



Office for  
Statistics Regulation

# Symposium on regional economic data

October 2026

Chair: Ed Humpherson, Office for  
Statistics Regulation

# Introduction

Three objectives:

## Challenges + solutions

Highlight the challenges and potential solutions facing statisticians and policymakers.

## Alternative datasets

Explore how other sources can shed light on sub-regional economic growth.

## Capability

Consider the skills and support needed to find, combine and interpret evidence well.



# Structure

**0930: Introduction:** Ed Humpherson, OSR

**0935: Why this matters**

- Matthew Bullock, Cambridge Ahead; Andy Williams, Oxford-Cambridge Supercluster

**1000: The quality and conceptual challenge** Chair: ONS: Liz McKeown

- Conceptual and quality challenges, and work being done to address them (Rebecca Riley, ESCOE)

**1035: BREAK (5 mins)**

**1040: Alternative data sets** Chair: Darren Morgan, ESCOE

- Stuart McIntyre, University of Strathclyde, Model based estimates; Anna Valero, LSE, Industrial sectors; Paul Swinney, The Data City, Classifications

**1125: Building capability** Chair: Rob Kent-Smith

- ONS Local, Rob Cave, ONS; Victoria Sutherland, What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth

**1200 Closing discussion/panel** Chair: Dame Kate Barker

- Matthew Bullock; Ed Humpherson; Hannah Finselbach, ONS

**Next steps: Ed Humpherson**





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# 1. Why this matters

**Opening contributions: Matthew  
Bullock and Andy Williams**



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## **2. Quality + conceptual challenges**

Chair: Liz McKeown, ONS

**Presentation: Rebecca Riley, ESCoE**



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## 3. Alternative datasets

Chair: Darren Morgan, ESCoE

### **Presentations:**

**Stuart McIntyre, University of Strathclyde, Model based estimates**

**Anna Valero, LSE, Industrial sectors**

**Paul Swinney, The Data City, Classifications**



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## 4. Capability

Chair: Rob Kent-Smith, OSR

### **Presentations:**

**ONS Local, Rob Cave, ONS**

**Victoria Sutherland, What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth**



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## 5. Closing session

Chair: Dame Kate Barker

### **Panellists:**

**Matthew Bullock, Cambridge Ahead**

**Hannah Finselbach, ONS**

**Ed Humpherson, OSR**



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