From: Jakob Schneebacher
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To Whom It May Concern

Application – Robert Summers Fellowship

I am writing to apply to this year's Robert Summers Fellowship in order to attend the 2024 NBER-CRIW meeting on 15-16 July.

I am economic statistician in the UK Competition and Markets Authority (CMA)'s research-focused Microeconomics Unit and a Research Associate at the Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence (ESCoE). I am interested in the measurement of market power, market structure, business dynamism and management practices.

My application is attached to this letter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at jakob.schneebacher@cma.gov.uk. Thank you in advance for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you about the outcome of the application process soon.

Yours faithfully,



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I am a government economist and economic statistician currently employed as the Assistant Director of Econometrics at the UK Competition and Markets Authority (CMA)'s research-focused Microeconomics Unit. I am also a Research Associate at the Economic Statistics Centre for Excellence (ESCoE) and a visiting fellow at King's College London (KCL).

In my current role at the CMA's Microeconomics Unit, I have been leading on several research projects on economic measurement of markets and market power. For instance, I currently lead a research team on the CMA's latest State of UK Competition report, which measures market power in the aggregate, to be published this May. Among the measurement innovations relative to the last report is a move from balance sheet-based cost-share markups to markups from the UK's structural business survey using a wide range of production function-based estimators. The report also includes a wide range of business dynamism measures (some never for the first time for the UK), decompositions and new measures of UK M&A activity.

I also led on the Microeconomics Unit's recently published report on labour market power in the UK. The report presents the first estimates of wage markdowns for the UK and reports new estimates of labour market concentration and the time-varying wage-concentration relationship at the worker-firm level. Additionally, the report established new economic statistics on a variety of topics related to labour market power: for instance, it constructed new measures of the prevalence of the gig economy in the UK, and characterised wage, earnings and hours distribution of gig workers. It also reported some of the first evidence on the prevalence of non-compete agreements in the UK, and the characteristics of workers and firms who use them.

In addition to these government flagship reports, I work on several research projects within the field of economic measurement. I am the Principal Investigator on a grant from HM Treasury's Economic Data Innovation Fund to improve market definitions in the aggregate through survey and administrative data (total value: £350,000). In related, collaborative work with my CMA colleague Samir Doshi and Vicky Hoolohan and Keith Lai at the UK Office for National Statistics (ONS), we have constructed time-varying, local retail market estimates from high-frequency card spending data. An initial draft of a working paper is available on request.

Another live area of my research interest lies in the combination of existing high-frequency administrative and survey data to measure firm responses and inform policymaking in near real time. This presents measurement, statistical and econometric challenges which my coauthors Thiemo Fetzer (University of Warwick), Christina Palmou (ONS) and I explore in a new working paper, "How do firms cope with economic shocks in real time?" We have submitted this paper to the NBER-CRIW meeting and hope it will of interest to this audience. The paper is the first in a

wider research project that progressively builds a firm-level data infrastructure aimed at exploring the dynamics and heterogeneity in firm responses to economic shocks in near real time.

Before joining the CMA, I headed the Management Practices and Firm Dynamics teams within the ONS Economic Microdata Research Directorate. During that time, I spent my time predominantly leading on two large microdata projects.

The first is the construction of the UK Longitudinal Business Database (LBD), a quarterly, firm-level data infrastructure product built from snapshots of the UK business register. The UK LBD is a research dataset in its own right, particularly for questions around firm entry, exit and business structure changes, but it also provides a consistent data spine to enable linking of other firm-level datasets. For instance, my former colleagues now work on bringing UK corporation tax and pay-as-you-earn data to the UK LBD. The LBD is now available to registered researchers in the ONS' Secure Research Service.

The second is the Management and Expectations Survey (MES), the UK counterpart of the US Management and Organisational Practices Survey and part of a global family of management practices surveys pioneered by Nick Bloom and John Van Reenen. I oversaw the delivery, data cleaning and analysis of the second wave of the MES, including the transition from paper questionnaires to electronic delivery, and was the Principal Investigator on the successful £250,000 HM Treasury Economic Data Innovation Fund bid to design and deliver a third wave (currently in the field).

I am still part of the wider MES research team and working on related economic measurement research, including on the diffusion of management practices ("Who wants to improve their management? Evidence from a failed experiment", joint with Charlotte Meng, Paul Mizen and Rebecca Riley) and the role of management practices for firm resilience ("Managing to adapt: Structured management practices and firm resilience" joint with Kyle Jones, Wei Li, Paul Mizen and Rebecca Riley).

In both my current and previously roles, I have worked to disseminate knowledge of economic measurement challenges in government and the wider debate. I am part of the UK's delegation to the OECD's Working Party on Industry Analysis and have written widely about these topics in accessible formats (example one, example two).

Before joining the ONS, I held a Nuffield Prize Fellowship in Economics at the University of Oxford. While at Oxford, I collaborate with the Institute for Fiscal Studies on unpublished work to measure the responsiveness of local planning to fiscal incentives. I hold degrees in economics from Yale and the London School of Economics (LSE).