Tony O'Connor CBE FORS

Chief Analyst: Ministry of Defence
Government Chief Operational Researcher

A senior, strategic, analyst with over 30 years' experience of Operational Research in Government across Education, Cabinet Office, HM Treasury, Health and since January 2017 the Ministry of Defence

Tony has been the Chief Analyst in MoD since January 2017. This incorporates the previous roles of MOD Chief Statistician and Chief Economist and he has 150 staff spread over 5 sites providing statistical and economic advice to the individual armed forces and MOD Head Office.

Previously he was the Chief Analyst of the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit (2001-2008) where he improved the use of evidence at the heart of Government, working in particular on performance measurement across key public services reporting to the then Prime Minister Tony Blair and then Gordon Brown. More recently he has been working on various cross cutting and longer term challenges for the UK health and care sector including leading work in DH on the potential of big data and data analytics for DH and across government.

Since April 2004 he has been the Head of the Government OR Service (GORS) representing the interests of all 630+ Government OR analysts.

He has worked across Government and its analytical networks, being a member of the Government Heads of Analysis, Departmental Directors of Analysis, MoJ's Data Evidence and Science Board, Heads of OR Forum, Chair of the National Taught Course for OR Advisory Committee, and Lancaster University Management Science Advisory Board.

He was a core member of the Macpherson Committee established to improve the quality of modelling and analysis and behind the production to the AQuA book.

A regular key note speaker at various conferences promoting the use of OR and making an impact with insightful analysis.

He is a Fellow of the Operational Research Society and in 2010 he was made an OR Companion of Honour. In 2007 he was awarded the CBE for his work promoting Operational Research across Government. He was included in the Science Council's 2015 list of the 100 Leading UK Practising Scientists.

Other interests include: London History, photography, quiz compiling and he one represented the Cabinet Office on University Challenge.

He gave the keynote at the ISMOR conference a few years ago so must have said something interesting to be asked back!