

I was one of two non-executive members of the CSO when it became an Agency and served from Feb 1992, saw through the merger with OPCS and completed my term in March 1998. I have, of course, continued to follow developments with some interest.

I have read the consultation document and would like to make the following observations;

1. I agree broadly with the analysis of the current position.
2. I feel strongly that good governance dictates that the board and the executive are separate. Non-executives should be in the majority on the board - if not making up its entire membership, rather like school or university governing bodies.
3. Para. 4.19 is, in my view, fundamentally flawed. The National Statistician should be the Chief Executive and the board (or the governing body) should be concerned with matters of policy NOT delivery of statistics.

I hope these observations are clear and helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish.

Mary Berg
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