

Michael Cole

Michael is a government statistician who has worked in a range of different departments across the UK Civil Service, and has been at Office for National Statistics (ONS) since 2021. Michael is currently Head of the Statistical Infrastructure and Design (SID) Hub within the Methodology and Quality Directorate of ONS. He previously headed up the Social Statistics Admin First project that led on the development of admin-based population characteristics statistics. Prior to ONS Michael was Head of Transparency at the Joint Biosecurity Centre, and Head of Statistics and Reporting at NHS Test and Trace during the COVID pandemic, working at pace to lead multidisciplinary teams to ensure the timely release of statistics to support national decision making. He has also been Lead Official of Statistics at an NHS arms length body, the NHS Business Services Authority, creating their official statistics function, building their statistical capability, and guiding them through National Statistics accreditation for their statistical publications. He has also worked as a statistician at the Department of Work and Pensions, HMRC and other NHS organisations in policy, research, and operational analysis roles. He has expertise leading multidisciplinary analytical teams, admin data feasibility research, statistical publication development, and building statistical capability.