

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

Minutes
Thursday 30 September 2021
Queen Elizabeth House, Edinburgh

Present

UK Statistics Authority

Sir David Norgrove (Chair)
Sian Jones (Deputy Chair)
Professor Sir John Aston
Sam Beckett
Helen Boaden
Robert Bumpstead
Professor Sir Ian Diamond
Richard Dobbs
Professor Jonathan Haskel
Ed Humpherson
Nora Nanayakkara
Professor Sir David Spiegelhalter

Also in attendance

Jonathan Athow
Nick Bateson
Owen Brace
Roger Halliday (for item 2)
Vanessa Holden (for item 14)
Sally-Ann Jones (Secretariat)
Alistair McAlpine (for item 2)
Alison Pritchard
Ross Tivey
Peter Whitehouse (for item 2)

Apologies

Professor Anne Trefethen

- 1. Introduction and welcome**
 - 1.1 Ed Humpherson welcomed everyone to the meeting noting that the Scotland team of the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) were located in the Queen Elizabeth House Government Hub.
- 2. Presentation: Chief Statistician Scottish Government and Head of Profession, National Records of Scotland**
 - 2.1 Professor Roger Halliday, Alistair McApline and Pete Whitehouse gave a presentation on the integration of data and statistics in Scottish Government, highlighting the collaboration across a number of departments in building a shared infrastructure to support all producers of official statistics in Scotland. The Board heard that Research Data Scotland had been launched that day, which linked to the work by Office for National Statistics (ONS) on the Integrated Data Service.
 - 2.2 The Board noted their thanks for an excellent presentation
- 3. Apologies**
 - 3.1 Apologies were received from Professor Anne Trefethen.
- 4. Declarations of Interest**
 - 4.1 There were no new declarations of interest.
- 5. Minutes and matters arising from previous meeting**
 - 5.1 The minutes of the meeting on 29 July 2021 were agreed.
- 6. Report from the Authority Chair**
 - 6.1 Non-Executives had met prior to the Board meeting. They had discussed the review by the Cabinet Office of the Authority and the strategic risk profile.
 - 6.2 The Chair reported on his recent activity since the Board last met highlighting:
 - i. the session for Board members with the ONS team leading on environmental statistics on 29 July;
 - ii. Sir Ian and Sir David had attended a meeting on 2 August with the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport regarding the strategy, Statistics for the Public Good;
 - iii. Sir David had met Greg Clark, MP, Chair of the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee on 28 September; and
 - iv. Sir David and Sir Ian had visited the Darlington Economic Campus on 29 September.
 - 6.3 Sir David noted thanks on behalf of the Board to Jonathan Athow, who was leaving the organisation mid-October to take up the role of Director General for Customer Strategy and Tax, Design at HM Revenue and Customs. As Deputy National Statistician for Economic, Social and Economic Statistics and as interim National Statistician Jonathan had overseen a number of radical improvements to economic statistics and led on an outward focused approach to communicating ONS statistics.
- 7. Report from the Chief Executive [SA(21)52]**
 - 7.1 Sir Ian provided the Board with an overview of activity and issues since the last meeting, highlighting the following:
 - i. the Spending Review 2021 bid had been submitted to HM Treasury on 13 September with the finance team leading on discussions;
 - ii. Sir Ian alongside Dame Moira Gibb had launched the conclusions from the Inclusive Data Taskforce (IDTF) on 28 September;
 - iii. the development of the Data Masterclass for Senior Leaders, which had been well received by Permanent Secretaries;

- iv. Sir Ian would be delivering a seminar for Permanent Secretaries on demography later in the year;
 - v. the work being led by Liz McKeown with the Cabinet Office to develop an evidence pack of cross-government data on violence against women and girls;
 - vi. the progress of the programme to evolve the workplace with a desk booking system now in place;
 - vii. the ONS had made the Working Families Benchmarking Index top 30 employers for a second successive year; and
 - viii. the first cohort of data science apprentices had graduated following the collaboration between the Data Science Campus and Cardiff Metropolitan University.
- 7.2 With regard to the Labour Market Survey it was noted that the spending review bid included plans for dual running the Labour Force Survey and Labour Market survey. The development of migration statistics was linked to the use of administrative data.

8. Report from the Director General for regulation [SA(21)53]

- 8.1 Ed Humpherson provided an update on regulation activity highlighting the publication by the Office for Statistics Regulation on the Annual Review of Casework 2020/21. The report – Improving Health and Social Care Statistics: lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic was scheduled for publication on 7 October. Both publications highlighted the recurring transparency theme in OSR’s work throughout the pandemic.

9. Report from the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee

- 9.1 Nora Nanayakkara reported on the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee which had met on 16 September.
- 9.2 The Committee had considered:
- i. the financial position and the development of the integrated risk and assurance framework;
 - ii. the approach to portfolio management risk management;
 - iii. the implementation of internal audit findings in relation to security culture, business planning and legacy transformation;
 - iv. progress against the Internal Audit Programme 2021/22; and
 - v. the Census programme.
- 9.3 The Committee had also considered the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee annual review of effectiveness, including areas of focus for the coming year.

10. Integrated Data Service [SA(21)54]

- 10.1 Alison Pritchard introduced a paper which provided an update on key elements of the Integrated Data Service (IDS). The Private Beta was launched that day (30 September), and would demonstrate the effectiveness of the IDS through the delivery of three projects: work with HM Treasury on the Annual Survey of Hours and Earning data, Data Science levelling up, and Energy Efficiency of Housing.
- 10.2 The Board welcomed the update and highlighted the importance of expanding the public engagement plan. It was noted that planning was ongoing to clarify the scope of the Public Beta launch currently scheduled for Spring 2022. The delivery of further private betas would demonstrate the potential of the IDS.
- 10.3 The Board would remain engaged in the development of the Integrated data Service.

11. Economic Statistics Transformation: ARIES Programme [SA(21)55]

- 11.1 Jonathan Athow introduced a paper which provided an overview and current position of the Ambitious Radical Inclusive Economic Statistics (ARIES) programme. The ARIES programme was established in April 2021, comprising of eleven projects

spanning a wide range of core economic statistics. The Programme Board chaired by Sam Beckett and Alison Pritchard provided oversight of the programme.

- 11.2 The Board heard about the key areas of delivery in the coming year. The move from the Labour Force Survey to a new flexible online first Labour Market Survey, and introduction of alternative data sources into the measures of consumer price inflation.
- 11.3 Board members noted thanks for an excellent presentation. The Board would remain engaged with quarterly updates on the progress of the ARIES programme.

12. Strategy Update [SA(21)56]

- 12.1 Douglas Cameron introduced a paper which provided the quarterly update on progress against the delivery of the UK Statistics Authority Strategy, Statistics for the Public Good. It was noted that work continued at pace on delivery of the key strategic objectives including the COVID-19 Infection Survey, the Census collection and improved statistical literacy with the Data Masterclass and new online material for schools.
- 12.2 The Board heard that the ability to continue to deliver against the strategy linked to the outcome of the Spending Review 2021. In the coming months areas of focus for the statistical system would include development of sub national statistics; the delivery of the Integrated Data Service; the dissemination of Census results; the recommendation on the future of the census; integrating the recommendations from the IDTF; and conducting the People Survey 2021.
- 12.3 The Board welcomed the update and noted the progress.

13. Strategic Risks [SA(21)57]

- 13.1 Nick Bateson introduced a paper which provided an update on the strategic risks for the Authority following discussion by the National Statistics Executive Group in June, and discussion by the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee on 16 September.
- 13.2 Board members discussed the risk profile and highlighted the need to structure it in line with the pillars of the Code of Practice for Statistics, trustworthiness, quality and value.

14. Governance Proposal for Economic Statistics [SA(21)58]

- 14.1 Robert Bumpstead and Vanessa Holden introduced a paper which provided an update on arrangements for adopting, implementing and auditing compliance with international statistical standards for economic statistics.
- 14.2 The board discussed the proposal to establish a single National Statistician's Committee for Advice on Standards for Economic Statistics. The Committee would operate in an advisory capacity, giving the National Statistician and the Board access to expertise, and would mirror a model that already exists in the Authority's governance model in the context of prices and data ethics.
- 14.3 The Board agreed the proposal to establish an advisory committee to the National Statistician; and that the National Statistician would lead on the appointment process for a committee chair in consultation with Sir David Norgrove. A further update would be provided for the Board at a future meeting on the role of the OSR.

15. Board Review of Effectiveness [SA(21)59]

- 15.1 Sally Jones introduced a paper which covered the results of the Authority Board's self review of effectiveness highlighting the key issues raised and proposed improvements.
- 15.2 The Board is invited to review its effectiveness on an annual basis to identify where it is performing well and where improvement might be made. The analysis highlighted improvements over the last year. The Chair continued to provide an open and

supportive culture to allow an inclusive environment for discussion. The Board had considered the strategic issues with papers focussing on the delivery of the strategy. Overall the transition of Board meetings from remote to hybrid, with the opportunity for in person meetings when required, had been effective.

16. Any other business

16.1 The Board discussed user engagement with an update scheduled for the October meeting.

16.2 The next meeting would take place on Thursday 28 October 2021.

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

Agenda

30 September 2021, 09:30-14:45

Queen Elizabeth House, Edinburgh

Chair: Sir David Norgrove

Apologies: None

Attendees: Vanessa Holden (for item 12)

09:30 – 10:00: Non-Executive's Session

1 10.00-10.05 5 mins	Introduction and welcome	Ed Humpherson
2 10:05-11:05 60 mins	Presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chief Statistician Scottish Government• Head of Profession, National Records of Scotland	Professor Roger Halliday Alistair McAlpine Peter Whitehouse
3 11:05-11:15 10 mins	Minutes and matters arising from previous meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Declarations of interest	Meeting of 29.07.21
4 11:15-11:30 15 mins	Report from the Authority Chair	Oral report Sir David Norgrove
5 11:30-11:50 20 mins	Report from the Chief Executive	SA(21)52 Prof. Sir Ian Diamond
6 11:50-12:05 15 mins	Report from the Director General for Regulation	SA(21)53 Ed Humpherson
7 12:05-12:10 5mins	Report from Committee Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Audit and Risk Assurance Committee	Nora Nanayakkara
12:10-12:35	Lunch	
8 12:35-13:00 25 mins	Integrated Data Service	SA(21)54 Alison Pritchard
9 13:00-13:25 25 mins	Economic Statistics Transformation: ARIES Programme	SA(21)55 Jonathan Athow
10 13:25-13:40 15 min	Strategy update	SA(21)56 Rob Bumpstead Nick Bateson
11 13:40-14:00 20 mins	Strategic Risks	SA(21)57 Nick Bateson
12 14:00-14:15 15 mins	Governance proposal for Economic Statistics	SA(21)58 Rob Bumpstead Vanessa Holden

13 14:15-14:30 15 mins	Board Review of Effectiveness	SA(21)59 Sally Jones
14 14:30-14:45 15 mins	Any other business	

Next meeting: 28 October 2021, London, 09:15 to 14:00

Chief Executive's Report, September 2021

Purpose

1. This provides the Authority Board with an overview of activity and issues for September.

Summary

2. Following the summer break, September has been a very busy month for the statistical system and the Authority, culminating in a comprehensive Spending Review submission to the Treasury. ONS data has continued to inform decisions for the Government's COVID-19 Autumn and Winter Plan and our Data Masterclass for Senior Leaders continues to improve data literacy across Whitehall and beyond. The ONS also welcomed its first colleague to our Darlington Campus, and I was delighted that the ONS has once again been recognised as one of the top thirty family-friendly employers in the UK.

Review of recent activities

3. The Integrated Data Service (IDS) reached a major milestone at the end of August with confirmation from the Treasury that the Chancellor and Chief Secretary to the Treasury had approved business case funding for 2021/22. This approval represents a vote of confidence in our strategy and the programme. We now work towards the launch of the Private Beta solution for government analysts at the end of this month.
4. The Treasury will review the IDS business case at the upcoming Spending Review with the Authority bid submitted on 13 September. The bid seeks to enable us to build on the momentum gained during the pandemic, ensuring that statistics and analysis continue to inform national and local priorities and decision making. We have focused our bid around five key programmes of work: IDS; Public Health Monitoring Analysis and Reporting (PHeMAR); Ambitious, Radical, Inclusive Economic Statistics (ARIES); Census and Data Collection Transformation Programme (CDCTP); and crime.
5. On 28 September, I will launch the conclusions from the Inclusive Data Taskforce at an event alongside Dame Moira Gibb and other panellists. This report will contain far reaching, strategic recommendations for creating a step change in the availability of data and analysis on inclusivity in UK society. I will also publish my response to the Taskforce and a detailed workplan to drive forward this work across the statistical system.
6. Our 'Data Masterclass for Senior Leaders' goes from strength to strength having now opened for a new cohort from the ONS and the Treasury on 13 September. The Data Science Campus (DSC) continues to work with departments to scale the programme while Home Office Permanent Secretary Matthew Rycroft found the programme content "engaging and innovative". I have also been asked to deliver a seminar later this year to Permanent Secretaries on demography, and a session with Ministers on essential data skills.
7. The DSC will also launch the cross-government Data Science Graduate Programme early next month, with 50 data scientists across nine public sector organisations. The two-year curriculum will deliver professional data scientists across government having been based on two successful pilot cohorts in ONS. After an exciting induction bootcamp, the programme combines a mix of self-learning, lectures, and mentoring.
8. Our health surveillance work has continued to provide data and analytical insight into the Government's response to COVID-19. I am pleased that the School Infection Study (SIS 2) has been authorised to recommence this term, with a renewed focus on school

recovery and resilience, including improved understanding of immunity in children and the broader health and wellbeing impacts of the pandemic on children.

8. Our analysis of deaths involving COVID-19 by vaccination status attracted significant policy interest. In addition, our evidence on the prevalence of Long COVID symptoms, vaccination effectiveness in the context of the delta variant, and antibody waning also featured prominently in the Government's COVID-19 Autumn and Winter Plan published on 14 September. Further releases included quarterly suicide death registrations (including provisional data for Q1/Q2 2021).
9. We have also made good progress with our core statistics and analysis during August and September. The Labour Force Survey has been reweighted to further mitigate the impact that COVID-19 has had on data collection and have published new experimental subnational Foreign direct investment statistics for the first time. In the Data Linkage Hub, a new project is beginning to update analysis on student suicides, linking to Higher Education Statistics Agency data. It has also been announced that the ONS are collaborating with the Office for Veteran Affairs on work to improve veteran suicide statistics, data collection and analysis.
10. Just this this month, the ONS has released several topical articles which have informed the discussion around the economic impact of COVID-19 and the recovery period. The 'Coronavirus and the impact on household finances and living standards' investigated the impact of the pandemic on household and individuals' financial health, considering changes in spending, income and economic well-being. Meanwhile, the 'Hospitality businesses are most likely to be struggling to fill vacancies' article looked into the ongoing worker shortages crisis, bringing together multiple data sources from across the ONS to provide a snapshot of the record number of UK job vacancies and the industries reporting the most difficulties in recruiting new staff.
11. On crime, we have continued to work closely with colleagues in the Cabinet Office to develop an evidence pack that synthesises cross-government data on Violence Against Women and Girls which was well received. This will be published alongside a Domestic Abuse publication in November. A response has also been published in response to the ONS consultation on exploring the feasibility for a survey measuring child abuse.
12. We continue to host roundtables with the analytical community from across government on Levelling Up. In anticipation of the launch of a White Paper in the Autumn, we have a series of roundtables to ensure analytical scrutiny of the data and metrics informing the this. On 10 September, we hosted Professor Henry Overman from the What Works Centre at the London School of Economics to discuss Longitudinal Case Studies and have a Show and Tell with the Devolved Administrations on 24 September.
13. Internally, the recruitment campaigns for the Director General Health, Population and Methods, and Director General Economic and Social Statistics, closed on 21 September. There has been good interest in both these roles from within the Civil Service, externally and internationally. Focus now shifts to shortlisting, employee sessions and interviews.
14. We are also continuing to progress our Evolving the Workplace programme, updating our offices to better reflect our future ways of working. New areas have been completed in both Newport and Titchfield, which have received good feedback from colleagues.
15. At the Darlington Economic Campus, ONS now has its first member of staff at the site, in the Analysis, Micro-data and Engagement team. Sam Beckett has also made a visit as part of a visit by Chief Operating Officers across government and on 29 September, I will be joining David Norgrove in visiting to meet representatives from Sunderland, Durham, and Teesside universities as well as the Teesside Mayor to discuss partnerships.
16. Finally, I was delighted that the ONS has made the Working Families Benchmarking Index top 30 employers for a second successive year. This listing reflects our continued

commitment to creating a brilliant workplace for all our colleagues whatever their needs and I am pleased that we have made positive progress against all the areas covered as part of the benchmark.

Professor Sir Ian Diamond, National Statistician, September 2021

*Update from the Director General for Regulation***Purpose**

1. This paper provides the UK Statistics Authority Board with an overview of OSR priorities and activities.

Discussion

2. Our main areas of focus in recent weeks have been:
 - i. **Publications:** Since the last Board meeting in July, key OSR outputs of note include the [assessment of the Annual Business Survey](#); our [systemic review of Northern Ireland mental health statistics](#); and the Annual Review of Casework 2020/21 (which will be published by the time this meeting takes place). To mark the publication of the Northern Ireland report, we published a guest blog from Jonathan Smyth, Head of Communications and Fundraising at Action Mental Health. We also held a launch event to speak to those we engaged with as part of the review and present our key findings. We found this was a good way to communicate our messages in a more informal way and the attendees also had the opportunity to ask any questions of us. Feedback from the event and on the report itself has been excellent, and this kind of event is certainly something we will consider repeating for other pieces of work.
 - ii. **Transparency:** Transparency has been a recurring theme in our work during the pandemic. It has been highlighted through casework and informal engagement with Heads of Profession. We have covered the issue in a number of recent outputs, including the State of the Statistical System published this summer, the Casework Report, and in our upcoming report on COVID-19 lessons learned. We are planning a campaign to highlight the issue with senior policy officials, including discussing it with Permanent Secretaries and raising this at our Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee appearance in October. We will be taking a paper to the Regulation Committee in October to discuss this in more depth.
 - iii. **Review of release times:** On Tuesday 28 September, we launch our consultation on 09:30 statistical release times. We have seen the benefit that alternative release times have brought during the pandemic, where departments were given greater flexibility to publish their statistics. We have been considering whether we should amend the Code of Practice to enable more flexibility for producers but at the same time keep the benefits of consistency and protection against interference. The consultation poses two options for comment: maintain the standard 09:30 release time, but with the option for the Director General for Regulation to grant exemptions; or a value-based system where Heads of Profession are granted the power to decide the appropriate standard release time for their department. The consultation will be open for 12 weeks until 21 December, and we will bring a paper to this Board in February to discuss the consultation responses.
 - iv. **Engagement:** During August and September, in addition to catching up with some of our longstanding contacts – Stian Westlake (Royal Statistical Society), Roger Halliday (Scottish Government) – I've had introductory meetings with Laura Gilbert, Director of Data Science at 10 Downing Street; Rob Harrison, Director General for Analysis at Cabinet Office; and Dame Angela McLean, Chief Scientific Advisor at the Ministry of Defence. I've met a number of colleagues in the health space from across the UK – Chris Roebuck at NHS Digital; Chris Mullin from the Department of Health and Social Care; Richard Pengelly from the Department of Health Northern Ireland; and most recently caught up with Iain Bell in his new role at Public Health Wales. On education, I met with Simon Lebus, former chief regulator at Ofqual, and will shortly

be meeting with his successor, Jo Saxton. Outside of government, I've had meetings with the Open Data Institute, Ada Lovelace Institute, Carnegie, the National Audit Office, and the Electoral Commission on a wide range of OSR work. I also delivered the annual Zeeman lecture in Oxford for the Regulatory Policy Institute on the aim and purpose of the regulation of statistics.

3. The main issue on my mind at the moment is, as described in ii) above, how we can embed transparency more firmly across Government. Promoting this principle is likely to take up a good deal of my time over the autumn.

Ed Humpherson, Director General for Regulation, Office for Statistics Regulation, 22 September 2021

List of Annexes

Annex A Regulatory dashboard

Regulatory Activities - September 2021 - AB

Health and Social Care	Economy	Population and Society	Housing, Planning and Local Services	Children, Education and Skills
<p>Covid-19 - Lessons Learned Review: Report to be published on 7 October; communications activities alongside will involve engagement with stakeholders including producers, parliaments and media.</p> <p>Compliance checks: The Care Quality Commission's statistics on Adult Inpatient Experience is underway.</p> <p>Systemic Reviews: Mental Health (NI) - Report published on 7 September, accompanied by a public workshop, to maximise traction of our key messages.</p> <p>Adult Social Care (GB) - Report has been drafted and will be included in the October Regulation Committee papers, for a November publication date.</p>	<p>Assessments: ONS Productivity Statistics - Continue to discuss with ONS content and focus of action and development plans to address assessment requirements for the end of September</p> <p>Welsh Revenue Authority (WRA) - Held early discussions with WRA on their land transaction tax and landfill disposals tax statistics, headline land transaction tax statistics. Assessment will commence in October.</p> <p>Systemic Review: Post Brexit ONS Economic Classifications - Discussing evolving plans with ONS, following their further consultation with stakeholders.</p>	<p>Assessments: Census reports for E&W and NI censuses going to Regulation Committee in October. Ongoing meetings with Census offices to ensure any actions taken on likely requirements are reflected.</p> <p>Casework: Migrant Crossings statistics and no recourse to public funds data.</p> <p>Compliance check: Scottish Household Survey - Finalising outcomes reflecting emerging developments, on sex and gender data from Scottish Government.</p> <p>Systemic Reviews: Loneliness - Report published on 14 September.</p> <p>Migration - Engaging with ONS on plans for future migration publications.</p>	<p>Assessment: Statutory Homelessness statistics: Speaking with users and data suppliers. Drafting our findings ahead of a follow-meeting with MHCLG in October.</p> <p>Compliance checks: Published letters for MoJ Landlord and Mortgage Possessions statistics, MHCLG Local authority green belt statistics for England, and Household Estimates and Projections produced by Welsh Government, NRS and NISRA, incorporating themes from the OSR Population Review.</p>	<p>2020 Exam Results Review: GRADE dataset for England has been deposited in the SRS following project to share data from exams 2020. Will champion in autumn and encourage other nations to make data available.</p> <p>Casework: Pupil premium change – discrepancies in estimate of impact from DfE and FFT data lab being investigated. Government use of National Assessment and Accreditation System, value for money report– concerns raised around methodology, validity and use of findings</p> <p>Systemic Review: Children and Young People – Report published, and guest blog provided to the International Public Policy Observatory. Engagement with various organisations over, draft findings with a view to publishing main report in late 2021/ early 2022.</p> <p>Scottish Attainment - User concerns raised around statistics and link to early labour market outcomes. Event planned with ESRC.</p>
Agriculture, Energy and Environment	Crime and Security	Labour Market and Welfare	Business, Trade and International Development	Travel, Transport and Tourism
<p>Compliance checks: Flood Defence Spending statistics CC scheduling follow up meeting with producers.</p> <p>Systemic reviews: Climate Change statistics - Draft report out for comment with all stakeholders who were interviewed and will be included in the October Regulation Committee papers.</p> <p>Food Statistics - Scoping being carried out along with desk research.</p>	<p>Compliance check: MOD Regional Expenditure statistics - letter published.</p> <p>MOD Mental health statistics - letter to be published.</p> <p>Scottish Government Criminal Proceedings - meeting to discuss findings.</p>	<p>Assessments: Pay in NI Civil Service Stats: assessment kicked off.</p> <p>NI Personal Independence Payments: looking to confirm NS designation at October Regulation Committee.</p> <p>Compliance checks: ONS' small area income estimates Welsh Government's Regional economic and labour market profiles.</p> <p>Casework: Child Poverty statistics - continuing to receive complaints about Ministers' use.</p>	<p>Assessments: ONS Annual Business Survey - Report published 6 September</p> <p>NISRA BESES - Report being drafted, on agenda for October Regulation Committee.</p> <p>Trade Statistics and Business Demography Statistics - Follow up response to with ONS.</p>	<p>Systemic Review: Accessibility of Transport Networks - Analysing feedback from stakeholder engagement and developing recommendations.</p> <p>Compliance checks: DfT's new Transport Disability and Accessibility Statistics publication, ORR's Passenger Assistance and Disabled Persons Railcards statistics and Transport Scotland's new Disability and Transport publication</p> <p>Travel and Tourism - Engaging with ONS on plans for the future of the International Passenger Survey.</p>

Integrated Data Programme

Purpose

1. This paper provides the Authority Board with an update on key elements of the Integrated Data Programme (IDP).

Recommendations

2. Members of the Authority Board are invited to note:
 - i. the outcome and recommendations from the Internal Assurance Review;
 - ii. progress in the delivery of private beta and planning of public beta;
 - iii. the positioning of the IDP in the Spending Review 2021 (SR21) including stakeholder engagement and cross government alignment; and
 - iv. the “Data Deal” development.

Background

3. As part of Government Reform and its ambition to be more data driven, the ONS is leading delivery of an Integrated Data Service (IDS) in collaboration with partners across government and the IDP forms a major element of this delivery.
4. A critical enabler of the National Data Strategy, it will build on ONS’ expertise of handling big data and managing Trusted Research Environments. The service will enable data to be shared, standardised, linked and accessed using common tools; provide evidence to inform and underpin policy decisions; and deliver better outcomes for citizens, whilst maintaining privacy.

Discussion

Internal Assurance Review Outcomes and Recommendations:

5. The assurance review awarded a Delivery Confidence Assessment of Amber and concluded that: “The Integrated Data Programme appears to be in a good place for the launch of private beta on 30 September. Teams are up to speed and delivering, programme management processes are maturing, stakeholder relationships are strong and there is clear understanding of, and support for, the programme’s goals both within and outside ONS.

Private Beta

6. The scope for Private Beta launch (30 September) has been confirmed to include the delivery of a secure service, analytical tooling, data virtualisation and integration with the Statistical Methods Library interface for Other Government Department users. We are testing capabilities and demonstrating both effectiveness and efficiency benefits through the delivery of the following Projects:
 - i. ONS/HM Treasury (HMT) levelling up (ASHE);
 - ii. Data Science levelling up (BBC News text); and
 - iii. Energy Efficiency of Housing.
7. Work is continuing to progress on data ingestion and engineering.
8. Underpinning all this is data virtualisation which provides the data management layer giving a consistent view of different data sources regardless of location. This layer implements the data architecture for IDS and (crucially) provides the role-based access control to ensure that the data is secure and conforms to the requirements of the various memoranda of understanding that have been agreed with the data suppliers.
9. The programme is on track to deliver all technical changes ahead of the security assurance window at the end of the month. Immediately following Private Beta launch,

the Reference Data Management Framework and Dissemination interfaces will be delivered. Planning is currently underway to schedule delivery of the remaining features within scope for the Basic IDS Initial Operating capability.

10. Alongside the projects identified above, work continues to develop the pipeline of analytical projects that have potential to be brought in scope of the programme post the September release.

Public Beta

11. In accordance with the audit recommendation (para 5v), the clarification of scope for the Public Beta launch is underway.
12. The plan will allow for a smooth transition yet significant uplift from the Private Beta capabilities to ensure the Service can meet the expected demands upon it at that time. The Public Beta phase will iterate towards the full live service as indicated in the planning.
13. The finessing of the full operating model and implementation of the lessons emerged from the Private Betas will occur during this phase.

Spending Review

14. The IDP SR21 preparations continue with a narrative endorsed by Programme Board members which includes key delivery partners across enabling departments and representatives from Devolved Administrations (DAs). The narrative is consistent with the Full Business Case (FBC) and provides an update on activity, and progress in meeting HMT conditions. The exercise has provided a valuable opportunity to ensure alignment with work taking place across government.
15. As per the FBC, there is no specific funding requested in the SR bid for technology changes required within Other Government Departments (OGDs). The OGDs capabilities and resources to enable data sharing are being identified through a consultation on the Supplier-Partner Data Acquisition Service Operating Model.
16. We have also reiterated our support to HMT to assist the Central Digital and Data Office (CDDO) and the Government Digital Service in the scrutiny of SR21 bids to maximise the opportunities for the future use of the IDS. However, given the spending review process is different for DAs there are further discussions planned with DAs to identify options for supporting their involvement in IDS either via projects or supplying data.

Public Engagement

17. The Strategy arm of the programme has plans in place in collaboration with Strategic Communication, to launch wider engagement around the programme, aligned to critical milestones and wider government transformation.
18. The engagement considers the wider transformational landscape and is working closely with, amongst others, CDDO and No10 on their respective initiatives, including Government Data Exchange and Project rAPID (a 10 Downing Street led project team focused on Application Programming Interface creation). In addition we are working with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on their recently launched [National Data Strategy consultation on Data Reform](#) and remain mindful of the ongoing SR21 period ahead of future engagement activity.

Data Deal Update

19. Following supportive feedback from several groups and boards, which have included data owners, we are now working with the Chief Digital and Data Office as part of refining the data deal principles and the components which sit beneath them. IDS' strategy team has also been discussing components of these principles, specifically those aimed at enabling frictionless data sharing, with other government departments, who are broadly supportive in principle.

20. Timelines to delivering a data deal with departments signing up will be aligned to the accreditation of IDS under the Digital Economy Act which is expected to be in spring of 2022. As part of our ongoing engagement with departments we will continue to work through the principles of the data deal, considering their feedback and making iterative changes to develop a deal which works for all.

Conclusion

Programme Delivery and Forward Look

21. Programme Delivery and forward look consists of:

- i. approved scope and delivery plan for Private Beta Capability Backlog for Private Beta - due 20 October;
- ii. resolution of critical recommendation from Internally Led Assurance Review Report;
- iii. delivery of capability backlog to commence (Research Data Management Forum and Dissemination interfaces);
- iv. recommendation of next tranche of projects to onboard to IDS; and
- v. the cross-Government benefits consultation taking place on 23 and 29 September.

Alison Pritchard, Director General Data Capability, ONS, 21 September 2021

Ambitious Radical Inclusive Economic Statistics (ARIES) Programme Update

Purpose

1. This paper provides an overview and current position of the Ambitious Radical Inclusive Economic Statistics (ARIES) programme.

Recommendations

2. Members of the Authority Board are invited to:
 - i. note progress made across the programme to date, and our plans to continue this through the next spending review;
 - ii. comment on any areas of the programme; and
 - iii. suggest how they would like to be kept informed on the programme.

Background

The Creation of ARIES

3. The ARIES programme was established in April 2021 following the closure of the preceding Economic Statistics Transformation Programme (ESTP). ESTP was itself set up following the Professor Sir Charlie Bean's review of economic to deliver a wide-ranging change in economic statistics and the people, systems and data sources that were used to produce them.
4. While ESTP achieved the majority of its aims, there were still lessons to be learned. Building on these, there are a number of ways in which ARIES has changed from ESTP:
 - i. Scope. ESTP focused on funding from the Bean Review, and so programme scope was predominantly defined by this source of funding. This created some boundary issues and meant we did not manage the whole portfolio as effectively (e.g. the transformation of consumer prices was not formally part of ESTP). ARIES is designed to capture transformational activity in economic statistics driven by user need.
 - ii. "One ONS" Approach. The projects that were most difficult in ESTP were those that had significant dependencies across the ONS (e.g. on technology or survey transformation). Too often we ended up with a transactional relationship between different parts of the ONS. We have established ARIES to better help us join up across the office, including joint chairing of the programme board, a stronger focus on defining requirements and delivering through multi-disciplinary teams that draw on different parts of the office.
 - iii. Stronger ownership, governance and support. For each of the ARIES projects we have done more to separate the customer for the change from the person responsible for that change. We have created a dedicated team to support the most challenging parts of the programme such as the introduction of the new Labour Market Survey. We also expanded the senior team from economic statistics to provide greater bandwidth across the group, ensuring appropriate balance of focus across, production, analysis and development activity.
 - iv. Pace. User driven scope, a "One ONS" approach, and proportionate and appropriate governance all contributes to improved pace of delivery. In 2020 we responded quickly to high-priority emerging issues such as EU Exit and Covid and want to continue to do so under ARIES, embedding a culture of flexibility and agility.
5. ARIES is currently drawing on funding from the one year 'rollover' Spending Round at the end of 2020. Consequently, the outcome of the 2021 Spending Review will affect the

future of ARIES, and that current plan will need to be revised. It also means that the first year of ARIES is essentially a bridge or transition to the new Spending Review.

Discussion

Current Scope of ARIES and Spending Review Plans

6. The ARIES programme scope for 2021-22 comprises 11 projects spanning a wide range of core economic statistics, set out in the attached slide pack, some of which were not fully completed at the point of ESTP closure (e.g. delivery of actions relating to gross national income (GNI)) alongside a suite of new developments. The choice of those projects reflected three aims:
 - i. to support our core objective of robust economic statistics;
 - ii. to create flexibility to respond to emerging needs; and
 - iii. to have a 'no regrets' approach reflecting we had to start ARIES in something of a transition period before putting together our Spending Review bid, let alone knowing the outcome of that Spending Review.
7. ARIES is overseen by a programme board, bringing together key stakeholders within economic statistics and across our delivery partners, chaired by Sam Becket and Alison Pritchard.
8. The 11 projects currently in scope of ARIES span a wide range of subjects. There are two large, complex and impactful projects to note with deliverables in the next 12 months:
 - i. the move from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) to a new flexible online first Labour Market Survey (LMS).. This is a substantial change across one of our core statistical domains in economic statistics and a step-change in social survey collection and processing; and
 - ii. the introduction of alternative data sources, principally supermarket scanner data, into our measures of consumer price inflation. This will provide a significant step change in the granularity of our data and unlock scope for new statistics (e.g. on regional inflation), and the change in data sources will need to be carefully monitored.
9. Both projects, given their complexity and importance, are being more actively monitored and managed by the ARIES programme board..
10. The 2021 Spending Review will set the ONS budget up to 2024-25. We have put together a comprehensive bid covering a wide range of issues that would allow us to continue to develop our economic statistics and incorporate social and environmental aspects alongside these under a single programme.
11. ARIES will continue to engage with and align to our users' needs, leading on from the activity already undertaken in sharing plans and roadmaps with key stakeholders such as the Economic Experts Working Group (EEWG).

Conclusion

12. The ARIES programme has been initiated successfully and is progressing a range of developments in 2021-22 on ONS' core economic statistics. There are some very important deliverables in the programme notably the changing labour market survey and the use of alternative data sources.
13. The ambition for ARIES is for it to be the "next generation" of programme encompassing industry and profession best practice, delivering at increased pace, with greater transparency, improved user alignment, and better collaboration.
14. The outcome of the Spending Review will be key to determining the scope and scale of the ARIES programme over the coming years.

Jonathan Athow, 21 September 2021

Strategy and Business Plan Update

Purpose

1. This paper is the fifth quarterly update on progress against the delivery of the UK Statistics Authority strategy, Statistics for the Public Good. It builds on the progress update provided to the Board at their last meeting through the Annual Report and Accounts.

Recommendations

2. Members of the Board are invited to:
 - i. note progress against the delivery of the strategy; and
 - ii. consider areas of focus over the next three months.

Background

3. We are now into the second year of the strategy, and work continues at pace to meet our key strategic objectives. Across all of priorities progress is being made, exemplified by the results of the work of the Inclusive Data Taskforce (IDTF) and the continued importance of our analysis on health and the economy amongst other topics. There are several important questions for the statistical system to address in the coming months, on Net Zero, levelling up, as well as how we can best address those.
4. Looking back at what we said we would deliver, I think we can say that progress has been strong over the past year. In our strategy we set out to:
 - i. respond flexibly to the uncertainties and challenges of COVID-19 and realise long term value from the COVID-19 Infection Survey;
 - ii. provide an inclusive, trusted and engaging narrative on the UK's economic and social fabric and trends, addressing cross-cutting issues and providing analysis to inform and engage governments, policy makers and the wider public.
 - iii. build flexible and integrated analytical capabilities and data management tools to address COVID-19 and other priorities to enable the organisation to manage data and deliver analysis that cuts across organisational boundaries;
 - iv. deliver high quality, inclusive and efficient economic and social statistics that are internationally recognised, by streamlining our processes and blending administrative data with transformed survey capabilities with the capacity to answer key questions quickly;
 - v. deliver a successful Census in March 2021, deliver high-quality outputs from the Census in 2022 and make a robust recommendation on the future of the Census in 2023;
 - vi. deliver a revised and comprehensive system of population and migration statistics based on administrative data and a consolidated social survey platform, having successfully delivered the full benefits of Census 2021; and
 - vii. take opportunities to advocate for improved statistical literacy – with the analytical community, Parliament, schools, media, etc.
5. We have made good progress against each of these aims.
6. The ability for us to continue to deliver against the strategy will be affected by the revision to the scope of the Comprehensive Spending Review as set out in the Chief Executive's report to the Board. We will be working in the lead up to Christmas to understand the impact of this, once the overall funding envelope becomes clear at the conclusion of the Spending Review.

Discussion

7. There are some challenges ahead and over the next three months the focus will be:
 - i. ensuring the country has the right information, well presented, as we head into a period where there are likely to continue to be base effects and other things affecting our outputs;
 - ii. maximising the delivery of Integrated Data Service;
 - iii. continuing to prepare for the Census results, and the recommendation on the future of the census;
 - iv. carrying out the 2021 People Survey, which will give a strong indication on how the colleagues feel we are doing against our strategy;
 - v. integrating the recommendations from the IDTF into our work; and
 - vi. building an exciting programme of work on Net Zero

Conclusion

8. The strategy and its core drivers have lasted well over the past year. More and more we see the language of the strategy – being radical, ambitious, inclusive, and sustainable – used by colleagues across the statistical system to describe their work. As ever, there is more to do to build inclusivity, coherence, and sustainability into all that we do – and we will continue to focus on doing so in the coming months.

Douglas Cameron, Head of Strategy Group, 21 September 2021

Strategic Risk Update

Purpose

1. Following a series of consultations with the Executive on emerging risks, a horizon scanning discussion at the National Statistics Executive Group (NSEG) on 25 June and discussion at the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) on 15 September, this paper provides an update on the Strategic Risks for the UK Statistics Authority Board.

Recommendations

2. Members of Authority Board are invited to:
 - i. review and approve the revised strategic risk profile; and
 - ii. note the risks that remain outside of risk appetite to assess adequacy of risk treatment.

Background

3. In the period since the strategic risks were last updated (Spring 2020), we have seen a significant level of change across the UK Statistics Authority, ONS and the Office for Statistics Regulation in response to the pandemic, and considerable successes in - delivery of Census 2021, development of the Integrated Data Service (IDS) Programme, and the design of the Ambitious, Radical, Inclusive Economic Statistics (ARIES) Programme, in addition to other areas of our transformation agenda.
4. As risk maturity has progressed, the organisation has become smarter at taking risk in the face of the changing landscape, working with the risk appetite agreed by this Board as a critical tool in decision making, and ensuring that we have robust action plans and mitigations in place. The oversight and challenge for these risks has further embedded into the governance of the National Statistics Executive Group's (NSEG) subcommittees, ensuring that due focus is being given to assessing actions to manage risk.

Discussion

5. The risk profile has evolved in line with the external environment and progress in our delivery. In recognising these changes, we have worked closely with the risk and mitigation owners, and through horizon scanning sessions across NSEG's subcommittees, to reassess a number of the strategic risks and how they have evolved.

Conclusion

6. The Board is asked to review and approve the revised risk profile. Following this approval, the Risk team will work with the senior leadership to further develop the quarterly strategic risk reports to provide NSEG and ARAC with a clear understanding of the risk profile and actions being taken to manage risk within the defined risk appetite.
7. It is critical for the Board to ensure that the organisation is focussed on the right risks and can take assurance from the information we provide. This will be provided via ARAC and six-monthly to the Board.

Nick Bateson, Director of Finance, Planning and Portfolio, Amanda Smith, Deputy Director for Risk and Assurance, 20 September 2021

Setting the Standard: Governance Proposals for Economic Statistics

Purpose

1. This paper updates Board members on arrangements for adopting, implementing, and auditing compliance with international statistical standards for economic statistics.

Recommendations

2. Members of the Authority Board are invited to:
 - i. note research conducted on how National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) outside the European Statistical System (ESS) adopt, implement, and audit their compliance with international statistical standards (paragraphs 8 through 14);
 - ii. note progress made in establishing an advisory committee to the National Statistician on adopting, implementing, and auditing the compliance of the UK's economic statistics with international standards (paragraphs 15 through 17);

Background

3. While a member of the European Statistical System (ESS), ONS was legally required to publish much of the UK's key economic data in line with European standards. Eurostat routinely audited ONS's compliance with European technical standards, and scrutinised classification decisions made by ONS officials.
4. Ahead of the UK's departure from the European Union, the Board heard that – unless the terms of the Government's future relationship with the EU allowed for the UK's continuing membership of the ESS – it was likely that ONS would need to establish its own arrangements for adopting, implementing, and auditing compliance with economic statistical standards.
5. These arrangements would build upon the robust framework established by the *Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007*, which gives the Authority responsibility for maintaining standards and classifications, on the advice of its National Statistician.
6. In September 2020, the Board requested further detail on international best practice, expressed some concern about the limited expertise available to fill Committee membership, and noted that no arrangement could be finalised until the nature of the UK's future relationship with Europe was clearer. On the basis of that feedback, we returned to the Board in November 2020, recommending:
 - i. that we launch a formal study on best practice on standards and classifications, outside the ESS;
 - ii. that we adopt a phased approach to the establishment of new Committee(s), allowing us to respond to developments in the future UK-EU relationship;
 - iii. that the National Statistician lead the appointment process for any Committee Chairs, consulting Sir David Norgrove in this process; and
 - iv. that the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) would undertake a review of these new arrangements.
7. This approach was endorsed by the Board and this paper now details progress made in the period since.

Discussion

Understanding international best practice

8. Earlier this year, in line with the Board's recommendation, we commissioned a review of international best practice on standards and classifications outside the ESS.
9. This work has been led by Mr Michael Davies – former Head of the National Accounts and the Balance of Payments at the Australian Bureau of Statistics and topic expert at the IMF. In conducting his research, he has held meetings with around ten leading non-ESS countries (including Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United States) as well as representatives of the statistical departments of the IMF, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the United Nations.
10. The report found that in all countries surveyed, final decisions about classifications and statistical standards are taken by the National Statistician (or delegated officials).
11. Using external expertise and advice to strengthen the ability of the NSI to perform its role efficiently and effectively is widely practiced and considered good practice.
12. The approach taken by NSIs to quality assurance varies, but most combine 'embedded quality assurance' with 'assurance by review'. Canada, Australia and New Zealand rely heavily on embedded elements and stakeholders appear to support this approach.
13. In addition to highlighting examples of good practice internationally, the report noted that the UK faces some specific challenges. In particular, we are unusual in the alignment of our official statistics with the government's financial statements. In other countries surveyed, while NSIs take decisions on the classification of entities in line with international statistical standards, governments are free to take different decisions in their financial statements. This alignment means that ONS decisions often receive much greater scrutiny than decisions made by other NSIs.
14. These findings suggest that no single non-ESS country holds an international 'gold standard' for the adoption, implementation and audit of technical standards for statistics. Instead, there are elements of good practice in several countries which – when combined with our experience of the European system and our understanding of the idiosyncrasies of the UK position – can be used to inform a blueprint for a set of UK specific arrangements which are among the strongest internationally.

Refining our plans: Establishing an Advisory Committee to the National Statistician

15. On the basis of this research, feedback from stakeholders, and what we now know about the future UK-EU relationship, we have refined our proposals, since they were last presented to the Board.
16. We propose the establishment of a single *National Statistician's Committee for Advice on Standards for Economic Statistics*. This Committee would operate in an advisory capacity, giving the National Statistician and the Board access to world-class expertise, and mirrors a model that already operates successfully in our governance model (in the context of prices, and data ethics). In line with the Board's suggestions, we have pared this back slightly from the proposals originally taken to the Board (which had proposed two Committees). This both simplifies governance, and addresses Board concerns about our capacity to fill Committee positions.

Stakeholder views

17. In developing our proposals, we have engaged closely with stakeholders including the Devolved Administrations, the Bank of England, HM Treasury, the Office for Budget Responsibility, and the Scottish Fiscal Commission.
18. The proposals appear to enjoy broad support. All parties agree that there is a need for new structures to support us in making decisions about standards and classifications in

future, and the more robust proposals for the audit of data have provided reassurance about our continued commitment to high-quality statistics.

Next Steps

19. Pending the Board's views, we plan to take forward our proposals in a phased manner. We would hope to run an open competition for a Chair of the Committee shortly, before working with that Chair to finalise Committee Terms of Reference, ways of working, and membership for the Committee. As per the Board's previous recommendations, in doing so, we would consult closely with Sir David.

Conclusion

20. This paper has provided Board members with an update on plans for adopting, implementing, and auditing compliance with international statistical standards in future. We welcome the Board's views on these proposals, as we take them forward.

Vanessa Holden and Philip Wales, 20 September 2021

Authority Board Self Review of Effectiveness

Purpose

1. This paper covers the results of the Authority Board's self-review of effectiveness highlighting the key issues raised and proposed improvements.

Recommendations

2. Members of the Authority Board are invited to note the results and consider proposals for action.

Background

3. The Board is invited to review its effectiveness on an annual basis to identify where it is performing well and where improvements could potentially be made.
4. The results of the Board's review in 2020 indicated an improvement in the operation of the Board with more focussed discussions on risk; and an improved business planning process.
5. Areas of focus for the Board highlighted in 2020 included delivery of the strategy, the Census and Data Collection Transformation Programme (CDCTP), the Covid-19 Infection Survey (CIS), and the Integrated Data Programme (IDP), all areas the Board has engaged with over the last 12 months.

Discussion

Summary of findings

6. The results of last year's self-effectiveness review indicated improvements on the previous year. This year's review has indicated that there have been further improvements, including:
 - i. the Chair continues to provide an open and supportive culture to allow an inclusive, open and challenging environment for discussion;
 - ii. the Board has considered the important strategic issues with papers focussing on delivery of the strategy and mitigation of risks; and
 - iii. the chairing and operation of remote meetings has continued largely to be a success.

Forward agenda

7. Members agree that the Board spends sufficient time on the issues that matter. The annual review of effectiveness provides an opportunity to consider the Board's forward agenda.
8. The forward agenda includes regular discussion on the areas of focus highlighted by members for the coming year including:
 - i. quarterly progress update on the delivery of the strategy, Statistics for the Public Good, with the next update scheduled for September; and
 - ii. bi-monthly updates on the IDP.

Programme of Activities

9. The Programme of Activities (PoA) provides Non-Executive Directors (NEDs) with the opportunity to engage with colleagues below Board level across a range of divisions. This has proven to be successful with teams across the organisation who benefit from NEDs expertise in an informal setting outside of Board meetings. This year the remote PoA has included meetings with teams in the following areas:

- i. Integrated Data Programme;
 - ii. preparations for Census 2023 recommendation;
 - iii. Sustainable Development Goals;
 - iv. The Data Science Campus;
 - v. Economic Statistics; and
 - vi. the BASE Review of enabling functions.
10. The PoA will continue with a transition from remote meetings to in person site visits as central government restrictions ease.

Risk

11. Members agree that they are kept abreast of risks through updates from the Chief Executive and Director General for Regulation. Strategic risks are scheduled for the board six monthly. The Integrated Performance Report, a standing item for the Board, includes Management Information on the strategic risk profile.
12. Members noted that the Board should engage with the holistic consideration of risk. Following a series of consultations with the Executive on emerging risks and a horizon scanning discussion by the National Statistics Executive Group in June, the Board is scheduled to discuss the current strategic risk profile at this meeting.
13. The [Authority Annual Report and Accounts 2020/21](#) reflected the progress made in our approach to risk and governance this year with an improved Head of Internal Audit opinion, following four consecutive years of a limited opinion.

Diversity

14. As highlighted by feedback from members while the Board is diverse in experience and skills, it is not diverse in ethnicity. The diversity of the Board will continue as part of the recruitment process for new members.

New Practices

15. There were a number of views on the format of meetings following a long period of remote Teams meetings. The Board held its first hybrid meeting on 1 July. Future in person meetings will be scheduled to tie in with visits to the Devolved Administrations and the Newport and Titchfield sites.

Conclusion

16. The Authority's annual self-review affords members the opportunity to reflect on what is working well and where we may need to improve our ways of working. This year Board members have requested we focus in the following areas in the coming year:
- i. the delivery of the strategy including legacy transformation, the IDP, data sharing, statistics transformation and continuation of the CIS;
 - ii. monitoring of the strategy and monitoring of strategic risks;
 - iii. building on the well-deserved recognition for both the ONS and Office for Statistics Regulation over the last year;
 - iv. the trustworthy communication of quality; and
 - v. the implementation of the BASE review.
17. The Board forward agenda will include the areas of focus noted by members. Secretariat will resolve to seek improvements for the issues highlighted in the paper.