

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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*Embargo: Immediate*

### **RSS WELCOMES CALL FOR BETTER DATA ACCESS TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC STATISTICS**

**The Royal Statistical Society (RSS) welcomes the recommendation by an independent review led by Professor Sir Charles Bean to open up access to publicly held data for the production of official statistics on the economy.**

The interim review recommendations, which were released today, call on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to become more outward facing. The review also says ONS should be more agile and innovative in exploring new and existing data sources and technologies, recognising that resources are key to making improvements.

The RSS provided evidence to the review team, which argued that better data access – to both public and private sector data – is critical to deliver better quality statistics. Our evidence also stressed the need for ONS to improve its skills base, and for improved user engagement with key stakeholders.

The RSS response reflects the policy lines in our Data Manifesto which calls on decision makers to engage better with the data revolution.

**Commenting on the report, Mike Hughes, Chair of the RSS National Statistics Advisory Group, said:**

"Sir Charlie Bean has produced an excellent interim report which contains much that the RSS welcomes and supports. In particular, the recommendation for new legislation to overcome existing barriers to data sharing is an essential requirement for the improvement of official statistics that the RSS has already proposed in its Data Manifesto. The RSS also strongly endorses the recommendation to increase staff resources to improve economic statistics."

ENDS

### **NOTES**

The full text of the RSS response to the Review is on the RSS website at <http://www.rss.org.uk/Images/PDF/influencing-change/2015/RSS-written%20evidence-to-Bean-Review-Sept-2015.pdf>

A report on an open meeting we held with Professor Sir Charles Bean is available at <http://www.statslife.org.uk/features/2513-event-report-the-bean-review-of-economic-statistics-open-meeting>

The RSS Data Manifesto is available at <http://www.rss.org.uk/manifesto>

## **CONTACTS**

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The Royal Statistical Society (RSS) founded in 1834 is one of the world's most distinguished and renowned statistical societies. It is a learned society for statistics, a professional body for statisticians and a charity which promotes statistics, data and evidence for the public good. Today the Society has more than 6000 members around the world. [www.rss.org.uk](http://www.rss.org.uk)