

National Statistician's Committee for Advice on Standards for Economic Statistics (NSCASE) Decision Making Framework

Principle: To advise on the appropriate standards, guidelines, and classifications for the ONS to adopt so as best to describe and present the state of the UK economy.

Framework for NSCASE decision making.	
Analytical Framework	Description of the issue, including current practice.
	Summary of options.
	International guidance: What is the international guidance? Are there inconsistencies between the various international guidance? Is the guidance being reviewed? If so, what is being proposed?
	Relationship to economic concepts: How would an informed economist assess the economic nature of the issue under review?
	UK specific factors: What U.K. specific factors need to be considered?
Decision criteria to be applied to available options	Substance. Does the option focus on the substance of the activity?
	Borderlines. Does the option create any awkward borderline issues of classification and/or methodology?
	International comparability. How is international comparability affected by the option?
	Data continuity. What, if any, are the implications of the choice for the continuity of time series?

	Time-scale. How long will it take for the option to be implemented?
	Practicality. Is the option practical? What are the resource implications?
	Designation. Would the option deliver statistics of a quality consistent with the designation of National Statistics?
	Stakeholder views. These should be considered as appropriate.

	Benefits. In summary, what are the overall benefits and drawbacks of the option?
Summary	What is the Committee's decision and why?
Publication	Minutes: NSCASE advice to be published with each of the above points covered.
Principle	
Monitoring	Monitor the extent to which NSCASE's advice has been taken.
Framework for Monitoring	
Reporting	Annual report: ONS staff to report once a year to NSCASE on the progress with, and extent of, implementation of NSCASE advice including an estimate of the time and resources needed for full implementation.
	Justifications: ONS to justify in cases where NSCASE's advice is rejected or not fully implemented.

	NSCASE's view: NSCASE to respond to ONS's justification in cases where NSCASE advice is not fully implemented.
Publication	NSCASE to report on implementation in its annual report.