

By email

7 August 2024

Dear Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster,

We were in touch last month following your appointment to outline some of our relevant work at the Royal Statistical Society (RSS), setting out our priorities for how data should be used in government, and to offer our support.

We believe that there is a crucial role for statistics and data to aid decision-making and improve transparency.

With this in mind, we are sharing with you our briefings on improving the UK's statistical infrastructure by improving data sharing between government departments, bolstering the role of the UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) and the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) in calling out misinformation, and increasing availability of government dashboards across key areas.

Different government departments hold a wealth of information that could be used to improve service delivery, but currently there is a wide range of cultural and technological challenges that are preventing this information being shared. As stressed in our briefing, we would like to see central government lead on tackling this issue by driving a change of culture in departments.

Statistics and data are widely used in all types of media and misinformation is common. As a charity, we see a key role for ourselves in aiding public understanding of statistics and data and we would like the government to play more of a part in this too. UKSA and OSR have played a key role in calling out statistical misuse and we would like this to be strengthened.

Finally, during the pandemic the UK was a world leader with its Covid dashboard. To increase transparency around decision making we should build on this and use dashboards more regularly in key areas, and particularly for the government's five missions.

We hope you find the briefings helpful. Please let us know if you would like further information or if a member of your team would like to meet to discuss these issues.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Sarah Cumbers
Chief Executive Officer



Dr. Andrew Garrett
President

