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**Iain Bell** | Deputy National Statistician and Director General  
for Population & Public Policy

Stephen Twigg MP  
Chair, International Development Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

27 September 2019

Dear Mr Twigg,

I write in response to the International Development Committee's call for evidence for the inquiry *UK Government support for Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace and Justice)*.

As the Committee are aware, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) is the UK's National Statistical Institute, and largest producer of official statistics. We aim to provide a firm evidence base for sound decisions, and develop the role of official statistics in democratic debate. The ONS is responsible for sourcing and reporting UK data for the Sustainable Development Goal indicators on behalf of the UK Government.

The ONS provided written evidence<sup>1</sup> to the Committee's previous inquiry on the Sustainable Development Goals in early 2019. In response to the Committee's new inquiry on this topic, the following short note provides an update on our work in the specific area of Goal 16.

I hope this evidence is helpful to the Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Yours sincerely,



**Iain Bell**

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<sup>1</sup> [ONS Written Evidence: UK Progress in the SDGs, February 2019](#)

## Office for National Statistics – Written Evidence to the International Development Committee: UK Government support for SDG 16 inquiry (September 2019)

### Background and the ONS role

1. As the UK's national statistical institute, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for the reporting of data which enables regular monitoring of UK progress towards the 244 global Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators. The comprehensive framework for SDGs fits with our Better Statistics, Better Decisions strategy<sup>2</sup>, which sets out the official statistics system collective mission of providing high quality statistics, analysis and advice to better inform policymaking. Sourcing and analysing data for the SDGs which covers the economy, environment and society, and is also broken down to show a more complete picture for the UK, will enable better-evidenced policy decisions.
2. We are:
  - Sourcing the appropriate UK data for the global indicators.
  - Providing data to the international organisations responsible for each indicator, known as Custodian Agencies, who are responsible for reporting the data to the United Nations.
  - Analysing the data so that it can be understood in context.
  - Making the data available to everybody through the development of an online tool and supporting reports.

### Progress and developments from the ONS since last SDGs inquiry

3. Since the publication of the Committee's report on '*UK progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Voluntary National Review*' (VNR) in July 2019, the ONS has made significant progress in the reporting and analysis of the SDGs, sourcing the appropriate UK data for the global indicators, putting that data into context and making that data available to everyone.
4. Within the ONS supported the UK government to deliver its first VNR, ensuring the process was underpinned by information and data, which were reported from a range of sources, including:
  - a. The ONS' National Reporting Platform, an online tool capturing UK data on the UN's Global Indicators.
  - b. Other government sources to fill in the gaps between UK data and the Global Indicators, to help provide a fuller picture of UK progress towards the Goals.
  - c. Non-government sources to provide further objectivity and context.Within each goal specific chapter, including the one for Goal 16, data picture boxes were also used to help illustrate progress<sup>3</sup>.
5. Since the publication of the VNR, the ONS has continued to update and increase the number of indicators for which we report data. As of September 2019, data are reported for 182 (75%) of the global SDG indicators. This is one of the highest proportions in the world. Headline UK data are reported for all of the Global Indicators that underpin three of the Goals (Goal 5, Goal 7 and Goal 13).
6. Over 70% of the 182 reported Global Indicators have data for at least one disaggregation such as sex, age, or geographic location, reaffirming the UK's commitment and efforts to 'Leave No One Behind'. The ONS are an Inclusive Data Charter (IDC) champion and embedded within the team are two technical advisors who have a role in making the SDG data more inclusive.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> [Better Statistics, Better Decisions strategy](#)

<sup>3</sup> [UK's Voluntary National Review of the Sustainable Development Goals](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Inclusive Data Charter](#)

7. All data are published and publicly available via our National Reporting Platform (NRP)<sup>5</sup>. The site is based on the open source 'Open SDG'<sup>6</sup> platform. The Open SDG platform is the result of collaboration between the US Government, the ONS, and the nonprofit Center For Open Data Enterprise (CODE). Countries including Rwanda, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Germany, Jamaica, Poland and Namibia have already adopted and are benefiting from our approach.
8. The UK is also collaborating with other countries to develop statistical capacity and share expertise, and to help others measure progress towards the Goals. Across networks of analysts, the UK is committed to finding innovative solutions to the measurement challenges all countries face in monitoring progress on this ambitious agenda.
9. We will publish the report *Sustainable Development Goals in the UK, an update on progress: November 2019* on 7 November 2019, which will review progress and set out our plans for the coming year. It will include an update on progress and future plans in relation to: data acquisition (highlighting that we are now able to report data for 75% of headline indicators); the ONS Inclusive Data Charter Action Plan and the challenges surrounding sourcing disaggregated data; improvements to the data platform, including a programme of user testing, as well as the adoption of the site by other countries this year; engagement and reporting to explain and make publicly available analysis of the SDG data; and data innovations, such as the development of automated data acquisition, and further use of geo-spatial techniques. We will send the Committee a copy of the report when published.

## Goal 16 – Peace and Justice

10. We are currently reporting headline data for 16 of the 23 global SDG indicators underpinning Goal 16 – Peace and Justice. The seven indicators for which we are not reporting are:
  - i. 16.2.1 - Proportion of children aged 1-17 who experienced any physical punishment and/or aggression by caregivers in the past month
  - ii. 16.2.2 - Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 of the population by age, sex and form of exploitation
  - iii. 16.4.1 - Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current US dollars)
  - iv. 16.4.2 - Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments
  - v. 16.6.1 - Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)
  - vi. 16.8.1 - Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations
  - vii. 16.10.1 - Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months

A detailed summary of Goal 16 indicators with current sources is provided at Annex A.

11. Working in close collaboration with topic experts, which include the ONS Centre for Crime and Justice, efforts are ongoing to improve the provision and quality of data reported. The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) is an important data source for Goal 16. It provides a better reflection of the extent of household and personal crime than police recorded statistics because the

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<sup>5</sup> [National Reporting Platform](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Open SDG Platform](#)

survey includes crimes that are not reported to, or recorded by, the police. The survey is also a better indicator of long-term trends because it is unaffected by changes in levels of reporting to the police or police recording practices. For example, the Centre have provided where possible, SDG crime indicators broken down by: ethnicity; sex; age; disability; country of birth; region; and household income. The availability of detailed disaggregated data for all indicators is limited by the current sample size of the CSEW. The ONS are also working in partnership with the Devolved Administrations to improve the availability of data for the whole of the UK.

12. A key focus has also been on indicators for which data are not currently provided. This includes indicators on modern slavery, human trafficking and child exploitation. The ONS Centre for Crime and Justice have made progress exploring research methods and identifying data sources to support these indicators. Stakeholders including the Home Office's Modern Slavery Unit and Bernard Silverman, a leading academic expert on modern slavery, helped shape the research. There are plans to publish an article discussing an approach to measuring modern slavery using proxy indicators in Spring 2020. This article will represent an important milestone as we look to report data for indicator 16.2.2.
13. In order to meet the challenge of providing disaggregated data it will be necessary to consider the viability of using non-official data sources, including qualitative and citizen generated data. The ONS SDG team are looking to establish robust criteria to understand the quality of these data sources and provide users with transparent assessment of the strengths and limitations of the data.
14. Focusing specifically on crime data around children, the ONS Centre for Crime and Justice will publish a new compendium in January 2020 bringing together available data on child abuse (including abuse experienced by adults when they were children) from a range of data sources. Work is also underway to assess the feasibility of undertaking a prevalence survey of current levels of child abuse. This will help to fill data gaps for indicator 16.2.1.
15. Of the remaining five indicators which the UK are currently not reporting data for, the ONS are continually working across the GSS to improve the data provision. We are actively investigating the viability of sources to report against these indicators and will update the Committee on our progress at the end of March 2020.
16. The ONS will continue to engage with the Praia Group on Governance Statistics. The group, set up in 2015, provides an invaluable opportunity to address the issues of conceptualization, methodology and instruments in the domain of governance statistics.

## Annex A: Detailed summary of Goal 16 indicators

Indicator name	Actual indicator reported	Most recent data	Reported breakdowns
<a href="#"><u>16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age</u></a>	Number of victims of homicide per 100,000 population	1.24 per hundred thousand 2017/18, England and Wales	Age, sex, region, police force area
<a href="#"><u>16.1.2 Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause</u></a>	Conflict-related deaths per million population	0.0151 per million population 2018, UK	
<a href="#"><u>16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to (a) physical violence, (b) psychological violence and (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months</u></a>	Proportion of population subjected to physical and sexual violence in the previous 12 months	Physical violence (includes wounding, assault with minor injury and assault without injury): 1.75% Sexual violence (refers to any sexual assault including attempts): 2.7% 2017/18, England and Wales	Sex, ethnicity, violence type, age, household income, disability status, region, highest qualification.
<a href="#"><u>16.1.4 Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live</u></a>	Proportion of population who feel safe walking alone after dark	75.2% 2017/18, England and Wales	Ethnicity, sex, age, disability status, country of birth, region, household income.
<a href="#"><u>16.2.1 Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month</u></a>	Currently not reported by the UK		
<a href="#"><u>16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation</u></a>	Currently not reported by the UK		
<a href="#"><u>16.2.3 Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18</u></a>	Proportion of adults aged 18 to 29 years who experienced abuse as a child before the age of 16	16% 2015/16, England and Wales	Abuse category, sex
<a href="#"><u>16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms</u></a>	Percentage of Crime Survey for England and Wales incidents of violence reported to the police	44.3% 2018/19, England and Wales	Type of violence

<a href="#"><u>16.3.2 Unsented detainees as a proportion of overall prison population</u></a>	Prison population remanded in custody, as a proportion of overall prison population	11.1% 2019 Q1, England and Wales	Sex, age, nationality
<a href="#"><u>16.4.1 Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars)</u></a>	Currently not reported by the UK		
<a href="#"><u>16.4.2 Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments</u></a>	Currently not reported by the UK		
<a href="#"><u>16.5.1 Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months</u></a>	Number of corruption related offences	20 2019 Q1, England and Wales	Corruption offence type
<a href="#"><u>16.5.2 Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months</u></a>	Number of corruption related offences	20 2019 Q1, England and Wales	Corruption offence type
<a href="#"><u>16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)</u></a>	Currently not reported by the UK		
<a href="#"><u>16.6.2 Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services</u></a>	Average quality rating of public services	6.31, mean quality rating of public services, 2016, UK	Sex, age, region, income quartile, disability status, country of birth
<a href="#"><u>16.7.1 Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions</u></a>	Employment by age and gender	84.2% 2016, UK	Country, region, sector, age, sex

<a href="#"><u>16.7.2 Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group</u></a>	Percentage of population agreeing they can influence decisions affecting their local area	25% 2018/19, England	Sex, age, ethnicity, disability status, region, urbanisation, citizenship, household income
<a href="#"><u>16.8.1 Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations</u></a>	Currently not reported by the UK		
<a href="#"><u>16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age</u></a>	Percentage of births that have been registered with a civil authority	100% 2010-2016, UK	
<a href="#"><u>16.10.1 Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months</u></a>	Currently not reported by the UK		
<a href="#"><u>16.10.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information</u></a>	Relevant UK policies (not exhaustive list)	Freedom of Information Act 2000 The Environmental Information Regulations 2004 The Data Protection Act 2018	
<a href="#"><u>16.a.1 Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles</u></a>	Relevant UK policies (not exhaustive list)	Human Rights Report Fulfilling the Paris Principles	
<a href="#"><u>16.b.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law</u></a>	Proportion of population who were victims of hate crime	0.162% 2015/16 to 2017/18, England and Wales	Type of hate crime, sex, age, ethnicity, disability status, household income, area type.