

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY
NATIONAL STATISTICIAN'S COMMITTEE FOR ADVICE ON STANDARDS FOR
ECONOMIC STATISTICS

NSCASE(22)03

Industrial Classifications – Consultation Update, October 2022

Since our presentation at the NSCASE June meeting, there have been a number of developments in terms of our plans for leading and launching the consultation on UK adoption of industrial economic activity classifications.

Partnership: Given the impact of the consultation outcome on ONS Economic, Social and Environment Group (ESEG) who will be required to implement the new frameworks, we have agreed the consultation will be led in partnership by ONS ESEG and the Classifications Team within ONS Data Growth and Operations (DGO). A small Consultation Team will be established made up of colleagues from both areas.

Consultation Questions: ESEG and DGO have agreed that the focus of the consultation should be on which of the classification frameworks best meet UK requirements, rather than on international comparability. The consultation document and questions will be revised to reflect this by the Consultation Team.

Timetable: The final revised United Nations International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) will not be approved for adoption by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) until March 2023. Given we want to consult with users around framework suitability, we are required to wait until ISIC is formally approved before launching to ensure respondents have complete information. We will therefore now launch the consultation in March 2023. The consultation will remain open for 12 weeks, during which time the Consultation Team will undertake comprehensive stakeholder engagement and communications activities. The revision of the national UK Standard Industrial Classification (UK SIC) sub-class, if required, will commence once a decision on adoption of an international framework has been endorsed.

Governance: There will no longer be a Consultation Steering Group established. As agreed at the June 2022 NSCASE meeting, once the consultation has closed, the Consultation Team will draft a recommendation report based on consultation responses which will be submitted to NSCASE. Following this, the final recommendation report will be submitted to the National Statistician for approval. The final decision, and a summary of responses, will be published on the Consultation Hub and communicated to all stakeholders.

