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Aileen has a degree from the University of Oxford in Philosophy, Politics and Economics and an MSc from the University of York in Population Health. She has worked in the UK civil service on a range of issues in health care, immigration, public finance and information management.

In 2004 Aileen was co-Director of the Atkinson Review of measurement of public service output as part of the National Accounts. This led to work to measure the change in quality of health care, including the relative importance of increased survival, quality of life and patient experience of the health care system. She began a programme of work to promote systematic use of patient reported outcome measures in the NHS to provide a database on results of health care.

Since 2007 Aileen has worked as a senior manager in the Office for National Statistics, responsible for delivery of high quality statistics on the economy, labour market and society, including programmes for improvement. This includes a systematic set of measures of national well-being.