NATIONAL STATISTICIAN'S EXPERT USER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes
Monday 28 March 2022
Via Videoconference

Members Present
Professor David Hand (Chair)
Dame Kate Barker
Professor Paul Boyle
Professor Diane Coyle
Professor Sir Ian Diamond
Professor Jane Falkingham
Dame Moira Gibb
Ed Humpherson
Professor David Martin
Professor Ann Phoenix
Sir Bernard Silverman
Stian Westlake

In attendance
Professor Paul Allin
Owen Brace
Robert Bumpstead
Alison Pritchard (for item 3)

Secretariat
Fran Tovey
Simon Whitworth

Apologies
None

1. Introductions from the Chair and National Statistician and members

1.1 The Chair welcomed members to the first meeting of the National Statistician's Expert User Advisory Committee. There were no apologies received.

1.2 The Chair and National Statistician provided their thoughts on the committee which had been established to ensure that users of statistics were served as best as possible. Discussions would draw on expertise to enhance the user experience.

1.3 Members introduced themselves and explained how their expertise would support and inform the committee.

2. Terms of Reference

2.1 Members agreed the committee Terms of Reference (TOR) and reiterated that the committee should focus on user needs and should also try to identify potential users. The committee would add value by consulting experts on their views on user engagement to make it embedded, rounded, and complete in all ways. The committee would take a UK wide approach to data and should be seen as a group that could raise issues and topics affecting the whole UK.

3. Integrated Data Service [NSEUAC(22)01]

3.1 Alison Pritchard presented slides giving an overview and update on the Integrated Data Service (IDS).

3.2 The following points were raised in discussion:

i. the governance structure of the IDS should give clear indication for what purposes data could be used and should identify sensitive topics and risks to ensure that no users were overlooked;
ii. the IDS was investigating how privacy enhancement technology could be used and all data would be aggregated at point of use;
iii. the IDS would be optimised for public sector use, but would also be available for accredited research use through the Digital Economy Act;
iv. the Secure Research Service would only be switched off once the IDS provided a more enhanced service; and
v. in future there were likely to be a number of UK wide trusted research environments which would enable access to a wide range of deidentified data that could be accessed in ethical ways and for the public good.

3.3 Members supported the IDS and agreed that it should provide the infrastructure, support, and ability to access a wide range of data leading to enhanced insight and understanding for all users. Members were encouraged to disseminate information on the IDS to users.

4. Website [NSEUAC(22)02]

4.1 Owen Brace presented a paper about how data was disseminated across the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and Government Statistical Service (GSS) focussing on the importance of making data, statistics, and analysis available to a wider range of users. Members were asked to help identify opportunities to make sure the right information reached people who needed it the most. Members were asked to consider current personas to recognise where improvements could be made, and data could be unlocked through engagement with different users.

4.2 The following points were raised in discussion:

  i.   dissemination was at the core of user engagement and would be a topic of focus for the committee;
  ii. educational personas should be considered so that the ONS could produce data that schools, and universities wanted to use;
  iii. there was a vast variety of users, and third parties that could be encouraged to use data to stimulate the economy;
  iv. it would be useful to enhance the opportunities for users to compare data across international boundaries;
  v.   differences between casual and expert users should be addressed and the user experience should be tailored to individual requirements so that information was provided in a more tangible way; and
  vi. work was taking place to build an online collaboration platform to facilitate two way conversations between users and producers of statistics.

4.3 The meeting agreed that the Web Dissemination strategy was progressing in the right direction and would lead to exciting possibilities and should be strongly aligned with the IDS to create opportunities to link data and ensure data was available to a vast variety of user needs.

5.   National Statistician [NSEUAC(22)03]

5.1 Professor Sir Ian Diamond presented a paper on his observations for statistical priorities. Statistics would continue to be produced to the highest standards whilst also transforming access to data and statistics to improve the user experience. Work would take place to provide faster real time indicators on a variety of issues as well as improving the accuracy and relevance of data. Business surveys were being radically transformed with thought given to minimising user burden. Inclusive data was critical to make sure every citizen had a voice. Qualitative data was important when thinking about inclusivity.

5.2 The following points were raised in discussion:

  i.   one role of the committee was to consider inclusivity by identifying user groups and potential users that hadn't been identified before;
  ii. the faster economic indicators work by the ONS was impressive, but data moved quickly, and care needed to be taken not to over respond to short-term random fluctuations;
  iii. unknown unknowns were an important consideration when considering potential users;
  iv. prioritisation of questions was important;
  v.   questions from the public needed to be answered as well as government questions;
  vi. the ONS had a role to play as an international organisation in collaboration and comparability of data; and
  vii. work was taking place with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development around international standards for comparable data.

5.3 The meeting agreed that it was critical that the statistical system was engaging with how data was being used and how the use of data was for the public good.

6. Forward Agenda

6.1 The meeting discussed future agendas, members agreed that a prominent member of the user community, or an identified potential user from civic society groups with interests in data should be invited to each meeting to discuss challenges faced. Inviting users and potential users to address the committee would allow the committee to identify areas in statistics, data and analysis that were not well developed or not known.

6.2 Anna Powell-Smith, the founder and director of the Centre for Public Data was suggested as the first potential speaker.

6.3 Homelessness and Education and Local Area statistics and Levelling Up were suggested areas of focus for future meetings. Members also agreed that Europe and data issues as a result of Brexit should be considered.

6.4 Members were reminded that prioritisation in some areas may mean de-prioritisation in others and flexibility was essential. Members were encouraged to provide any suggested future agenda topics to the chair and secretariat.

7. Any other business

7.1 The next meeting would take place on Monday 11 July 2022.

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

NATIONAL STATISTICIAN'S EXPERT USER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Agenda
Monday 28 March, 13:00-15:00
Virtual Meeting

Chair: Prof. David Hand
Apologies:

Timing	Agenda item	
1 13:00-13:15 (15 mins)	Introduction from Chair and National Statistician	Prof. David Hand Prof. Sir Ian Diamond
2 13:15-13:30 (15 mins)	Terms of Reference	Discussion
3 13:30-13:55 (25 mins)	Integrated Data Service	NSEUAC(22)01 Alison Pritchard
4 13.55-14:20 (25 mins)	Website	NSEUAC(22)02 Owen Brace
5 14:20-14:40 (20 mins)	National Statistician	NSEUAC(22)03 Prof. Sir Ian Diamond
6 14:40-14:55 (15 mins)	Forward Agenda	Discussion
7 14:55-15:00 (5 mins)	Any Other Business	

Next Meeting: Monday 11 July, 13:00, Virtual Meeting

UK Statistics Authority
National Statistician's Expert User Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference

Introduction

1. The National Statistician's Expert User Advisory Committee (NSEUAC) was established in March 2022. It provides advice to the National Statistician on a range of cross-cutting issues that extend beyond the remit of any single one of our existing user or advisory groups.

Purpose

2. In line with our published user engagement strategy[1], our vision is that user engagement is second nature for all producers of statistics, and therefore that it is embedded into organisations' wider engagement activities and actively implemented throughout the statistical development, production and review cycle. User engagement is about building sustainable relationships and feedback loops between statistics producers, users and potential users of statistics and other relevant stakeholders. It can be collaborative both within and across organisations and themes, to make statistics accessible to a wider range of potential users.

3. NSEUAC will provide strategic advice and insights to the National Statistician about how the UK statistical system can best maximise effective engagement with all users to enable the UK Statistics Authority and the wider system to use data in radical, ambitious, inclusive and sustainable ways as set out in the UK Statistics Authority strategy, *Statistics for the Public Good.*

4. The Code of Practice for Statistics sets out that "users of statistics and data should be at the centre of statistical production; their needs should be understood, their views sought and acted on, and their use of statistics supported". The quality pillar of the Code of Practice also reminds us that statistics should fit their intended uses, and therefore that producers of statistics will only know whether this element of quality continues to be achieved by regularly engaging with a full range of users.

5. Effective user engagement means that our statistics, analysis and services are relevant, fit for purpose and help answer people's questions; make a real contribution to our better understanding of the world; instil confidence and deliver maximum impact and value to the user; and empower better evidence-based decision-making.

6. The Committee will define its own agenda or subjects of interest that will include, but not be limited to, the following:

   a. discussing strategic priorities and statistical activities;
   b. promoting the value of official statistics to society;
   c. helping UKSA, ONS and the UK statistical system to improve user engagement; and
   d. identifying areas not being addressed by the statistical system.

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[1] https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/policy-store/user-engagement-strategy-for-statistics-ensuring-official-statistics-meet-societys-need/

Chair, membership and role of members

8. Membership is drawn from some of the principal user and advisory forums within the UK statistical system. The members of NSEUAC are:

    i.   Professor David Hand (Chair);
    ii. Dame Kate Barker (National Statistician's Advisory Panel on Consumer Prices – Stakeholder Panel);
    iii. Professor Paul Boyle (Research Accreditation Panel);
    iv. Professor Diane Coyle (Economic Experts Working Group);
    v.   Professor Jane Falkingham (Migration Expert Group);
    vi. Dame Moira Gibb (National Statistician's Data Ethics Advisory Committee);
    vii. Professor David Martin (UK Population Theme Advisory Board);
    viii. Professor Ann Phoenix (Inclusive Data Task Force); and
    ix. Professor Bernard Silverman (Methodology Assurance Review Panel – Census)

9. The National Statistician, Director General for Regulation, and the Chief Executive of the Royal Statistical Society are ex-officio members.

10. Professor Paul Allin and Owen Brace will be in attendance at meetings.

Meetings

12. NSEUAC will meet at least three times a year. The Secretariat will coordinate the timing of NSEUAC meetings. The Chair of NSEUAC may convene additional meetings as deemed necessary.

13. The Chair may invite other relevant experts as appropriate to advise the Committee.

14. Papers will usually be sent to NSEUAC members seven days prior to its meetings.

Reporting

15. The Secretariat will send minutes to NSEUAC members no later than seven days following the meeting.

16. NSEUAC will operate transparently. Meeting minutes will be made available on the UK Statistics Authority website.

Quorum

17. NSEUAC meetings will be considered quorate when five or more members are present including the Chair or the Chair's delegated nominee.

18. Substitutes will not normally be permitted to attend meetings, and only with the invitation of the Chair.

Other information

19. Secretariat for the NSEUAC will be provided by the staff from the Central Policy Secretariat within the UK Statistics Authority.

20. NSEUAC will review the effectiveness of its meetings and its terms of reference annually.

March 2022

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

NATIONAL STATISTICIAN'S EXPERT USER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
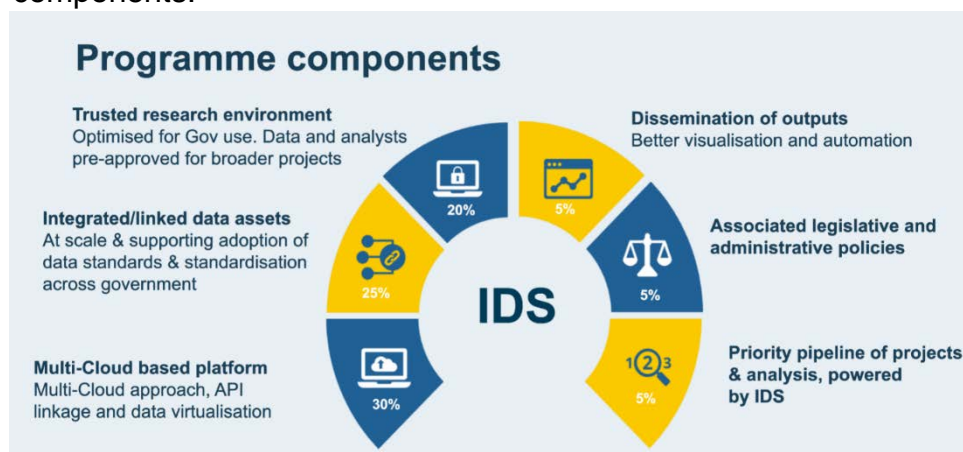
Integrated Data Service

Purpose
1. This paper provides members of the National Statistician's Expert User Advisory Committee (NSEUAC) with an update and overview on the Integrated Data Programme (IDP), which delivers the Integrated Data Service[1] (IDS).

Recommendations
2. Members of NSEUAC are invited to:

   i. note the Delivery plans for the IDS in 2022 (following the launch of the Private Beta in late 2021);
   ii. share and distribute the IDS 'Our Offer' pamphlet;
   iii. provide the programme with an idea of what this committee would like to see coming to future NSEUAC meetings on IDS; and
   iv. help engage and stimulate on matters of public acceptability on sharing data; and to encourage widest range of external researchers to consider the benefits of using IDS.

Background
3. As part of Government Reform on data usage and Section 4.2.1 of the National Data Strategy, the IDS is a cross government initiative for which the ONS is the lead delivery partner on behalf of Government. This is an end-to-end service incorporating cloud infrastructure, data engineering, linkage, legal gateways, privacy and security, and analytical tooling. The IDS will provide the public sector with secure access to high-quality data for better research, analysis, and collaboration across government. The programme is made up of the following components.

Programme components

Trusted research environment
Optimised for Gov use. Data and analysts pre-approved for broader projects — 20%

Integrated/linked data assets
At scale & supporting adoption of data standards & standardisation across government — 25%

Multi-Cloud based platform
Multi-Cloud approach, API linkage and data virtualisation — 30%

Dissemination of outputs
Better visualisation and automation — 5%

Associated legislative and administrative policies — 5%

Priority pipeline of projects & analysis, powered by IDS — 5%

IDS

4. The Programme has delivered at pace since receiving approval of the full business case in August 2021, successfully launching a Private Beta service in September 2021. Google Cloud Platform has since been appointed as the chosen vendor for the next phase of delivery from the successful Crown

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[1] https://integrateddataservice.gov.uk/

Commercial supported procurement. This agreement will see IDS migrate from its current supplier (Amazon Web Services) to Google by end April 2022.

Discussion

Data Deal and Data Acquisition

5. Following direction from Programme Board in February, the programme is pursuing a twin track approach to implementing a Data Deal:

   i. **Strategic** – Developing the Data Deal and testing it in the Secure Research Service (already accredited as a processor under the Digital Economy Act (DEA). Data held in the Secure Research Service will have their agreements replaced by new Data Exchange Agreements, to enable quicker, easier, access for Government analysts. These data and agreements will be transferred to IDS once DEA accreditation is achieved, and

   ii. **Tactical** – onboarding and provisioning access to data on IDS Initial Public Beta, in early summer, using other legal gateways available to ONS and other Departments.

6. To progress the tactical element, the February Programme Board endorsed an approach to pursue a short list of twelve projects/datasets covering a variety of themes across society and economy, using data obtained from a mix of Government Departments, public sector organisations and businesses. These datasets/projects were selected to showcase the capabilities of the Service in Public Beta, as it was judged possible that the necessary datasets can be acquired and utilised prior to receiving DEA accreditation.

Design and Platform Progress

7. The Service Design Team recently issued a large packet of design documents – covering user personae, user journeys, service blueprints and other artefacts. Seven of the eight blueprints were issued – the outstanding one, the 'Access' service, required additional discussion with workstreams, which has now been completed, and the blueprint will be released shortly.

8. Design and implementation of the IDS cloud, analytical tooling and data virtualisation capabilities for Private Beta are underway and remain on track to meet the delivery timetable. This work is being delivered by Digital Services and Technology, with support from Security and Information Management, and in collaboration with professional services provided by Google and Denodo (for data virtualisation).

Strategy, Communications and Engagement

9. An interim process for receiving and prioritising expressions of interest for prospective IDS projects has been developed. This will support the seamless transition of projects from identification of initial prospects, through to prioritisation and feasibility assessment. The process will be presented for endorsement by Programme Board in March.

10. The programme recently developed a range of key products to help inform stakeholders about the service and what it can offer. This includes a 'Frequently Asked Questions' document, and an 'Our Offer' pamphlet, which was distributed to external stakeholders in January.

Conclusion

11. The IDS components being delivered this year will reflect the capabilities of the full Live Service and hence 2022 will see a scaling up and out of the functionality and volume of users and data. We expect the usage to scale as the impact of the Service is seen and felt.

12. Members of this this advisory committee, along with their individual expertise would add huge value for the IDS through helping engage and stimulate on matters of public acceptability on sharing data; and where possible encouraging widest range of external researchers to consider the benefits of using IDS.

Alison Pritchard, Deputy National Statistician for Data Capability, ONS, 18 March 2022

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

NATIONAL STATISTICIAN'S EXPERT USER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NSEUAC(22)02

Transforming Access to Data

Purpose

1. This paper provides members of the National Statistician's Expert User Advisory Committee (NSEUAC) with an overview of the opportunity to improve access to data and insight for our wide user base. This includes Office for National Statistics (ONS) corporate presence and wider digital identities and the presentation and dissemination of data, statistics and analysis.

Recommendations

2. Members are invited to:

   i. comment on the user personas (paragraph 16) and identify additional groups;
   ii. comment on the main areas for improvements (paragraph 20) and our ambition (paragraph 26); and
   iii. note the workplan to further transform access to data and insight.

Background

3. Our users want increasingly rapid access to data and insight covering a breadth of cross-cutting topics, presented and delivered through digital formats which meet diverse needs. Our ambition is that ONS data is clear, engaging and accessible wherever and however it is needed.

4. The Statistics for the Public Good strategy highlights the need to communicate the best evidence well, making it harder for evidence to be misrepresented:

   i. "This means clarity about findings (and their limitations), great visualisation, real world application of advanced analytics, machine learning and artificial intelligence as well as a strong use of narrative alongside numbers. There will be products and services to better meet the need of both the public as a whole as well as specialist audiences."[1]

5. How we disseminate our insight is key to build understanding and limit misrepresentation. Statistics should reach the widest possible audience. Public good is unlocked by getting data and insight into the hands of all our users more quickly and easily – how they want it.

Discussion

6. The ONS website was designed over six years ago. Since then, the ONS has expanded its priorities and user base, and further developed its strategy.

7. We have created tactical solutions to meet individual needs, such as creating dashboards and other products on multiple platforms and separate digital routes for the Data Science Campus and user collaboration (StatsUserNet[2]).

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[1] https://uksa.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/statistics-for-the-public-good/
[2] https://www.statsusernet.org.uk/login

8. While these have demonstrated advanced interaction and enabled improved understanding of specific issues and topics, it has created a fragmented user journey and has not advanced strategic solutions to automate data dissemination and embed bespoke data interaction for users.

9. We now have the opportunity to bring the ONS website and wider digital presence, as well as the full process to disseminate data, statistics and analysis, into line with the ambitions of the organisation.

ONS Digital Presence

10. The development opportunities for ONS can be separated into three areas:

    i.   our corporate digital presence – improving understanding of the organisation, our policies, strategy and delivery, and is particularly relevant for talent attraction, reputation and trust, survey respondents, data suppliers and users and other interested parties;
    ii. our hub for data, statistics and analysis – presenting our insight in the most effective and appropriate way for all users, from raw data tables and detailed statistics to explanatory analysis by theme and latest headline statistics, clearly and coherently managing the wider web estate with clear relationships with partner sites including the Government Statistical Service website[3]; and
    iii. our publishing process and content management – the back-end systems which are essential to structure and present data in a way that allows more flexibility and better presentation and personalisation through the hub as well as setting up automated processes.

User Insight

11. Almost a third of traffic to the ONS website is concentrated on statistics bulletins and analysis articles, with a further 8.49 per cent viewing datasets. While other page types can also be considered presentation of data, such as Freedom of Information and time series, this demonstrates the search and navigation is often not effective at bringing people to the information they need.

12. In addition, the homepage and 'about us' sections show there is still a need to consider the wider corporate digital presence.

13. Use of the ONS website has grown substantially during the pandemic, led by mortality outputs, Covid-19 outputs, Census 2021 and economic statistics.

14. From February 2021 to January 2022, the ONS site has registered 7.95 million users with the vast majority (7.73 million) new users. This has resulted in 12.66 million sessions at an average of 1.59 sessions per user, 2.19 pages per session and just over 2minutes per session.

15. The ONS website had a monthly average of approximately 1 million sessions between February 2021 to January 2022. In January 2022, the website had 1.46 million sessions, with the increase largely driven by data on the Covid-19 infection rates falling.

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[3] https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/

16. Our user personas demonstrate the breadth of different requirements that a single publishing system has attempted to answer through largely single products in the past. We categorise the users of our statistics hub as the following:

    i.   technical user – works with data and technology;
    ii.   expert analyst – lives and breathes data and statistics;
    iii.   policy influencer – informs debate;
    iv.   information forager – searches for trustworthy data and insight;
    v.   inquiring Citizen – forms opinion based on fact;
    vi.   passive Citizen – relies on media and third parties; and
    vii.   search Engine – sweeps for highest quality relevant content.

17. Based on these personas and additional non-statistics user needs, ONS has undertaken research to understand requirements for future presentation of data. Throughout quarter three 2021/22 ONS undertook a deep dive into our current web estate, including corporate sites, and content management requirements.

18. User testing and engagement extended across all user types, all four Nations and inclusive of traditionally hard-to-reach citizens. This stakeholder engagement extended also to output areas within the ONS and other key stakeholders and community groups.

19. While there were many positives on products and presentation of high-level statistics, the synthesised feedback concluded that ONS is meeting the needs of a narrow audience only, with vast potential to improve.

20. These highlighted the following main areas for improvement:

    i.   **findability** – Quick and easy to access data is a challenge. The world is changing and new audiences are drawn to ONS in search of trustworthy answers, often in relation to their local area. This is true not only for our external users but also for experienced ONS and government colleagues;

    ii.   **One size fits all** – Current publications often try to satisfy all user groups at once and fail to meet the specific needs of each. Simpler summaries/content with less 'jargon/technical' analysis is sought to fulfil the needs of the citizen as well as the needs of the technical user. Content should also be produced for time-poor users. Some user groups are not well served by bulletins or articles. New users struggle as it is difficult for them to find meaningful answers in a mass of publications and it is difficult for them to interpret complex, partial and fragmented content. There is a lack of visuals and interactive tools to bring the data/stories to life. All users prefer a service that is quick and easy to use over one that is not;

    iii.   **draw information together in themes** – Inflexible information architecture combined with the ability to manage analysis at the release level only, means that it is not currently possible to bring information together meaningfully by theme;

    iv.   **data is locked into static files** – Data is not in a user-friendly format (e.g., machine readable) – machine readable outputs were extremely important within user research feedback. Local area data is considered poor; many users are concerned about what is happening in their area which we are unable to tell stories about effectively. Real-time, dynamically updated 'dashboards' powered by underpinning data would be welcomed;

v. **engagement** – The ONS web estate is set up as a broadcast channel and needs to support two-way conversation to enable ONS to be a listening organisation;

vi. **publishing process** – There is currently a lot of manual effort in publishing content. There are a lot of process steps and 'handover' points of responsibility in the publishing process and limited publishing 'slots' create release bottlenecks; and

vii. **Complex legacy technology** – It is harder to make improvements to meet user or business needs quickly due to underlying technology.

Opportunities

21. We are working through continuous improvements to reduce risks and limitations of our publishing system by building capability to publish large volumes and size of files, improving basic chart building tools to provide additional creative capability to statisticians and analysts, improving search engine performance, and using better analytics tools to understand impact and performance.

22. Our work to create tools and functionality for the Census outputs has already provided wider benefits for presentation of all our statistics and analysis, moving away from a 'one size fits all' approach by:

i. allowing ONS to move to a self-serve model for data with the ability for users to create the data sets they want and need;

ii. enabling users to explore their local area and compare geographies;

iii. improving search results pages to enable users to find what they are looking for; and

iv. improving look and feel of articles, bulletins, release pages and interactive rich content, as well as the underpinning publishing system improvements.

23. The Census has enabled us to trial new rich content which we have adapted as part of our wider outputs. Our 'scrollytelling' function has been used across a variety of different subjects, for example to help understand income and productivity[4], to add to our suite of engaging products to meet different user needs. We have also created new products, such as the Census Atlas Demo[5], which invite users to explore spatial patterns and compare areas.

24. The Integrated Data Service (IDS) and the ONS dissemination strategy are intrinsically linked. Both areas are introducing new capabilities and services to reimagine the offer for both producers and consumers. This includes the underlying architecture, the tools used, automation of services and a standards-based approach to data driven technologies and content systems.

25. The IDS Dissemination work provides greater opportunity for wider ONS and government publishing systems by building structured content to enable automated feeds of data for different user groups, enabling secure dissemination, creating area-based data access, joining data from different sources consistently and to the same standards, and working towards a truly ambitious cross-

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[4] https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/dvc1370/index.html;
https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/dvc1371/#/E07000223
[5] https://onsvisual.github.io/census-atlas/#/QS119EW005///11,-0.50859,52.44828

government publishing service. One of the examples of the opportunities from IDS Dissemination has been the recent climate change dashboard[6].

Workplan

26. We have undertaken significant work this year to make iterative improvements to search and navigation of our work, secure systems to minimise risks of breach, and build on the delivery of Census and IDS dissemination.

27. Ultimately, we are aiming to:

    i. make information easy to find;
    ii. provide interactive and easy to understand analysis;
    iii. lead innovation as a trusted data dissemination organisation, listening to changing user needs;
    iv. reduce and eventually eliminate manual processes; and
    v. provide attractive and functional corporate pages to reach the wide-reaching market.

Conclusion

28. NSEUAC members are invited to comment on this work to transform access to data.

Owen Brace, Director of Communication and Digital Publishing, ONS, 21 March 2022

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[6] https://climate-change.data.gov.uk/

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

NATIONAL STATISTICIAN'S EXPERT USER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

National Statistician's Priorities and key delivery milestones

Purpose
1. This paper provides the National Statistician's Expert User Advisory Committee (NSEUAC) with progress in the delivery of the UK Statistics Authority and a current view of the National Statistician's priorities to provide context in support of the first NSEUAC meeting.

Recommendations
2. Members of NSEUAC are invited to note and discuss:

    i.   the progress in the delivery of the UK Statistics Authority's strategy – Statistics for the Public Good;

    ii. the drivers that provide ongoing focus for Statistics for the Public Good; and

    iii. the priorities for delivery in the upcoming three-year Spending Review period that will support the remaining three years of the strategy.

Discussion
3. 2021/22 was the second year of the UK Statistics Authority's five-year Strategy 'Statistics for the Public Good' and the ONS's Strategic Business Plan. We have made significant progress during this period.

4. As we head into the upcoming Spending Review period. We have rearticulated the radical, ambitious, inclusive and sustainable drivers that support the UK Statistics Authority's strategy and how they related to ONS.

5. In support of the delivery of these drivers – we have also articulated the priorities for delivery over the remaining three years of the strategy – these will form the basis of the allocation of funding and resources that were provided to the UK Statistics Authority through the 2021 Spending Review.

6. The highest priorities are:

    i.   delivery of the 2021 Census outputs, transformed system of population and migration statistics and the business case for the future model for delivery of the Census benefits in Autumn 2023;

    ii. transformation of economic statistics – including radical new approaches to prices, labour market statistics, public sector finances and the data feeds into the descriptions of economic growth;

    iii. radical advances in the availability and usage of government's data through the Integrated Data Service Programme including the development of data assets in support of levelling-up, net zero and public health;

    iv. transformation of the Covid-19 Infection Survey, in partnership with the Department for Health and Social Care and Health Security Agency, to a digital first model - facilitating ongoing management of the pandemic at

significantly reduced cost while building resilience into the ongoing approach to collecting data in support of public health;

   v.   transformation of the crime survey, in partnership with the Home Office, to provide more granular data on crime and revised approaches to sensitive areas including violence against women and girls and child abuse;

   vi.   building inclusivity and quality into statistics across government;

   vii.   flexible analytical and data science capacity to provide rapid access to data in support of emerging areas of concern and/or access to new and novel data sources – including key government priorities such as net zero, in partnership with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and levelling up, in partnership with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities;

   viii.   sustainable improvements to the resilience of the organisation through continuing improvements in our website, technology estate and security approach;

   ix.   building the Analysis Function to be the centre for expertise for government across the analytical professions; and

   x.   ongoing drive to demonstrate the resource sustainability and financial efficiency of the ONS and broader statistical system.

Conclusion

7. This paper sets out the themes that will be the focus for the strategy over the coming three years, and the priorities for delivery.

8. NSEUAC is invited to note the articulation of these priorities and comment on any areas where further engagement would be beneficial to the work of the committee.

Professor Sir Ian Diamond, National Statistician, ONS, 22 March 2022