

Data Partnership Agreement between the Office for National Statistics (ONS)

and

1. Serving the public good

The collective mission for this partnership is:

To deliver the best possible statistics and research to decision makers to make well informed choices. These choices affect all our lives and help the UK to succeed in the competitive global marketplace.

2. Objectives of ONS in this partnership

ONS is committed to meeting the statistical needs of government, society and business to enable better decisions. In doing so ONS aims to improve those statistics using the best data sources, and also to reduce survey burdens. We need to use sources of data held elsewhere in government but we must also draw from the data and expertise held by businesses. To make this a reality, we need partnerships with businesses which will enable us to work together on advancing data science and statistical research in the national interest.

This partnership will focus on:

- Exploring both the analytical potential of the partner's data for achieving the objectives of the [UK Statistics Authority Business Plan](#).
- Sharing of expertise and developing new statistical or data science methods.
- Learning about the structure of data held, and the technology and tools best suited to its statistical and research use.
- Developing new official statistics.

3. Expected benefits to the Partners

This partnership will enable both parties to understand and use the richer and more complex data that is available today and in the future. ONS can share its skills, methodologies and experience to jointly advance data science and/or statistical research. Partners can bring data, expertise technology or a combination of all three. Partnering enables both parties to more rapidly develop new capabilities to integrate administrative and commercial data sources, keep pace with or drive advances in technology benefitting both parties and serving the public interest.

4. Commitments of ONS

ONS commits to:

- Comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics in the production of our statistics.
- Communicate to the public and stakeholders the objectives and benefits of this partnership.
- Only use data from surveys, the census, administrative and commercial sources for statistical and research purposes that serve the public good by informing decision-making by government, local services, business, and the public.
- Where appropriate seek expert advice to ensure the statistical methods we develop and adopt are fit-for-purpose, ethical and in line with international standards.
- Respect commercial sensitivity and data protection/privacy laws, and apply appropriate security controls for the data.

- Jointly agree the scope of this partnership, document the methods we adopt and why we adopt them, and provide regular project reports to the Partner.
- Identify the existing and new intellectual property of each partner, including any new shared intellectual property, and ensure all property rights are upheld.
- Establish how each partner will respond to requests for non-public information about this project from applicants under Freedom of Information, the press, and Parliament.
- Publish the fact of this partnership, but only publish details of its work with the permission of the partner.

ONS will explore with partners the costs associated with ensuring data accessed is in an appropriate form to meet the needs of ONS in using these data to produce statistics, aggregate insights, statistical research or in understanding the data for statistical feasibility work. At its discretion ONS may make some reimbursement to partners to address marginal costs associated with ONS’s specific needs.

Partner contributions will be appropriately attributed in any research or production based outputs. The level of this attribution will vary according to the value of the partners input and can include:

- Attribution to the partner and their data, expertise and or assistance with any ONS published outputs.
- Joint press releases.
- A case study on the partnership.

This Partnership Agreement is not a contract between the parties.

5. Commitments of Partner

The partner commits to:

- Supply data in a form and manner appropriate for the Objectives of ONS.
- Respect ONS code of Practice and any and all relevant data protection guidelines.
- If appropriate manage the data through its lifecycle, including storage, archiving, and destruction.
- Jointly agree the scope of this partnership, including a project report to the partner.

6. Statement of Principles and Procedures

ONS undertakes to comply fully with its Statement of Principles and Procedures, annexed to this Partnership Agreement.

The work of this partnership is subject to the Principles of the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#).

Signed by /on behalf of the National Statistician:

.....
Print name:

Date:

Signed by

.....
Print name:

Date: