

Sean Thomas

Principal

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Languages: English



Expertise

- Infrastructure
- Public Policy and Impact Assessment
- Regulation
- Financial and Valuation

Sectors

- Energy
- Financial Services
- Telecoms, Media and Technology
- Digital
- Transport

Profile

Sean is one of Oxera's leading experts in impact assessment and the economics of public policy. He focuses on helping clients understand the impact of investments and policy or regulatory change on firms, consumers and the wider economy.

Sean has extensive knowledge of the application of economic appraisal techniques, development of business cases and design of economic regulation. He is experienced in using these tools across a broad range of markets to assist clients with challenging and complex questions.

Working across a range of sectors, Sean has provided advice to clients on many of the most important issues of the day. These includes key issues in infrastructure sectors (where he has supported clients on UK rail reform, energy security and the capacity debate in the London aviation market), professional services (such as the statutory audit market), pharmaceuticals and the digital economy. He also has experience in financial services (including in the wholesale insurance sector and retail payments), which is his current area of specialism.

Sean has previous experience working in the economic advisory practice at Deloitte. Prior to joining Oxera, he worked in the Government Economic Service where he advised on a broad range of areas including transport, taxation, business & regional policy and energy markets.

Selected professional experience

- Support for the UK Department for Transport (DfT) as part of the rail reform programme on design of competition and regulatory framework in rail (2021–22)
- Development of options for the inter-company charging regime for a large public cross-sector venture (2021)
- Support for the CAA in the development of the H7 regulatory regime for Heathrow Airport (2021)
- Advice to Defra on charging approaches for, and wider economic impacts of, UK Border Control Posts (2022)
- Local and regional economic impact assessment of the expansion of a major London airport (2021)
- Competition assessment of a public sector rail freight operator (2021)
- Advice on the pricing of cross-producer industry infrastructure for a UK trade body (2021)
- Support to Gatwick Airport to build the economic case for the development of additional runway capacity (2020–21)
- Economic assessment of the impact of the Digital Services Act on businesses for Allied for Startups (2020)
- Advice to the Government of Jersey on the use of data in reform of the income tax regime (2020)
- Assessment of the functioning of the generic pharmaceutical market framework for the British Generic Manufacturers Association (2019)
- Support to a wholesale insurance broker during an FCA market study (2019)
- Provided a detailed peer review of bus franchising proposals for TfGM as part of the development of bus market reform proposals (2017–18)
- Advice to a major professional services provider to understand the impact of potential audit market reforms as part of the CMA market study (2018)
- Produced evidence on the economic impact of the Rail Sector Deal (2018)
- Analysis for Boots on the impact of labour regulations in its Ireland stores (2018)
- Advice to a major European liner shipping company in response to a competition investigation (2018)
- Deputy expert witness on port economics as part of the Public Local Inquiry in relation to the M4 Corridor around Newport scheme (2016–17)
- Assessment of the economic value created by cooperation in development of a container exchange facility at one of the largest ports in Europe (2017)
- Development of an economic appraisal framework to build the economic business case for a major investment into the UK R&D sector (2016)
- Management of a project to provide commercial advice to a UK bus operator on fare-setting (2017)
- Advice to Merck KGaA, supporting Oxera's expert witness in the context of a Competition Appeal Tribunal case (2016)
- Provided competition and regulatory advice to a steel producer in a contractual dispute with one of its suppliers (2016)
- Provided state aid advice to a consortium of property developers in the context of a complaint to the European Commission (2016)
- Led analysis of the economic impact of a new scientific research facility to support an economic business case (2016)
- Range of economic support to the Port of Dover, including understanding the economic impact of the port, the value of resilience in Short Strait, and its importance in trade facilitation (2015–20)

- Advice to DfT in developing the economic evidence for its long-term vision for rail (2016)
- Led Oxera's work investigating the competitiveness of the UK maritime sector for the DfT (2015)
- Advice to Google on the economic benefits of online platforms for businesses (2015)
- Managed the production of a regulatory due diligence report for an investor in the maritime sector (2015)
- Managed delivery of Oxera's expert evidence for Arriva in its submission on the business case for a Quality Contracts Scheme (franchising of local buses) in Tyne & Wear (2014–15)
- Advised a global business listings provider on the economic impact of complete information on communities (2014)
- Advice on regulatory issues as part of a buy-side due diligence in the transport sector (2014)
- Led an assessment of the economic impact of Air Passenger Duty for a client in the transport sector (2014)
- Analysis for the Rail Delivery Group of the economic and fiscal contribution of the rail sector (2014–16)

Qualifications

- MSc Economics, Birkbeck College, University of London, UK
- BA Economics, University of Reading, UK