

# Data Science for Social Good: Exploring links between transportation provision and loneliness

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External partner: Office for National Statistics

This project is aligned with the [Data Science for Social Good](#) summer programme that Warwick is running in collaboration with the Alan Turing Institute over the summer.

We want to build a greater understanding of the relationship between transport connectivity and loneliness and social isolation. A 2017 report by the New Economics Foundation commissioned by the Campaign to End Loneliness estimated the equivalent cost to the UK of decreases in health and wellbeing attributable to loneliness at £2.5B per annum.

Transport interventions have traditionally been focused on their link to economic activity and load rate, with less emphasis on how transport can support social outcomes, including health and wellbeing and reducing loneliness and tackling isolation. However, we do not currently have sufficient evidence to provide a strong link between transport and loneliness. The project would focus on public transport connectivity more generally (local public transport inc. buses and rail), although we would like it to particularly focus on buses, it could include whether the decline in bus services in the recent past has had an impact on loneliness. It should also consider the split of loneliness related diseases across urban and rural areas, and whether transport (connectivity) is fully explaining such differences or if other drivers are at play. “We want to move beyond mainly qualitative statements that reduction in bus services must make loneliness worse.”

References:

<https://neweconomics.org/2017/02/cost-loneliness-uk-employers>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/386841/Moder\\_n\\_Slavery\\_an\\_application\\_of\\_MSE\\_revised.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/386841/Moder_n_Slavery_an_application_of_MSE_revised.pdf)