

# **UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

## **Minutes**

**Tuesday 28 June 2016  
Boardroom, Titchfield**

### **Present**

#### **UK Statistics Authority**

Sir Andrew Dilnot (Chair)  
Professor Sir Adrian Smith (Deputy Chair)  
Mr Jonathan Athow  
Dame Colette Bowe  
Dame Moira Gibb  
Professor David Hand  
Dr David Levy  
Mr John Pullinger

### **Also in attendance**

Mr Robert Bumpstead  
Ms Sarah Crofts (for item 11)  
Mr Joe Cuddeford  
Ms Laura Dewis (for item 9)  
Ms Johanna Hutchinson (for item 8)  
Ms Frankie Kay (for item 10)  
Mr Richard Laux (for item 8)  
Ms Jay Lindop (for item 11)  
Ms Heather Savory  
Mr Nick Vaughan (for item 10)

### **Apologies**

Professor Jonathan Haskel  
Mr Ed Humpherson  
Mr Glen Watson

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Professor Haskel and Mr Humpherson.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no new declarations of interest.

**3. Report on the non executive session**

- 3.1 The Chair reported on the topics discussed at the meeting of the non-executive directors that had taken place prior to the start of the Board meeting. The non-executives had discussed:
- i. the process and timing of the appointment of the next Chair of the Authority. The current Chair's term ends on 31 March 2017;
  - ii. the use of official statistics during the EU referendum campaign, associated regulatory considerations, and the production and publication of official statistics during the campaign; and
  - iii. developments with the Administrative Data Research Network (ADRN).

**4. Minutes and matters arising from previous meetings**

- 4.1 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 May 2016 were agreed.
- 4.2 The Board discussed the proposed high level stakeholder working party for economic statistics, which would be convened shortly.
- 4.3 Professor Hand provided an update on the ADRN. The mid-term review was underway. Professor Hand had met with the Data Leaders Network to encourage their involvement with the Network, and had met with the four Directors of the Administrative Data Research Centres.
- 4.4 Ms Savory provided an update on the development of the Data Campus. A comprehensive business case was in development and a further discussion was scheduled for the July meeting.

**5. Report from the Authority Chair**

- 5.1 The Chair led a discussion about the EU referendum.
- 5.2 Looking back over the campaign, the Board considered the way that official statistics had been used in public debate. The use of official statistics on UK contributions to the EU had at times been misleading and it was disappointing that such use had persisted despite strong public statements made by the Chair. It was noted that the context of a referendum differed from normal political debate or a General Election as the usual party structures were not in play. It was suggested that there could be scope for exploring ways of working with other organisations with similar remits during such campaigns.
- 5.3 Mr Pullinger reported that, having consulted the Chair and members of the Authority Board, he had concluded that the release of population estimates would go ahead as planned on 23 June.
- 5.4 The Board discussed the referendum result and the potential impact on aspects of the UK official statistics system. Mr Bumpstead was leading initial work to consider the various elements of this. A further discussion would take place at the July Board meeting.

**6. Report from the Chair of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee**

Dame Colette reported on the meeting of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee held on 15 June. On the basis of the reports submitted to the meeting, together with the

assurances received at the meeting, the Committee was content to recommend to the Accounting Officer that the financial statements for 2015/16 should be signed. Dame Colette recommended to the Authority Board that, subject to certification by the Comptroller and Auditor General, the Authority's Annual Report and Accounts 2015/16 should be published and laid before Parliament before the parliamentary summer recess. The Authority Board accepted this recommendation.

## **7. Report from the Chief Executive [SA(16)24]**

Mr Pullinger provided an overview of activity and issues for June. The meeting heard that the Finance team were working with colleagues across the office to ramp up transformation and reform projects rapidly and cost-effectively whilst increasing efforts on continuous improvement and cost reduction in other areas, to ensure best use of funds for the full year.

## **8. Report from the Deputy Director for Regulation**

- 8.1 Mr Laux provided an update on the development of an enhanced regulatory function. The team had been developing a vision and blueprint which would emphasise a systemic focus, standard setting, supporting compliance and implementing sanctions.
- 8.2 Ms Hutchinson provided an update on emerging findings from the Code of Practice stocktake. This was being taken forward as a collaborative exercise with a steering group chaired by Dr Levy. The emerging findings indicated that the Code could be enhanced through the development of the National Statistics brand, clarifying the boundary and scope of the Code, ensuring sufficient support for innovation, and focussing on high standards in methodology and quality.
- 8.3 The Board noted that the two perspectives – the enhanced regulatory function and the Code stocktake – were interlinked. A further discussion was needed at the July Board meeting. It was noted that changes to the Code of Practice, if necessary, would require formal public consultation.

## **9. Roadmap for the ONS Website [SA(16)25]**

- 9.1 Ms Dewis introduced a paper which provided a view of the priorities for the ongoing development of the ONS website. The new website had been launched successfully and the majority of feedback from users had been positive. The current priority for development was to provide users with more opportunities to explore data via the main website rather than relying on the download of spreadsheets. Rationalising the broader ONS web estate was also a priority for the medium term. An emerging priority was to establish the feasibility of bringing together official statistics from across the wider Government Statistical Service (GSS) onto a single platform to make these easier for users to find.
- 9.2 The Board endorsed the priorities for development and also expressed thanks to Ms Dewis and her team for the effective delivery of the new ONS website.

## **10. Economic Statistics Transformation [SA(16)26]**

- 10.1 Mr Athow, Ms Kay and Mr Vaughan introduced a paper which provided an update on the current position with the plans to transform Economic Statistics.
- 10.2 The following comments were made in the discussion.
  - i. Many of the challenges facing UK economic statistics were also facing other countries. Collaborating with international partners could help the UK in this regard.

- ii. A challenge was how to combine innovative thinking with daily delivery of outputs. The team were using agile techniques to test ideas.
- iii. It was essential that stakeholders were kept informed of progress with development at all stages.
- iv. Response rates to some surveys were concerning, though this was less of a problem for business surveys which achieved higher response rates than household surveys. Reducing reliance on surveys through use of administrative data had great potential here.

10.3 The Board would consider the development of economic statistics in more depth at its October meeting.

## **11. Priorities for Migration Statistics and Analysis [SA(16)27]**

11.1 Ms Lindop and Ms Crofts introduced a paper which set out the main issues for migration statistics and analysis.

11.2 The following comments were made in the discussion.

- i. The recent paper comparing National Insurance Number (NINo) figures and ONS estimates of Long Term International Migration (LTIM) and Short Term International Migration (STIM) had been useful in clarifying the apparent gap between the estimates. It has also demonstrated the importance of precision in language when using the term 'migration' when referring to LTIM or STIM. LTIM alone was not all 'migration'. It was important that the ONS publications brought together as complete a picture as possible.
- ii. Different things could be learned from looking at flows or stocks. Reconciling stocks and flows was not straightforward but better access to administrative data would help with this.
- iii. It could be helpful to consider what was the ideal methodology for measuring population and migration. Looking to other countries could provide additional insights.

## **12. GSS coordination and collaboration**

Mr Bumpstead provided a summary of recent thinking about how the GSS could work together to coordinate and collaborate to address the most important questions for decision makers. Part of the National Statistician's role was to ensure comprehensiveness of the official statistics system and, through discussions with Heads of Profession, a new model was being developed to provide appropriate support from the centre while also encouraging collaboration and effective networks across the GSS.

## **13. Any other business**

There was no other business. The Authority Board would meet next on Thursday 21 July at 10:30 in London.

# UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

## Agenda

**Tuesday 28 June 2016**  
**1103\_1105, Titchfield, 10:30 – 16:00**

**Chair:** Sir Andrew Dilnot  
**Apologies:** Professor Jonathan Haskel and Mr Ed Humpherson

### 10:30 to 11:00 – Non-executive session

1	Minutes and matters arising from previous meetings • Declarations of interest	Meeting of 29-04-16
2	Report from the Authority Chair	Sir Andrew Dilnot
3	Report from the Chair of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee	Dame Colette Bowe
4	<a href="#">Report from the Chief Executive</a>	SA(16)24 Mr John Pullinger
5	Report from the Deputy Director for Regulation • New regulatory office • Code of Practice Stocktake	Discussion  Mr Richard Laux

### 12:30 to 13:00 – Lunch

6	<a href="#">Roadmap for the ONS Website</a>	SA(16)25 Ms Laura Dewis
7	<a href="#">Economic Statistics Transformation</a>	SA(16)26 Mr Jonathan Athow, Ms Frankie Kay and Mr Nick Vaughan
8	<a href="#">Priorities for Migration Statistics and Analysis</a>	SA(16)27 Ms Jay Lindop
9	GSS coordination and collaboration	Presentation Mr Robert Bumpstead
10	Any other business	

### 15:00 to 15:45 – Visits to business areas

11	Visits to business areas	
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**Next meeting: Thursday 21 July, 10:30 to 16:00, London**



## UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(16)24

### *Chief Executive's Report, June 2016*

#### **Purpose**

1. This report provides the Board with an overview of activity and issues for June.

#### **Summary**

2. The unique circumstances of the pre-referendum period have posed a range of challenges for the publication of official statistics. Whilst the legal and policy arrangements are designed to enable normal business to continue, including the publication of official statistics in accordance with the Code of Practice, several tricky issues have arisen.
3. Migration, population, trade and EU finance statistics, population projections and publication of planned revisions to economic statistics in this year's Blue Book have been examples requiring particular attention. Also the economic story as revealed by our statistics has been under intense scrutiny for signs of the implications of the vote. Many parliamentary questions have been contentious and required careful consideration.
4. Our UK Perspectives release compiled drawing on the expertise of colleagues across the Government Statistical Service (GSS) was successful within the deliberately limited parameters that we set. This release paves the way for the development of a stronger offering to fill the gap left by the loss of Social Trends and utilising the potential of our enhanced digital capability.

#### **Review of recent activities**

5. As well as regular releases, this month has been particularly fruitful in demonstrating our increasing engagement with policy, including with the Policy Profession Board. Notable areas of contribution have been on ageing and exports policy.
6. Other important developments in recent weeks include the following.
  - i. Sign off of the concordat on statistics between the UK administrations and a useful review of current issues at the Inter-Administration Committee meeting in Belfast. Work on economic statistics in light of the new devolution arrangements for Scotland and Northern Ireland has been especially active.
  - ii. Work on the clauses in the Digital Economy Bill relating to statistics and research has been intense, including support for the government response to the consultation, work with those drafting and managing the Bill and many meetings with stakeholders including, for example, the Information Commissioner's Office and businesses. We have accepted as a consequence of our focus on the Bill in Parliament that we should hold off on Information Sharing Orders. Whilst this is likely to delay some of our ambitions in the short term we are continuing to develop relationships and seek voluntary access to information where this is lawful. This will help create better statistics, for example on migration and flow of funds.
  - iii. Following an intense period of planning, we are now at the practical implementation stage for the Data Science Campus and Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence. Plans for economic statistics transformation are coming together well following the appointment of Frankie Kay as Director of this area. Our approach will see step by step progress over the coming months.
  - iv. Workforce transformation within ONS is progressing with a current emphasis on matching the procedures and practices of our Customer First team to the demands of transformation, especially in the area of recruitment. Performance management is

also currently high on the agenda as staff objectives for the current year are set and beginning to be monitored. This is critical as we move into a new performance regime which is part of the pay deal agreed earlier this year.

- v. The ONS accounts have been signed off. Our auditors were very positive about the clean up we have undertaken of our assets (particularly IT assets) this year and the approach we are taking to managing the valuation and development of software. This is a major turnaround from the position we were in a year ago.
- vi. For the current year the Finance team are working with colleagues across the Office to ramp up transformation and reform projects rapidly and cost-effectively whilst increasing efforts on continuous improvement and cost reduction in other areas. Vigorous attention at this stage of the year will ensure best use of funds for the full year. In addition our policy on income has been reviewed and agreed by the Executive Team.
- vii. Labour Force Survey response rates continue to be under pressure. This issue has been escalated and is under active consideration by the Executive team.
- viii. Heads of Profession have considered how the GSS can improve the coherence and comprehensiveness of official statistics by coordinating and collaborating to address the most important questions for decision makers.
- ix. We have introduced a new house price index.
- x. New guidance was published last week on management information and official statistics. This shows how departments should treat management information to get maximum value from it while protecting public trust in official statistics. The GSS task force, which came together to develop this guidance, has done a great job. It shows how we can continue to unlock data to help make better decisions.
- xi. The release of labour market statistics this month was hit by IT problems. The effort of teams in many parts of Office for National Statistics (ONS) to come together to resolve this issues and ensure minimum disruption to users was very good indeed. Following a review of what happened, more resilience, control and transparency has been built into the release process. Despite this incident the publishing process in place since the release of the new website in February has continued to deliver a big step change improvement to the publishing process.
- xii. We will be without Glen Watson for several months. Short term arrangements have been put in place to ensure that momentum is sustained in the many areas where Glen has been providing leadership.
- xiii. Siobhan Carey has been appointed to lead the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. She will start in September. Her predecessor, Norman Caven, received a CBE in the birthday honours list.
- xiv. Ken Roy has been appointed as Head of Profession for statistics at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). Defra is likely to play an increasingly important role in the emerging data landscape, for example in the use of earth observation data.

#### **Future look**

- 7. In the next few weeks we will be considering implications for the GSS of the outcome of the referendum, getting an initial view of parliamentary reaction to the clauses relating to statistics and research in the Digital Economy Bill and ramping up further our delivery on ONS transformation.

**John Pullinger, 20 June 2016**



## UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(16)25

*The Roadmap for the ONS website***Purpose**

1. This paper provides a view of the priorities for the ongoing development of the ONS website. It sets out priorities in the context that not all needs can be met with the resources available in 2016/17.

**Recommendations**

2. Members of the Authority Board are invited to:
  - i. note and agree the priorities for the ongoing development of the ONS website;
  - ii. agree the approach to prioritisation; and
  - iii. discuss the timescales and approach to 'digitising' the corporate functions of ONS and the wider statistical system.
3. A version of this paper was considered by the executive leadership team in May. The consensus view was one of support for the plans set out in this paper, though it was acknowledged that the plans may need to be reviewed in light of the outcome of work being carried out by Chris Lines on branding.

**Background**

4. The new ONS website launched in February 2016 and successfully delivered the minimum viable improvements to search, publishing speeds, security, maintainability and accessibility.
5. 80 per cent of user feedback on the website so far has been positive.
6. Significant efforts to research the needs of users uncovered multiple unmet needs that could not be met ahead of launch, given the urgent need to replace the previous website.
7. An internal technical team of five people were recruited to ensure cost-effective sustainable ongoing development of the website and the team will be complete in May 2016.
8. In the time since the launch the team have been forming, focussing on responding to user feedback and fixing critical bugs. The two most significant issues have been in relation to how PDFs are rendering and how time series data is handled.
9. Given the improved visibility of the statistics, there are some immediate content concerns to address. For example, work is needed to decrease the amount of jargon and provide clearer titles. There are not always quick fixes due to the amount of content we publish and the technical implications which can range from constraints in downstream processing systems provide data to the website, to search and page layout (especially challenging for charts and tables on small screen mobile devices, or where translation to Welsh is required).
10. To ensure the Beta was realistic to deliver within the timescales, the development focussed on two of three personas: the expert analyst and the information forager. More work is needed to understand how to serve the citizen user, building on what we have learnt from running the Beta site, Visual.ONS in parallel. We need to extend the persona work to better understand the needs of policy makers (including Government Ministers, Special Advisors, thinktanks and interest groups), respondents, users of the Census, and re-users (e.g. civic tech development community).

## Discussion

### Approach to prioritisation

11. Given the business criticality of the ONS website, a reasonable amount of effort will always be needed to: maintain and optimise the minimum critical functions (such as search); meet government digital standards which change every 6-12 months; maintain security in a constantly changing external environment, keep up with changes in user behaviour (for example, ensuring the website works on any new devices that come onto the market and are adopted by our users, including technologies used by people with disabilities), archive content, monitor the performance of the site and manage feedback from users.
12. Delivering using Agile methodology has meant work is prioritised and reprioritised at regular (fortnightly or monthly) intervals. The Service Manager has the authority to make final decisions. Their overview of all aspects of the platform ensures decisions are made which increase productivity and deliver most value to users. It is their role to balance the tension that always exists between operating the website efficiently and safely (for example managing technical debt) versus building new features to meet unmet user needs. The Service Manager is the guardian of sustainable quality code and will prioritise a stable, secure, and performant site over feature development, when necessary.
13. To date Digital Publishing Division has undertaken around 20 meetings with other areas of ONS to establish requirements for 2016/17. These have informed the prioritisation of work, with those needs coming out of user research currently taking highest priority. This is partly because we already know enough to define user stories for the development team, but also because of the need to evidence to users that we will continue to respond quickly and effectively to their needs now the website is live. While there will always be a need to respond to business priorities, it is critical that work is prioritised according to user need, if we are to build on the goodwill generated by the Beta.
14. There is a [public roadmap](#) that outlines our current future commitments to development of the ONS website post launch, based on known user needs.

### Priorities for 2016/17

*[NB: the priorities at paragraph 15 provide a foundation for Census dissemination work in future years<sup>1</sup>]*

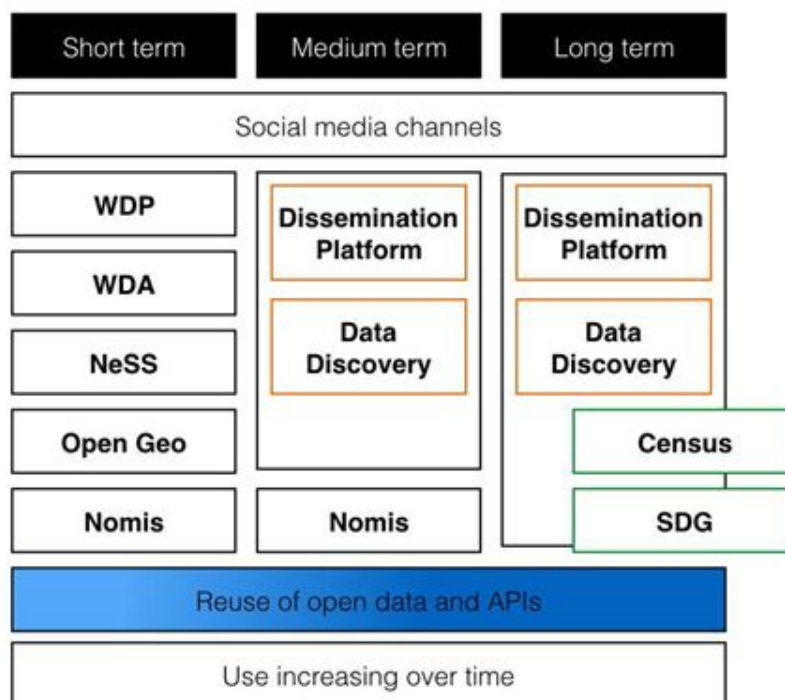
15. If the priorities set out in this sections 15-21 need to change, we will need to stop some of the work described here.
16. The priority for new development in the coming year is to provide users with more opportunities to explore and customise data via the main website rather than relying on the download of spreadsheets or having to visit multiple sites. This work can broadly be categorised as three work streams:
  - i. Integrating the capability into the Dissemination Platform to support small area data publishing thus removing the requirement for users to break their journey across multiple websites (NeSS, Nomis, WDA) when all the data is provided by ONS. There is a consistent user need to follow specific statistics from the national offering to the lowest local level available - this is regardless of user type or background. Another driver is that the Design Authority accepted a proposal in Autumn 2015 to retire NeSS, which estimated this would lead to cost savings of £470 thousand and cost avoidance of £9 million (the estimate given to rewrite the legacy code to make necessary improvements).

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<sup>1</sup> The Digital Publishing Division is starting to work more closely with the Census dissemination team, who need to understand the 'art of the possible' at this stage, in order to be able to set expectations with users as early stages of consultation. It was acknowledged that dissemination activity started too late in the run up to 2011, and we welcome the early collaboration. The intention is to develop the ONS website in a way that can support Census specific requirements and the work is in early phases of being scoped.

- ii. The functionality to publish more complex datasets that allow querying and customisation of multivariate datasets via a range of 'data-explorer' tools is another identified user need and closely related to the small-area statistics plans. Currently the ONS Web Data Access service provides a powerful toolset for interrogating large multi-variate datasets and this project will look to integrate the lessons learned from that work by bringing that functionality into the core website shortening and simplifying the user journey while continuing to offer the same level of service. Over time, this could provide costs savings of up to £1 million per annum.
- iii. Following the concept of 'website as API' as coined by Stephen Dunn at the Guardian back in 2008 the new site is built on its own API (available at /data) and then surfaces that machine readable data to anyone with the wherewithal to make use of it. The next phase is to provide those interested with enough context and assurance of support that they can build their own tools and services using these APIs this will require comprehensible documentation, examples and support. Any additional data and functionality we make available via the website will follow these principles and will be available via /data.

### The vision for rationalisation of the ONS web estate



17. Prior to the launch of the Dissemination Platform, the ONS web estate consisted of five main products; the website (WDP), Neighbourhood Statistics (NeSS), Data Explorer (WDA), the Open Geography Portal and Nomis. In the medium term features will be added to the Dissemination Platform replacing functionality previously offered by NeSS and WDA allowing them to be closed. In the longer term we will build in the capability for 'statistical disclosure control', personalisation and other advanced tools which will support Census and allow Nomis to be phased out. Some services (ie Census and Sustainable Development Goals) *may* have separate brand identities but would be managed by the Dissemination Platform.
18. Outside of the provision of improved data capabilities there are several other significant development projects that have been identified based on user and strategic needs which are set out below.

19. Providing the facility to accept payments via the website - the organisation is looking to streamline the charging policy as regards 'ad-hoc statistics' (essentially user requested data and analysis) and so we will look to integrate the new GOV.UK PAY platform to make this as simple as possible for both external and internal users. Estimates are showing potential income generation opportunities of between £300-800 thousand per annum. However no final decision has been made as to whether this is a definite requirement.
20. A project to openly link our data collection activities to the outputs they influence is clearly of interest to a lot of our users. There have been multiple requests for us to make clearer which data sources contribute to statistical releases and survey respondents are increasingly interested in understanding how the data they provide is used. As more surveys go online via the Electronic Data Collection Programme, we will need to coordinate the development of the 'front-end' design work to ensure a seamless user journey between online data collection and dissemination.
21. Making our content more easily shareable (and in doing so building tools that allow us to better track impact) meets both user needs and wider business requirements. There is already evidence that more and more of our content (particularly charts and tables) is being shared on social media via screenshots. Contacts in the media have enquired about the opportunity to directly embed some of our charts within their own platforms. Further investigation is required but an opportunity exists to increase reach and make it easier for our content to be reused by channels that have far wider reach – particularly with 'citizen users'. This would likely require a project to fold Visual.ONS into the Dissemination Platform to make the most of the full range of content we are providing from a single source of truth. We are also already in discussion with representatives of the BBC and the Press Association about increasing the opportunities for syndicating content via their channels.
22. The new website enables the organisation to deliver on our long-held ambition to improve the online dissemination of its statistical products. We are current supporting the newly structured Statistical Products Working Group to redesign bulletins (responding to the primary outputs work); responding to the Bean Review (a new approach to scheduling and coordinating economic releases, and creating data visualisation in priority areas such as Flow of Funds); and planning to collaborate with the CORE initiative to provide statistics in a format suitable for reuse in international undergraduate economics courses.
23. There are also a number of projects which require digital product development, for instance, Sustainable Development Goals and the EU referendum which are evidencing the need for a more modern approach to 'compendia' products. There is also an opportunity to work with the team looking at improvements in metadata to provide additional 'caveats' on charts, that would help avoid the misinterpretation of data and increase the transparency of our methods.

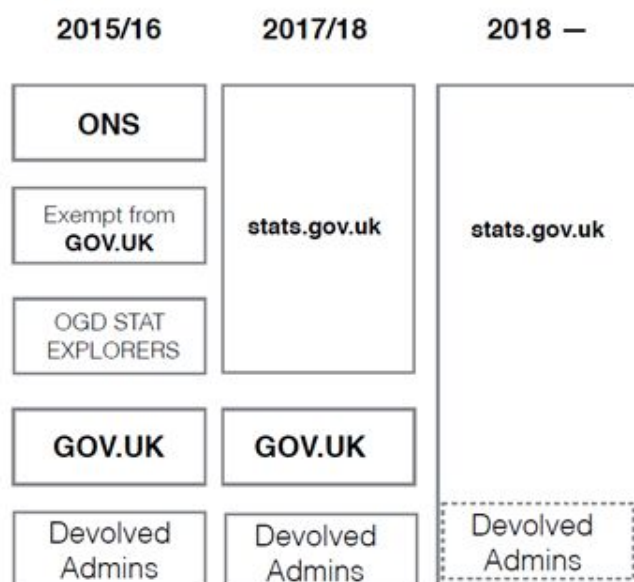
#### Priorities post 2016/17

24. There are four activities relating to publishing that are on our radar but have not yet been prioritised and are being treated as important but not urgent:
  - i. Publishing experimental statistics - there has been discussion about how to publish the outcomes of innovation, without confusing users between the 'accredited' source of data and the experimental output. Publishing experimental statistics elsewhere, alongside social networking tools could help solve this problem, and one option is to build the brand of StatsUserNet as the go-to place for debate and discussion on new forms of statistical production across the globe. Bank Underground (bankunderground.co.uk) is just one external example where the Bank of England has provided a site, separate to its 'business as usual' web presence, to enable "*staff to share views that challenge prevailing policy orthodoxies*". The site specifically states that the views expressed may not be those of the Bank of England or its committees. This has not been prioritised as the work is at early stages and will be

addressed alongside the branding of experimental statistics in the communications strategy later in the year.

- ii. Welsh language provision - at the time of writing, we are not anticipating any additional work in relation to the ongoing discussions with the Welsh Language Commissioner. We're keeping a watching brief in case this changes.
- iii. Income generation - beyond the work on the Pay platform, we are aware of other recommendations coming out of this work.
- iv. Government Statistical Service (GSS) publishing - a significant emerging area of work for 2016/17 is for the Division to conduct a Discovery phase into the future of GSS publishing, driven by the need for an easier way for users to find and use statistics across the UK statistical system. The Digital Publishing Division has dedicated some strategy and research time to this project, but has not yet established funding for the roles needed to run the project. However this is expected to start in 2016/17, given the recent support from the Heads of Profession.

### The vision for rationalisation of UK statistical publishing platforms

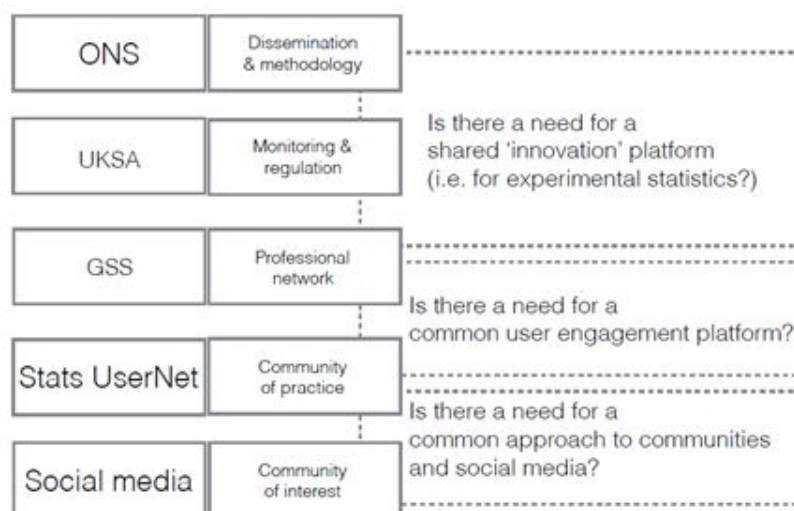


### Digital approaches to corporate functions

25. In future, our tactical approach to external corporate communication might include campaign sites (e.g. promotional content designed to influence people to provide us with their data), blogs, events, web forums and online consultations. The Digital Publishing Division and Communications Division are working together to develop an approach to digital engagement. At this stage we're assuming a mix of third party channels (e.g. EventBrite), use of the ONS website and possibly the new Government Digital Service campaigns platform. This may include embedding content on the ONS website from other 'partner' websites e.g. discussions happening on StatsUserNet, which relate to issues of strategic importance to the ONS. It is too early to know exactly what implementation may be required, but we expect to be able to make an assessment by Quarter 2 of 2016/17 so we can evaluate what we can deliver. We currently have limited resource to do this work.
26. ONS is facing many challenges around recruitment and Digital Publishing Division has supported a corporate move to LinkedIn in the past. Before we can consider whether Digital Publishing resource is required to support recruitment activities on the ONS website (beyond the existing Careers page), strategic thinking is required around how we are currently measuring conversion rates; known online recruitment tactics that provide results; what we would do to drive job seekers to the ONS website (including competing in search with Civil Service Jobs), use of third party (recruitment websites,

LinkedIn) and the relationship with the Civil Service Jobs area of GOV.UK where all jobs have to be advertised. We currently have limited resource to do this work.

27. Outside the publishing requirement for Census, there are separate but related requirements for online products (e.g. recruitment and marketing) that are not likely to be led by Digital Publishing, but may need support to ensure decisions about brand, domain names, performance analysis and search visibility are joined up. These will be addressed alongside the branding of the Census in the communications strategy later in the year.
28. As described earlier in this paper, the current focus is on rationalising the ONS web estate. A wider range of websites support corporate functions of the statistical system, and are not owned by ONS. These may require rationalisation in future years, but this paper does not attempt to propose solutions. Decisions ought to be driven by the communication strategy in the Autumn, as this will set communication objectives, a corporate narrative and key messaging for the UK Statistics Authority, GSS and ONS. It will identify and segment the full range of audiences of importance to us and propose use of the most relevant channels, including digital channels. This strategy should be the driver for proposed changes to the following digital channels, especially given the functions and audiences for these websites are very different to those of the current ONS website. We are not currently expecting to deliver this work in 2016/17.



**Laura Dewis, Chief Publishing Officer and Deputy Director, Digital Publishing Division  
(Contributor - Chris Lines, Head of Communications), 21 June 2016**



## UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(16)26

***An update on the Economic Statistics Transformation Programme*****Purpose**

1. This paper provides an update on the current position with the plans to transform Economic Statistics.
2. Further detail is provided in the slide pack at **Annex A**, and this note summarises and highlights some of the key issues.

**Recommendations**

3. The plans are still being developed, and what we are presenting at this stage is very much an 'early cut'. Nonetheless, we would welcome comments.

**Background and discussion**

4. The Bean Review and the Spending Review 2015 settlement provide a clear direction and the funding to deliver on those aims. Our ability to influence the Bean review means that its conclusions are closely aligned with our existing thinking. The overall strategic picture is clear, but there is much to be done to turn this into a concrete plan and then to make the changes in practice.
5. We published a draft [Economic Statistics and Analysis Strategy](#) in May, which takes the Bean recommendations and turns them into a series of analytical and research questions we need to address. In turn, this will feed into a workplan for Economic Statistics Transformation.
6. To deliver the changes needed, we have established an Economic Statistics Transformation Programme, and appointed a Director of Economic Statistics Transformation (Frankie Kay) to oversee it. This was part of a wider restructuring of Economic statistics. Alongside these changes, we have also introduced a number of new structures to improve our external engagement including our new Economic Experts Working Group and the Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence.
7. There are a number of aims we need to deliver over the coming years:
  - i. develop our capability, in particular boosting our economic and wider analytical skills, ensuring we have a workforce of the appropriate size with the required expertise;
  - ii. establish collaborative partnerships with external organisations to gain access to additional expertise, skills, knowledge and innovation;
  - iii. harnessing new data sources, starting with administrative data from government;
  - iv. re-engineer our production processes and use new IT platforms, to both improve efficiency but also reduce the risks from current outmoded systems and procedures;
  - v. regain National Statistics status for all our key outputs, continue to meet our legislative obligations such as ESA10; and
  - vi. develop insights into UK economy and new statistical products, for example on the 'flow of funds' project.
8. We are grouping the changes we need to make into four main work streams:
  - i. data and methods. We need to bring in and use new data sources, with administrative data from government – and in particular VAT, PAYE/RTI and financial regulatory data being immediate priorities. We will need to revisit our methods and outputs to use these new data sources;
  - ii. processes and IT platforms. Many of our current systems and processes are outdated, inefficient and run the risk of errors. The plans for cross-office platforms

- gives us new opportunities to exploit common features while being able to incorporate features unique to Economic Statistics in a cost effective way,. This is vital if we are to provide our staff with the right tools to carry out their roles efficiently and effectively;
- iii. outputs and publications. We will have to sequence and package our changes to National Accounts to fit with the annual Blue Book and quarterly National Accounts cycles. We will also need to work towards new products, such as the Flow of Funds/Enhanced financial Accounts; and
  - iv. workforce transformation and capability. We need to bring in new skills (e.g. more economists) and deliver new, outward facing capability such as the Economic Statistics Centre of excellence. At the same time, we will need to reshape our existing workforce, and may need to exit staff.
9. The scale and nature of the change can best be viewed through the changing nature of our data sources. Currently our key data sources are primarily surveys, as shown in the 'as is' handout (**Annex B**). Our plans would shift the majority of our data to administrative systems, as in our 'to be' position. There is still much work to be done, but we know that VAT, PAYE/RTI and financial regulatory data have considerable scope to improve our statistics.
  10. In addition to changing the way in which our standard economic products are put together, we also need to make sure we have the capability to better measure the modern economy. Building our cadre of economists and analysts and ensuring stronger links to academics through for example the Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence will be important here. The Data Science Campus, which is not formally part of the Economic Statistics Transformation Programme, is closely aligned with it.
  11. We now have a first cut of the plans, and have some high level milestones up to 2020, when we anticipate delivering the final parts of this programme. At this stage, this is very much a first draft; so for example, we have not agreed all the timings with other parts of ONS: the milestones are therefore indicative.
  12. There are a number of dependencies in this work, in particular:
    - i. we need new technology, so are reliant on the platforms being developed by Digital, Technology and Methodology Directorate (DTM) which we are working jointly with them to specify and design;
    - ii. likewise, some of the new functionality in the Data Collection Transformation Programme (DTCP) will be key; and
    - iii. greater use of administrative data will be greatly facilitated by the new data access legislation.
  13. At present, our top three risks are:
    - i. the scale of the change is significant, affecting IT, data sources and skills. This is substantially more complex than previous changes such as delivering ESA10; This is mitigated by closely integrated working with DTM and with DTCP;
    - ii. we rapidly need to recruit new skills, such as economic and analytical skills, and secure good project managers. This is actually an office-wide challenge; and
    - iii. the culture change that goes with this transformation project is significant, so taking people with us will be hugely important.
  14. We have some successes to build upon, from our promising first round of recruitment of economists through to our successful implementation of ESA10 and various Blue Books. We have also made some good steps in building links with academics through the appointment of our first ONS fellows, we have published a number of articles with experimental statistics focused around 'flow of funds' which have been very well received and our development work with VAT data has shown great promise.



**Conclusion**

15. The Bean Review has provided a clear view of the transformation required to Economics Statistics and there has been some early success. Nonetheless, the scale of the changes is significant, and there is much to be done. We currently rate the programme as 'Amber' reflecting the scale and complexity of the change together with the challenge of securing the resource required to deliver the transformation.

**Jonathan Athow, Deputy National Statistician for Economic Statistics, 20 June 2016**

**List of Annexes**

<b>Annex A</b>	<b>Slide pack 'Economic statistics transformation: outline plan'</b>
<b>Annex B</b>	<b>Handouts to accompany the slide pack</b>



# Economic statistics transformation: outline plan

# What we need to do

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Develop our  
capability:  
economic and  
analytical skills

Harness new  
data sources:  
principally admin  
data

Re-engineer our  
production  
processes / use  
new IT platforms

Get Nat'l Stats  
status back for  
all outputs

Develop new  
products and  
insights into UK  
economy

Partnerships to  
access additional  
expertise

# What we need to do (2)

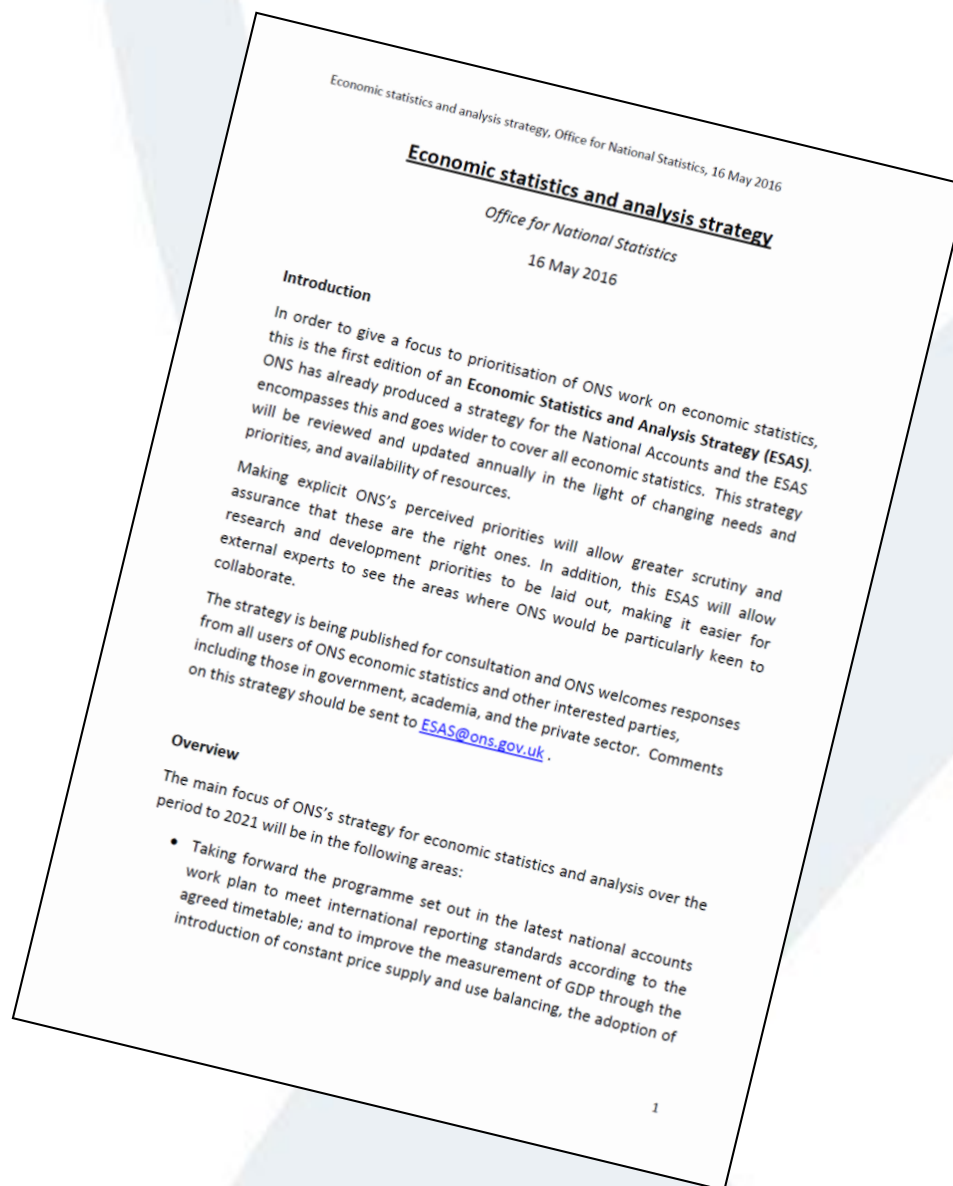
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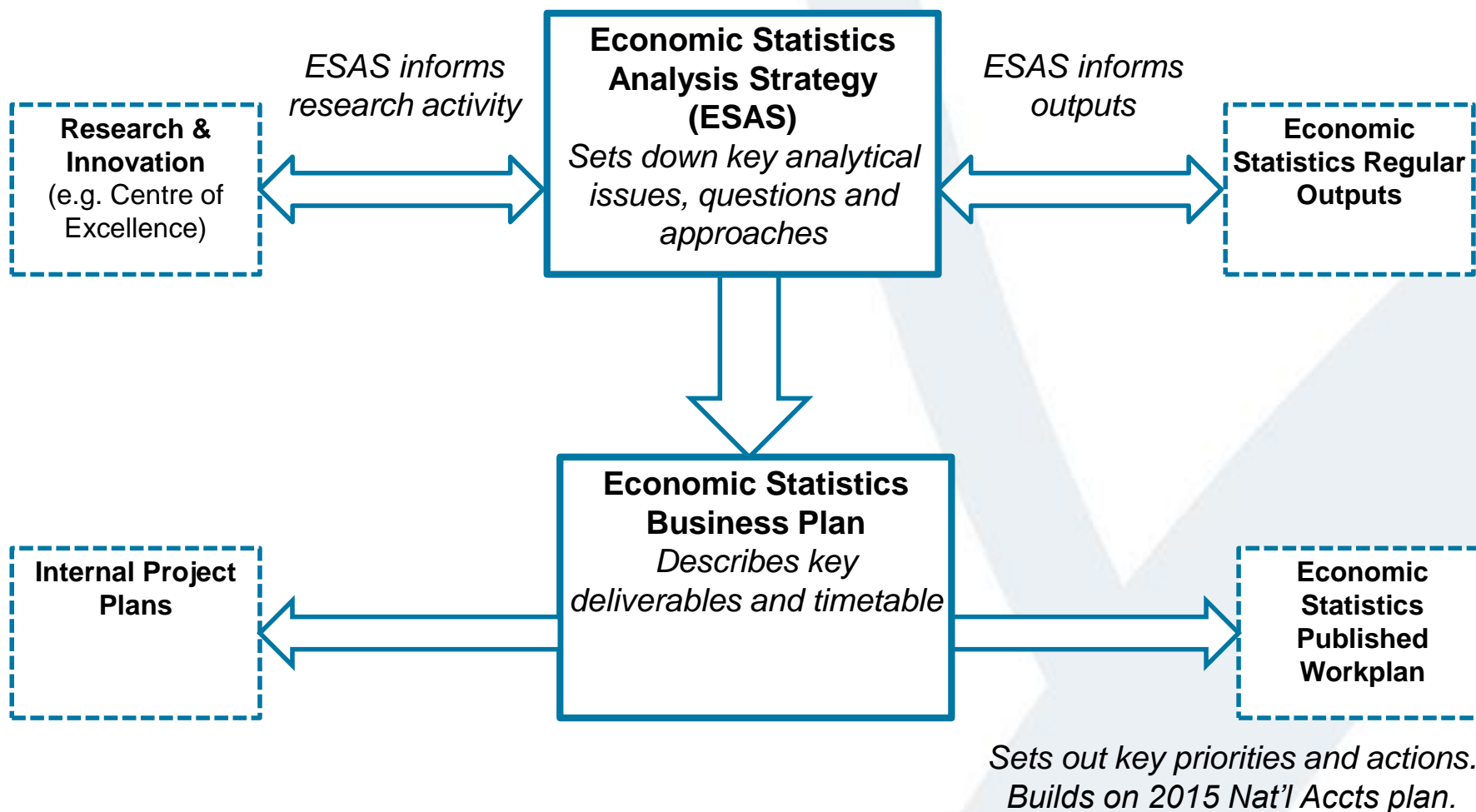
- Bean Review has very long 'to do' list
- But we were able to sell much of our vision to the team
- Therefore, Bean Review and our ambition closely aligned

# What we need to do (3)

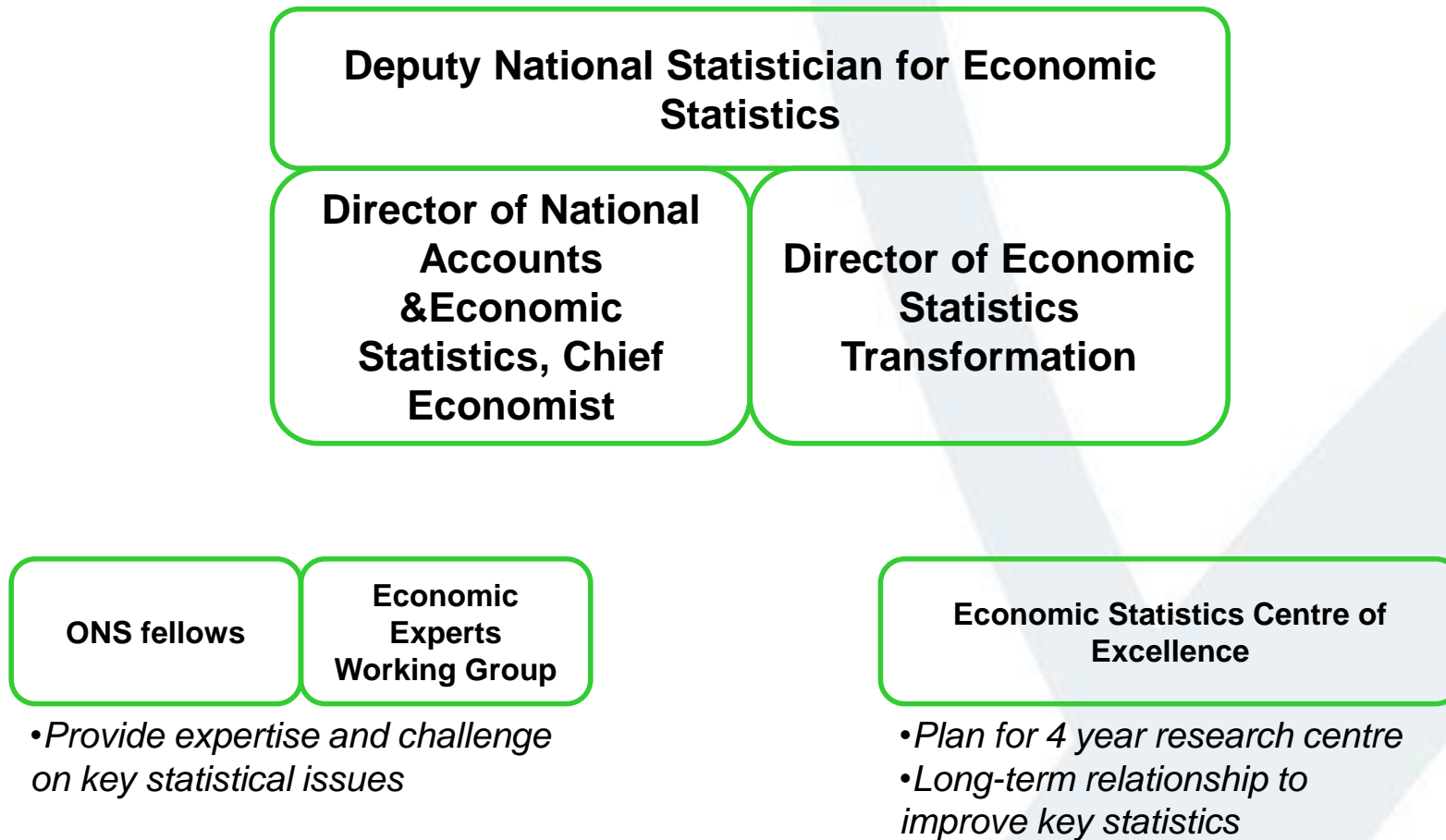
- Economic Statistics and Analysis Strategy sets down 10 key analytical priority areas
- Essentially turns Bean into 'bitesize' chunks of research and activity
- Sets our research priorities, to be updated regularly



# Overall strategic cascade



# Future structure





# Data sources

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[See (1) 'as is' and (2) 'to be' handouts]

- Currently heavily dominated by surveys
- Significant scope for admin and third party data to replace/complement surveys
- VAT and PAYE/RTI key datasets in short term
- Regulatory data key for financial accounts, 'the 'to be' position is still work in progress

# Measuring the modern economy

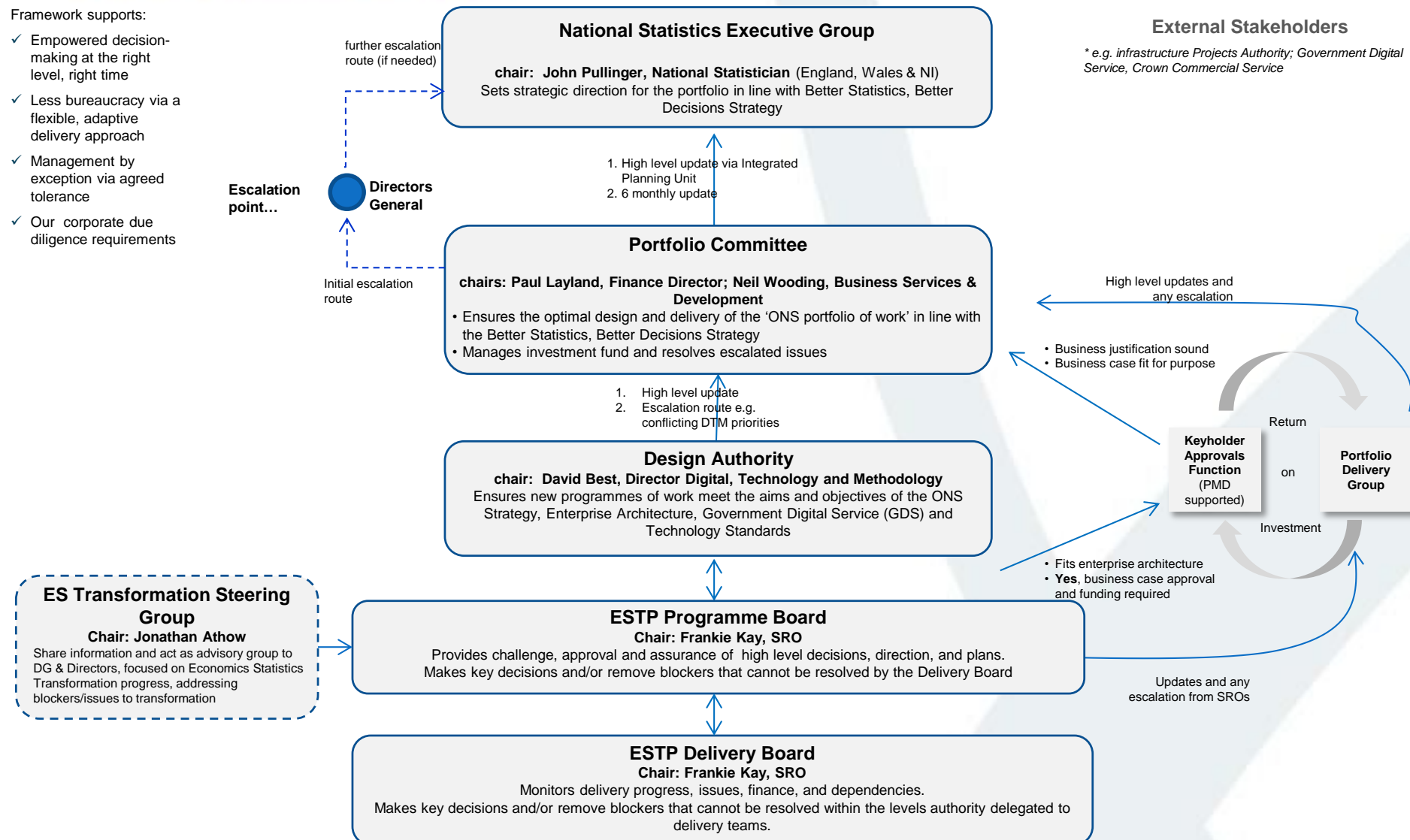
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- Need to address existing challenges with Economic Statistics as currently defined
- But also need to generate capacity/capability to do exploratory/developmental work on the modern economy
  - Increasing economist/analyst cadre gives us ability to do more ad hoc analysis
  - Our partnerships with academics/Centre of Excellence provides new insights
  - Alongside the Data Campus...

# Governance

Framework supports:

- ✓ Empowered decision-making at the right level, right time
- ✓ Less bureaucracy via a flexible, adaptive delivery approach
- ✓ Management by exception via agreed tolerance
- ✓ Our corporate due diligence requirements



Tab 3.1 Economic Statistics Transformation / Annex A

# Outline timetable

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[See separate A3 handout]

- End point is Sep/Oct 2020, when hope to have all changes in Blue Book '20
- This is first draft and needs to be aligned with other programmes
- In particular, dependencies with DTM to be agreed

# Risks and dependencies

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- Dependencies:
  - IT system change (DTM)
  - Data Collection Transformation Programme (DCTP)
  - Data-sharing legislation
- Risks
  - Scale and scope of change unprecedented
  - People: securing right skills, technical and delivery
  - Fundamental change to people's roles
- Mitigations
  - Strong linkages between this programme and DTM/DCTP
  - Dedicated management oversight of challenge

# Progress and key achievements

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- Draft Economic Statistics and Analysis Strategy published in May 2016
- Programme initiation progressing well
- Internal engagement started with staff workshops to gain feedback on vision and priorities
- Programme continues to deliver changes to support Blue/Pink Books and ESA10
- Initial discussions held with DTM and DCTP to agree dependencies and timelines
- First ONS fellows appointed and procurement of Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence commenced
- Promising first round of economist recruitment

# Current state and next steps

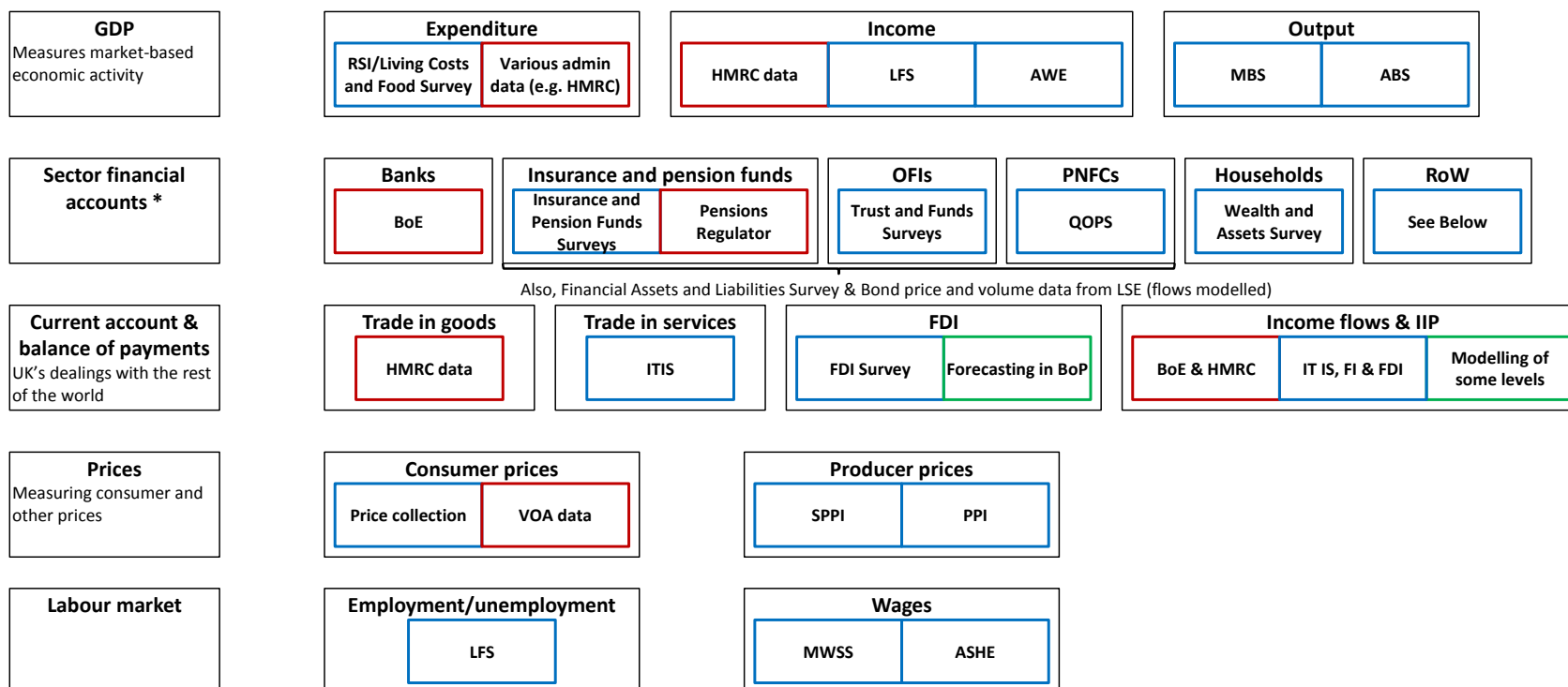
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- Currently rate programme as Amber due to
  - Securing resource
  - Complexity and scale of the change
  - Dependencies on DTM and DCTP
- Agree dependencies and timelines with DTM and DCTP, initially focused on the delivery of a minimum viable product to implement a strategic solution to incorporate VAT data into National Accounts
- Complete Programme Initiation and gain HMT approval for business case in Autumn
- Programme of meetings with key stakeholders to discuss ESAS and transformation roadmap
- Continue with ramp up of resources
- Complete procurement of Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence
- Establish internal staff communication and engagement strategy



# HANDOUT (1)

## Key data sources in economic statistics: as is position

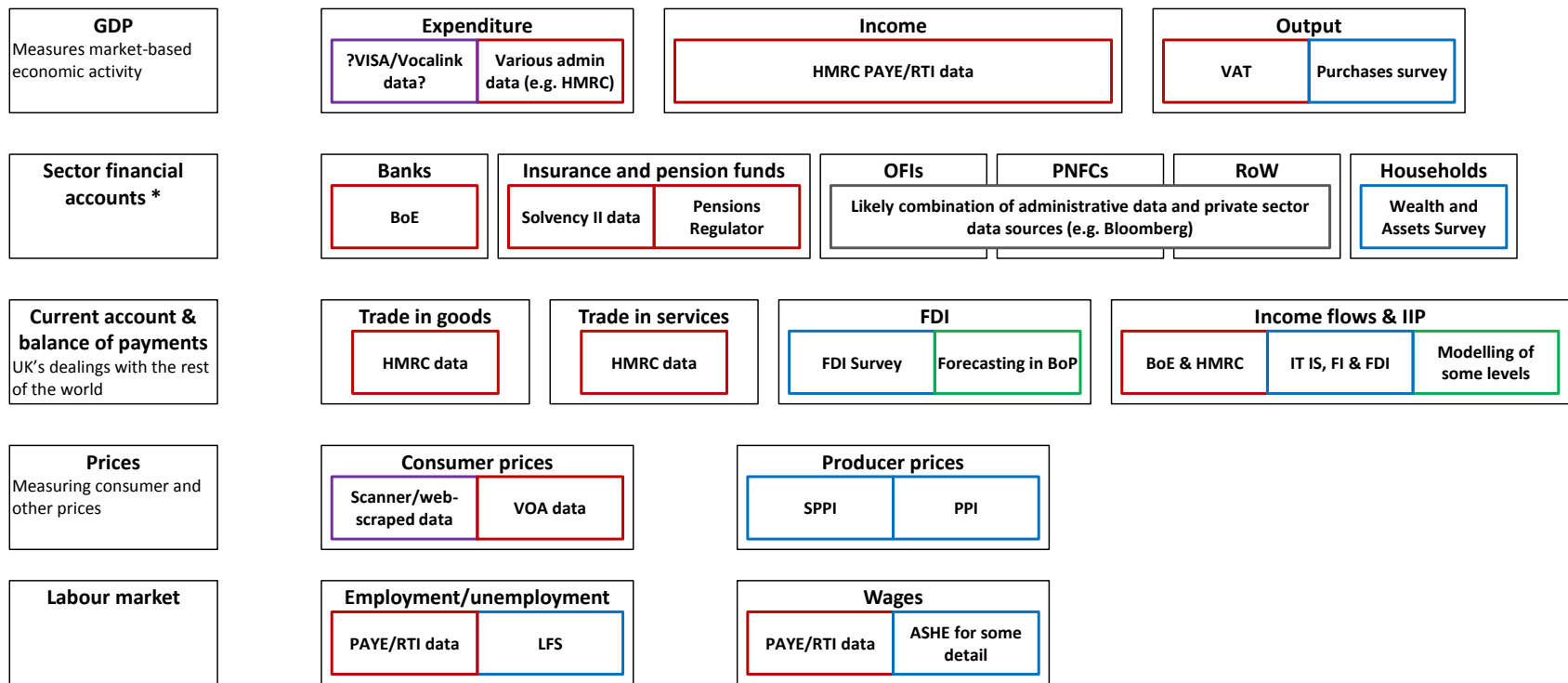


\* Many of these surveys are being redeveloped as part of ESA 2010 and EFA.



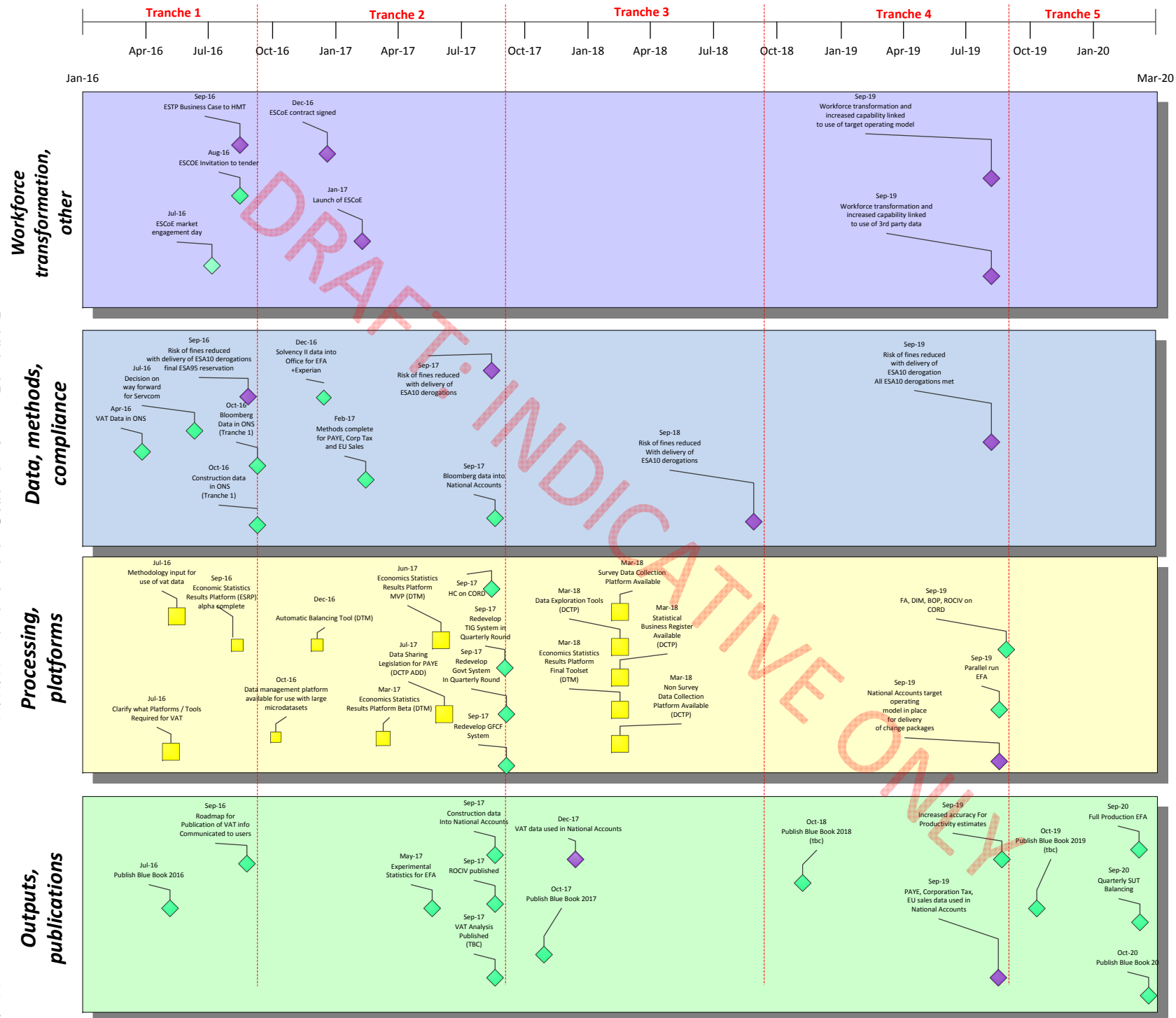
# HANDOUT (2)

## Key data sources in economic statistics: to be position?



\* Many of these surveys are being redeveloped as part of ESA 2010 and EFA.





## Economic Statistics Transformation Programme

**INDICATIVE Level 0 Portfolio Milestones, Cross Programme Dependencies & Level 1 Programme Milestones**

**DRAFT VERSION 0.6**



## UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(16)27

4

*Priorities for Migration Statistics and Analysis***Purpose**

1. This paper sets out the main issues for migration statistics and analysis and briefly describes the work planned to address these.

**Recommendations**

2. Members of the Authority Board are invited to:
  - i. note the priorities for migration statistics;
  - ii. advise if any further priorities need to be added; and
  - iii. advise how they wish to be updated in the future.

**Background**

3. International migration continues to be of high interest since the early 2000s, particularly as a result of:
  - i. EU Accession in 2004;
  - ii. a rise in non-EU student immigration, particularly from 2009 to 2012;
  - iii. a Public Administration Select Committee hearing on migration statistics in 2013;
  - iv. the lifting of working restrictions to EU2 nationals in 2014;
  - v. the Government's target to reduce net migration down to the tens of thousands, confirmed in 2015;
  - vi. the EU referendum and levels of EU migration;
  - vii. comparisons of ONS long-term immigration estimates with allocations of National Insurance Numbers (NINo) to foreign nationals – this has resulted in increased interest in short-term migration; and
  - viii. a Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee hearing on EU migration statistics in April 2016.
4. There is a strong need for accurate statistics and analysis to help achieve a comprehensive understanding of migration to and from the UK. It is important that these statistics and analyses are clear and transparently described, so that they are interpreted correctly and inform debate. This will help those planning and operating services.
5. Since the early 2000s, there have been a number of improvements made to migration statistics. These changes included: enhancements to methods; increased coverage of the International Passenger Survey (IPS); new questions on the IPS; increased use of administrative data for local authority estimates; new short-term migration statistics; and a number of changes to migration reporting. Many of these changes occurred during the Migration Statistics Improvement Programme which ended in 2012. Since then, analysis of new IPS questions on student migration, increasing use of administrative data and the lifting of working restrictions for EU2 nationals has raised questions about how the current sources are identifying and measuring particular groups of migrants.
6. Funding has been allocated through SR15 to fund a small team for four years to provide the necessary advice and analysis to government departments on migration and to publish information to support wider debate. Office for National Statistics (ONS) continues to support the Implementation Task Force on Immigration statistics by providing statistical expertise to ensure that emerging policy is supported by sound evidence. Examples are student migration, labour market migration, births to foreign-born mothers, the impact of migration on population growth, population projections and the effect of migration on the Old Age Dependency Ratio.

7. Recently, we have collaborated with other government departments in a successful piece of work to publish a widely reported paper comparing NINo figures and ONS estimates of long and short term international migration<sup>1</sup>. This work involved ONS working closely with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Home Office (HO) and Cabinet Office (CO) to identify what data sources held by DWP and HMRC could tell us about immigrants who were 'active' on tax and benefits systems. This work was hugely successful in building strong links between these departments and puts all in a position of greater understanding regarding what the data sources show on migration.

## Discussion

8. The following are our top priority areas related to migration statistics development. These priorities have been determined from discussions across the Government Statistical Service (GSS). More detail can be found in the attached plan at **Annex A**.
  - i. **Short-term migration** – These figures have received increased interest since they help to explain the apparent gap between NINo figures and long-term immigration estimates. There are different definitions and we would like to determine which are most relevant to users.
  - ii. **Student migration** – It is important to understand the interaction between migration policy and higher education policy. The main issue is that the IPS based estimates for the number of students emigrating look low compared with the numbers we might expect to see if all students emigrate after their studies.
  - iii. **Quality of the IPS** – Since the IPS has never provided an exact count of migrants to or from the UK, its suitability for measuring migration has been questioned for many years. More recently, the gap between NINo statistics and IPS estimates of long-term international migration has initiated a closer look at its quality. IPS coverage and response are the two main areas where further reassurance is needed.
  - iv. **'Switcher' adjustments** - A 'switcher' is someone who changes their migration intentions. The methodology to produce long term international migration (LTIM) estimates includes an adjustment for these. However, the methodology includes particular assumptions that need to be reviewed in the context of the migration patterns we are seeing more recently.
  - v. **Administrative data development** - There are relatively few alternative data sources that can be used to validate IPS estimates and the IPS is not suitable for detailed analysis of migrants of particular characteristics. We want to make better use of administrative sources in the UK to help address that.
  - vi. **Local impacts of migration** - The impact of migration for citizens will be felt at the local level. There is a strong need within government for better information on the impact of migration on services such as health, education, labour market, housing and transport in addition to the impact of migration on local economies. In addition, some local areas may be more affected by emigration.
  - vii. **Circular migration** - Circular migration involves moves by individuals between two or more countries several times within a given time period. Circular migration will have an impact on local services and the labour market. It is difficult to identify and will present some challenges when comparing data sources since circular migrants are likely to appear on some and not others.
  - viii. **IPS and LFS / APs comparisons** - Some users (such as Migration Watch UK) have compared IPS estimates with changes in the Labour Force Survey to make statements about the quality of the IPS. These sources measure different things, are

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/articles/noteonthedifferencebetweennationalinsurancenumberregistrationsandtheestimateoflongterminternationalmigration/2016>

both subject to sampling error and more could be done to clarify how the two sources compare.

9. The Board is asked to note that a substantial part of the work is dependent upon data sharing of relevant sources between ONS and government departments. There is also an important link to 2021 Census development work.

**Sarah Crofts, Head of Migration Analysis**

**Jay Lindop, Deputy Director, Population Statistics Division**

**16 June 2016**

#### **List of Annexes**

**Annex A Detailed plan of priority topics for migration analysis**

**Annex B Developing the Quality of Migration Statistics**





## Annex A Detailed plan of priority topics for migration analysis

Topic	Current and planned work
<p><b>Short term migration</b> - ONS has published short term migration estimates annually since May 2009. However, short term migration has received considerable recent interest since it provided the necessary evidence to explain the gap between NINo allocations to foreign nationals and ONS estimates of Long-term International Migration (LTIM). ONS published a paper<sup>1</sup> explaining the difference between these sources on 12 May, which received mixed press coverage. ONS currently produces short term migration estimates for England and Wales and not UK level estimates. The product was developed when there was a greater focus on migration and population estimates for E&amp;W as part of the 2008 to 2012 Migration Statistics Improvement Programme. There is no suitable data source available that would reliably measure short term migration across the land border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland (Long-term migration estimates are based on GP registrations).</p>	<p>Latest short-term migration figures were published on 26 May. Work is planned to better understand the relationship between short-term intentions and short-term actual durations. This work links with the work on switcher adjustments and is expected to take place by end 2016.</p> <p>By the end of 2016 we will consider if it is possible to produce short term migration figures for the UK or GB and will establish if there is a user need to adjust the timing of these statistics.</p>
<p><b>Student migration</b> - It is important to understand the interaction between migration policy and higher education policy. ONS has increased understanding among government departments on whether alternative breakdowns of net migration figures can be produced. The IPS based estimates for the number of students emigrating look low compared with the numbers of international students arriving. There are legitimate reasons why these numbers might be different, explained in a briefing note published in January, but gaps in evidence still remain concerning what students do following their studies. These gaps will hopefully become smaller when further development of other sources has taken place.</p>	<p>ONS is continuing to meet with Higher Education representatives to ensure that there is common understanding of the issue. The next stage of the work is to reconcile HESA, IPS and Exit Check data (when available) to better understand how the IPS is identifying emigrating students. The 'Destination of Leavers' Survey is being reviewed in 2016, so could provide a more useful source in the future (currently it has only around 25% response rates for non-UK students). The majority of this work will take place in 2017 (assuming Exit Check data are available).</p>

1

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/articles/noteonthedifferencebetweennationalinsuranceregistrationsandtheestimateoflongterminternationalmigration/2016>

<p><b>Quality of the IPS</b> - This is not a new issue.</p> <p>The quality of the IPS has been questioned for many years, since it has never provided an exact count of migrants to or from the UK. There are two main reasons why the quality has recently been questioned:</p> <p>(i) The gap between NINo statistics and IPS estimates of long-term international migration. The gap is more noticeable for some nationals than others, particularly EU8 and EU2. IPS coverage and response are the two main areas where further reassurance is needed.</p> <p>(ii) The gap between the numbers of students immigrating and the estimated number of international students emigrating.</p> <p>The main areas concern 'out of hours' (the IPS interviews between 6am and 10pm) and the weighting methodology.</p>	<p>Work is currently underway to provide reassurance of the IPS in terms of how it is identifying migrants (including coverage, out of hours, response). A pilot may be run to better understand potential response bias as a result of interviewing between set hours. The current publication 'Quality Information in relation to migration flows<sup>2</sup>' will be updated in November 2016.</p> <p>When available, exit check data should provide a useful source for validating IPS emigration estimates.</p>
<p><b>Switcher adjustments</b> - This is an issue that has been raised within ONS and in discussion with analysts in other government departments. A 'switcher' is someone who changes their migration intentions. Someone may have arrived intending to migrate for one year or longer and then leave within a year (a migrant switcher); or someone may arrive, stating an intention to stay for less than one year, but stays for longer (a visitor switcher). The methodology to produce LTIM estimates includes an adjustment for these 'switching' behaviours.</p>	<p>Analytical work in 2016 will compare 'intended' length of stay with 'actual' length of stay for both short-term and long-term migrants. The work will also look at the assumptions made within the switcher methodology (developed in the early 2000s) and identify if any improvements can be made, considering changes in migration patterns since the methodology was implemented.</p>
<p><b>Administrative data development</b> - It has long been known that the IPS is not a sufficient source for detailed analysis of characteristics of migrants, particularly at sub-national geographies. There are also relatively few alternative data sources that can be used to validate the IPS estimates, particularly for EU nationals not subject to immigration controls. Other countries (such as Australia, New Zealand and Canada) have linked their migration data with administrative sources and are in a much better position to understand the impact of migration on the</p>	<p>ONS is working with data suppliers to improve access to alternative sources and to improve them for migration analytical purposes. Examples are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. HESA are increasing the numbers of institutions covered in their data from 160 to 250 institutions;</li> <li>2. Using new HO 'exit check' data to triangulate HESA and ONS estimates</li> </ol>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/population-and-migration/international-migration-methodology/international-passenger-survey-quality-information-in-relation-to-migration-flows.pdf>

<p>economy and local services. If better use could be made of administrative sources in the UK, then we will be in a much improved position for understanding the impact of migration in the UK.</p>	<p>of student emigration;</p> <p>3. DfE are adding nationality and country of birth to the School Census from Sept 2016, which can help with local impacts</p> <p>4. Making better use of HMRC and DWP systems for migration analysis.</p>
<p><b>Local impacts of migration</b> - Better information on local area immigration was a key user requirement identified in the Migration Statistics Improvement Programme, resulting in the publication of the Local Area Migration Indicator Suite from 2009. While this provided more accessible data, the product does not address the need for better information on the impact of migration on services such as health, education, housing and transport in addition to the impact of migration on local economies. In addition, some local areas may be more affected by emigration.</p>	<p>ONS will look at updating a published Home Office 'typology' of local areas and will reassess which data sources can be used to identify the impact of migration in local areas. This work will be carried out collaboratively with DCLG, HO, CO and BIS and will use administrative data where possible. This work will be completed in stages, with CO requirements taking priority in 2016 and other work completing in 2017/18.</p>
<p><b>Circular migration</b> - Circular migration involves moves by individuals between two or more countries several times within a given time period. There is no internationally agreed definition of circular migration, although the Conference of European Statisticians have proposed a definition and the UK has volunteered to 'test' the proposed definition with existing sources. Circular migration will have an impact on local services and the labour market. It is difficult to identify and will present some challenges when comparing data sources since circular migrants are likely to appear on some and not others.</p>	<p>ONS is involved in UNECE work to develop a common definition of circular migration and will identify whether current data sources are suitable for producing data that meet the proposed definition. This work will also identify which enhancements are needed; most likely to better understand the impact of circular migration. This work is of a lower priority and may take place in 2017.</p>
<p><b>IPS and LFS / APS comparisons</b> - Some users (such as Migration Watch UK) have compared IPS estimates with changes in the LFS to make statements about the quality of the IPS. These sources measure different things (e.g. the LFS will include short term migrants) and are both subject to sampling error. ONS intends to do more work to explain the differences between the sources and why they may not show consistent results.</p>	<p>Work is already underway to better understand how these sources are measuring migration and how (if possible) they can be compared. This work will be published in a report November 2016.</p>



## Annex B – Developing the Quality of Migration Statistics

The quality of migration statistics continues to be a primary concern and addressing the priorities detailed in Annex A will result in a better understanding of the quality of these statistics and will deliver improvements under the dimensions of quality, as follows:

**B1 Relevance** - User needs on migration statistics tend to vary depending on different aspects of migration, for example some users (such as BIS and Treasury) are more interested in labour market migration and others (such as Universities UK) are more interested in student migration. Ensuring that migration statistics and analysis remains relevant is carried out via activities such as an annual Migration Statistics User Forum (September) and regularly meeting with the Cabinet Office and other government departments.

We are planning to identify how we can present short term migration statistics so that the impact of short term migration on population size can be better understood. We are also considering what guidance can be published on whether alternative breakdowns of net migration can be produced that exclude particular groups of migrants (e.g. students), which is of particular interest to Cabinet Office, HO and the Higher Education sector. Development work on administrative sources will hopefully also result in improvements on how we can meet the need for better information on local impacts of migration (as required by Cabinet Office and Local Authorities).

**B2 Accuracy** - There has been a lot of interest in the accuracy of the migration statistics, since it is the main source used to measure against the government's net migration target. The accuracy of the statistics has been publicly challenged by Jonathan Portes and in the PASC (2013) and PACAC (2016) hearings on migration statistics. Work on the quality of the IPS is ongoing and we have sourced new CAA data that can assist us in measuring the coverage of the IPS. Additionally, the methodology for adjusting migration figures for those who change their intentions will be reviewed, to ensure that assumptions within the methodology are still relevant given recent changes in migration patterns. Better use of administrative data will give significant benefits.

**B3 Timeliness** – In 2016, we will be considering the user need for increased timeliness of national short term migration estimates. The reference period is currently around two years before the publication date (since it is based on actual, rather than intended length of stay). However, it may be possible to develop statistics on short term intended length of stay (subject to a quality assessment).

**B4 Coherence** – Comparisons between sources continues to be a priority for migration analysis. Comparisons of data from HESA, HO visa data and ONS estimates were published in January 2016 on student migration and May 2016 saw the publication of the report comparing NINo figures with long and short term migration figures. Further work is planned to examine how the LFS and IPS identify labour migration and a collaborative report with the Home Office on the sources of family migration will be published this year.