

[REDDIT](#)

Hey everybody, I'm Tom Smith from the Office for National Statistics' Data Science Campus. We're using data to help the UK improve people's lives. Ask Me Anything!

ONS_UK [R/SCIENCE](#)

Hi Reddit, I'm Tom Smith, MD for the UK's Data Science Campus as part of the Office for National Statistics. I have 20 years' experience using data and analysis to improve public services and am a life-long data addict.

I have a PhD in computational neuroscience and robotics, an MSc in knowledge-based systems and an MA in theoretical physics. I'm currently Chair of the Advisory Board to the United Nations Global Platform for big data & official statistics, Member of Council for the UK Royal Statistical Society, and previously chair of the Environment Agency Data Advisory Group, vice-chair of the Royal Statistical Society Official Statistics section, and a member of the Open Data User Group ministerial advisory group to Cabinet Office.

Since the Campus was founded in 2017 we have been working on a huge range of projects including:

- using tax returns, ship tracking data and road traffic sensor data to allow [early identification of large economic changes](#);
- exploring [what internet traffic](#) peaks and troughs can tell us about our lives;
- using [satellite imagery to detect surface water](#) and assess changes over time, for rapid detection of emerging issues;
- launching a hub focused on [data science and AI for International Development](#), located at the Department for International Development (DfID), near Glasgow.
- supporting ONS, government and public sector organisations to increase their data science capability. We're aiming to have 500 trained data science practitioners for UK government by 2021.

I'll be here to talk about statistics, data and making the world a better place from **3-5pm GMT** today.

Proof: <https://twitter.com/ONSfocus/status/1237060713140625416>

Ask me anything!

[READ REVIEWS](#)

[WRITE A REVIEW](#)

CORRESPONDENCE:

DATE RECEIVED:

March 16, 2020

DOI:

10.15200/winn.158435.55840

ARCHIVED:

March 16, 2020

CITATION:

ONS_UK , r/Science , Hey everybody, I'm Tom Smith from the Office for National Statistics' Data Science



The AMA is still in progress

[Hey everybody, I'm Tom Smith from the Office for National Statistics' Data Science Campus. We're](#)

Campus. We're using data to help the UK improve people's lives. Ask Me Anything!, *The Winnower* 7:e158435.55840 , 2020 , DOI:

[10.15200/winn.158435.55840](https://doi.org/10.15200/winn.158435.55840)

© et al. This article is distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](#), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and redistribution in any medium, provided that the original author and source are credited.



[using data to help the UK improve people's lives. Ask Me Anything!](#) is still ongoing! After the AMA is finished it will be permanently archived, assigned a digital object identifier ([DOI](#)), and formatted as a white paper.

To publish your own ideas and research, sign up [here](#)! We bring traditional scholarly publishing tools (DOI & permanent archival) to blogs, essays, grants, protocols, how-to's, essays, and other media, including reddit AMAs, because scholarly communication doesn't just happen in scholarly journals.

[Support archival of this AMA](#)