

***I am writing to make a follow-up a request for information under Freedom of Information in relation to Office for Statistics Regulation.***

***i) details for all external emails received to the address '[research.function@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:research.function@statistics.gov.uk)' between October 2023 and July 2024 that include the term 'ARI' (relating to Areas of Research Interest) in the subject or body of the message. To include date received, sender (organisation) and subject heading.***

***ii) redacted copies of emails from these institutions and all subsequent replies in the thread.***

**From:** [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** 14 December 2023 11:43  
**To:** Research Function <[Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Areas of research interest: patient ideas about health statistics

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Dear OSR

I have seen your Areas of Research Interest document and wondered if you might be interested in [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] how these statistics are generated, what they mean, whether they are measuring the right things, and how they might be used or misused.

I am looking at a specific context of [REDACTED] that is quite common in the community but there is little data about it at present.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] The next step is that I am going to conduct a consultation with patients with lived experience of this health condition; after that bring the two stakeholder groups together and produce a report.

If there is any possibility of a conversation to understand what (if anything) OSR might find of interest in this project, I would be glad to hear from you.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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visit: <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk>

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18 December 2023 15:23  
**To:** Research Function <[Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** expression of interest in joining ARI of the OSR

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Dear sir/madam,

My name is [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Typically, the methodologies that I develop, address diverse challenges in the available data, and these are almost always geared to solve real-world problems. I am very keen on engaging with the OSR's Areas of Research Interests that I have learnt about recently, [REDACTED]. In particular, I am very interested in: (\*) shaping objective and comprehensive uncertainties of proposed solutions to real problems, given the nature of the available data; (\*) identifying appropriate solution techniques given the relevant information milieu; (\*) communicating the mathematical motivation behind contemporary statistical solutions forwarded to problems on the ground.

My expertise includes:

(\*) *comparing highly multivariate situations using an all-embracing marker*, while ensuring freedom from *ad hoc* model choices. So I compute a comprehensive "distance" between a pair of complex networks (or graphical models) that are constructed using the corresponding pair of datasets – each comprising observations of multiple factors – obtained under different experimental conditions. For example, we can compute the distance between the graphical model learnt using socio-economic data observed during a given time interval, within different geographical units of the country, and another that is learnt using similar data recorded over another time interval; then we can track the temporal evolution of the model-free composite index – that is the inter-graph "distance". [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and other papers are communicated and under preparation.

(\*) forecasting the near future reliably, by learning the function that informs on how a temporally-evolving system is moving from one state to another. The method – along with an application to the forecasting of COVID-19 infection numbers [REDACTED]. Another paper is under review.

(\*) learning highly non-linear relationships between pairs of generic variables, even when the available training set is small in size and/or challenging in other ways. [REDACTED]

---I am keen to discuss the prospect of partnerships on real-life problems, to have the opportunity of producing real, tangible impact.

---I am also open to direct contact with subject matter experts who can provide detailed information about OSR's work and interests, directing me to useful resources or even secondments.

---Am equally interested in availing of experts' inputs towards projects that fall within the scope of the OSR's work.

Please let me know if I can be of relevance to the OSR. Thank you very much.

Best regards,  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 05 January 2024 14:43

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Research Function <Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Areas of research interest: patient ideas about health statistics

**CAUTION:** External Message. Use caution opening links and attachments.

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Thank you for getting in touch with us, and for your patience with our response. While in OSR our overall remit is official statistics (broadly defined as those produced by or on behalf of government, or by those listed in secondary legislation) rather than statistics about specific health conditions, the project that you have described sounds very interesting and I would love to meet with you to hear more about it. The aspects of use or misuse are always of great interest to us, and I am sure that your findings will be generalisable to our work in this area.

When might suit you to discuss? I currently have availability for:

- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> apart from 14:00-15:00,
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> before 11:00 or after 15:00,
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> after 13:30,
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> after 11:00
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> before 12:00 or after 15:00,
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> after 14:00

If none of those times work for you, please may you let me know times which suit you in the weeks commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> January? I look forward to meeting you and hearing more about your work.

Thank you again,

█

█ | Office for Statistics Regulation

█ [@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:█@statistics.gov.uk)

[Office for Statistics Regulation](#) | [Research Programme](#)

**From:** █

**Sent on:** Friday, January 5, 2024 5:06:58 PM

**To:** █@Statistics.gov.uk>

**CC:** Research Function <Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Areas of research interest: patient ideas about health statistics

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How about █ on █ █?

█

**From:** █@Statistics.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 16 January 2024 15:44

**To:** █

█

**Cc:** Research Function <[Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: expression of interest in joining ARI of the OSR

Good afternoon █

Thank you for getting in contact with us, and for your patience with our reply. It is very interesting to learn about your work, and your enthusiasm to collaborate with us is lovely to hear.

In terms of your interest in partnering on problems, I shared your e-mail with [REDACTED] to get a view on how your expertise could be applied to OSR's research interests. [REDACTED] suggested that your skills may be applicable to our work around misinformation or horizon scanning. However, unfortunately for us our Data and Methods team size is significantly reducing from February, therefore we wouldn't have capacity to support in a project at this time. If you are comfortable with us holding on to your contact details though, I can log you as an interested party to ensure we bear you in mind for future opportunities. In terms of your interest of speaking to subject matter experts, and discussing OSR's work, I can find someone in the organisation to speak to you if you would like. The right person would depend on what areas you would most like to explore, or if you would like to generally speak about our research interests then perhaps you and I could find time to speak.

[REDACTED] I have asked across our organisation about whether there are other, less formal routes as well, and can pass this information on if I receive anything of use.

In terms of providing expert input to our work, we would be grateful to take you up on that offer if/when a relevant project is in progress. Would you be comfortable with me logging your contact details and areas of expertise, so that in the future if such a project comes up we might contact you?

Thank you again for your interest in our work.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Office for Statistics Regulation

[REDACTED] [@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk)

[Office for Statistics Regulation](#) | [Research Programme](#)

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 16 January 2024 21:45

**To:** [REDACTED] [@Statistics.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk); [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Research Function [Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk)

**Subject:** RE: expression of interest in joining ARI of the OSR

[REDACTED]

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you very much for your detailed response. I would be very happy for you to keep my details in your file. About you possibly contacting me to seek expert inputs, I would in general be happy to do that; there are times when I am rushing against a deadline though, or have too much teaching at hand – as is indeed going to be the case every Monday and Tuesday of the coming eight weeks. So then I might need a bit of extra time to respond. Also, thanks for checking for compatibility between our research interests; I would say that my work is relevant to robust quantification of the strength of the effect – of

a policy of intervention – on (typically a large number) of parameters, as well as to inter-variable relationship learning, given challenging datasets. It will indeed be great to avail of a chance to speak to anyone in the OSR about these topics, if that is possible. [REDACTED]

Many thanks again.

Best,

**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 23 January 2024 15:16

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Research Function <Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: expression of interest in joining ARI of the OSR

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Thank you for agreeing to have your details kept on file – I have logged them in our stakeholder document along with notes about your areas of expertise. In terms of being pushed for a deadline at times, I completely understand that – we would very much be respectful of your time and external pressures.

Unfortunately at the moment I don't believe we have anyone working on your specific areas of interest, so I won't be able to organise a discussion about them. If in the future we do hear of work on these topics, I have your details on file and will ensure they get to the relevant people within the team.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED] | Office for Statistics Regulation

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk>

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent on:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 8:17:56 PM

**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>

**CC:** Research Function <Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: expression of interest in joining ARI of the OSR

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Thank you [REDACTED]

Best

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 6, 2024 12:42 PM  
**To:** Research Function <[Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** ARI Statement and Collaboration Inquiry

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To whom it may concern,

My name is [REDACTED] and after viewing a list of your ARIs [REDACTED] I am writing to register my interest in a potential collaboration with OSR. My [REDACTED] research is dedicated to [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

I am deeply interested in exploring the policy implications and solutions to these questions and would be thrilled to contribute to or learn from any resources your office is willing to offer.

Please let me know if you have any further questions or need any information from me. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Research Function <[Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2024 8:46 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: ARI Statement and Collaboration Inquiry

Good morning [REDACTED]

Thank you for getting in contact. Your PhD research sounds very interesting, I wondered if you would like to have a brief meeting to discuss it?

At this stage, I am not sure how much overlap there would be between our work, but I would definitely like to try and explore with you whether we can find any such areas. My initial thoughts are that we are highly interested in understanding how people value statistics, which may align to your first research question. Alternately, perhaps we (the Office for Statistics Regulation, OSR) sit in the space of helping explore policy solutions to issues that you identify, although our remit is largely limited to [official statistics](#) rather than statistics more broadly.

If you would like to meet, I have some time next week. Do you have any availability:

- Monday 18<sup>th</sup>, 14:00-16:30
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>, 9:00-10:00, 15:00-16:30
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> 15:00-16:30
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> 9:00-10:00, 15:00-16:00

If so, please do let me know a half hour slot which works for you and I can send a meeting invite over. If you would like to meet but do not have availability during those times, perhaps you would be able to share some times in the following weeks which work for you?

I look forward to hearing from you, and hopefully learning more about your work.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Office for Statistics Regulation

[Office for Statistics Regulation](#) | [Research Programme](#)

UK Statistics Authority | Awdurdod Ystadegau'r Deyrnas Unedig | [@StatsRegulation](#)

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We take great care to protect your personal information. To reflect the General Data Protection Regulation, we have published our [Privacy Policy](#) and would encourage you to take a moment to read it. Our Privacy Policy explains how we handle and protect your personal information, your legal rights and who to contact if you have any questions about how your personal information is being used.

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 12:45 PM



To: Research Function <[Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk)>

Subject: Re: ARI Statement and Collaboration Inquiry

Thank you so much for getting back to me! Of the time slots you offered, the best for me is

I have no real preference for either, so please select whichever of these two slots works better for you.

I look forward to speaking with you!

Sincerely,

From:

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 9:42 AM

To: Research Function <[Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk)>

Subject: Re: Communicating statistics | Research

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Hi

Great to hear from you!

Thanks for sharing your casework function. I have come across this quite a few times when reading and researching about the communication of statistics to the public - you definitely have your hands full. I recently published a book called

If you are interested, I could send across a chapter for you to read.

I'd be keen to hear more about your research on official statistics and decision making by members of the public. In my view, there is loads in social psychology that talks about the power of numbers vs non-numbers, framing numbers, combining numbers with affect (and so on), but less is known about how this translates in our messy mediated world. Myself and a few colleagues currently have a paper under review about

It would be great to have a chat next week. Does a 30min-1hour slot for the following times work:

- Monday, 12-2pm
- Thursday, 8-1pm and 2-5pm

This is where I found out about your cross-cutting interest: <https://ari.org.uk/aris/242491>.

**From:** Research Function <[Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 20 March 2024 13:06

**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Communicating statistics | Research

**\*\* THIS MESSAGE ORIGINATED OUTSIDE [REDACTED] \*\***  
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Hi [REDACTED]

Your book sounds incredibly interesting – thank you so much for sharing the link! I would love to take a look at a chapter if that is okay with you, thank you for offering. I would also really like to hear about your research about [REDACTED] etc – it sounds like very exciting work, so perhaps something to get into a little during our discussion.

In terms of meeting to discuss, I am free on Monday 13:00-13:30 if that still works for you? I was going to send over an invite, but before that I wanted to ask if you would be comfortable with me inviting two other people from OSR to join us? It would be our head of casework, and the co-lead for our communicating statistics programme. I think that they would both be very keen on hearing about your work if you don't mind. If that's okay with you, I will send over a calendar invite for a Teams call.

Thanks again,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] | Office for Statistics Regulation  
[Office for Statistics Regulation](#) | [Research Programme](#)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 20, 2024 1:39 PM  
**To:** Research Function <[Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: Communicating statistics | Research

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Hi [REDACTED]

Glad the research was of interest - I've attached a PDF of the book to this email. [REDACTED]

Yep, [REDACTED] is great. Happy for your colleagues to join as well. Just want to emphasise that I'm not a statistician or a data science person - I have a working knowledge of different quantitative methods, [REDACTED]

It would be good to include [REDACTED] on future conversations as well. I work with him on research / funding bids that specifically

focus on the public communication of stats. Would it work for him to join on Monday? No probs if not.

[REDACTED]

**From:** Research Function <[Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 21 March 2024 08:51

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Communicating statistics | Research

**\*\* THIS MESSAGE ORIGINATED OUTSIDE [REDACTED] \*\***

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Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you so much for attaching the PDF - [REDACTED] The slides are also very helpful as an introduction to the research (which looks fascinating). The more I learn about your work the more glad I am that you found us, as it seems incredibly relevant to everything we do in OSR. Would you be comfortable with me sharing the slides with the colleagues I mentioned below? I think they would also find them useful.

In terms of your colleague, yes please do invite him – I will send you over a calendar invite after I send this e-mail so feel free to forward it on.

I realised from your e-mail that I was so excited by your work that I never gave you a proper 'pitch' about OSR / who we are / what we do. This is mainly relevant because of your comment that you aren't a statistician/data scientist etc – I am not either (my background is [REDACTED]), so I wanted to quickly explain to you why non-statistical work like yours is so important to us.

In OSR, our vision isn't that statistics are accurate, it is that they serve the public good. We work towards this with our regulation, for example we set standards for statistics producers to meet through our [Code of Practice](#) (the Code), assess a subset of statistics against this Code, and accredit those which we assess to have met the standards. But if you take a look at the Code, it doesn't go into specific statistical methods. The structure is three pillars: Trustworthiness, Quality and Value (you will probably hear us on Monday referring to these as TQV). While the Quality pillar does say you should use suitable data sources, sound methods and assured quality, that is pretty much all the detail we go into on methods. The real soul of the Code is about ensuring statistics serve the public good, which is much wider than just having high quality numbers.

In other words, Quality is important in serving the public good, but only when it is accompanied by Trustworthiness and Value. One of my colleagues nicely explains the pillar of Trustworthiness in [this blog post](#). It is the idea that we want people to trust official statistics, but we can't force trust – instead it is in our control to show repeatedly that statistics (and the people/organisations who produce them) are trustworthy. Our Value pillar is about making sure that statistics support society's need for information, such as making sure they are relevant, accessible, and provide useful insight.

Hopefully it is becoming clear from this how our work is tied to your interests – we need to know how best to communicate statistics to the public if we are to say that the public can use them and fully benefit from them, we need to know what the public wants from them and values in

them if we are to encourage producers to meet these needs, and we need to understand how people respond to misinformation if we want to build trust in our statistical system. All of this is needed if we are to push statistics further towards serving the public good.

My team would probably be annoyed if I didn't also point out that we do have a range of other [regulatory tools](#) and we undertake [broader work as well](#), but the Code (and [our vision](#) that statistics serve the public good) guide everything we do. We develop the way we work with a range of evidence, including research like yours, philosophical discussions, and expert round tables – it is our view that every discipline has something to offer in helping us ensure statistics better serve the public good.

[REDACTED]

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Office for Statistics Regulation  
[Office for Statistics Regulation](#) | [Research Programme](#)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent on:** Thursday, March 21, 2024 9:16:45 AM  
**To:** Research Function <[Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: Communicating statistics | Research

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Hi [REDACTED]

I'm getting more and more excited about opening up this line of communication - it seems like our interests really closely align. The meaning of data/numbers/the quantitative is why I went back into academia - and all it's different elements make me enjoy going to work! I think I am preaching to the choir here.

Please do share the slides. They are for [REDACTED] so there may be parts that are less self-explanatory than others.

Your three pillars of Trustworthiness, Quality and Value are excellent to see. I think the approach outlined in the blog is very important: an institution needs to demonstrate trustworthiness rather than expect trust from the public. There's lots more on trust/worthiness that I could write, but I'm aware of keeping emails not too long!

I'd be particularly interested in your work on environment/sustainability related statistics.

Looking forward to Monday 😊

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 21, 2024 4:04 PM  
**To:** Research Function <[Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: ARI Statement and Collaboration Inquiry

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It was so lovely speaking with you! I have attached the little 'write-up' of my current work. It is by no means comprehensive, but it captures the general gist. I have also included the link to Dr. Eberhardt's book in case it got deleted when I signed off.

Looking forward to speaking with you again (whenever that may be)!

Biased: <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/557462/biased-by-jennifer-l-eberhardt-phd/>

Best,

**From:** Research Function  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 21, 2024 4:44 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: ARI Statement and Collaboration Inquiry

Hi [REDACTED]

It was lovely to meet you earlier, and great to hear about your work. Your enthusiasm and passion made it a delight to discuss!

Thank you for sharing your note (and a link to Biased) – it is a very useful reminder. I have to apologise, I need to clock off for today and I am not working tomorrow so I will have to send you over the links I promised on Monday rather than this afternoon. I have put it at the top of my to do list though so I don't forget!

I hope we speak again.

Best wishes,

██████████ | Office for Statistics Regulation  
[Office for Statistics Regulation](#) | [Research Programme](#)

**From:** Research Function <[Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** Monday, March 25, 2024 10:15 AM

**To:** ██████████

**Subject:** RE: ARI Statement and Collaboration Inquiry

Hi ██████████

Thank you for your patience with my response – before go onto a list of all the things I said I would share, I want to again say how lovely it was to speak to you last week.

Now onto the list of potentially useful materials for you:

- [Casework](#): This is the work I mentioned where my organisation makes public interventions about the use of statistics. On the webpage, you can access our ‘issues log’. Where we make a formal response, it contains a link to the response that usually sets out what the issue was. This may be useful for your work as it can give you examples of instances where statistics are being used beyond their intended purpose.
- Context collapse: I think you found this idea quite interesting – unfortunately I can’t find anything published on our website so I will asked around to see if we have anything we can share. The best I could find from our work is a [blog post which touches on the idea of the dangers of not having context](#). You may also be interested in the work of ██████████ who has written on this topic.
- [Statistics and the law presentation](#): This was a presentation I saw at the Royal Statistical Society conference last year which I thought you may be interested in – specifically the slot by ██████████. He spoke about similar topics to you in terms of how statistics can be useful, but also ‘the canonical principle that where an event is found on the balance of probability to have occurred, it is treated as having occurred with absolute certainty, is fundamentally fallacious’. I don’t personally have his contact details, but it could be interesting for you to try and reach out to him or if not then to read the papers he co-authored (possibly with someone called ██████████) on this topic.
- [Intelligent transparency](#): This was the idea I mentioned that statistics need to be more than numbers if they are to achieve ‘intelligent transparency’ – they need toe context including strengths/limitations to ensure people don’t use them beyond their original purpose.
- [Research into mis and disinformation](#): I mentioned this research paper which looks into how to tackle misinformation - while there is only a high-level summary on the website I am sure they would be happy to send you more detailed findings if you contacted them – ██████████ led the project, and can be contacted at their central e-mail address:  
██████████

I hope that this is all of use to you, and please do keep in touch – I would love to hear how your work progresses, even just to discuss ideas again.

Thanks,

██████████ | Office for Statistics Regulation

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent on:** Monday, April 1, 2024 1:02:03 PM  
**To:** Research Function <[Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: ARI Statement and Collaboration Inquiry

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[REDACTED]  
Thank you so much for sharing all of this with me! I cannot wait to dig into everything you have (very kindly) provided and will most definitely be in touch. Until then!

Best,  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024 3:33 PM  
**To:** Research Function <[Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Potential collaboration on the communication of statistics

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Afternoon,

I was recently introduced to the "Areas of Research Interest" database and noted that there were several research questions that align very well with my own research interests. In particular, my colleague ([REDACTED]) and I are running a

programme that is very much related to the area of [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

The most relevant ARI that I spotted was

<https://ari.org.uk/aris/242491>

but there is very close alignment with a number of the other ARIs like the ones talking about the value and trustworthiness of statistics.

We have funding to host people to discuss the topic in what we are calling research conversations over the next few months. These conversations will help direct further research in the program by ourselves and associated interdisciplinary fellows. It would be very beneficial for us if there was some scope for somebody from your office to engage with us in this and discuss their thoughts and experiences in the area.

Regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Research Function <[Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 25 April 2024 10:23

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Potential collaboration on the communication of statistics

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Good morning [REDACTED]

Thank you for getting in contact with us to share your work – it is fantastic that you have found us, as your research sounds highly relevant to our work at the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR). Your themes of [REDACTED], are both areas that our organisation is very interested in, so we are keen to engage in a conversation on the topic with you/your team. It would be helpful to learn more about your planned research conversations and how you see OSR fitting in with them. For example, are you interested in our general reflections, or would you like us to share the work we have done in these areas, or are you looking for a way to ensure that your work has policy impact once it is complete, or is it something else entirely?

In terms of who the best person might be from OSR for you to talk to, your interests are split across the remit of multiple different colleagues. While I am certain that any of the member of our team could provide a strong overview on our organisational position and experiences around the topics of interest, if you wanted to explore the topics in great detail then there are two people I have in mind who I believe would be best placed. Depending on the purpose of the conversations (and the level of detail you are looking for), I therefore wondered whether you are open to talking to multiple people from OSR rather than just one? In addition to the two people mentioned here, I am also very happy to have an introductory chat with you myself if that is useful.

Please let me know if you would like to meet with me or with the colleagues I referenced above (or with all three of us) – I am not sure what the timescales you are working to are, however I am certain we can find a time that will suit. I look forward to hearing more about your work.

Thank you again for getting in touch,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Office for Statistics Regulation

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 1:53 PM

**To:** Research Function <[Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk)>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Potential collaboration on the communication of statistics

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Afternoon,

thanks for responding so quickly. We are looking for both your general reflections and relevant work that you might be able to share at this point. The research conversations will be very small events hosted at [REDACTED]. We are talking about a meeting with fewer than eight people where we can talk about our experiences and set agendas for our future investigations. The other participants are likely to be ex-civil-servants, local council policymakers and academics. That said, given the OSR's importance with regard to this topic, we would be more than happy to have more than one person involved.

The research conversations and agenda-setting for our subsequent investigations will take place in the next few months. Early next year, we will have bigger events and more time to explore topics in much greater detail.

It would be good to have a chat so we can explain a bit more about our project and research interests so you have a fuller picture of what we are trying to do. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] As such, I am relatively free 7th-9<sup>th</sup> May.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Research Function <[Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 26 April 2024 11:45

**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Potential collaboration on the communication of statistics

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Good morning [REDACTED]

Thank you for providing this extra context. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], however there is a chance that the event I am going to may be rescheduled for later in the month due to train strikes. As such, would it be possible for me to get back to you in the latter half of next week to confirm whether or not a time between 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> May would be feasible as you suggested?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Office for Statistics Regulation

[Office for Statistics Regulation](#) | [Research Programme](#)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 4:25 PM  
**To:** Research Function <[Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: Potential collaboration on the communication of statistics

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Afternoon,

of course. I suggested those dates as they cover the next block of days when I have reasonable availability. I am also pretty free on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> and at the start of the week of the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 07 May 2024 10:25  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Potential collaboration on the communication of statistics

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]**

Good morning [REDACTED]

I am so sorry for not getting back to you sooner about this. In terms of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, do you have any availability in the following slots:

- 14<sup>th</sup> 9:00-10:30 or 15:30-16:30
- 16<sup>th</sup> 9:00-10:30 or 15:00-16:30

I am still very keen to hear more about your work, and thank you for your patience.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Office for Statistics Regulation

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2024 2:07 PM  
**To:** Research Function <[Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Potential collaboration on the communication of statistics

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Afternoon,

we can do 0930-1030 on either day. Which day is best for you?

Cheers,



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**From:** Research Function <[Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 14 May 2024 11:01

**To:**

**Subject:** RE: Potential collaboration on the communication of statistics

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]**

Good morning both,

It was lovely to meet you earlier, and to hear more about your work. As promised, I have pulled out a few documents I think may be of interest to you:

- Our [public dialogue project](#), which includes information about people's desire for their data to be used.
- Our [statistical literacy literature review](#).
- Our [report on data sharing and linkage](#) for the public good, which may be of interest as it looks into using public data.
- Our [casework web page](#), which covers how we investigate issues raised with us, including how public figures use statistics and evidence. It also has a log of the issues we have investigated.
- Our [review of approaches to presenting uncertainty](#) in the statistical system.
- A [covering article](#) of the review pulls out key messages.
- The covering article also shares other evidence on the topic:  
The [Data Quality Hub's guidance](#) on presenting uncertainty.  
The Winton Centre publication about '[The effects of communicating uncertainty on public trust in facts and numbers](#)'.  
Referencing this earlier work, FullFact produced a [review on presenting uncertainty](#) including a list of key recommendations.  
ESCOE published research on [communicating data uncertainty](#) and [later research testing different visual representations of uncertainty with the public when comparing international estimates of productivity](#).
- Other external research that may be of interest includes:  
A [report about preventing the political manipulation of statistics](#).  
A [philosophical article examining disinformation](#).  
A [research report about testing the spread of misinformation and disinformation on social media](#), which used official statistics as sources.

I have also reached out to my colleagues who I think would be well-placed to join your discussions, and will let you know when I hear back from them.

Best wishes,

■

■ | Office for Statistics Regulation

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**From:** ■

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 14, 2024 2:33 PM

**To:** Research Function <[Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk)>; ■

■

**Subject:** Re: Potential collaboration on the communication of statistics

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Afternoon,

thanks for these: this gives us plenty to go on. These sources will help a lot with the direction of the literature reviews that we hope to conduct over the summer.

Cheers,

■

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**From:** Research Function <[Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 14 May 2024 17:26

**To:** ■

■

**Subject:** RE: Potential collaboration on the communication of statistics

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]



Hi [REDACTED]

I have now got two members of our senior leadership team who have said they can make a session in the first week of July, however they can only do 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> July. I realise you said earlier that the first part of the week would be best so I understand if that isn't feasible. I believe that they may be able to make a session earlier in the week if it were virtual, but given the travel required for in-person those are looking like the only dates that would be possible. They have also asked if you would be able to share more information about what the session might involve?

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Office for Statistics Regulation

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 15, 2024 8:00 AM

**To:** Research Function <[Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk)> [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: Potential collaboration on the communication of statistics

[REDACTED]

**Caution:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Morning,

the 5<sup>th</sup> would work. We envisage a mid-morning start with introductions with [REDACTED] and me introducing the project and aspects of our own work. This will move on to discussion topics like

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] There will also be opportunities for participants to give presentations and discuss pieces of work that they have been involved in

[REDACTED]

We will continue discussions over lunch and will also give participants to join us for an early evening meal.

Is this enough for now? We will be a bit more concrete with a timetable and scope when we have a better idea about who is attending.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** Research Function <[Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:Research.Function@statistics.gov.uk)>  
**Sent on:** Thursday, May 16, 2024 2:32:26 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**CC:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Potential collaboration on the communication of statistics

Hi [REDACTED],

Thank you for providing that explanation, and for confirming that the 5<sup>th</sup> would work. Unfortunately I am not around much over the next few weeks; to make sure that I don't delay the organisation of your event I would like to introduce you to the two members of our senior leadership team who have provisionally agreed to attend, for you to follow up with them directly. [REDACTED], which is where we investigate potential issues with statistics, and report publicly where we have concerns. [REDACTED] is also a lead on our [REDACTED], and as such should be an excellent contributor to your sessions. We also have [REDACTED]. Originally I felt [REDACTED] would be an important contributor because of your research theme of [REDACTED]', as [REDACTED] oversaw the publication of [REDACTED] that included looking at the public's view on their data being used. [REDACTED], which seemed to tie neatly to your interest in how people use statistics/data. However, if the session is specifically focussed on [REDACTED] (as is suggested below) this might not be as good a fit as I had originally envisaged. Despite that, I am making the introduction today so that you are able to all to discuss suitability and make plans together, as after this afternoon I won't be around properly until 10<sup>th</sup> June.

I hope that organising the session goes well, and would love to hear what comes out of it.  
Best wishes,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] | Office for Statistics Regulation  
[Office for Statistics Regulation](#) | [Research Programme](#)