

JOHN PULLINGER CB

BIOGRAPHY

As Librarian of the House of Commons between 2004 and 2014, John Pullinger was responsible for broadening the range of information and research services available to MPs, particularly backbench Members. He also led work to improve the connection between Parliament and its Committees and the public, notably the development of online services and the creation of the Parliamentary Education Centre. As well as his work in the UK, he chaired an International Parliamentary Union conference on informing democracy and was involved in parliamentary strengthening projects in Iraq, Myanmar and elsewhere. He was awarded a CB for services to Parliament and the community in the Queen's 2014 New Year's Honours list.

Between 2014 and 2019, John Pullinger was UK National Statistician, developing and delivering a strategy to enhance the trustworthiness, quality and value of official statistics to support political debate and decisions at UK, devolved administration and local levels. During this period, he Chaired the United Nations Commission responsible for setting measurement standards at the global level. He was also President of the Royal Statistical Society between 2013 and 2014.

Since completing his term as National Statistician, John Pullinger has held a number of non-executive and advisory roles including Trustee of the Nuffield Foundation, President of the International Association for Official Statistics and Board member of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data.

He is a fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, a visiting professor at Imperial College, London, a governor of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, a graduate of Harvard Business School and Exeter University and has been awarded honorary doctorates by the universities of Exeter, Essex and the West of England.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Current position: Variety of non-executive, advisory and mentoring roles

Since July 2019 he has undertaken a variety of non-executive, advisory and mentoring roles with a general theme of data and the public good. These include:

- President of the International Association for Official Statistics.
- Board member of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data.
- Trustee of the Nuffield Foundation.
- Advisor on projects for the World Bank, Public Health England, British Academy and others.

2014-19: UK National Statistician, Head of the Government Statistical Service, Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority and Permanent Secretary of the Office for National Statistics

He was appointed at a time of significant challenge. Doubts about the quality of the figures were being expressed by Select Committees, the Governor of the Bank of England and others, budgets had been sharply reduced, the technology in use was expensive and out of date, and there had been a substantial loss of expertise following a major relocation from London to South Wales.

Achievements during his tenure included:

- Development and delivery of a strategy to improve the trustworthiness, quality and value of UK official statistics

- Abolition of pre-release access by Ministers to ONS statistics
- Establishment of Data Science Campus, Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence, National Statistician's Data Ethics Advisory Committee
- He established and was inaugural Chair of Civil Service Analysis Function, bringing together actuaries, economists, operational researchers and statisticians working alongside other scientists and engineers

2013-14: President of the Royal Statistical Society

As President of the Society, he was responsible for the strategic direction of an organisation seeking to rediscover its externally facing mission in a new and rapidly evolving environment. This was during a period of significant internal challenge to the organisation and following the recruitment of a new Chief Executive. Achievements during his tenure included:

- Use of President's theme "statistics making an impact" as a catalyst for a step change increase in public and civil society engagement
- Internal reform of Society pensions, fees and finances to ensure long term sustainability for the organisation

2004-14: House of Commons Librarian and Director General, Information Services

As a member of the House of Commons Management Board, he had corporate responsibilities across the administration. He chaired various bodies dealing with information and technology matters and was a member of the Boards responsible for security arrangements, staff pay and efficiency savings. His line management covered library and information services for MPs and their staff, the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, Parliament's Curator's Office and public information and engagement. Achievements during his tenure included:

- Parliamentary education centre (opened in 2015); Upgrade of website and other online services; Professionalisation of Parliamentary Visitor Service; new Outreach Service
- Modernisation of library and research services
- Parliamentary strengthening projects in Iraq, Myanmar and elsewhere

1992-2004: Director and Deputy Director roles at the Office for National Statistics

As a member of the ONS Board he was part of a team creating a new business strategy for UK statistics and modernising the system of civil registration in England and Wales. His line management responsibilities covered official statistics on population, health, the labour market and society at national, regional and local levels. Achievements included:

- Project Director for the creation of ONS from merger of three former bodies including legislation, governance, planning and delivery of efficiency gains
- Delivery of national population census within budget, managing the build up and run down of a team of 70,000 people and addressing significant operational challenges and high levels of parliamentary and media scrutiny
- Developed first UK Code of Practice for official statistics

1991-92: Head of Pay Research, Office of Manpower Economics

He was responsible for a research programme providing the evidence base for pay determination in the civil service, armed forces and schools. He chaired a variety of research steering groups comprising representatives of employers, Trades Unions and research organisations

1985-91: Department of the Environment

He held a number of policy posts including responsibility for sponsorship of Urban Development Corporations, Head of Community Charge capping team and Bill Principal on Local Government Finance and Valuation Bill. During this time, he also undertook statistician jobs working on local government finance and reform.

1980-85: Department of Trade and Industry

He worked in London and Newport (South Wales) as a statistician monitoring trends in manufacturers' investment, industrial prices and costs and retail sales. Achievements included development of tailored products for industry and development of methodology for seasonal adjustment and handling outliers.

SELECTED OTHER ROLES

Chair, Great Culverden Park Ltd (1999-2019); Chair, Commission on International Student Destinations (2013-14); Chair, Getstats Campaign for Statistical Literacy (2010-13); Chair, Parliamentary Libraries and Research Service Section of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (2011-13); Chair, Advisory Board, Centre for Census and Survey Research (Manchester University) (1999-2012); Chair, UK Data Forum (2007-11); Chair, Advisory Board, Understanding Population Trends and Processes (Leeds University) (2005-09); Chair, Inter-Parliamentary Union conference on informing democracy (2008); Chair, Cabinet Office Central Infrastructure Board (2003-04); Chair, Advisory Board, Economic and Social Data Service (2003-04).

ACADEMIC

Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences; Chartered Statistician; Visiting Professor, Imperial College, London (2019-); Honorary Doctor of Science, University of the West of England (2018); Honorary Doctor of Letters, University of Essex (2016); Honorary Doctor of Laws, University of Exeter (2016); Advanced Management Programme, Harvard Business School (2003); BA 1st Class Honours in Statistics and Geography, University of Exeter (1980).