



## **Digital Government – Digital Statistics. How statisticians are putting themselves at the heart of government transformation through Data Science, Big Data and being ‘helpful’**

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The UK government of 2010-15 achieved significant digital transformation, ensuring that government services and policy-making processes reflect wider digital trends in society. Complementing this digital transformation of government as a whole, is an emerging digital transformation of government use of data. Initiatives in the UK include the utilisation of new data sources (e.g. social media, data scraping of prices and job vacancies, mobile phone network usage), increased exploitation of administrative data sources (through data linking) and the development of advanced presentation and dissemination methods such as APIs and interactive infographics. These undertakings are a significant opportunity for government statisticians to demonstrate the application of their analytical and technical capabilities to deliver timely, relevant and informative outputs utilising novel and innovative approaches. They also however represent a challenge, with statisticians at risk of being displaced by so-called ‘Data Scientists.’ To resolve this, the UK Office for National Statistics has constructed a Data Science Partnership with three key departments, including the Government Digital Service. During 2015, the partners will work together to deliver new analytical products and to provide an enabling function to promote Data Science across government. This paper will explore the development of this partnership, provide examples of the products and outputs it is producing and highlight the emerging role for Data Science in the statistical profession in the UK government.

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