

## **Challenges with relocation and Blaise knowledge**

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As stated in the paper *Authoring Blaise Questionnaire - a task for the Survey Specialist or the IT Programmer?*, (Gatward R , Proceedings of the International Blaise Users Conference, Annapolis USA 2007), the Office for National Statistics uses a model where Researchers are responsible for programming their surveys into Blaise. Prior to the Social Survey Division (SSD) relocating to Newport in 2006, there was in-depth knowledge of Blaise programming through survey teams. Senior researchers were expected to pass on their Blaise knowledge to junior researchers. When SSD relocated to Newport, not many staff moved, and no-one relocated from the Blaise team. This resulted in survey teams now having very limited Blaise knowledge, leading to more support required from the new Blaise team in Newport.

In short, the model for programming surveys into Blaise no longer works. This paper will discuss some of the issues faced by both the Blaise team, and the survey teams, what strategies have been put in place to overcome them, and what has been lost due to relocation.