

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

**NATIONAL STATISTICIAN'S EXPERT USER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Agenda  
Thursday 8 June 2023, 11:00-13:00  
Remote Meeting**

**Chair:** Prof. David Hand

**Apologies:** Dame Kate Barker, Professor Diane Coyle, Professor Sir Ian Diamond

<b>Timing</b>	<b>Agenda item</b>	
1 11:00-11:05 (5 mins)	Welcome, previous minutes and actions	Meeting of 09.03.2023 Prof. David Hand
2 11:05-11:15 (10 mins)	Integrated Data Service	Discussion Alison Pritchard Stian Westlake
3 11:15-11:50 (35 mins)	Discussion with User	Oral Update Karen Ellis
4 11:50-12:10 (20 mins)	National Wellbeing and Societal Growth	NSEUAC(23)03 Liz McKeown
5 12:10-12:30 (20 mins)	GSS User Engagement Strategy	NSEUAC(23)04 Neil Townsend
6 12:30-12:45 (15 mins)	Post Census Consultation	NSEUAC(23)05 Ruth Studley
7 12:45-12:55 (10 mins)	Forward Agenda	Discussion
8 12:55-13:00 (5 mins)	Any Other Business	

**Next Meeting: Thursday 7 September, 11:00, Virtual Meeting**

**NATIONAL STATISTICIAN'S EXPERT USER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Draft Minutes  
Thursday 8 June 2023  
Via Videoconference**

**Members Present**

Prof. David Hand (Chair)  
Prof. Paul Allin  
Helen Boaden  
Prof. Paul Boyle  
Robert Bumpstead  
Nicola Emmerson  
Edward Humpherson  
Sarah Moore  
Sir Bernard Silverman

**In attendance**

Kate Davies (for item 6)  
Karen Ellis (item 3)  
Liz McKeown (for item 4)  
Alison Pritchard (for item 2)  
Eleanor Rees (for item 4)  
Emma Rourke  
Ruth Studley (for item 6)  
Neil Townsend (for item 5)  
Tim Vizard (for item 4)  
Stian Westlake (for item 2)

**Secretariat**

Abi Bale  
Kerri Gourley

**Apologies**

Dame Kate Barker  
Professor Diane Coyle  
Prof. Sir Ian Diamond  
Prof. David Martin  
Prof. Jane Falkingham  
Prof. Ann Phoenix

**1. Minutes and matters arising**

- 1.1 Members were welcomed to the meeting. Apologies were noted. The minutes from the meeting of 9 March were agreed and all actions were reviewed.
- 1.2 It was noted that Professor Denise Lievesley would be invited to attend the next National Statistician's Expert User Advisory Committee (NSEUAC) in September.
- 1.3 It was also noted that during evidence given by Professor Sir Ian Diamond to the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee on 23 May the role of NSEUAC was highlighted.

**2. Integrated Data Service Discussion**

- 2.1 Alison Pritchard and Stian Westlake led a discussion around the data packages which would be supported by the Integrated Data Service (IDS). Members heard that the IDS had planned to only support R and Python. Following discussions with the Economic and Social Research Council, it was agreed that the implications of this decision should be brought to the committee.
- 2.2 Members discussed the potential consequences of switching off the Secure Research Service (SRS) and it being replaced by the IDS and the cost to the organisation in providing a facility for any data packages unsupported by the IDS. Potential dual running of the SRS was discussed; however it would have to be done on a controlled basis, and further solutions would also be explored. The meeting also heard that some cloud-based options for traditional analysis packages had been identified for potential use in the IDS.
- 2.3 Members welcomed the update and agreed that further discussions with direct users would need to take place.

**3. Discussion with User (Karen Ellis)**

- 3.1 Karen Ellis, Chief Economist at the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) joined the meeting to reflect from her perspective as a user of statistics. Karen discussed how nature loss posed a risk to the financial sector and was an urgent challenge, there was also a need to integrate nature and environment statistics with Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Members also heard that the short termism currently in the financial market would need to be overcome and cultural change would be required.
- 3.2 Members discussed how the WWF could work with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to develop environmental statistics, and in particular raise their profile and usage. The need for internationally comparable data was also discussed however it was noted that there was trade-off between detail and complexity, and comparability across the widest number of countries.
- 3.3 Members welcomed the presentation and agreed the WWF should work collaboratively with ONS on how to best communicate the beyond GDP work.

**4. National Wellbeing and Societal Growth [NSEUAC(23)03]**

- 4.1 Liz McKeown introduced a paper outlining recent developments in the organisation's approach to Measuring National Well-being including an update on the review launched last year. Members heard that the pandemic and emergence from it had arguably renewed interest in this area, contributing to the impetus for the review. The review had focused both on what measures best reflect well-being but also on how those measures could be disseminated for maximum impact. The recommendations from the review would launch on 5 July and members were offered the opportunity to comment and provide feedback on plans.
- 4.2 Members supported the update. In particular the proposals to maximise the impact of wellbeing information including plans to bring the release time forward to 7am to align with the release of economic data were discussed and welcomed. Members also noted

and endorsed the plans to ensure work on wellbeing was joined up with broader beyond GDP activity in the Office.

**5. GSS User Engagement Strategy Update [NSEUAC(23)04]**

- 5.1 Neil Townsend introduced a paper on the Government Statistical Service User Engagement Strategy. Members heard that as the strategy was at its halfway point and the team were looking for advice and feedback on how to ensure they continue to respond to user needs over the second half of the strategy. Much progress had been made on the strategy with the aim of ensuring the GSS was best listening to users as well as introducing new initiatives such as the ONS Assembly. Members heard that further work was still required to better join up across other government departments.
- 5.2 Members gave positive feedback on the paper and discussed the need to both identify new users and enhance interaction with existing ones. It was noted that looking at supermarket modelling could be useful for identifying user journeys, which focused on life stages of customers. Members were pleased that the ONS Communications Engagement Hub had incorporated the Census 2021 Engagement team, following success during the 2021 Census at finding ways of engaging with underrepresented groups.
- 5.3 Members welcomed the update and it was suggested that it would be useful for a future item to focus on two engagement themes and hear how ONS had responded to feedback provided.

**6. The Post Census Consultation [NSEUAC(23)05]**

- 6.1 Ruth Studley introduced a paper on the Post Census Consultation. Members heard that engagement was happening across many sectors. Feedback had been generally supportive and highlighted interest in a range of topics including population definitions.
- 6.2 Members discussed scope for further engagement to ensure that users were clear on how their responses would be used and how they would feed into decisions, and it was noted that engagement would continue throughout the consultation process. Risks and mitigations for ensuring sustainable data flows was also discussed.
- 6.3 Overall, members expressed their support for the material presented in the paper, and emphasised the importance of this work.

**7. Forward Agenda**

- 7.1 The meeting discussed ideas for future items and members were asked to provide suggestions for future external speakers.
- 7.2 The chair suggested it would be useful to have a speaker from local government and members suggested inviting a speaker from civil society. A deep dive into the IDS was suggested for a future agenda item.

**8. Any other business**

- 8.1 The next meeting would take place on Thursday 7 September 2023.

## UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

### NATIONAL STATISTICIAN'S EXPERT USER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NSEUAC(23)03

#### *Review into Measuring National Wellbeing in the UK*

#### **Purpose**

1. Recent developments in our approach to Measuring National Well-being including an update on the review we launched in late 2022.

#### **Timing**

2. The review will be published on 5 July 2023. This will take the form of a series of publications on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website, alongside a public hybrid event at the Royal Statistical Society (RSS).

#### **Recommendations**

3. This paper is being presented to members of National Statistician's Expert User Advisory Committee (NSEUAC) for information. Members of NSEUAC are invited to:
  - i. comment and provide feedback on the recommendations set out in the discussion section of this paper.

#### **Background**

4. The Measuring National Well-being (MNW) Programme was launched by ONS in 2010 to provide a comprehensive picture of how the UK is doing, shaped by 34,000 public responses to a national debate. Since then, the well-being statistics published by ONS have been an important source of insight on societal progress.
5. During the Covid-19 pandemic, ONS published weekly estimates of personal well-being, providing policy makers with valuable real time data on how adults were doing across the country, including looking at levels of loneliness during a period of reduced social contact. As we have emerged from the pandemic, we note increased interest in the UK and internationally in statistics that go 'Beyond Gross Domestic Product (GDP)' and allow us to measure progress holistically, including a renewed interest in the importance of Well-being measures.
6. Reflecting this renewed interest and the fact that more than ten years had passed since the development of the framework, ONS launched a review last October to ensure the programme would continue to reflect what matters most to well-being in the UK today. It focused on two key questions:
  - i. which measures best reflect national well-being and quality of life in the UK; and
  - ii. how do we best disseminate these measures for maximum impact.

## Discussion

7. The review comprised of several parallel activities:
  - i. an online informal consultation providing feedback from over 120 users;
  - ii. focus groups with selected equalities groups at risk of low well-being;
  - iii. primary data collection, in collaboration with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), on what matters to individual and community well-being, using the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey;
  - iv. a review of recommended literature and international and domestic well-being frameworks (including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and United Nation frameworks); and
  - v. engagement with an expert group consisting of devolved administrations, central government and third sector experts (Carnegie, What Works Centre for Well-being, and Centre for Thriving Places).
8. Following this review – and in light of the stakeholder feedback received - we plan to:
  - i. retain the ten domains of measuring national wellbeing; Personal well-being, Our relationships, Health, What we do, Where we live, Personal Finance, Education and Skills, Economy, Governance and Environment;
  - ii. increase the number of indicators in our framework to 60 indicators (an increase from 44 indicators); 22 new measures were added, and six original measures were removed, with small changes also suggested for the retained original measures. At the same time, we propose exploring how best to summarise these within a reduced set of indicators to support greater impact.
  - iii. Publish the national well-being statistics on a quarterly basis, alongside the GDP figures and the climate change insights; we aim to move this publication to 7am to allow for societal data to be presented to the public at the same time as our economic indicators;
  - iv. at each release, publish the latest available data for our indicators in our revised UK Measures of National Well-being Dashboard and the associated data tables (Measuring national well-being: domains and measures data tables), this dashboard will incorporate commentary on all indicators, and greater functionality in line with recent developments to ONS interactive tools; and
  - v. publish more granular statistics on these indicators on an annual basis, by a range of personal characteristics such as employment status and disability, and at a local level where data allows.
9. Our plans also align with ONS's broader plans to measure progress Beyond GDP, where measures of national well-being can complement environmental and economic measures to provide a holistic picture of social progress in the UK. ONS plans to deliver a series of seminars on this, alongside the RSS, in late 2023.

## Conclusion

10. This paper sets out our high-level recommendations to be made in our forthcoming measuring national wellbeing review. We welcome NSEUAC providing comments and feedback on our plans.

**Liz McKeown, Director of Public Policy Analysis, ONS, 31 May 2023**

## UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

## NATIONAL STATISTICIAN'S EXPERT USER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NSEUAC(23)04

***An Update on the User Engagement Strategy for Statistics*****Purpose**

11. This paper provides members of the National Statistician's Expert User Advisory Committee (NSEUAC) with an update on how the Engagement Hub at the Office for National Statistics (ONS) is driving forward the goals of the User Engagement Strategy for Statistics<sup>1</sup> across the Government Statistical Service (GSS).

**Recommendations**

12. Members of NSEUAC are invited to:
- vi. note progress in delivery of the strategy;  
note the wide range of extended engagement activity instigated and coordinated by the ONS Engagement Hub; and
  - vii. comment on next steps.

**Background**

13. The four-year User Engagement Strategy for Statistics was launched in February 2021, in response to a recommendation from the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee for a more coordinated and strategic approach to engagement across the GSS. The strategy aims to ensure government statistics produced reflect the needs of the widest set of users in terms of content, timeliness and accessibility. Meaningful engagement including learning and adapting from user feedback is central to maximising the ongoing relevance and value of statistics. Producers need to be listening to a wide range of users as well as promoting statistics widely.

The strategy's three goals: collaboration, capability building and culture change are being driven forward by the Engagement Hub within the ONS Communications Division. To deliver this the Engagement Hub works closely with colleagues across ONS and with the network of user engagement champions across the GSS, to promote and deliver good engagement practices.

14. We are engaging users using a theme-based approach and have a dedicated outreach and engagement team to help identify and engage less traditional audiences. These initiatives have been discussed at NSEUAC previously, in July 2022 and November 2022 respectively.

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<sup>1</sup> [User engagement strategy for statistics – ensuring official statistics meet society's needs – Government Analysis Function \(civilservice.gov.uk\)](#)

## Discussion and Progress to Date

### Collaboration

15. To drive collaborative working, we have brought together colleagues across the 12 themes. For example, we convened a meeting of the main producers of children and education statistics from across the UK to get together for the first time, to discuss engagement priorities and ways of working together. The group will next meet in July to agree an action plan to address challenges, such as the need to improve coherence to enable users to link datasets and to ensure analysis focuses on the policy questions users are asking. Some engagement needs to be across multiple themes to address user priorities that are cross-cutting, such as sub-national data and inclusivity within statistics.

We have worked with producers of health and social care statistics across government to refresh and streamline their monthly newsletter, to ensure it is more accessible and relevant to its 8000 readers and not assume expert knowledge. Similar work is being undertaken to scope out the value of a regular update to raise user awareness of the economic statistics transformation and how they can help shape it.

16. The Engagement Hub is developing external partnerships to promote two-way engagement with users and broadening engagement at events and in consultations to inform developments and improvements to our statistics and service. For example:

- viii. Cost of living: we delivered a broad information, engagement and communications programme that includes promoting cost of living insights and data products to a wide range of users; diversifying engagement with non-expert users (for example 99 civil society and community groups attended a session on how they could benefit from our insights); and seeking user feedback to further improve our cost of living products and analysis. Impact from this includes a continued increase in the use of our insights tool<sup>2</sup> with the personal inflation calculator being embedded into Guardian and BBC websites and the shopping prices comparison tool reaching over 700,000 uses in its first week; and
- ix. What matters for national well-being: we undertook a national review of our well-being measures, engaging with and listening to over 200 separate stakeholders and user groups through events, social media and online. We received responses from a range of sectors including public, voluntary, commercial and academia. We are now launching the review findings along with new well-being indicators analysis at an event in July with over 500 stakeholders are due to attend. This event will also kick-off a wider stakeholder and user debate on how we measure progress beyond the more traditional economic indicators.

### Capability Building

17. The Engagement Hub is working on audience mapping and segmentation, to better understand the engagement landscape, identify preferred communications channels by audience type and address gaps in coverage. For example, we have used insights gained

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<sup>2</sup><https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/articles/costofliving/latestinsights>



from census collection engagement with non-traditional users to inform development of census outputs products. In March 2023, we ran explanatory 'show and tells' to accompany census releases and produced a tailored guide to Census 2021 outputs to help less-expert users. We provided materials aimed at local authorities, community groups and charities to help them understand and use Census 2021 outputs and promote them onwards. This has broadened the accessibility to community groups.

The hub is sharing engagement best practice across government through its network of GSS user engagement champions and has established and delivered communicating data and statistics training modules through the Government Communications Service to colleagues across government.

18. In response to user need for greater sub-national statistics and analysis, ONS Local has been launched with a focus on collaborative working between ONS analysts and local data users across the UK. This is enabling us to listen and respond to the analysis needs of local users.

### Culture Change

19. The 12-engagement theme leads from across government now meet quarterly to share knowledge and discuss their challenges and priorities. The themes are at different levels of maturity in terms of engagement approach, and the Hub is currently supporting three themes in particular:

- x. national accounts – one of the ONS led economy themes;
- xi. health and social care – one of the ONS led society themes; and
- xii. children and education – led by The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (OFSTED).

20. The aim is to establish effective working models for each of these themes and learn lessons from their approaches to share across all themes. For example, the Transport theme has been keen to learn from the experiences of the Children and Education theme about convening a UK-wide producer panel.

We have rolled out an audience-led engagement approach to understand the public's views on ONS' use of administrative data. This focusses on maintaining high levels of public trust through transparency and two-way engagement. In particular, we are listening to the views of 18–24 year-olds, a group likely to have less trust in government. Through our quarterly ONS Assembly, we have established a long-term forum for increased engagement with charities and bodies representing the interests of underrepresented groups of the population. Assembly member organisations represent a variety of protected characteristics groups, covering both national and regional bodies. The Assembly provides a mechanism for regular, open dialogue on progress in delivering more inclusive data.

### **Next Steps**

21. We have made good progress on establishing our new theme-based engagement framework and driving a new collaborative culture across the GSS. Our next steps are to extend best practice across all the themes and to take opportunities to broaden this

approach to our other communications and engagement channels. This will enable us to continue to build clear and simple entry routes into the world of official statistics for all, regardless of who people know, or their technical knowledge of the system.

We will keep NSEUAC updated on our progress.

### **Conclusion**

22. NSEUAC members are asked to note the work of the ONS Engagement Hub in taking forward the ambitions of the User Engagement Strategy for Statistics, and comment on our plans to extend collaboration, build capability and promote culture change, whilst working in conjunction with the broader activities of the Communications and Digital Publishing Directorate, and the wider GSS.

NSEUAC views and suggestions about how we should progress this work are welcomed.

**Neil Townsend, Communications and Digital Publishing, ONS, 26 May 2023**

## UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

## NATIONAL STATISTICIAN'S EXPERT USER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NSEUAC(23)05

**Consultation on the future of population and migration statistics in England and Wales****Purpose**

23. The following paper provides the National Statistician's Expert User Advisory committee (NSEUAC) with an update on progress towards the National Statistician's Recommendation on the Future of Population and Migration Statistics, with particular focus on the Consultation. The update follows a briefing in March 2023.

**Timing**

24. The Committee is asked to note the following high-level milestones associated with the consultation and recommendation:

- xiii. an extended suite of research evidence will be published in June 2023, prior to the consultation going live;
- xiv. the consultation will launch on 29 June 2023 and will close at the end of October 2023. In response to feedback a decision has been made to extend the consultation period to more than 16 weeks. While the consultation is open, we will be monitoring and analysing response to understand where further engagement is needed; and
- xv. launch events will take place week beginning 4 July 2023 in England and Wales, to coincide with Evidence Week in Parliament.

**Recommendations**

25. Members of NSEUAC are invited to:

- xvi. note the launch date and timeline;
- xvii. note the draft consultation document;
- xviii. note feedback received from stakeholders; and
- xix. note update on assurance.

**The Consultation**

26. The consultation invites users to provide feedback on how far our proposal meets their needs. The consultation document seeks to reflect known stakeholder priorities as well as highlighting the high-level technical design that will underpin the new system.

27. We have sought to ensure that the consultation is balanced, accessible, factual and that findings are clearly articulated. We have added an additional layer of assurance by commissioning the Consultation Institute (a not-for-profit best practice membership organisation focused on raising the standard of consultation and engagement practices) to review the engagement strategy, consultation document and our risks and mitigations. The Committee is invited to review the update on assurance found in paragraph 18 to 20.

28. We have extended the period that the consultation will run to allow sufficient opportunity for engagement and responses.
29. The consultation document uses plain English to describe the Office for National Statistics (ONS) vision for future population and social statistics and the potential benefits to users. We are using data visualisation from ONS research to illustrate how admin-based estimates compare to existing statistics from the census. It is clear with readers on how the proposed vision could affect different aspects of quality in these statistics (frequency, timeliness, granularity, accuracy), and outlines how research will continue to develop over the coming years. The document also covers topics including the UK and international context, the economic case, and strategic risks. It also clarifies security and privacy processes, and how the transformation programme has been assured, including both ethical and methodological assurance. The document has been drafted to make clear that a decision has not yet been made on the future of the census, and that this decision will be informed by responses to the consultation.
30. The consultation document and questionnaire will be hosted on the online platform citizen space. The detailed evidence referenced in the consultation document will be hosted on the ONS website with reciprocal links. Additional materials including a video will be made available as supporting information.

Stakeholder Engagement update

31. We are undertaking pre-consultation engagement with a range of audiences through a series of roundtable and stakeholder engagement events. Audiences so far have included local authorities from England and Wales, population and migration experts and academics, the Local Government Association and Data Cymru, the Market Research Society, Equalities Groups, the ONS Assembly and think tanks via the Institute for Government.
32. Further roundtables to come include sessions with health bodies in collaboration with the National Health Service Confederation, non-statutory health bodies, housing, property and planning organisations and a session with business users.
33. Government Statistical Service Heads of Profession and Departmental Directors of Analysis have been engaged and provided with additional briefing to support departmental engagement with the consultation and transformation proposal. Early engagement with other government departments, at the working level and integrating awareness of the consultation into all ONS meetings with civil service colleagues is underway.
34. An engagement plan for privacy groups, in collaboration with ONS' wider work in this space, has been developed. A useful meeting with key members of the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) took place in early May to raise awareness of the proposal and provide assurance that data security and privacy requirements are central to its implementation.
35. The ICO were very positive about the work to date and raised no concerns. They were pleased with our approach to data security and transparency. We agreed to further consult with ICO as our plans are progressed.

36. Alongside the roundtables, wider engagement is planned via social media, podcasts, media releases, webinars, blogs and presence at conferences. This wider engagement will increase up to the launch of the consultation and continue throughout the consultation period. Products will be accessible to all users including the citizen user.
37. The response to our engagement so far has been positive about the work that has been delivered to date, and the future direction of travel. We have received constructive feedback about areas of further interest, priority user needs or where more development needed has included:
- xx. Support for alternative population bases and definitions (seasonal populations, daytime populations, irregular migrants, students etc). Later in May we are publishing a paper “Population and migration estimates - exploring alternative definitions” setting out some of the definitions that could underpin alternative population bases and asking users to respond to the Consultation with their views. This will allow us to build the specifications of the flexible population definitions that we will make available to users. In June, as part of the evidence base, we are publishing our ‘Population 24/7’ research, showing how we can construct ‘time of day’ population estimates.
  - xxi. On local level data we have demonstrated our ability to produce some outputs at Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOA) level and our commitment to working to produce Output Area (OA) level population estimates. The consultation will help identify priority requirements for local level data (including what ‘local’ means for different outputs) and develop our research plans accordingly.
  - xxii. Measuring and reporting on quality of admin data and resulting outputs are vital – and some technical input provided about development of plausibility ranges. As part of our publications in June we are publishing frameworks for measuring and reporting on the quality of administrative data in Population and Migration estimates – exploring alternative definitions: May 2023.
  - xxiii. The ONS’s proposals for a Longitudinal Population Dataset present the opportunity to retain a rich historical record of the population to support future genealogical and social research. Such records could take the form of snapshots of data by individual and address that could also be linked longitudinally. This will cover the full population and will draw on a range of sources that could expand over time and respond to the topical issues of the day. Data held for historical purposes would be stored securely and ethically, separate from any personal identifiers, until appropriate to be published as historical records.
  - xxiv. We recognise the importance of making microdata available for research and our plans for how we’ll achieve that include using the microdata products available from Census 2021 as the starting point for developing microdata products from linked data. We will seek to exploit the functionality of the Integrated Data Service (IDS) to maximise safe access to the linked data. Clearly, protecting the confidentiality of the data and individuals will be central to the solutions we implement. In addition, we will build on the excellent innovations introduced by Census 2021 (build a custom dataset, area profile builder) and the use of Application Programme Interfaces (APIs) to make statistics from the linked microdata accessible and available to all.
  - xxv. Questions about how we will mitigate fragility/immaturity of admin data system (data availability, consistency, supply, changes to data etc).

xxvi. UK level statistics and how this will be impacted by the outcome of the Recommendation for England and Wales (if Scotland and Northern Ireland do different things/are on different timescales).

38. We have bolstered sections of the Consultation Document to ensure that this feedback is taken on board.

#### Parliamentary engagement

39. A series of events will take place week commencing 4 July 2023 targeted at members of parliament and the Senedd. We have partnered with 'Sense about Science' to deliver a range of engagement opportunities, including creating a video explainer, running a policy drop-in, and hosting events in London and Cardiff supported by comms materials. In addition to these events, we will write to relevant Parliamentary Committees and All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) when the consultation is launched.

#### Assurance

40. A provisional Equality Impact Assessment has been drafted to coincide with the consultation launch. This considers the potential impacts of moving towards the proposal set out in the consultation, and the mitigations identified for these impacts. An updated Equality Impact Assessment will be followed alongside the National Statistician's recommendation.

41. We have also engaged with:

xxvii. the Consultation Institute – To quality assure all our consultation documents and materials; and

xxviii. the Government Legal Department – to receive legal advice on aspects of the consultation.

42. The statistical methods used in our transformation research have been scrutinised internally by the Methodology and Quality Division and externally by the Methodological Review Panel are continually updating our methodologies and will continue to receive scrutiny when using these approaches. Please see our most recent methodological paper on the Dynamic Population Model here (published 28 February 2023).

#### Transformation across the UK

43. The response to the consultation described in this paper will inform the National Statistician's recommendations for the future of population and social statistics in England and Wales, to which we anticipate responses from UK Government and Welsh Government.

44. Separate decisions, informed by National Records of Scotland and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, respectively, will be made by the Scottish Government and Northern Ireland Executive, and are expected in 2024 and 2025, respectively.

45. We know there is particular and significant value to users for consistent, coherent, and accessible statistics for the UK, for each country and geographic areas within each country. Meeting this need has been an important factor in the proposals we are developing.

46. In November 2022, the UK's National Statistician, along with the Chief Statisticians and Registrars General of the devolved administrations, signed a cooperation agreement on the future of population, migration, housing and social statistics across the UK. This builds on previous cooperation and formalises our joint priority to produce population statistics that are accessible, timely, and coherent, and which our users understand, both now and in the future.

Communications (published information)

47. We have published updates on our research on the ONS website and communicated these to stakeholders through blogs<sup>3</sup> and email notifications<sup>4</sup>. This will continue as further research is published in the lead up to the consultation.

48. The consultation will go live in late June and extensively publicised to ensure potential respondents are aware of it, what it aims to achieve and how to respond. We will use a variety of channels to ensure we reach a wide audience including less traditional users such as community and faith groups alongside users such as central and local government, academia and business. We are working closely with ONS local to ensure all viable engagement routes are used. A detailed communications plan is being developed to support this.

**Ruth Studley, Senior Responsible Owner of Census and Data Collection Transformation Programme (CDCTP) and Karen Campbell-White, Deputy Director, CDCTP, ONS, 26 May 2023.**

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<sup>3</sup> [Revolutionising administrative data: a look into the future of population and migration statistics | National Statistical](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Population statistics newsletter \(govdelivery.com\)](#)





# WWF discussion with National Statistician's Expert User Advisory Committee

Karen Ellis, Chief Economist, WWF-UK 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023



# WWF's Goal is to promote the transformation to a net zero, nature positive economy & financial system

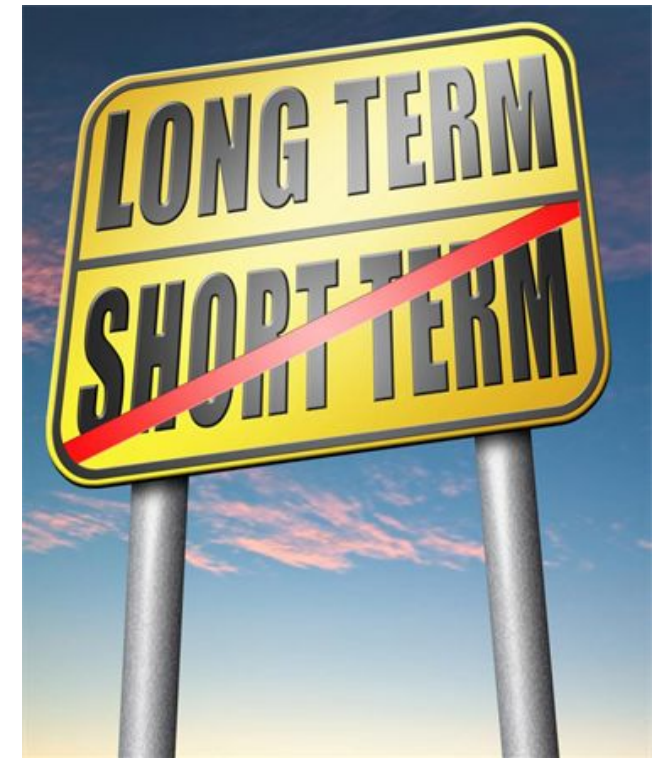
*“This report shows the severity of the macroeconomic consequences of biodiversity loss and profiles the increasing efforts by central banks and supervisors to understand the implications for both financial institutions and for the system as a whole”, says Professor Nick Robins of the NGFS Report.*



# We need an economic transformation

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- Change incentive structures in the system
- Government and private sector need to be judged by their ability to support the creation of a stable and resilient economy for the long-term, not just short-term income and profit
- We need appropriate performance metrics and decision-relevant data



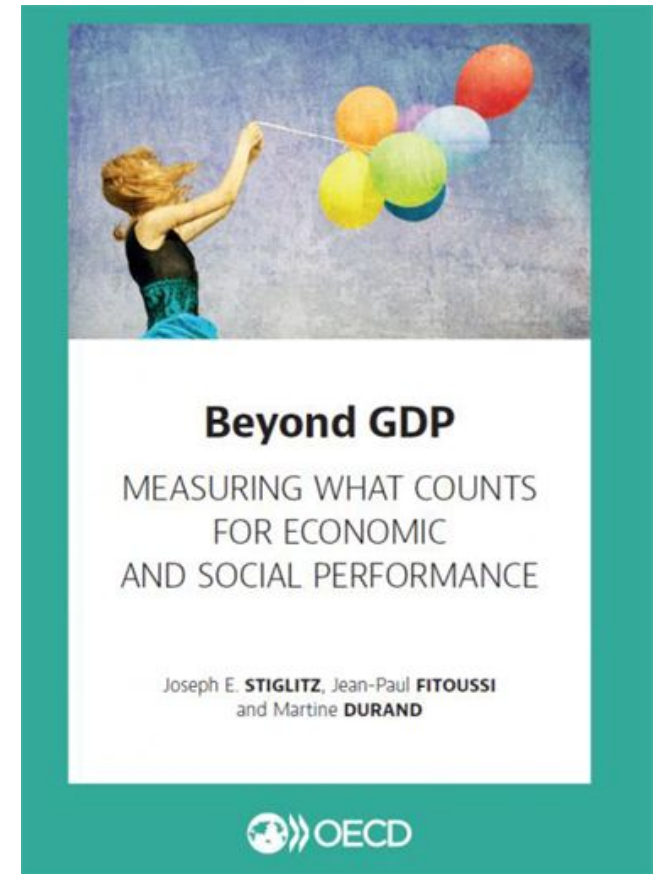
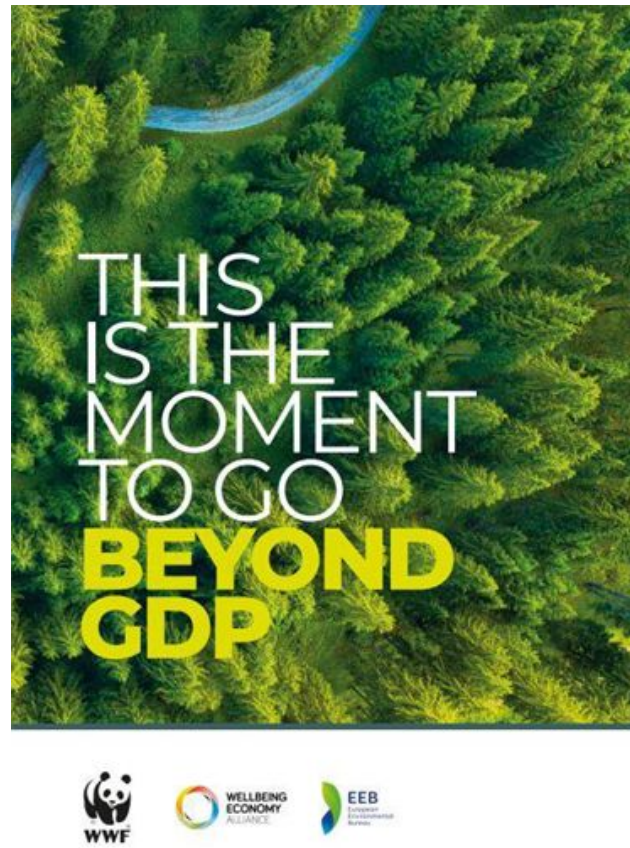
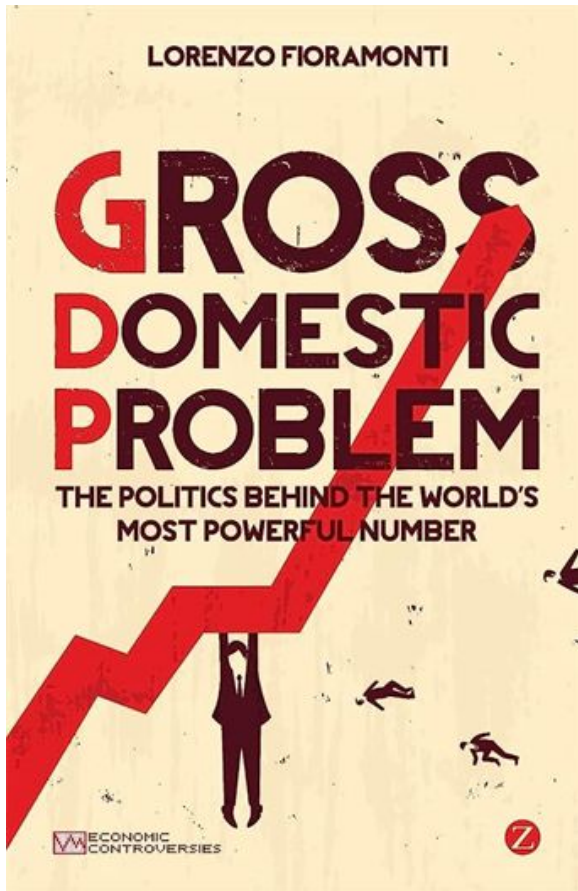
# Potential Applications

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- Sovereign credit risk ratings
- Developing nature positive economic pathways to guide the transition
- Assess the impact of government policy or private sector activity on natural capital
- Assessing costs and risks of natural capital depletion
- Natural capital investment prioritisation



# We need to change the narrative





**Thank you**

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