Inclusive Data Taskforce
Vision, Plan, Priorities and Progress

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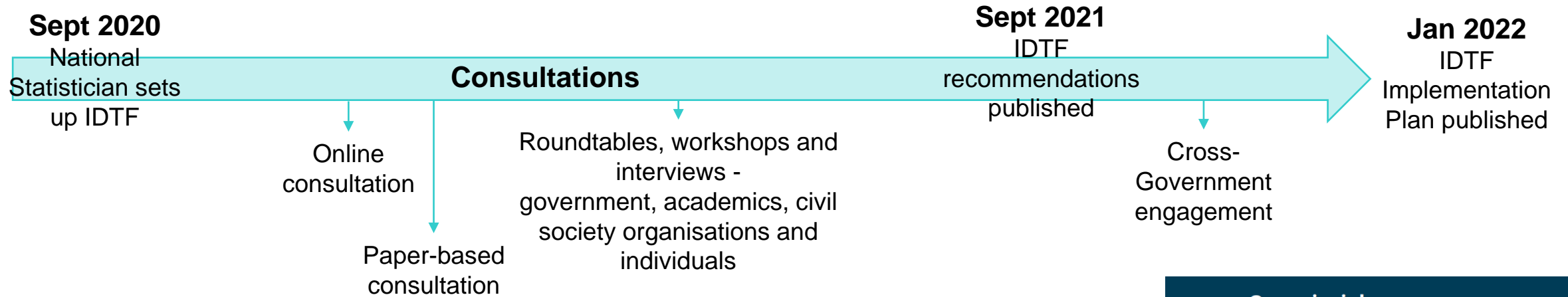October 2022

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Vision of the Inclusive Data Task Force (IDTF)

Making a step-change in inclusivity of UK data and evidence

*How do we **improve** and **embed** inclusivity in UK data and evidence in a **self-sustaining** way across the **whole** of the UK statistical system i.e. it becomes 'business as usual'?*

- Chaired by Dame Moira Gibb

- Independent diverse group of senior academics and civil society leaders who collectively have wide ranging equalities expertise

- Given us the principles to develop a 'Roadmap' for change

- Ambitious change across whole UK statistical system – not just ONS

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IDTF: Making a step-change in inclusivity of UK data and evidence

Sept 2020
National Statistician sets up IDTF

Consultations

Online consultation

Paper-based consultation

Roundtables, workshops and interviews - government, academics, civil society organisations and individuals

Sept 2021
IDTF recommendations published

Cross-Government engagement

Jan 2022
IDTF Implementation Plan published

The IDTF recommendations focused on:

- Measurement and data collection;
- Use of existing data (including administrative);
- Addressing critical data gaps;
- Analysis and reporting;
- Building on promising practices

Our principles

These are the core principles which will underpin the work of the statistical system over the next five years.

Ambitious

Radical

Inclusive

Sustainable

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What did they recommend?

Eight key Inclusive Data Principles (IDPs)

with 46 specific **recommendations for action**

1 Create an environment of **trust and trustworthiness** which allows and encourages everyone to count and be counted in UK data and evidence.

2 Take a **whole system approach**, working in partnership with others to improve the inclusiveness of UK data and evidence.

3 Ensure that **all groups are robustly captured** across key areas of life in UK data and review practices regularly.

4 Improve the UK data infrastructure to **enable robust and reliable disaggregation and intersectional analysis** across the full range of relevant groups and populations, and at differing levels of geography.

5 Ensure **appropriateness and clarity over the concepts** being measured across all data collected.

6 **Broaden the range of methods** that are routinely used and create new approaches to understanding experiences across the population of the UK.

7 **Harmonised standards** for relevant groups and populations should be **reviewed at least every five years** and updated and expanded where necessary, in line with changing social norms and respondent and user needs.

8 Ensure **UK data and evidence are equally accessible to all**, while protecting the identity and confidentiality of those sharing their data.

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How did we respond?

- Implementation plan published in January outlined 200 activities being undertaken across 20 organisations to deliver against the 8 Inclusive Data Principles

- Monitoring and governance approach has been developed to track delivery

- Evaluation plan agreed to assess impact.

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New National Statistician's Inclusive Data Advisory Committee (NSIDAC)

- Providing independent advice to the National Statistician on the ongoing implementation of the Taskforce's recommendations

- Advice on:
  - Prioritisation of initiatives, providing scrutiny and challenge
  - Updating harmonised data standards, and how best to consult on changes
  - Improving data accessibility and engaging the public
  - Potential collaborations to develop the work

We need you to help us to make this step-change in an impactful way

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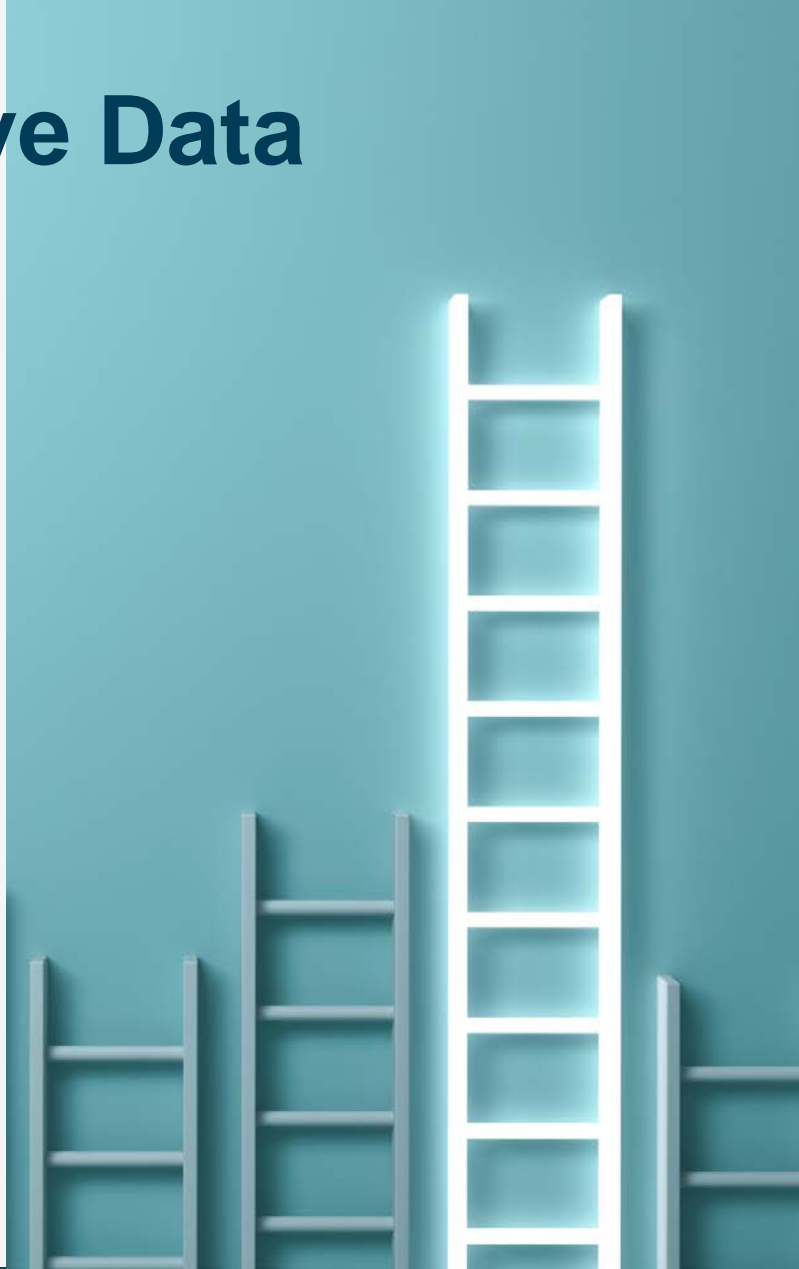
Examples of recent progress

# Programme of qualitative research with under-represented groups

- What has been done: ONS has established a **programme of qualitative research**
  - First publication in July explored **disabled adults' experiences of accessing activities, goods and services,** complemented in September by a video summarising the key findings and blog weaving in quantitative findings from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey
  - Fieldwork on the **educational experiences of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)** and **lived experiences of Gypsies and Travellers** is complete, both are scheduled for publication (November and December respectively)
  - Procured two further qualitative studies on **the experiences of domestic abuse survivors in the context of temporary 'safe' accommodation** and **the lived experiences of young migrants and refugees**

- How does it address the IDTF principles?
  - Addresses data gaps on these under-represented or seldom heard groups (IDP3)
  - Broadens the range of methodologies, utilising first hand accounts/lived experience to gain further insights (IDP6)
  - Findings are being shared using a range of formats to increase accessibility by the populations involved/affected (IDP8)

- What is the impact?
  - The disabled adults research findings are being used to address policy gaps, informing the development of new regulations (currently being considered by the Cabinet Office)
  - The experiences of children with SEND will be shared with the Department for Education to inform the current review of this area of educational provision
  - Results from the Gypsy and Traveller research will feed into a cross government working group focusing on policy and provision for these groups

Taking every opportunity to improve the inclusivity of our insights: cost of living impacts across groups

- What has been done: **Enhanced inflation statistics** to provide more inclusive and timely data

  - Produced a **"personal inflation calculator"** - allowing people to understand increases in the cost of living based on their own spending pattern.

  - Used **innovative web-scraped data** to understand how prices of everyday grocery items have changed for the lowest-cost products.

  - Moved to quarterly publication for estimates of inflation rates for different types of household in the UK on a Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers' housing costs (CPIH)-consistent basis.

  - Pooled waves of the Opinions and Lifestyle survey to provide more granular breakdowns to understand impact of COL by more characteristics, including deprivation quintile.

- How does it address the IDTF principles?

  - Provides greater disaggregation of data to better understand experiences of a wider range of groups (IDP4)

  - Broadens the range of methods used to inform these statistics (IDP6)

- What is the impact?

  - Currently being used to inform developments across government in response to cost of living issues, and to inform personal decisions of individuals

Lowest price of selected 30 everyday groceries, item-level price changes, April 2022 compared with April 2021
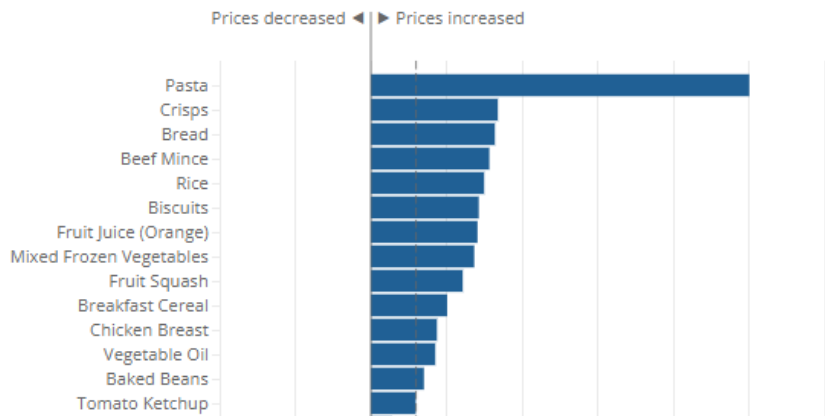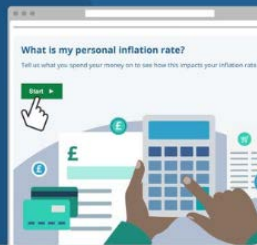

How is inflation affecting your household costs?

Explore your personal inflation rate based on what you spend your money on

Use our personal inflation calculator

An intersectional approach to analysis

- What has been done: the **Equality Data Programme (EDP)**
  - The EDP is a **partnership between ONS and the Cabinet Office's Equality Hub** to improve the data and evidence on equality.
  - Phase 1 has involved undertaking a **series of regression analyses to understand the characteristics and circumstances associated with a range of different life outcomes,** and is nearing completion
  - This work will be released in November, consisting of 7 ONS articles, one for each of the themes: wealth, health, crime, work and pay, life satisfaction, and digital exclusion, with an additional overview article covering key findings across all topic areas
  - Phase 2 is also underway with development of the **Equality Data Asset – linking key datasets to enable intersectional equalities analysis –** a prototype is due to be delivered in December
  - We have also begun work to **develop robust and appropriate methods for exploring intersectionality**; in scoping phase with stakeholders

- How does it address the IDTF principles?

  - This ongoing work will enable more reliable and robust intersectional analysis of data to better understand outcomes across the lifespan associated with various characteristics (IDP4)

- What is the impact?

  - This will deliver an improved data infrastructure with more granular data available to researchers across government, enabling ongoing analysis of equalities.

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Improving Harmonisation and Coherence

- What has been done: reviewed and updated **Harmonised standards**, as well as prioritising production of **UK wide data**
  - We have published new harmonised standards for **Welsh language skills** (April) and **Armed Forces Service** (May), and updated the standards for **National Identity** (April), **Religion** (June) and **Qualifications** (August)
  - We will publish research and findings on **Ethnicity, Disability** and **Mental Health** before Christmas, alongside new **Socio-Economic background** standard and updated **Sex and Gender Identity** guidance (all in 2022)
  - Reviewed and agreed priorities for the production of UK wide data, with 7 projects in progress, and a further 20 new projects identified
  - Updated GSS Coherence Work Programme due for release this autumn, outlining priorities for 2022/23

- How does this address the IDTF principles?
  - Ensures clarity and consistency in the concepts being used to measure and report findings (IDP5)
  - Provides the framework required to support more comparative analysis (IDP4)
  - Ensures these concepts reflect up-to-date societal norms (IDP7)

- What is the impact?
  - This work is critical to delivering sustainable inclusivity by ensuring common standards and understanding across different datasets, and will support intersectional analysis and data linkage
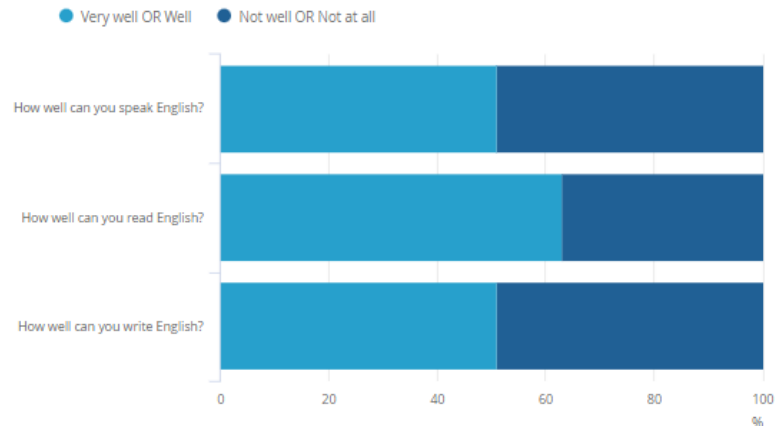
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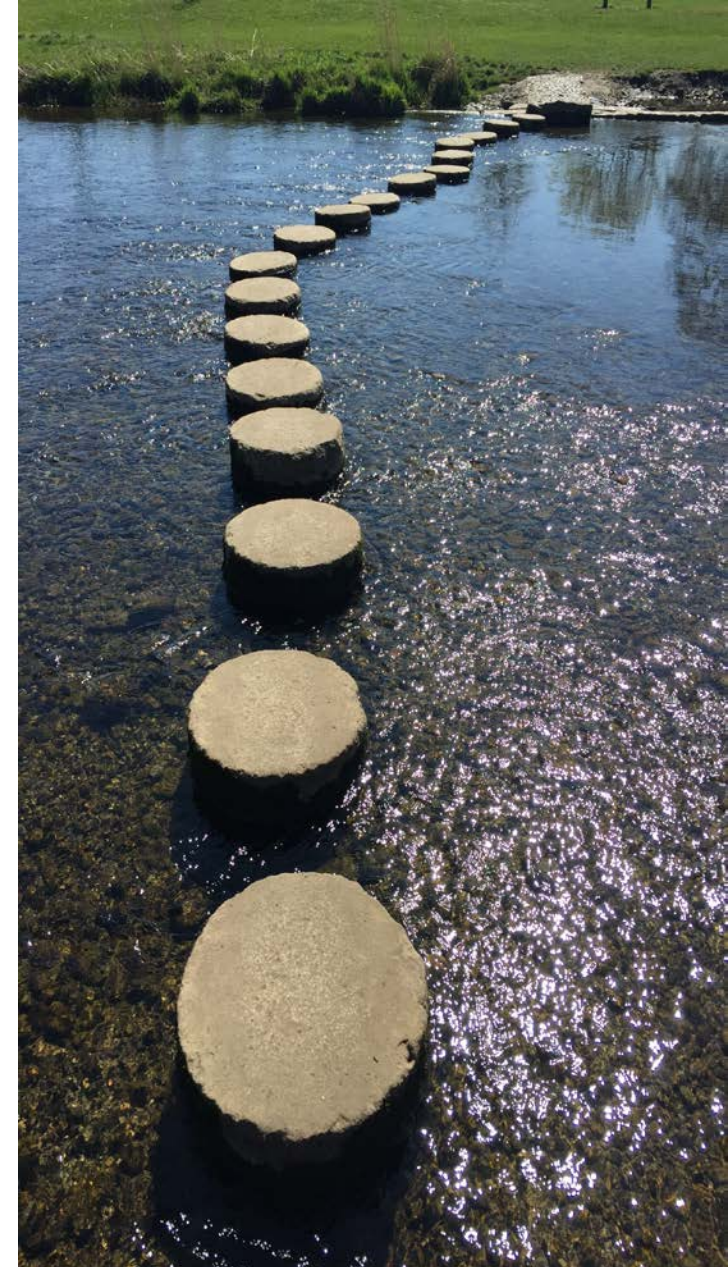
Addressing urgent data gaps and improving accessibility: Ukraine Humanitarian Response

English language proficiency of respondents, UK, 20 July to 4 August

Source: Office for National Statistics – UK Humanitarian Response Insight Follow-up Survey, 20 July to 4 August 2022

- What has been done: Responded to an **urgent need for data** to inform the humanitarian response to the war in Ukraine

  - **Four surveys** set up to aid the Humanitarian response
  - Ensured **accessibility of all materials** to the respondents in their own language
  - **Published results were also translated into Ukrainian** and main points were published the same day as the English release.

- How does this address the IDTF principles?

  - Addressed an emerging data gap, involving a population which can be difficult to access (IDP3)
  - Ensured all materials and findings were accessible (IDP8)

- What is the impact?

  - This informed the humanitarian response, and ensured tailored support was available for Ukrainian arrivals in the UK and for the sponsors. Work is ongoing to roll-out this approach with other refugee groups with DLUHC
  - Development work is being undertaken with the Home Office to link this survey data with available administrative data in order to better understand refugee integration outcomes.

Improving accessibility of local statistics

- What has been done: Development of the **Subnational indicators explorer**, providing a one stop shop for Local Authority level data

  - This prototype, first published alongside the Levelling Up White Paper, **enables the public to compare different indicators**, such as weekly pay and healthy life expectancy, in a specific local authority against the UK average (median) local authority

  - The second iteration was published in May, and was updated again in August with 9 additional indicators

- How does this address the IDTF principles?

  - This increases the accessibility to this local level data (IDP8), enabling users and the wider public to understand how particular characteristics vary across the UK

- What is the impact?

  - Inform local and national planning and provides information to people about their own area in an accessible format.

Danny Silk @danny_silk · Feb 3
Great new tool and #dataviz output from @ONS showing indicators by #localauthority. Nice use of data exploration and benchmarking. #ukdata

David Knight @DavidKn01180139 · 31 Aug
Looking forward to digging into this dataset tonight 🤓

Office for National Statistics (ONS) ✔ @ONS · 31 Aug
We've updated our Subnational indicators explorer, bringing together a range of subnational statistics in one place 🗺️📌

Use our interactive tool to find out how your local authority compares with others across the UK

"I just think the ONS is really neat and makes data and information a lot more accessible than I've ever seen it. That's only ever a good thing!" – General public user using the feedback form

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Monitoring progress

Monitoring Progress

Established a monitoring framework:

- To know if we're on track to deliver progress across all Inclusive Data Principles sustainably over the next three years, and beyond

- To communicate and take advice on progress and prioritisation

- To take positive action, course correcting where required

This will be complemented by:

- an **annual review and published update,** and

- **impact evaluation** (more detail in item 4 on the agenda)

Roadmap Key Commitments

Inclusive

- 'Roadmap' shows **Key Commitments** being monitored quarterly, for delivering sustainable change under each IDP
- Many activities 'front' loaded with exploratory or feasibility work that will lead to further plans – **the Roadmap will evolve**
- Roadmap covers current **Spending Review period (2022/3-2024/5) – see Annex B**
- The criteria used to identify Key commitments are:

1.
Likely to be **sustained** over time (longevity)

Sustainable

Ambitious

2.
Breadth of the initiative (programmes of work vs individual projects)

3.
Unique/ground-breaking work on a key issue/group

Radical
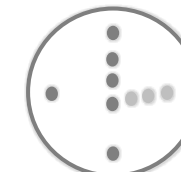
Timely

4.
Must have clear **deliverable(s)** before end March 2025

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IDTF Roadmap

Visual summary of the key commitments, showing the current status
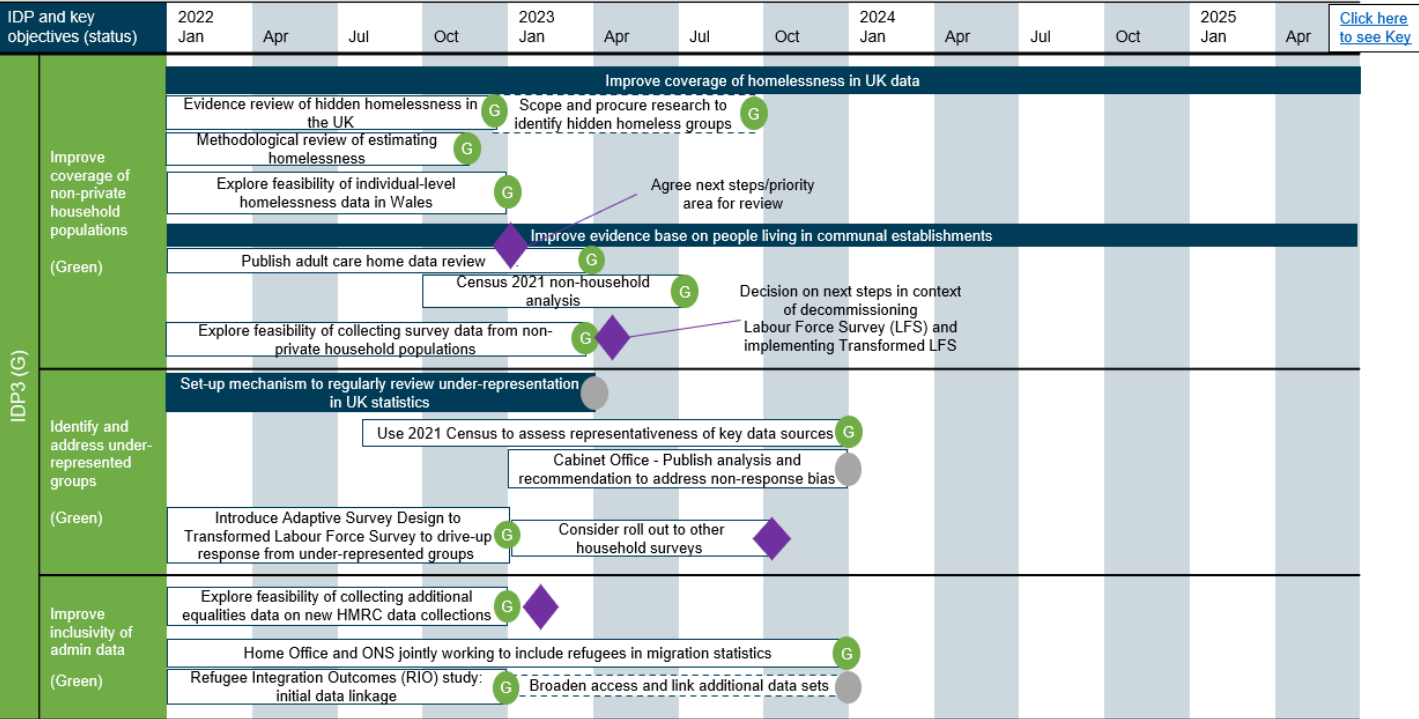
Conclusion

- IDTF gave us the principles to develop a roadmap for ambitious change across whole UK statistical system

- We responded building on initiatives in train and developing new ones – with ONS playing important convening and delivery role

- Engagement with a wide range of users was integral to the development of the IDTF recommendations and is vital to our work responding to them

- Our work delivering and overseeing the IDTF Implementation Plan is progressing well but we need to be agile to new emerging priorities, keep momentum in embedding inclusivity in all we do and ensure we can measure the real impact we make.

- **We welcome this Committee's reflections on the progress to date and future priorities**

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Thank you and get in touch:

equalities@ons.gov.uk

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