UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

Minutes

Thursday 1 March 2018
Boardroom, London

Present
UK Statistics Authority
Sir David Norgrove (Chair)
Professor Sir Adrian Smith (Deputy Chair)
Mr Jonathan Athow
Ms Sian Jones
Professor David Hand
Professor Jonathan Haskel
Mr Ed Humpherson
Dr David Levy (by phone)
Mr John Pullinger

Also in attendance
Mr Nick Bateson (for item 8)
Mr Iain Bell
Mr Robert Bumpstead
Mr Joe Cuddeford
Mr Will Laffan (for item 10)
Ms Sarah Henry (for item 9)
Ms Heather Savory
Mr Ben Whitestone (for item 8)

Apologies
Dame Colette Bowe
Ms Nora Nanayakkara

1.   Apologies
1.1   Apologies were received from Dame Colette Bowe and Ms Nora Nanayakkara.

2.   Declarations of interest
2.1   There were no new declarations of interest.

3.   Minutes and matters arising from previous meetings
3.1   The minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 January 2018 were agreed.

4.   Report from the Authority Chair
4.1   The Chair reported on his recent activities since the last meeting which included:

   i.   An introductory meeting with the Minister for the Constitution, Chloe Smith MP.
   ii.   Interviews for new non-executive director appointments to the UK Statistics Authority Board.
   iii. A discussion about the future strategy for the UK statistical system beyond the current term of the Better Statistics, Better Decisions strategy.
   iv.   The Royal Statistical Society's annual President's Dinner.

5.   Report from the Chief Executive [SA(18)09]
5.1   Mr Pullinger provided an overview of activity and issues for February, highlighting that there had been a number of meetings in recent weeks which had demonstrated increasing levels of interest in the work of ONS. The following comments were made in the discussion.

   i.   The inaugural Analytical Function conference had been a success. Speakers had included Sue Owen, Permanent Secretary at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and Sir Jeremy Heywood, Cabinet Secretary.
   ii.   Four of the six key census procurements had been launched. A paper on the census was scheduled for the next meeting.
   iii. Professor Hand had presented a paper on the challenges of administrative data to an audience of government analysts on 28 February. The event had been convened by Sarah Henry on behalf of the Government Statistical Service (GSS).

6.   Report from the Director General for Regulation [SA(18)10]
6.1   Mr Humpherson provided an update on regulation activity since the last Board meeting.

6.2   The Board welcomed the news that the new Code of Practice for Statistics had been launched.

6.3   The meeting discussed the evolving landscape of data ethics across government and academia. As more data was used for a range of purposes it was important to have robust mechanisms for considering the ethical implications of new ways of using data. ONS had a well-established forum for consideration of ethical issues with regards to data used for statistics, via the National Statistician's Data Ethics Advisory Committee (NSDEC). It was important to be able to communicate clearly how using data to produce statistics for the public good had tangible value to the individual.

7.   Publishing on polling days [SA(18)11]
7.1   Mr Pullinger introduced a paper which provided a summary of responses to the recent consultation about publishing official statistics on polling days.

7.2   Having publicly consulted, Mr Pullinger proposed to change the policy so that, as soon as a national election or referendum was announced, any official statistics scheduled for publication on the polling day itself would be rescheduled to be published the following day.

7.3   The Board endorsed the new policy and agreed that it should be published.

8. Business plan [SA(18)12]

8.1 Mr Bateson and Mr Whitestone introduced a paper which provided an update on the development of the draft business plan for 2018/19 to 2020/21.

8.2 The Board discussed the draft performance indicators in the plan and how to ensure the right balance between business metrics, which were important for management purposes, and strategic metrics, which would enable the Board to track progress. It was agreed that the plan should start with a timeline of the top 20 milestones, complemented with the top strategic metrics which the Board would wish to focus on.

8.3 A final draft of the plan would be presented to the 22 March meeting of the Board.

9. Methods, Data and Research [SA(18)13]

9.1 Ms Henry introduced a paper which provided an overview and update on the establishment of the Methods, Data and Research directorate (MDR).

9.2 The Board welcomed the paper and discussed the following:

   i.   plans to make more data available to approved researchers;
   ii. the cultural challenges in changing the way methodology works in ONS to a function enabling transformation. This was a challenge but there were signs of improvement as the potential of talented staff was unlocked;
   iii. the need to create new methods for working with administrative data; and
   iv. the importance of well planned data architecture to provide a legacy of data systems which have longevity while also allowing for adaptability.

9.3 The Chair thanked Ms Henry and noted the Board was encouraged by progress made and plans ahead.

10. Update on Brexit and statistics

10.1 Mr Bumpstead and Mr Laffan provided an update on the implications of Brexit for the statistical system and the programme of work established in response.

10.2 A scenario-based planning approach was being taken to ensure that the UK statistical system was prepared for all eventualities. The Board considered the principles to guide statistics during the implementation period to ensure the continued provision of the necessary statistical information.

10.3 A set of principles had been adopted to ensure the UK statistical system was in good stead in all scenarios, including that the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 should remain the bedrock of the UK statistical system; there should continue to be flexibility to adapt to user needs and changing global standards; the relevant statistician should retain responsibility for timing, content and quality of outputs; protections for data confidentiality must be maintained; and provisions for secure data sharing for statistical purposes must be maintained.

10.4 The Board was mindful that EU nationals made up a significant and valued part of the workforce, and that these colleagues, and those with family members who were EU nationals, were facing a time of uncertainty as negotiations continued. The organisation was offering support to people in this situation and the Board welcomed this.

11. Any other business

11.1 There was no other business. The Authority Board would meet next on Thursday 22 March 2018 at 10:30 in Newport.

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Agenda

1 March 2018, 09:15 to 14:00

London

Chair: **Sir David Norgrove**
Apologies: **Ms Nora Nanayakkara**

09:15 – 09:45: Non-Executive Session

1 09:45-09:50 5 mins	Minutes and matters arising from previous meetings • Declarations of interest	Meeting of 25 January 2018
2 9:50-10:00 10 mins	Report from the Authority Chair	Oral report Sir David Norgrove
3 10:00-10:30 30 mins	Report from the Chief Executive	SA(18)09 Mr John Pullinger
4 10:30-10:50 20 mins	Report from the Director General for Regulation	SA(18)10 Mr Ed Humpherson
5 10:50-11:05 15 mins	Publishing on polling days	SA(18)11 Mr John Pullinger
6 11:05-11:45 40 mins	Business plan	SA(18)12 Mr Nick Bateson and Mr Ben Whitestone
7 11:45-12:15 30 mins	Methods, Data and Research	SA(18)13 Ms Sarah Henry
8 12:15-12:45 30 mins	Update on Brexit and statistics	Discussion Mr Rob Bumpstead and Mr Will Laffan
9 12:45-13:00 15 mins	Any other business	

13:00 – 14:00: Lunch

Next meeting: 22 March 2018, Newport, 10:30 to 16:00

Supplementary Information

10	Integrated Performance and Finance Report	Information paper
11	Correspondence: i. Sir David Norgrove and Sir Keir Starmer: EU financial contributions ii. Sir David Norgrove and First Minister Carwyn Jones: A&E statistics iii. Ed Humpherson and Mark Svenson: A&E statistics iv. Ed Humpherson and Simon Stevens: Mental health spending v. Sir David Norgrove to Ms Debbie Abrahams MP: Universal Credit	

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Chief Executive's Report, February 2018

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

Summary
2. The focus has been firmly on finances as we approach the end of the financial year. Having reviewed the position at the end of Month 10, we remain confident that we will end the year in a balanced position.

Review of recent activities
3. We held the first conference for the Analytical Function on the 31 January. Speakers included Sue Owen, Permanent Secretary at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) who spoke positively about her career as an economist in academia and government; and Sir Jeremy Heywood, Cabinet Secretary, who spoke about the importance of all analysts in government to provide impartial, factual advice to Ministers and the opportunities that the data revolution provides to help this.

4. There has also been renewed coverage of the use of RPI in various forms, driven by February being the month that mobile phone operators uprate their tariffs, Mark Carney's appearance in front of the Lords Economic Affairs Committee, and the result of a court case on BT's pension scheme. We remain clear in our reporting that RPI is not a good measure of inflation and does not have the potential to become one.

5. Other developments include the following.

    i. We have announced a change in the day of the week that Labour Market Statistics and Prices are published, to Tuesdays and Wednesdays respectively, in order to ensure these statistics better meet the needs of users.

    ii. Noteworthy statistical releases this month include: an updated look at the role of intangible assets and hours worked in productivity statistics; a release focussing on the characteristics of self-employment; a new analysis of characteristics of young people who have been Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) for 12 months three years after completing key stage 4; analysis of house prices based on housing stocks rather than flows; and experimental statistics release using real time information (RTI) from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs to look at the labour market.

    iii. We organised and held a meeting with the devolved administrations and Cabinet Office to discuss statistical system preparedness and response to leaving the European Union. We have also held all staff talks on the preparations underway.

    iv. Ran training for policy makers from the Department for Exiting the European Union, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Ministry of Defence in '10 things you need to know about statistics'.

    v. Iain Bell and Emma Rourke appeared before the Women and Equalities committee to give evidence on the Race Disparity Audit. They talked about the opportunities that the Census and administrative data would provide to improve the evidence available to decision makers.

    vi. Analysts from across government hosted a visit from the Japanese government as part of their preparations for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

vii. Applications for the UK Statistics Authority/Royal Statistical Society official statistics award opened, looking for examples of good practice in official statistics from across the statistical system. The closing date for entries is 31 March.

viii. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Ordnance Survey and ONS. This will underpin a programme of joint working to improve the integration of geospatial and statistical data to help provide better insight to inform public policy. This is further discussed under item 7.

ix. We have launched four of the six key census procurements, covering recruitment pay and training of field staff; printing, dispatch and processing of paper questionnaires; post-back of paper questionnaires; and the public contact centre. Two further procurements for print and post out of other paper materials and provision of field force supplies are on track for release over the next 2 months. Initial interest from suppliers has been good.

Future look
6. Jointly with the Department for International Development, we are hosting the Global Partnership for sustainable Data for Development data festival in Bristol, where the agenda includes a visit for all 150 high level international delegates to Newport. We continue planning for celebrating 10 years of the UK Statistics Authority. Further, we are supporting departments in implementation of the new Code of Practice for Statistics.

John Pullinger, 22 February 2018

Report from the Director General for Regulation

Purpose
1. This paper provides an update on regulation activity since the last Board meeting.

Recommendation
2. Members of the Board are invited to note the activities and proposed actions.

Discussion
3. Key activities include:

   i. **Code of Practice for Statistics:** We published the Code of Practice on 22 February. This was a major milestone for the Authority's regulatory function. The Code was published as a pdf (with a small number of printed copies) and also in an interactive format that allows users to focus in on specific practices, with supporting guidance. We supplemented this with:

      a. a press statement with quotes from Sir David, John Pullinger and me;
      b. letters to key Parliamentarians;
      c. letters to Permanent Secretaries from John, copied to Heads of Profession;
      d. emails from me to Heads of Profession;
      e. emails from my team to the named statisticians responsible for each of the 863 National Statistics;
      f. a blog from me on how the independent production of statistics embodies the highest standards of the Civil Service;
      g. the diagnostic tool created by Professor Haskel;
      h. a series of tweets, and four short videos explaining the key concepts in the Code; and
      i. a draft guide to voluntary adoption.

      We also provided a range of materials to Heads of Profession (slides, one-page briefs etc) to support their roll-out of the Code within their Departments, including to the senior policy makers, communications professionals and Permanent Secretaries.

      The provision of an interactive Code is a key new resource, and we are encouraging people to use this format rather than the traditional pdf format.

      I will update the Board in due course on the uptake and reaction to the Code.

   ii. **Scottish Economic data:** The Scottish Parliament's Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee published its report on economic statistics. Following our input and advice, the Committee recommended:

      a. the abolition of Pre-Release Access to market sensitive statistics published by the Scottish Government; and
      b. the voluntary adoption of the new Code by a range of bodies that publish data in Scotland, both inside and outside the public sector.

   iii. **Business Plan:** We have closed the consultation on our business plan and work programme and will update the Regulation Committee in March, and follow up with the Board on 22 March.

iv. **Health casework:** We continue to address a series of issues relating to health statistics in England and Scotland:

    a. We secured a significant impact from our comments on changes in recording practice in England, including revised guidance from NHS Improvement, and NHS England publishing much clearer breakdowns of different types of A&E provision.

    b. We are finalising our judgement on the National Statistics status of Scotland's A&E statistics, in the light of misreporting by NHS Lothian.

    c. David replied to a complaint from the First Minister of Wales on comparisons made by the Prime Minister between England and Wales performance. We agreed that the comparisons were not valid, but also emphasised the broader point about the need for clearer statistical guidance on what can and cannot be compared.

    d. We have reviewed and commented publicly on a range of issues relating to mental health, including funding and staffing, and are investigating a complaint from the Liberal Democrat's health spokesman on the performance of early intervention services for psychosis.

v. **Data confidentiality casework:** We are finalising a long-running case about the Department for Education's (DfE) management and use of the National Pupil Database. Our conclusion is that Database is a hugely important statistical asset, and that DfE needs to focus more on communicating to the public about the protection of child-level data held within the database.

4. The main challenges are:

i. Supporting the Code roll-out: While the roll-out is as much the responsibility of the GSS as it is for my team, we are happy to support the roll-out by presenting at other people's events. We are already receiving a number of requests, which we will look to support them wherever possible.

ii. We continue to get a number of items of health casework, and we are having to reallocate team members on to health issues to manage this.

iii. We are mid-way through our recruitment round to respond to staff turnover. For the first quarter of 2018 we have been stretched and will continue to be as we first recruit then induct 3-4 new staff members.

5. The dashboard summary of regulatory activities is at **Annex A**.

Ed Humpherson, Director General for Regulation, 22 February 2018

List of Annexes

Annex A   Regulatory Activities

Regulatory Activities February 2018

Economy	Health and social care	Business, industry, energy and trade	Crime and justice
• **Report of the Scottish Parliament Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Cttee on Economic Data** published. It drew on our advice and recommended abolition of Pre Release Access to the Scottish Government's economic statistics, and advocated voluntary adoption of the new Code. • **Regional GVA:** Completed our user feedback on the new ONS Regional GVA Balanced Estimates. • **Productivity:** Started work on updating the findings of the March 2015 seminar on productivity puzzle. • **UK House Price Index**: Ongoing dialogue with the team to discuss progress on addressing requirements from Assessment. Proposal for NS designation to be presented to June Regulation Committee.	• **Systemic Review:** Published our summary of the health and social care conference. • **Assessments:** ONS has requested an assessment of cancer survival and avoidable mortality statistics. We have been looking at data quality issues in Scottish A&E statistics, where we plan to make a public statement on whether National Statistics status should be suspended. • **Casework:** Sir David has written to the First Minister of Wales confirming the Prime Minister's comparison in parliament of Welsh and English accident and emergency (A&E) waiting times was not valid. Ed Humpherson has written to NHS England asking for better information on the changes to A&E recording and better mental health spending data.	• **UK Trade:** ONS published an article on trade asymmetries on 29th Jan. ONS's new trade system coming on-line with errors in production virtually eradicated. Case for re-designation to be presented at March Reg Comm. • **Construction Output and Prices statistics:** Three main issues being addressed; 1. Revision bias in new output series. 2. Coherence of Construction New Orders series, with Construction Output and regional perspectives. 3. Appetite to take forward a Construction Satellite account with BEIS. Evidence for re-designation expected after June.	• **Police Recorded Crime:** ONS's latest crime bulletin addressed the concerns we raised in December about the presentation of PRC statistics; inspection reports continue to identify problems with forces under-recording crime. • **Assessment:** Scottish Crime & Justice Survey assessment requirements met; ONS fraud statistics assessment complete. • **Engagement:** Keynote lecture at Nottingham Trent University social science conference 27 Feb.
Labour market	**Housing, planning and local services**	**Children, education and skills**	**Travel, transport and tourism**
• **Income/Earnings:** Meeting with stakeholders from ONS, HMRC and DWP on 26th Feb to discuss next phase of Income and Earnings review. • **Casework:** Published letter in response to alleged misuse of Universal Credit statistics by Labour Party. New casework on ONS Effects of Taxes and Benefits on household income statistics in progress.	• **Assessments:** Reviewing evidence for assessment of Welsh Housing Conditions Survey. Ongoing follow-up with producers of Northern Ireland Housing Conditions Survey, to feedback on draft statistics report ahead of publication in May. • **Compliance Checks:** Continued dialogue with ONS about ongoing compliance check of Household Projections in England. Progressing checks for MHCLG's new build dwellings, net additional dwellings and dwelling stock statistics. • **Systemic reviews:** Ongoing dialogue with ONS who are leading collaborative work across GSS to improve housing statistics in response to review. Expecting action plan in April 2018.	• **Innovation Systemic Review:** Interviews almost complete. Review on schedule for completion end of March. • **Skills Systemic Review:** Initial research and user engagement ongoing to shape scope of longer term project. • **Casework:** 3 open casework cases: a complex piece on DfE's data privacy arrangements, a piece on Progress 8 statistics and one on the use of pupil funding figures by the Secretary of State in the HoC.	• **Compliance check:** Reviewed DfT's Search and Rescue statistics. • **Passenger Survey:** Engaged with Transport Focus to improve the presentation of Rail Passenger Survey.
Population	**Culture and identity**	**Security, defence and intl relations**	**Agriculture and environment**
• **Migration:** The Roundtable report was published on 12 February 2018	• No significant activity	• No significant activity.	• No significant activity

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SA(18)11

Publishing on Polling Days

This document has been published on the UK Statistics Authority website.

The document is available at:

https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/gsspolicy/gss-policy-on-publishing-official-statistics-on-polling-days/

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

Business Plan

This document will be published on the UK Statistics Authority website in due course.

The document will be available at:

https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/strategy-and-business-plan/

SA(18)13

Methods, Data and Research – the first year

Purpose

1. This paper provides an overview and update on the establishment of the Methods, Data and Research directorate (MDR).

Recommendations

2. Members of the Authority Board are invited to:

    i.   note the progress made in establishing MDR since April 2017;
    ii. endorse the strategic direction; and
    iii. support data acquisition activities, development of non-survey data methods and promotion of the Secure Research Service.

Background

3. MDR was established in April 2017, bringing together the activities that underpin *Better Statistics, Better Decisions* statistical infrastructure, namely:

    i.   data acquisition;
    ii. preparing data for statistical production;
    iii. statistical methodology and good practice; and
    iv. strengthening and widening secure access to data.

4. At directorate level, the key achievements to date have been:

    i.   embedding of Data as a Service (DaaS);
    ii. creating a Data Architecture (DA) team;
    iii. development of a methodology programme of work (including for the census programme);
    iv. enhancing capability on Best Practice and Impact (BPI); and
    v.   improved governance and transparency for Research Services and Data Access (RSDA).

Discussion

5. The following sections outline the remit of each of the five divisions that comprise MDR, highlighting selected key activities and plans.

Data as a Service (DaaS) led by Lucy Vickers

6. The Digital Economy Act (DEA) provides for data to be used for research and statistical purposes. It enables a step change in the scale and pace in which data can be acquired. DaaS leads the corporate effort to bring in data from external sources for statistical production and exploratory analysis.

7. The process managed in DaaS includes working with users to understand their needs for data, leading negotiations with data suppliers, physically bringing in the datasets, placing them in secure environments, providing access and preparing the data for statistical production, namely cleaning, linking and matching. The DaaS service also develops innovative new products and ways of using data for example, for the development of sampling frames.

8. Despite the steady increase in resource, meeting demand remains the key challenge for the team, compounded by a steep learning curve for all involved – ONS, data suppliers and the team itself. A steadier state is expected to follow once the DEA codes are agreed and Data Suppliers are more used to making their data available.

9. Highlighted key achievements include:

    i. Development of data partnerships with a range of commercial and government organisations, bringing in over 120 datasets including PAYE Real Time Information, working collaboratively with HMRC.

    ii. Bringing in our first significant commercial data acquisitions (including from Vodafone).

    iii. Developing the Integrated Data Enabling Analysis and Statistics (IDEAS) proof of concept. IDEAS will provide linked data for statistical production while ensuring ONS does not hold one single dataset that includes all data. It is therefore critical in ensuring proportionality and public trust.

10. Key plans for 2018/19 include:

    i. bringing in strategic datasets to support the production of migration and trade Statistics;

    ii. supporting key economic statistics and census deliverables; and

    iii. developing IDEAS for use in mainstream statistical production and analysis.

Data Architecture (DA) led by Tomas Sanchez

11. DA is a new function that will ensure the data assets held by ONS adhere to agreed modern standards and good practice so that they can be used across the office more effectively. DA covers geospatial data, classifications and registers as well as data collected from surveys and administrative data. This function is fundamental to transformation and delivery of the Data Access Platform, ensuring that the silos that exist in legacy systems are not replicated in the new environment.

12. DA is being set up against the backdrop of established transformation. Catching up, delivering at pace and ensuring a modern architecture are intertwined challenges.

13. Highlighted key achievements include:

    i. Creation of the Geospatial Hub: https://geospatialhub.ons.statistics.gov.uk/portal/home/

    ii. Establishing a data architecture branch.

    iii. Developing an address matching service and an administrative data based Business Index as a foundation for the Statistical Business Register.

14. Key plans for 2018/19 include:

    i. completing and embedding a Data Strategy (governance, metadata, standards and data management) which will include geospatial data;

    ii. cementing a cross-government Data Architecture Network; and

    iii. leading the strategic relationship with Ordnance Survey, underpinned by the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between our two organisations (at **Annex A**).

Methodology, led by Rachel Skentelbery

15. The Methodology division provides methodological advice and support, ensuring statistical production is underpinned by sound statistical theory, research methods and computing. The division supports the entire production cycle covering both current production and transformation.

16. Methodology will play a central role in developing and embedding new methods that enable statistically reliable use of administrative data ensuring methodological transparency and reproducibility. To do so, the division will work in partnership with academia and the private sector, mobilising collective effort to address some of the most challenging mathematical issues faced by statisticians using new sources of data.

17. Highlighted key achievements include:

    i.   Development of methods for a VAT minimum viable product and transformed short term statistics.
    ii.   Programme of work for census methodology development, including the testing of questions for the 2021 census, development of an editing strategy and early consideration of disclosure risks.
    iii.   Research and analysis to support other government departments through the ONS Methodology Advisory Service (MAS).

18. Key plans for 2018/19 include leading a collaborative partnership to develop administrative data methods and building the Government Statistical Service (GSS) methods library that will enable consistent use of these methods. The challenge is to manage an ambitious work programme that drives increased use of additional sources of data while ensuring ongoing support for existing work. To achieve a revised focus, the programme will include knowledge transfer to other directorates thus releasing capacity to focus on new work.

Best Practice and Impact (BPI) led by Julie Stanborough

19. This is a new division which will lead ONS efforts to embed methodological best practice across the GSS. The division brings together the work of the Good Practice Team, the Quality Centre, the Harmonisation team and the Methodology Advisory Service to provide a coherent 'offer' for the GSS. Its aims are to provide strategic direction, build capability, share best practice, set standards, monitor and assess progress, develop tools and guidance and provide a consultancy function for the whole of the GSS. It works closely with other teams focused on supporting the GSS as well as the enhanced work with Heads of Profession, led by the Deputy National Statistician for Population and Public Policy (Iain Bell).

20. Highlighted key achievements:
    i.   Delivered 55 training events for more than 1,100 analysts and 5 workshops on statistical literacy for 120 Policy Professionals.
    ii.   Supporting the Cabinet Office Race Disparity Audit team on compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics, communication of uncertainty and data sources.
    iii.   Supported producers in mitigation of 29 breaches of the Code of Practice.
    iv.   Completed methodology projects for the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) on Gross Value Added (GVA) and employment multipliers, together with seasonal adjustment for construction time series.

21. Key plans for 2018/19 include:
    i.   providing strategic direction and building capability;
    ii.   delivering the National Statistics Quality Review (NSQR) of Data Privacy and Confidentiality methods;
    iii.   delivering a review of the way the GSS collects, classifies, and disseminates information on cultural background;
    iv.   facilitating GSS departments to deliver an 'innovation' workshop for John Pullinger;
    v.   setting standards on harmonisation and quality reporting best practice; and
    vi.   working with the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) and the GSS Statistics Policy and Standards Committee (SPSC) to develop GSS guidance on the new Code of Practice.

Research Services and Data Access (RSDA) led by Pete Stokes

22. This branch is currently being transformed into a division to drive the planned increased support to researchers and to manage the associated investment.

23. The team is responsible for managing external use of disclosive ONS data for statistical and research purposes. This includes managing data sharing with other government departments, and managing the Secure Research Service, enabling researchers to

access data for 'public good' research in a safe setting. This includes the award winning Five Safes framework – ensuring safe people, safe projects, safe settings, safe outputs and safe data combine to enable research use of detailed, record-level, data.

24. Highlighted key achievements include:

    i.   significant improvements to governance and transparency of all sharing of unpublished ONS data across government;
    ii. over performing on the number of anticipated projects in the Secure Research Service;
    iii. working with Digital Services and Technology (DST) directorate to pilot remote access outside of central government, for the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) and Greater London Authority (GLA) initially; and
    iv. running the oversubscribed Impact Event, showcasing research projects enabled by the service this year.

25. Key plans for 2018/19 include further investment in the Secure Research Service to enable wider researcher access to data, including linked administrative data. This will include improvement in the application process, which will become more user friendly online and transition from the current infrastructure to a contract which will enable significantly more projects and easier connectivity for researchers.

Sarah Henry, Director of Methods, Data and Research, 22 February 2018

List of Annexes

Annex A   Memorandum of Understanding between ONS and Ordnance Survey

An ambitious partnership programme between ONS and OS – Memorandum of Understanding

Background and Purpose

ONS is the executive office of the UK Statistics Authority, a non-ministerial department which reports directly to Parliament. OS is the national mapping agency for Great Britain.

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to provide a mutually beneficial framework that both ONS and OS can work within to achieve shared goals as part of an ambitious partnership programme.

The Vision

The potential benefits of an ambitious, long-term partnership programme between ONS, the UK's recognised national statistical institute, and OS, Great Britain's national mapping agency, are many.

Improving the integration of geospatial and statistical information will provide better insight to inform public sector policy – a key goal and deliverable shared by both organisations. Joint engagement with the wider digital community will deliver better access to public sector data for businesses, academics and others through a variety of means, including access to data (open or controlled).

A closer relationship where both organisations share ideas can bring organisational efficiency and help promote innovation with data.

An ambitious partnership should also extend internationally, where both parties' respected brands and tradecraft developed domestically can provide a 'springboard' from which the parties can be a global exemplar of close collaboration between a National Statistics Institute (NSI) and a National Mapping Agency (NMA).

Strategic and tactical workstreams

ONS and OS intend to collaborate on the strategic and tactical workstreams, both domestic and international, described below. For each workstream identified below, each of ONS and OS will nominate one individual to lead on liaising with the other party to deliver the relevant workstream

Workstream	Opportunities
Innovation and outreach	Work together with others across government to promote a strong community of interest in geography and geospatial data (including GeoPlace). ONS to promote themselves and their data resources at regular Geovation 'show and tell' sessions. Joint OS/ONS 'Geovation Challenges' that encourage innovative ideas and learning around the integration of geospatial and statistical information. Extend Geovation 'incubator platform' to ONS.
Data Architecture and platforms	Collaboration on data architecture tools, capabilities and technologies to enable improved geospatial data access and data linkages. Collaborate on interoperable data and metadata standards that will allow end users to better integrate geospatial and statistical information. *Recent use cases where collaboration in these areas and easier access to data would have been beneficial are:* - *Joint OS/ONS work on Natural Capital analysis* - *Co-development of joint statistical/geographical data product for local industrial strategy development* Build on ONS's Secure Research Service – to investigate whether this platform would give OS greater opportunity to deliver improved access to OS MasterMap and other new alpha and beta products across government and research users
Data Science and joint research	Collaborate on joint data science and research projects to support both ONS and OS objectives to deliver improved services to users. Data Science projects could be aligned to the ONS Data Science Campus (DSC) project pipeline. *Example projects might be:* *Mapping the 'urban forest'* - *Satellite imagery analysis to identify and monitor land cover and land use* - *Public service accessibility and road network modelling/analysis* Work collaboratively to play more of a leadership role driving forward the Government Data Science Partnership and in turn build data science skills and capability.
Co-development of joint statistical/ geographical	Co-develop joint statistical/geographical microdata products and analysis that supports the development and implementation of key government policy including Natural Capital and local industrial strategy development.

microdata products and analysis	*An example project might be the development of retail boundaries to support the industrial strategy.* *Other areas of focus could include migration, trade, business investment and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the UK.*

Workstream	Opportunities
International Strategic commitment to align representative and engagement activities in bodies such as the UN and OGC to ensure a consistent approach and demonstrate effectiveness and value of integrated geospatial and statistical policies in the UK, acting as ambassadors for such an approach internationally. This does not exclude other international activity where ONS or OS are involved separately.	Jointly explore opportunities for collaborative international projects both within and outside the EU. *Examples include* - *UN GGIM* - *OGC* - *UN Global Platform* - *Eurostat* Including: • developing international open standards • providing support for improved use of geospatial data in statistics
Europe	To explore potential funding available from Eurostat to develop collaborative workstreams that require the integration of geospatial and statistical information. ONS and OS look to jointly host (and present at) the European Forum for Geography and Statistics (EFGS) in 2019 Promote collaborative working at future European Commission GIS Committee (GISCO)

Behaviours and communications

Both parties commit to:

Collaborative and co-operative behaviour

Demonstrate positive and pro-active collaborative behaviours in order to develop an effective and coherent relationship based on the best use of respective strengths, appropriate risk and mutual benefit.

<u>Effective communication</u>

Openly and freely share knowledge and information to ensure that each party is aware of information relevant to the delivery of the workstreams identified in this Memorandum of Understanding.

Term

This Memorandum of Understanding will commence on the date of signature, and will be reviewed by the parties on an annual basis. Either party may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding on one month's notice for any reason.

Financial arrangements

Each party will bear its own costs in relation to negotiating and entering into this Memorandum of Understanding. Where appropriate, the parties may enter into contractual arrangements to govern their activities under one or more of the workstreams identified above.

Status of Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding sets out the intentions and expectations of both parties, but is not a legally binding agreement. This Memorandum of Understanding does not replace or affect any contractual agreement between the parties.

Signed for and on behalf of the **Office for National Statistics**		Signed for and on behalf of **Ordnance Survey Limited**	
Signature	*J.J.P.*	Signature	*Smith.*
Name	JOHN PULLINGER	Name	N. CLIFFORD.
Title	NATIONAL STATISTICIAN	Title	CEO OS.
Date	20/2/18	Date	20. 2. 2018.