



Sponsored by:



Data skills for the future:

Positioning the UK for success in a data driven world

Thursday, 14 September 2017

 #dataskills | @nesta_uk | @accentureuk | @pearson

PLEASE NOTE: Nesta is located at 58 Victoria Embankment, London, [EC4Y 0DS](#) facing the river, a short walk from Blackfriars station. **Please follow the link for a [map of 58VE](#)**, as the buildings are not numbered in a sequential order - 58 is located between 40 and 50.

Event Details

- Please kindly arrive by **09.00** for a short briefing before the start of the event.
- The event will take place on the **ground floor (58VE)**.
- We are expecting **180** attendees. **Please make every best effort to stay until the end of the session** as audience members will be encouraged to ask questions at the end of the event over the networking lunch.

Confirmed Speakers

Keynote speeches:

- **Eddie Copeland**, Director of Government Innovation, Nesta
- **Ray Eitel-Porter**, Chair of the Data Skills Taskforce and Managing Director, Accenture Analytics UKI Lead
- **Dr. George Windsor**, Data Skills Taskforce and former Senior Policy Researcher, Nesta
- **Joshua Ryan-Saha**, Skills Programme Manager, The Data Lab
- **Maggie Philbin OBE**, Broadcaster and CEO, TeenTech
- **Arabel Bailey**, Managing Director, Accenture Digital UKI Lead
- **Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP**, Minister of State for Digital at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
- **Prof. Nick Wright**, Pro-Vice- Chancellor for Innovation and Business, Newcastle University
- **Atif Khan**, Sector Manager (IT & Digital), Pearson

Panellists and moderator:

- *Moderated by* **Martin Squires**, Global Lead, Customer Intelligence & Data, Walgreens Boots Alliance
- **Dr. Nicolas Guernion**, Director of Partnerships, Alan Turing Institute
- **Dr. Richard T. Freeman**, Lead Data Engineer and Architect, JustGiving
- **Dr. Michel Wermelinger**, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of STEM, Open University, Urban Data School
- **Dr. Kim Nilsson**, CEO, Pivigo

Background

Data continues to transform the economy, increasing efficiency and creating new opportunities for innovation. The UK is in a strong position to reap the rewards of our increasingly data rich lives. But despite advances in both the perception of data as a resource for companies, and burgeoning government support for digital skills, the evidence shows that the UK's potential is not yet being met.

Addressing these issues becomes more urgent every day. Consider, for instance, the UK's challenging economic context - not least our long-standing low productivity relative to other G8 nations, but the uncertainty surrounding outcomes of Brexit lends a great sense of importance to getting this right.

*Analytic Britain*¹ set out an agenda for change in the UK. The data skills challenge is well articulated. But, are we meeting that challenge? We revisit progress at this event, and establish principles to guide the next steps of the Data Skills Taskforce.

Nesta's work in this area

Nesta's report, *Skills of the Datavores*², found that data-driven companies are over 10 per cent more productive than 'dataphobes'. However, the data-driven companies that were surveyed in 2015 were struggling to find suitable talent. The research showed that two-thirds of datavoires who tried to recruit analysts in the previous 12 months struggled to fill at least one vacancy, and demand for people with these skills has only grown since we launched this research.

While data has been seen by many as part of the answer to the UK's productivity gap with other countries, it appears that barriers to accessing analytical talent are preventing businesses from fully capitalising on the 21st Century's flood of data³.

It's clear that core analytical skills as well as highly skilled talent is still needed. Nesta's research into the experience of the 'datavoires' – those businesses that make heavy use of data for driving their business decisions – is now familiar to organisations working to address perceived gaps when it comes to data capability in UK businesses. Alongside this, the work of academics and other public bodies like the Tech Partnership, the Royal Statistical Society, the Nuffield Foundation, the British Academy and the DataLab in Scotland presents incredibly powerful evidence showing a strong link between data, business innovation and productivity. techUK analysis reveals the UK could create between 2.7 and 3.5 million new jobs by 2030, all requiring digital skills. The big data and data analytics sector stands to lose the most given it is expected to count for the largest proportion of UK digital vacancies following a survey of techUK members which found that 62% will require more big data capabilities between now and 2019.³

¹ Nesta and UUK (2015) *Analytic Britain: Securing the right skills for the data-driven economy*. Nesta/ UUK: London.

² Mateos-Garcia, J., Windsor, G., and Bakhshi, H. (2015) *Skills of the Datavoires: Talent and the data revolution*. Nesta: London.

³ See: <http://www.ibmbigdatahub.com/infographic/flood-big-data>