

## NERIP RESPONSE TO THE FIRST REPORT OF THE ALLSOPP REVIEW

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NORTH EAST  
R E G I O N A L  
I N F O R M A T I O N  
P A R T N E R S H I P

The North East Regional Information Partnership welcomes the Report and all of its recommendations. NERIP also supports the submission from the Association of Regional Observatories. We would like to comment specifically on two areas, statistical information and the regional presence, but first a brief overview of NERIP may be helpful.

### NERIP

NERIP is the Regional Observatory in the North East and it is being built to meet our particular needs. The Mission Statement is –

*"To add value to the North East by leading and coordinating a largely self-organising partnership of public, voluntary and private sector agencies in which diversity and local knowledge are seen as assets. The partnership will improve the availability and quality of data, intelligence and statistical evidence to help inform policy makers to develop and select policies that will ratchet-up the economic performance, quality of life and resilience of the region."*

This makes it clear that NERIP is more than just an *observer* but is the key organisation for leading / coordinating regional intelligence and informing policy makers in all sectors of the region. Consequently NERIP is in full agreement with the aim of using regional information to support the regional policy agenda – the application of good quality statistical information is as important to the North East as the production of that data.

The Board is made up of the four key regional organisations – One NorthEast, Government Office North East, North East Regional Assembly and the Association of North East Councils. NERIP will achieve its aims by coordinating the statistical and research activities of over forty existing partners within the region.

The CEO of NERIP is Mark Havers who is also the Director of Regional Intelligence. He can be contacted on 0191 497 8344 and at [mark.havers@nerip.com](mailto:mark.havers@nerip.com)

### Statistical Information

NERIP welcomes and supports all of the recommendations and detailed responses have been submitted by our partners but we would also like to comment on two specific areas –

- The manufacturing sector remains important to the economy of the North East and whilst fully agreeing with the need to improve measurement of the service sector (32) we would not like to see this resulting in a reduction in quality of manufacturing statistics (30).

- The production of regional statistics inevitably involves a degree of trade-offs between timeliness, relevancy and accuracy. For ensuring comparability with other regions and longitudinal studies the accuracy is paramount but for driving forward regional development timeliness is also critical – the modern economy changes very quickly and policy makers need timely information to inform decisions. NERIP would like to see more emphasis on frequency and timeliness of release of data wherever cost effective.

### Regional Statistical Presence

This is concerned with recommendation 36 regarding ONS or GSS presence in the regions. NERIP fully supports this recommendation and believes it provides an excellent opportunity to improve the information available to both regional organisations and central government. NERIP is intimately linked to the four key regional organisations listed above but has a necessary degree of independence. It is agreed that the regional statisticians must work with the same level of independence as those in ONS Head Office to ensure regional comparability of statistics. NERIP believes this independence can be achieved through close cooperation with NERIP and offers its services towards either co-locating with the regional statisticians or having them as a formal part of NERIP. This is in line with s3.23 of the Report which states "*the ROs are a prime point for coordinating and improving the availability of data and information in the English regions and are well placed to link with our proposal for an ONS or GSS regional presence*". NERIP welcomes discussions on taking recommendation 36 forward.

In conclusion NERIP welcomes the recommendations and discussion on the regional statisticians.

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