

## **Jil Matheson – DUG Conference 2008 – Panel Session**

### **Key Points:**

We do need, and would welcome, a public debate, with wide user engagement / lead on data sharing and, in particular, why it is valuable in this fast changing world – what are the kinds of decisions that will be facilitated and the benefits for society. Coupled of course with strong protection of personal data.

We welcome too open discussion on the role of administrative statistics in producing or improving population estimates. But this should not detract from the need for and focus on a really good 2011 Census. To achieve this we need continuing active participation from partners, especially, but not exclusively, local authorities.

And a note of caution that whilst administrative data open up new possibilities for statistics, the experience of other countries is that progress is not quick – understanding, and improving, the quality of administrative data for statistical purposes can take many years. The role of administrative data is likely to be as part of an integrated set of sources which can more flexibly meet a range of uses – one part of the jigsaw puzzle.

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