

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:

NFOP

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.:

It is essential that a single recognised measure of inflation is available. This measure should be applied consistently, when used as an uprating index it should apply to both pensions and benefits and goods and services.

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.:

Although CPIH is recommended by Johnson, it may be the best that can be achieved. A perception remains that it does not and will not be an accurate uprating index and not reflect what is experienced by the 'man in the street'.

3. Should its production be governed by legislation?

Yes

Why? Please provide comments.:

The general public have to have faith in the measure. There should be clear protection to avoid any perception that it can be adjusted for political or economic reasons.

Section two: Measuring consumer price inflation for different household types

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

Yes

Why? How often? Please provide comments.:

While the need for the different indices exists, there is the potential that if the resultant measures vary significantly from CPIH those most effected will continue to challenge methodology and validity

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

Using a payments-based approach.

Why? Please provide comments.:

The reasons for adopting this approach appear valid

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.:

Yes, the continuation of these indices will continue to inflame debate as to the validity of any new or improved index

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

Yes

Why? Please provide comments.:

While RPI is used as an index to increase prices it should be as accurate a measure as possible. If over time its use becomes limited to index - linked gilts and government contracts further review would then rest purely within the government's domain.

Section four: Evolving consumer price statistics

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

Yes

Why? Please provide comments.:

Transparency should also include the need for the "layman" to be able to understand the processes involved and not limited to statisticians.

10 Should ONS include council tax in the CPIH?

Yes

Why? Please provide comments.:

The general public would find its exclusion confusing as this represents a significant element within household budgets and there is no element of choice, it legally has to be paid.

Additional information

Do you have any further comments relevant to this consultation?

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

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.:

There is no question 1a referred to in question 2