

The Royal Statistical Society (RSS) welcomes the announcement in today's Budget of the creation of a new "Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation".

On the announcement in today's Budget, Hetan Shah, Executive Director of the Royal Statistical Society, commented:

"The RSS has long been campaigning for the need for a public dialogue around the ethics of using data, we're pleased to see the Government taking this seriously in today's Budget. It is important however, that there is clear blue water between the functions of this new body and The Information Commissioner's Office and the Nuffield Foundation's Convention on Data Ethics. The best role for this body is to look at where existing regulation needs strengthening, rather than to do the regulation itself."

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. For more information, contact Mags Wiley, RSS Press & Policy Officer, on 020 7614 3920 or at m.wiley@rss.org.uk
2. The announcement on the creation of the *Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation* is detailed here:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/661696/building_the_new_economy.pdf
3. 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 over 8000 members around the world. Our Data Manifesto sets out our recommendations to government in ten key policy areas. www.rss.org.uk @RoyalStatSoc

