



UK Government

# Government Geography Profession: Building a professional network of geographers within UK Government

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## Outline

1. Geospatial skills are key to unlocking the value of location data
2. The complexity of addressing the skills deficit
3. Case study: UK Government Geography Profession



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# About the Geospatial Commission

The UK's Geospatial Commission delivers the national geospatial strategy. This sets out how, together, we can enable the UK to unlock the power of location.

We are an expert committee that is part of the UK's central government department, the Cabinet Office.

We have four key missions:

1. Promoting and safeguarding the use of location data
2. Improving access to better location data
- 3. Enhancing skills, capabilities and awareness**
4. Enabling innovation



Geospatial  
Commission



# Geospatial skills are key to unlocking the value of location data, but there remains a deficit



Location data underpins our modern digital society



Recent global and national events such as Covid-19 have demonstrated the value of location data to meet the challenges we face in the public and private sectors



A workforce equipped with the right skills is key to drive increased use of location data, however reports have highlighted a deficit in digital, data and geospatial skills in the UK



## The complexity of addressing the deficit in geospatial skills



Not necessarily possible to separate geospatial and wider data skills



Challenges are often unique to sectors



Competency level required differs depending on the task



Demand differs across the geospatial value chain: from data capture to the application of data



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# Building a UK geography and geospatial workforce in the Public Sector



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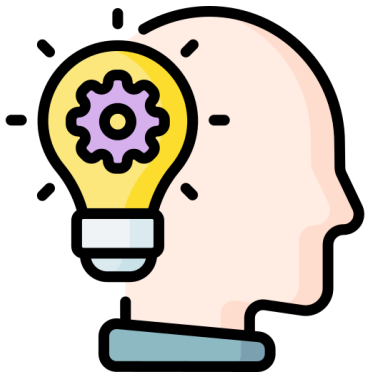
# The Government Geography Profession

- Established in 2018
- Over 1,500 members working across the entire UK public sector
- Focusing on:
  - Standardising and professionalising geography as a skill
  - Considering how to improve broader data skills among its members

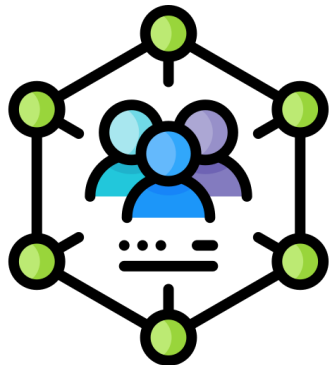




# How does the Government Geography Profession promote geospatial/geography skills?



**Professionalisation:-**  
Creating the role of government geographer and considering accreditation



**Training:-**  
Training materials  
Mentoring  
Annual conference



**Supporting early education:-**  
Outreach in UK schools and universities



**Promote geospatial and geographers:-**  
Showcase news stories and case studies



**Geography in policy:-**  
Annual award ceremony  
Showcasing geography in policy design and delivery





# The work of the GGP is supported by other public sector and professional bodies

- **Ordnance Survey Secondment Programme:** Geospatial experts from OS are seconded to specific projects to transfer knowledge across the public sector, while driving delivery
- **Accreditation:** GGP members may become chartered geographers, accredited by the Royal Geographic Society
- **Guidance:** Guidance from learned societies can be shared by the Government Geography Profession among members to highlight best practice
- **Building networks:** helps the GGP engage with other geospatial professionals across the UK



# Geospatial Commission

You can find out more about our work at:



[gov.uk/government/organisations/geospatial-commission](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/geospatial-commission)



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