

# Felix Ritchie

## Individual Profile

*Good humoured and enthusiastic team leader and team player. Thrives in a challenging and dynamic environment and takes pride in delivering high quality work to time and budget. Enjoys a role with variety and that involves customer interfacing. Professional, experienced, flexible, dedicated and possesses a 'can do' attitude that focuses on solving problems and overcoming challenges.*

## Education

- PhD Economics; MSc Economics; BSc Economics and Computer Science (1st class)

## Current position

- Economic Adviser at the Office for National Statistics: Head of microeconomic research and deputy to divisional director. Creator and manager of a world-leading government data research facility. Own research on labour economics, econometrics, statistical theory, statistical disclosure control. Internationally recognised expert with recent invitations to academic and government events in Toronto, Chicago, NZ, and Luxembourg.
- Independent IT consultant specialising in consumer-oriented businesses
- Occasional econometric teaching

## Key skills

### *Project management and client skills*

- New business development, assessment and costing; contracting; allocation of work; management of programming and clerical staff; budgeting; time management; pre- and post-sales technical and business consultancy; account management; drafting of technical guides
- Contract negotiation within and across government
- Project management trained but not yet to full PRINCE2

### *Economics and econometrics*

- Specialisms: panel data; labour markets; statistical disclosure control in research environments
- Consulting lecturer on GAUSS, STATA and panel data econometrics

### *Statistics*

- Manipulation of large datasets; familiarity with range of statistical software
- Wide general knowledge of data linking techniques, confidentiality issues, and disclosure control
- Interpretation of legal/political environment and data sharing issues

### *IT skills*

- System administration; high-level design and specification; design and maintenance of small networks; management of programmers and consultants.
- Web design techniques; various programming languages; multimedia and conferencing technologies

### *Presentation skills*

- Six years lecturing experience; advisor on internet teaching and learning skills; lead technical consultant for marketing events
- Presentation of government policy and drafting of briefing papers, including non-technical summaries of academic papers

### *Language skills*

- Tourist French and Italian, eclectic German, limited Polish, some Spanish

## **Current position**

02.05 - Head of Economic Analysis and Deputy Director, Social and Economic Microdata Analysis and Reporting Division [Civil Service Grade 6]  
Office for National Statistics, Newport, South Wales

- Development of Virtual Microdata Laboratory (including long term strategic planning); development of microdata resources; support for microanalysis (economic, social, statistical) across ONS
- International expert providing advice on: secure access to confidential data; development of longitudinal datasets; disclosure control policy for research units
- Policy development: microdata access policy; general strategy on disclosure control for research environments; microanalytical capabilities across ONS; microdata funding strategy
- Improving administration and dissemination of research, including: provision of non-technical summaries; initiation of university outreach seminars; continuing development of Research Workshop and Conference series
- Liaison with users and government, including regular presentations to both
- Econometric analysis and data management; representation of analytical users to data providers
- Management of Earnings Analysis workstream
- Econometric training and development of junior microeconomists

11.02 - Occasional consultant in econometrics and IT  
Trig Consulting, London

- Econometric training, including programming skills for economists
- IT consulting focusing on effective use of the web for small and medium-sized businesses.

## **Previous experience**

11.02 - Economic Adviser; Head of Business Data Linking [Civil Service Grade 7]  
01.05 Office for National Statistics, London

- Development of policies and procedures for providing access to ONS and other government data resources for research use
- Design, specification, planning, testing and ongoing development of the ONS Virtual Microdata Lab
- Initiated multidisciplinary BDL Research Workshop series
- Technical papers on data release and disclosure control
- Major security review of ONS Longitudinal Study

07.01 – IT Consultant/Econometrician  
11.05 Trig Consulting, London

- Independent IT consultant specialising in internet communications, web conferencing, streaming media, online learning. Responsibilities include web design and programming, client liaison, project specification and management
- Econometric and economic consultant and trainer, specialising in longitudinal data, large datasets and econometric teaching.

- 01.00 - Operations Manager  
06.01 Virtual Environments International, Oxford (now in liquidation)
- Primary technical consultant
  - Management of technical and design teams; occasional programming and design
  - Consultancy and implementation on all webcasting and streaming media projects
  - Pre- and post-sales consultancy, account management
  - Drafting of user guides and other technical documents
  - General supervision of internal operational issues and business activity
- 10.98 - Head of Computer Department  
09.99 IZA (Institute for the Study of Labour), Bonn, Germany
- Designed and managed the implementation of external access and information management strategies, and the physical network
  - Managed data resources; and provided general economic and statistical advice
  - Managed and responsible for the equipment and training budget (£150-200k p.a.)
- 04.98 - Economist  
09.98 Scottish Office Agriculture Environment and Fisheries Department, Edinburgh
- Econometric modelling of fish stocks; evaluation of land reform proposals
  - General advice on economic and statistical issues
- 09.93 - Lecturer  
12.97 Department of Economics, University of Stirling
- Research: statistics, computational aspects of large databases, labour economics
  - Teaching (BSc and MSc): mathematics, general theory; labour markets: environmental and energy issues; professional training in programming
  - Consultancy projects for Department of Employment
  - Managed the provision of computing facilities for Scottish Doctoral Programme
- 05.89 - Generation and system studies analyst  
10.90 Electricity purchasing department, Southern Electric plc, Maidenhead
- Analysis of electricity purchase-contracts and advice to contract negotiation team
  - Designed, built and maintained a purchase cost forecasting model
- 1985 - Programmer  
1989 Arena Software Limited, Cambridge
- Team design and programming of PC-based office management system
  - Some user installation and technical support

## **Education**

- 1988 BSc Economics and computer science (1st class), University of Stirling  
1991 MSc Economics, University of Glasgow  
1995 PhD Economics, University of Stirling

**Personal details**

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