

Background

Please confirm you have read and understood this important background information.

Yes, I have read and understood the information on this page.

About you

1 What is your name?

Name:

2 What is your email address?

Email:

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:

None

Section one: Measuring prices across the economy

1 Should ONS identify a main measure of price change across the economy?

Yes

Why? Please provide comments.:

This should apply to all contracts, private or state, including all pension schemes private or state. This should be applied to all contracts completed from a specified start date. Existing contracts should be grandfathered and honoured.

2 If you answered 'yes' to question 1a, then what should this measure be?

the CPIH, as recommended in the Johnson review. The CPIH includes owner-occupiers' housing costs. It does not currently hold the National statistics designation (although its reassessment is due to commence shortly). The index is a UK measure, designed by ONS to meet UK needs.

Why? Please provide comments.:

This covers housing, which is a major factor in living costs.

3. Should its production be governed by legislation?

Yes

Why? Please provide comments.:

Universality for a national policy to remove disparity at all levels

Section two: Measuring consumer price inflation for different household types

4 Should ONS seek to measure changes in prices as experienced by different households?

No

Why? How often? Please provide comments.:

The various differences are virtually infinite. This idea will lead to many cases of anomaly and interpretation and lead to arbitrary decisions.

5 If yes, how should ONS seek to do so?

Not Answered

Why? Please provide comments.:

Section three: The RPI

6 Do you use the following indices? (Please select those that you use)

If yes, for what purposes? Please provide comments.:

7 Do you agree that the following indices should be discontinued? (Please select those that you suggest should be discontinued)

RPIJ, Tax and price Index, RPIY, RPI pensioner indices, Component indices of the RPI, Any other RPI index

Why? Please provide comments.:

The multiplicity of indices is confusing, had led to many anomalies, and is inefficient in sum total. A single national, legal scheme should replace these.

8 Do you have any views on what 'freezing' changes to the RPI should mean in practice?

Yes

Why? Please provide comments.:

RPI should be discontinued, apart from existing contracts. Freezing would create too many anomalies.

Section four: Evolving consumer price statistics

9 Are the priorities identified by ONS in its forward work plan appropriate?

No

Why? Please provide comments.:

The statistics industry is by no means a purely scientific and unbiased methodical national organization. It is subject to political pressures from government and industry, and pension schemes.

Many of the findings appear to be overshadowed by the need to avoid assumed growth error. RPI is a case in point. Not much attention has been paid to the opposite effect where a specific index can or could cause a regular shortfall and decline in real income.

The Gaussian tail tends to wag the dog.

10 Should ONS include council tax in the CPIH?

Yes

Why? Please provide comments.:

It is a major component of individual living cost and is reflected in rental costing.

Additional information

Do you have any further comments relevant to this consultation?

Do you have any further comments relevant to this consultation?:

I have little faith in this process, which will inevitably be watered down to suit government policy.

User satisfaction

Overall, how satisfied were you with this online consultation service today?

Satisfied

Please tell us if there are any specific areas for improvement, or if you have any other comments.:

Only that your efforts may well be wasted.