

NSCASE(23)18

NSCASE, Office for National Statistics, London

Mr Ed Humpherson,
Office for Statistical Regulation

10th March 2023

Dear Ed,

Office for Statistics Regulation External Scrutiny Programme

Thank you for sharing in high-level terms your proposal to enhance the governance procedures for the UK statistical system's production of economic statistics now that we have left Eurostat, via an External Scrutiny Programme. My colleagues on NSCASE and I welcome the opportunity to continue to provide input on the design of this extension of your role. We have a strong and shared interest in assuring our users that our key economic statistics are of the highest quality.


We agree that the pilot on PPIs you are currently undertaking will be useful in developing the new arrangements and look forward to working with you as appropriate as it proceeds. In particular it will be a good way to ensure that your new assessments do not overlap with any advice on classifications NSCASE may wish to make.

We are pleased to see that you will draw on international experts. Where NSCASE is in a position to offer expert advice or offer any other form of help, we will be extremely happy to do so.

We understand that the OSR's focus is international best practice rather than international comparability per se. NSCASE has a number of criteria it uses when deciding what advice to offer to the National Statistician and international comparability is only one of these. NSCASE is, for example, also concerned about any UK specific factors that may be relevant and these include both user needs and what best relates to the underlying economic concepts. These may lead NSCASE to advise departure from the international norms for very good reasons which will be documented.

My colleagues and I look forward to engaging with you on the next level of detail of the proposals as the pilot progresses.

Yours,



Martin Weale
Chair NSCASE