

## Response

I am writing on behalf of the Nuffield Trust which appreciates the opportunity to comment upon the consultation document, "Independence for Statistics". The Nuffield Trust is an independent health policy charitable trust whose mission is to promote independent analysis and informed debate on UK healthcare policy. The Nuffield Trust also initiates and supports projects with the potential to improve the health of the UK population, health care and health policy. The role of statistical evidence is central to many of these projects which is why we feel it important to take part in this consultation process.

- We strongly support any reforms and initiatives that will result in greater independence for statistics (e.g. the ONS and the Statistics Commission) since this should ultimately lead to statistics of high quality and integrity.
- We favour greater clarification of roles and responsibilities of those involved and a more transparent and flexible system that can respond to changing needs.
- It is important to address the issues which have led to the diminution of public trust in statistics and, by doing so, to re-establish it. For instance, statisticians should have greater involvement in how statistics are used and presented by ministers perhaps by being involved in the preparation of relevant ministerial speeches and press statements.
- Additionally, efforts to involve the public in decisions about what statistics need to be collected should continue.

**Dr Jacqueline Rainsbury**  
**Policy Manager**  
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