

Panel – Jil Matheson

Key points:

- The DUG Conference is a great opportunity to bring together data producers and users from the public and private sectors.
- Greater use, and reuse, of data is a shared interest, with potential to improve decision making and accountability in both sectors.
- Critical to achieving this is the need to ensure that data are accessible, affordable (preferably free in standard formats), understandable (so their provenance is known, together with strengths and limitations) and continuity of supply assured. Priorities will have to be set and trade-offs clear e.g. between timeliness, breadth and granularity.
- What can't be traded is the need to protect confidentiality of individuals, in accordance with the law, in order to pressure public cooperation with statistical data collection.
- Data are not enough: We also need to help users extract signals from noise by presenting clear messages in appropriate ways – visually, in plain English, with impact. The ability to do that, and to have the confidence to be heard, is a skill to be nurtured in both sectors.

Jil Matheson