidence of the Government's recognition of the economic value of publicly owned information, the importance of location to the UK data infrastructure, and in realising the estimated £11bn of extra value for the UK economy.</p> <p>Globally, this is a view echoed by the United Nations via its proposal for a Global Statistical Geospatial Framework stating, "there is an urgent need for a mechanism, such as a global statistical-spatial framework, to facilitate consistent production and integration approaches for geo-statistical information."</p> <p>This session will cover the role of location in providing a common framework for data integration and re-use. We will show how location can be used in the collection, analysis and visualisation of data and statistics. We will also explore the growing demand for data sharing and collaboration between departments, stakeholders and the public.</p> <p>Location can break down traditional organisational data silos, and play an important role for making data accessible, engaging and understandable, to better connect statistics to outcomes for citizens.</p>	

Parallel Session 2 - Tuesday 2 October, 14.15 to 15.15

Session 2.2	Statistics Jersey – a microcosm of the ONS - delivering a jurisdiction's
	Collaborative working with the US Department of Health & Human Services
Room: Senate	Speaker: Sarah Davis (Stats Jersey), Chris Dew (NHS Digital)
<p>1: Jersey is an independent jurisdiction with it's own 'ONS' -a team of 9 people - delivering all statistics, ranging from the national accounts to population projections.</p> <p>A new law has given us legal gateway access to administrative data, this talk will present some initial work on linking different cross-department to produce an e-census on the size and structure of Jersey's population. We will also touch on our plans to use administrative data to transform the way we measure change in earnings, and how the new powers could help us expand the range of national accounting measures we produce.</p> <p>2: The US Department of Health & Human Services invited a team of NHS Digital analysts to visit to discuss challenges. & work together Although there are many differences between our Governments, the analytical challenges we face are very similar.</p> <p>We are continuing to collaborate with the US to develop trans-Atlantic solutions to healthcare challenges which I will explore in further detail in this presentation.</p>	

Session 2.3	50 years of ethnicity data
Room: Park Avenue	Speaker: Richard Laux (Cabinet Office)
<p>This session will look at the way that ethnicity data has evolved over the last 50 years. Covering administrative and survey/Census data it will look at the policy and operational needs for the data collection, changes to data collection as perceptions of ethnicity have changed, the development of harmonised standards for ethnicity data, methodological and quality issues, and the publication of the Ethnicity Facts and Figures website and its impact on current government policy. It will conclude with suggestions for ways in which ethnicity data might be strengthened in future.</p>	

Parallel Session 2 - Tuesday 2 October, 14.15 to 15.15

Session 2.4	Exploring business growth with Machine Learning
	Best practices for publishing statistical data on the web
Room: Portland	Speaker: Cathy Atkinson (BEIS), Bill Roberts (Swirrl)

1: BEIS has recently been working on one of the Data Enabled Change Accelerator projects coordinated by the Cabinet Office. One aim of the project is to identify potential high growth companies enabling the Business Growth team in BEIS to better support these businesses.

The ONS Interdepartmental Register (IDBR) is the best source of data available within BEIS to explore business growth. The first step in the project was to develop a longitudinal version of the IDBR data and agree the methodology with ONS. We then applied machine learning algorithms to identify high growth businesses.

The IDBR data is restricted for research and statistical use only, so similar models are now being built on HMRC data.

This talk will discuss the machine learning techniques applied to the data (logistic regression, gradient boosted trees and neural networks using Keras/TensorFlow), and the collaboration required between departments to apply the same techniques to different data sources.

2: For some time, the web has been the way most people get their information, but typical approaches to statistical data publishing are still not taking full advantage of the capabilities the web offers. Bill will present ongoing work by the World Wide Web Consortium and Open Geospatial Consortium on how to use the web more effectively for disseminating statistical data. Using examples from the UK public sector, the talk will cover practical approaches to making it easier to find relevant data, making data more interoperable and connecting statistical data with geospatial data.

Parallel Session 2 - Tuesday 2 October, 14.15 to 15.15

Session 2.5	Big Data Contributions to Expanded Trade in Services Reporting
	Best practices for publishing statistical data on the web
Room: Park Lane	Speaker: Kimberly Fisher (ONS), Alex Chandler (NHS Scotland)

1: UK trade in services statistics reflect data from the International Trade in Services Survey, the International Passenger Survey, and a myriad of small commercial and government sources. Maintaining quality, comprehensive, and timely coverage from the smaller sources and capturing emerging new trading modes and products has proved labour intensive and increasingly costly. The Office for National Statistics has undertaken a wholesale overhaul of production and working practices to update, streamline, and improve outputs across the office.

This presentation outlines the challenges and opportunities ONS has encountered experimenting with Big Data to expand the scope, quality and transparency of our trade in services statistics. We also outline our vision for a more comprehensive blending of Big Data and other sources to deliver a timelier and detailed picture of the changing landscape of trade in services in the UK.

2: The NHS Scotland open data platform makes an important contribution to the Scottish Government's open data vision for Scotland, to make open data a routine part of our publishing process.

We show how open data has reduced the volume of routine requests as customers self serve, meaning that they get the information they want when it suits them. The open data platform also has a role to play in supporting our data science ambitions to uncover the innovative opportunities within our data and create actionable insights.

Parallel Session 3 - Wednesday 3 October, 11.15 to 12.15

Session 3.1	Statistics in the newsroom
Room: International Suite	Speaker: Rob Cuffe (BBC)
<p>Put yourself in the shoes of an editor: this session will cover case studies of statistics in the news and give attendees the chance to feel for themselves the pressure of working on breaking news. I hope to give delegates a better feel for how we process your outputs in order to improve communication between producers and (one set) of consumers of statistics.</p>	

Session 3.2	Introducing JDemetra+: The Eurostat-recommended software for Time Series Analysis
Room: Senate	Speaker: Atanaska Nikolova (ONS)
<p>JDemetra+ is a free, platform-independent and open source software with various capabilities for time series analysis. The software has been developed by the National Bank of Belgium in cooperation with Deutsche Bundesbank, Eurostat, and a joint steering group on seasonal adjustment from the European Statistical System (ESS) and European System of Central Banks. It is recommended by the European Statistical System as the tool for seasonal adjustment of statistics, and can be used in multiple different programming languages.</p> <p>This presentation will provide an overview of the background and key time series analysis capabilities of JDemetra+, which include seasonal adjustment of various frequencies, benchmarking, temporal disaggregation, now casting, options for processing multiple series, as well plans for future developments for working with high frequency data.</p>	

Parallel Session 3 - Wednesday 3 October, 11.15 to 12.15

Session 3.3	Dynamic surveys: supporting evidence-based decision making in Aviation
	Unlocking the potential of meat inspection data for livestock health surveillance
Room: Park Avenue	Speaker: Nikesh Lad (DfT), Flavie Vial (DEFRA)

1: In 2017, the DfT launched a call for evidence to support the development of a new UK Aviation Strategy to set out the long-term direction for aviation policy to 2050 and beyond.

To ensure that any new policy initiatives were well evidenced, the aviation statistics team in a unique collaboration with the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) developed and launched a series of tailored “dynamic add-on” questions in 2018 to collect data on a range of pertinent questions being posed.

This presentation will focus on the process taken to ‘dynamically’ adapting the survey and instigating data collections to live policy questions, and how processes were streamlined to allow efficient dissemination allowing immediate insights into the results being generated.

2: In 2017/2018, the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) signed a data sharing agreement with the Food Standards Agency to explore a large data extract from the Collection and Communication of Inspection Results (CCIR), with a view to make recommendations on how such data could be used in APHA’s scanning surveillance activities

Based on our exploration of data collected after the roll-out of the new system in 2016/17, we conclude that the need still exists for improved systems for the capture and recording of inspection findings to promote accuracy and consistency.

Parallel Session 3 - Wednesday 3 October, 11.15 to 12.15

Session 3.4	<p>Inequalities in life expectancy: Harnessing data, statistical modelling and data visualisation to gain insight into what is driving changes</p> <p>Responsive development of data to support the future direction of psychological therapies in England</p>
Room: Portland	Speaker: Stephen Yeung (PHE), Paul Jennings (NHS Digital)
<p>1: Reducing differences in life expectancy between communities is a key outcome of the Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF). Responding to local need, PHE's Local Knowledge and Intelligence Service East of England collaborated with Epidemiology & Surveillance colleagues to jointly develop and publish an interactive Inequality in life expectancy dashboard, to give local authorities insight into the drivers of these inequalities</p> <p>2: Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) is an NHS programme in England that offers interventions for treating people with depression or anxiety. The IAPT programme is supported by a regular return of data generated by providers of IAPT services, managed and published by NHS Digital. This presentation will demonstrate how we worked collaboratively to establish a new collection of data to support this expansion.</p>	

Session 3.5	<p>Necessity is the mother of invention: An innovative approach to survey design through collaboration</p>
Room: Park Lane	Speaker: Madeleine May (DCMS)
<p>The Active Lives Children and Young People survey was launched in September 2017 to provide an understanding of children's attitudes and behaviours around physical activity. It is an ambitious survey, with a target annual sample size of 100,000.</p> <p>We will explore the benefits of taking a collaborative and innovative approach to survey design and recruitment, as well as some challenges</p>	

Parallel Session 4 - Wednesday 3 October, 13.45 to 14.45

Session 4.1	GSS Data Project
Room: Senate	Speaker: Darren Barnes (ONS)
<p>In a huge collection of statistics, how do users find the right data to solve their problem? How do they know what the data means and how to combine or compare data from different sources?</p> <p>The ONS is working with data technology providers Swirrl and stakeholders from across the GSS to investigate a new approach to these important questions. The central idea is the "dataset family" - thinking of statistical datasets in terms of what they are about, rather than where they came from or which department produced them. This talk will present our progress so far with our candidate solution and in tackling problems such as: identifying what needs to be standardised and how, helping data producers to adhere to those standards, and exploiting the enhanced capacity for automation this brings to make the search for data easier. We will also discuss the results of testing with prospective users.</p>	

Session 4.2	The Art of the Practical: Making AI real
Room: Park Lane	Speaker: Katherine Chinn (SAS)
<p>What should AI mean to your organisation? What does practical experience, real life working examples and processes look like? Learn more about how machine learning has delivered successes in recent years and how a number of use cases and industry disciplines rely on it.</p>	

Session 4.3	Who analyses the analysts?
	Better regulation, better statistics, better decisions
Room: Portland	Speaker: Hadyn Gill (ONS), Mary Gregory (OSR)
<p>1: People Analytics at ONS uses internal data to give actionable insight about our people, so we analyse the ONS Analysts. My presentation will go through a recent success story, internal workforce planning. With the help of new software packages which could clean, blend and present data in an agile way, the process of cleaning & merging data went from two weeks to only an hour, leaving more time for analysis.</p>	

Parallel Session 4 - Wednesday 3 October, 13.45 to 14.45

Session 4.3 cont.	Who analyses the analysts?
	Better regulation, better statistics, better decisions
Room: Portland	Speaker: Hadyn Gill (ONS), Mary Gregory (OSR)
<p>2: How do you decide if statistics are good enough? How do you determine when statistics have been used in a misleading way? What's the best approach to ensuring you have a view across the whole UK statistical system? How can regulation lead to improved statistics and increased public value? This session offers an opportunity to learn more about each of the 4 different tools used at the Office for Statistics Regulation, including what they aim to achieve, when we use each of them and what sort of impact they can have. It will also provide information on the role of the statistical producer and typical level of input they would have in each case. The session will include an interactive activity giving attendees a chance to experience the decision making process of a regulator.</p>	

Session 4.4	Zimbabwe Girls Secondary Education Programme: Disability Disaggregation
	Measuring Diversity in the Government Analytical Service
Room: Park Avenue	Speaker: Alex Jones (DfID), Elise Baseley (CO)
<p>1: The Washington Group on Disability Statistics is a city group established under the United Nations Statistical Commission. It was constituted in 2001 to address the urgent need for internationally comparable population based measures of disability, focusing on disability data collection tools suitable for censuses and national surveys. One of their outputs is the "Washington Group Short Set on Functioning" (WG-SS): six questions designed to identify disability status. These questions have been included in surveys by 78 countries. Zimbabwe's Girls Secondary Education programme included the short set questions alongside existing disability questions. This session will explore the differences in disability rates reported via the Washington Group Short Set as compared to previous disability questions. It will discuss the practicality of using the WG-SS in this way, as well as implications for programming and policy of the data gathered.</p> <p>2: This presentation will focus on what has been achieved to date with the Cross-Government Analytical Function Survey, how we worked across professions and departments to disseminate the survey and better understand the make-up of the analytical function, what analysis has been done so far and what analysis we plan to do next.</p>	

Parallel Session 4 - Wednesday 3 October, 13.45 to 14.45

Session 4.5	Data warehousing and improving the user experience
	Making data interactive: our experiences
Room: International Suite	Speaker: Peter Moran (ORR), Stephen Rhead (Ofqual)
<p>1: Ensuring consistency across disparate data sources and access to high quality data is a challenge that faces departments across government. This presentation from ORR will provide an overview of the existing data warehouse, which through collaboration with industry partners now stores over 150 inter-connected datasets, and describe their data journey from manual compilation of statistical outputs to the automated process employed today.</p> <p>2: In 2017, Ofqual published interactive visualisations which allow users to explore school level variation in GCSE and A level results. During this talk the speakers will share their experiences as a team and as an organisation in preparing and launching these visualisations. The talk will also cover some of the challenges faced, including technical issues such as hosting options in R Shiny, server configuration, and privacy.</p>	

Committee Members

Each GSS conference is organised by a cross-government group of volunteers. This year's conference was organised by:

Chairs: Alix Crabtree (DfE) & Sophie Stewart (DfE)

Comms: Francesca Parrott (DEFRA) & Nicole Scully (Welsh Government)

Delegates: Avison Ho (DfE), Francesca Allerton (HO), Sean Maguire (DHSC)

Keynotes: Gary Brown (ONS), Karim Secker (DIT)

Parallels: Michael Cole (VOA), Jenny Snape (BEIS)

Sponsors: Richmond Davies (NHS Scotland), Pooja Ramnarain (MoD)

Venue: Sarah Lewis (NHS Digital), Sam Harris (HMRC), Miles Flitton (NS&I)

Project Management: Alison Eve (ONS), Peter Le Quesne (ONS)

Organising the conference is a great way to meet other statisticians and to make a positive contribution to the GSS community. If you want to help organise next year's conference, calls for volunteers will be going out in December, so keep checking the GSS website!

How did we do?

If you have any feedback, comments, or suggestions for improving next year's conference, we'd love to hear from you! Please send any feedback to gssconference2018@gmail.com



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