

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

Minutes

Meeting of 29 June 2023
Darlington Economic Campus Boardroom

Hybrid Meeting

Present

UK Statistics Authority

Sir Robert Chote (Chair)

Sian Jones

Dr Jacob Abboud

Professor Sir John Aston

Professor Sir Ian Diamond

Ed Humpherson

Nora Nanayakkara

Alison Pritchard

Professor Dame Carol Propper

Professor Sir David Spiegelhalter

Penny Young

Also in attendance

Robert Bumpstead

Alex O'Donoghue (Review Team)

Sally Jones (Secretariat)

Professor Denise Lievesley

Mike Keoghan (for items 6 and 12)

Sarah Moore

Natalie Tarr (for item 13)

Tom Taylor

Rhys Thomas (for item 14)

Jason Zawadzki (for item 12)

Apologies

None

1. Introduction to the Darlington Economic Campus

- 1.1 Sir Robert Chote welcomed attendees to the meeting, particularly Beth Russell, Second Permanent Secretary, HM Treasury, and Darren Morgan, Director of Economic Statistics; Professor Denise Lievesley, who joined the meeting as the lead reviewer for the public bodies review of the Authority, and Alex O' Donoghue (a member of the review team); and Sarah Moore attending her first Board meeting in her role as Interim Director for Communications and Digital Publishing.
- 1.2 Beth Russell and Darren Morgan provided an overview of the Darlington Economic Campus. The campus, which is part of the Places for Growth programme, brings together several departments including ONS, providing an opportunity to work collaboratively and provide a wider range of career opportunities in the Northeast.
- 1.3 The Board heard that the aim of the campus included making government, policy making and delivery stronger through a diverse workforce working in a dynamic environment. The campus provided opportunities for those who previously might not have joined the Civil Service bringing diversity of thought and in so doing having an impact on broader society and the public good. In order to maximise the recruitment of local talent the campus had invested in its induction and training programme and in a culture of working collaboratively.
- 1.4 Board members noted their thanks for an excellent introduction to the campus.

2. Independent Review of the Authority

- 2.1 Sir Robert welcomed Professor Denise Lievesley, who had been appointed to lead a review of the Authority by the Cabinet Office as part of its Public Bodies Review Programme. Sir Robert, members of the Board and Professor Sir Ian Diamond would be engaging with Professor Lievesley throughout the review.
- 2.2 The meeting heard that the review would be evidence based organised into four areas identified by the Public Bodies Review Programme – Efficacy, Accountability, Governance and Efficiency. The review intended to consult widely, including seeking views from a range of stakeholders including Board members, Local Authorities, Parliament, academia, third sector and civil society, business, International Statistical Institutes, the Devolved Administrations, finance, health and economic sectors and Government Statistical Service Heads of Profession. A call to evidence was ongoing with a deadline for responses of Friday 7 July.
- 2.3 Professor Lievesley noted that the range of Board papers particularly the paper on the Authority's Strategic Risk profile, covered a number of themes being considered as part of the review including:
 - i. the advantages and disadvantages of the production and regulatory arms within the same body;
 - ii. the strength of the current statistical system and its ability to withstand political interference;
 - iii. the role of Parliament in the statistical system;
 - iv. Devolution and the challenges presented to statistics by the different administrative systems within the Union;
 - v. talent management across the Government Statistical Service and talent pipeline;
 - vi. user engagement and how users are informing the wider agenda;
 - vii. lessons learned from the pandemic and learning from best practice more generally; and
 - viii. the ability of the Authority to deliver in an agile way.
- 2.4 Board members considered the plans and the following points were included in discussion:

- i. the need for the statistical system to have resilience and surge capacity to deliver in new areas of work;
 - ii. the challenges of the current funding model in relation to priorities such as population health monitoring; and
 - iii. the governance and accountability of statistics funded by other departments.
- 2.5 With regard to statistical leadership, it was noted that currently very experienced senior statisticians and economists were not able to operate at Senior Civil Service level without taking on management responsibilities, and this could be an inhibiting factor. The inclusion of more Directors of Analysis on Departmental Executive Boards was a positive development, which provided the opportunity for policy makers and analysts to work together.
- 2.6 The topic of misinformation, while not central to the review could be covered as part of the consideration of the Office for Statistics Regulation's role. This linked to the importance of data literacy across government and society.
- 2.7 The Board noted their thanks to Professor Lievesley. It was agreed that members could follow up with any further feedback.

3. Apologies

- 3.1 There were no apologies received.

4. Declarations of Interest

- 4.1 There were no new declarations of interest.

5. Minutes and matters arising from previous meetings.

- 5.1 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 May 2023 were agreed.

6. Report from the Authority Chair [SA(23)37]

- 6.1 Non-Executive Directors (NEDs) had met prior to the Board meeting and had discussed the consultation on Plans for the Transformation of Population and Migration statistics, which had launched that day (29 June).
- 6.2 The Chair reported on his recent activities since the Board last met. On 28 June Sir Robert Chote alongside Ed Humpherson, Director General for the Office for Statistics Regulation, had presented at the launch of OSR's annual report: *State of the Statistical System*.
- 6.3 Sir Robert had exchanged correspondence on the survey conducted independently by NatCen Social Research on Public Confidence in Office Statistics 2021.
- 6.4 It was noted that the September Board meeting would include an item on Consumer Prices and the Retail Prices Index.

7. Report from the Chief Executive [SA(23)38]

- 7.1 Professor Sir Ian Diamond provided the Board with an overview of activity and issues since the last meeting, highlighting the following:
- i. the UK Health Security Agency and the future funding of the COVID-19 surveillance and the Respiratory Infection Survey;
 - ii. the commission by HM Treasury (HMT) for Sir Ian and HMT Second Permanent Secretaries, Cat Little and Sam Beckett to review and improve measurements of public sector productivity;
 - iii. the organisational security health check undertaken by the Information Security Forum against its standard of good practice for information security;

- iv. Sir Ian had attended the launch of the ONS Manchester office, like the Darlington Economic Campus and other ONS sites it provided an opportunity to attract local talent;
 - v. the Research Accreditation Panel (RAP) had considered and declined Digital Economy Act accreditation for the Integrated Data Service (IDS), scheduled for discussion later in the meeting);
 - vi. Sir Ian had met with the Minister for the Cabinet Office and the Secretary of State for Wales regarding progress of work on the harmonisation of health data across the Union, specifically health indicators;
 - vii. the launch on 29 June of the consultation on ONS' plans for the transformation of population and migration statistics, which would remain open until 26 October 2023.
- 7.2 Board members discussed the update and commended ONS on the result of the organisational security health check.
- 7.3 It was noted that there was a danger of a significant missed opportunity for public health monitoring in the UK in relation to future funding for the COVID-19 and Respiratory Infections Survey. The Board resolved to discuss the matter again at their next meeting.
- 7.4 With regard to the review on public sector productivity ONS would be working with other government departments on the methodology to jointly produce the data.

8. Report from the Director General for Regulation [SA(23)39]

- 8.1 Ed Humpherson provided an update on regulation activity, highlighting the launch of OSR's annual report on the State of the Statistical System on 28 June. OSR had published a guest blog by the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation, *The Algorithmic Transparency Recording Standard*, which they had developed with the Central Digital Data Office in response to OSR's report on *Ensuring Statistical Models Command Public Confidence* published in 2021.
- 8.2 The Board heard that OSR had written to ONS regarding the first of its additional research articles on gender identity on 19 June, which had included OSR's early findings from its ongoing review of gender identity data from the 2021 England and Wales Census.

9. Report from the Chair of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee

- 9.1 Sian Jones had chaired the meeting on 22 June and reported on the work of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC). Committee members had considered the Authority's Annual Report and Accounts 2022/23 and recommended the National Statistician's approval subject to resolution of an issue relating to lease reporting, which had since been resolved.
- 9.2 Sian Jones received and welcomed the annual update from the Data Protection Officer, which provided the Committee with full assurance.
- 9.3 Nora Nanayakkara reported that based on the work of the Committee during the year and assurance work carried out by external and internal auditors, it was her opinion that the Authority's governance and control framework was generally effective. The Committee had welcomed the Moderate audit opinion by the Head of Internal Audit for a third consecutive year. The Committee had highlighted the significant improvements in risk, assurance, and governance, under the leadership and commitment of Sir Ian and the Senior Leadership Team. The Committee had commended Natalie Tarr, Head of Assurance for all her work on risk and assurance and Louise Love, Head of Internal Audit in delivering the IA Plan 2022/23.
- 9.4 The Board noted their thanks to the Chair and the Committee for their work during 2022/23 and endorsed the ARAC's Annual Report and Accounts 2022/23

10. Report from the Chair of the Regulation Committee

10.1 The Chair reported on the work of the Regulation Committee which had last met on 20 April. The Committee had considered:

- i. the draft report on OSR's assessment of the Office for National Statistics Producer Price Inflation statistics;
- ii. OSR's process underpinning the de-designation of National Statistics, with a further update scheduled at the October meeting;
- iii. a draft of the Data Sharing and Linkage Report with a focus on the how OSR could empower the public sector to prioritise data sharing and linkage for the public good, setting out the success and challenges; and
- iv. work in progress as part of OSR's research programme to develop a shared understanding of the public good of statistics.

10.2 The Board noted the update.

11. Integrated Data Service (IDS) [SA(23)40]

11.1 Alison Pritchard updated members with progress on the Integrated Data Programme (IDP), responsible for the delivery of the IDS.

11.2 Alison Pritchard reported that the RAP had not been able to grant accreditation to the IDS at its June meeting. The panel had received a report which approved the security controls but the panel needed more evidence of data maturity in service operations for accreditation to be given.

11.3 An invitation had been made to return to RAP in September. The aim going forward would be to maximise current analysis under existing legal gateways, which would help provide the further evidence requested by RAP. Alison assured the Board that she considered the design of the IDS remained valid.

11.4 With regard to the transition from the Secure Research Service to the IDS, and following discussions with the Economic and Social Research Council, Administrative Data Research (UK) and some other research bodies, a further period of dual running beyond March 2024 had been agreed in order to resolve issues in relation to tooling and better meet user needs. There would now be no 'hard stop' to the SRS in March 2024.

11.5 Board members discussed the update. The following points were considered in discussion:

- i. the decision of the programme to now pivot away from a strategic to a more tactical approach in the coming months working with existing models of governance;
- ii. the long-term future of the programme and how success would be judged;
- iii. the further evidence needed to gain accreditation including that related to data catalogues and data monitoring, and in respect of other outstanding queries;
- iv. the controls that data owners from other government departments would need to be assured of in order to share data;
- v. what tools it would be realistically possible to expect users to adapt to;
- vi. whether the programme would benefit from a 'pause and reset'; and
- vii. the programme's hope that further buy-in for the IDS could be secured through the work being led by Central Digital Data Office around the identification of Essential Shared Data Assets; and
- viii. that it was critical that the programme took the time needed to ensure all controls were 'green' before resubmitting an application for DEA accreditation.

11.6 The Board would continue to remain engaged as the work progressed, and thanked Alison and her team for their efforts thus far.

12. ARIES Programme [SA(23)41]

- 12.1 Jason Zawadzki and Mike Keoghan provided the Authority Board with a progress update for the ARIES programme for quarter one 2023/24.
- 12.2 The Board heard that as part of programme delivery the new style Public Sector finance release in May 2023 included new balance sheet metrics. Prices Rail Fares had been incorporated in the production of headline consumer price statistics in March 2023. The work on the Transformed Labour Force Survey (TFLS) had resulted in improvements in response rates, data quality and resilience, and a reduction in the legacy risk. The ARIES Full Business Case had been submitted to HMT in April. The Board heard that changes to the scope of the programme to ensure ongoing affordability and viability would not impact on the project to reduce reliance on legacy systems.
- 12.3 Board members discussed the update and commended the team on progress including the impact of the TLFS. It was noted that all audit actions from the recent Internal Audit Report on ARIES were complete.

13. Strategic Risk Profile [SA(23)42]

- 13.1 Tom Taylor and Natalie Tarr provided the Authority Board with an update on the strategic risk profile following discussion at the ARAC on 18 May 2023. The strategic risk profile sets out the most significant risks to the delivery of the strategy, Statistics for the Public Good.
- 13.2 The Board welcomed the assurance provided by the review of the overarching Independence and Trustworthiness risk, which was owned by the National Statistician and overseen by the Board. The Risk and Assurance team had made significant progress over the last year as recognised by the ARAC. Currently all strategic risks were within risk appetite, demonstrating the enhancements in controls and assurance, continued focus by the Risk and Assurance team and risk owners, led by Sir Ian and the senior leadership team.
- 13.3 Board members discussed and agreed the recommendation to amend the appetite statement and range for Strategic Risk 2 'Delivery of Ambition'. With regard to Strategic Risk 10 'Public Health Monitoring and Reporting' it was agreed that given the current position the risk should move outside of appetite, while noting that in the coming months the risk would be revisited.
- 13.4 It was noted that ahead of the next Board discussion on the strategic risk profile in November, workshops would be scheduled with members.

14. Annual Report and Accounts [SA(23)43]

- 14.1 Tom Taylor and Rhys Thomas introduced the final draft version of the Annual Report and Accounts 2022/23, which had been reviewed by the ARAC and had been subject to audit by the National Audit Office (NAO).
- 14.2 Tom Taylor commended the finance team for all of their work with the end of year financial position within all control totals. The report set out the achievements across the year over the year 2022/23.
- 14.3 The Board approved the Annual Report and Accounts 2022/23 ahead of laying before Parliament on 11 July. Sir Robert, on behalf of the Board noted the significant achievements achieved under the leadership of Sir Ian, and noted thanks to all.

15. Any other business

- 15.1 Members briefly discussed ONS Excess Deaths Mortality statistics. A paper was scheduled for discussion at the July meeting.
- 15.2 The next meeting of the UK Statistics Authority Board will be on 27 July 2023.

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY
Agenda
29 June 2023, 12.00-16.00
Darlington Economic Campus

Chair: Sir Robert Chote

Apologies: None

Attendees: Mike Keoghan (for items 4 and 9), Natalie Tarr (for item 10), Rhys Thomas (for item 11), Jason Zawadzki (for item 9)

NED Session: 11.30-12.00

1 12.00-12.15 15 mins	Introduction to the Darlington Campus	Darren Morgan Beth Russell
2 12.15-13.00 45 minutes	Introduction – Cabinet Office Review	Oral update Prof. Denise Lievesley
3 13.00-13.05 5 mins	Minutes and matters arising from previous meetings Declarations of interest	Meeting of 25 May 2023
4 13.05-13.15 10 mins	Report from the Authority Chair	SA(23)37 Sir Robert Chote
5 13.15-13.45 30 mins	Report from the Chief Executive	SA(23)38 Prof. Sir Ian Diamond
6 13.45-14.00 15 mins	Report from the Director-General for Regulation	SA(23)39 Ed Humpherson
7 14.00-14.15 15 mins	Report from Committee Chairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit and Risk Assurance Committee • Regulation Committee 	Oral update Nora Nanayakkara Sian Jones Penny Young
14.15-14.25 10 mins	Lunch	
8 14.25-14.55 30 mins	Integrated Data Service	SA(23)40 Alison Pritchard
9 14.55-15.20 25 mins	ARIES Programme	SA(23)41 Jason Zawadzki Mike Keoghan
10 15.20-15.35 15 mins	Strategic Risk Profile	SA(23)42 Tom Taylor Natalie Tarr
11 15.35-15.50 15 mins	Annual Report and Accounts 2022/23	SA(23)43 Tom Taylor Rhys Thomas
12 15.50-16.00 10 mins	Any Other Business	

Next meeting: 27 July 2023, Hybrid London Boardroom

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(23)37

Chair's Report, June 2023

Purpose

1. This paper provides the Authority Board with an overview of the Chair's activity in late May and June.

Review of recent activities

2. This month it was announced by the Cabinet Office that Professor Denise Lievesley CBE had been appointed to lead an independent review of the UK Statistics Authority as part of the government's Public Bodies Review Programme. The review will establish how the organisation is performing and provide independent challenge to ensure that the Authority is effectively delivering necessary services, that it is doing so as efficiently as possible, and that it has clear governance and lines of accountability. The call for evidence is open until early July and the review is currently expected to conclude in the autumn. I had an introductory meeting with Professor Lievesley on 30 May.
3. On 14 June, I met with Tim Ambler of the Adam Smith Institute to discuss his research on the Civil Service.
4. On 15 June, I met with Sir Andrew Dilnot, Warden of Nuffield College, Oxford and former Chair of the Authority.
5. On 20 June, while in Edinburgh, I met with Job de Roij, Crime and Security domain lead in Office for Statistics Regulation. I also met with Ally McAlpine, interim Chief Statistician for Scotland.
6. This month I also held my regular catch-ups with the National Statistician, the Director General for Regulation, the Deputy Chair, and the Chairs of the Regulation and Audit and Risk Assurance Committees.

Casework and correspondence

7. On 24 April, I responded to Dame Angela Eagle MP regarding a tweet posted by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on headline national debt figures.
8. On 16 June, I responded to Munira Wilson MP on claims made by the Mayor of London regarding vehicle compliance with the Ultra-Low Emission Zone.
9. During the month, I also had some engagement with stakeholders on issues including the Public Confidence in Official Statistics survey, the Authority's responsiveness to user engagement, and Office for National Statistics' measures of consumer price inflation.

Sir Robert Chote, Chair, 22 June 2023

Chief Executive's Report, June 2023

Purpose

1. This provides the UK Statistics Authority Board (the Board) with an overview of activity for June 2023.

Summary

2. This month saw the launch of the Independent Review of the Authority, led by the Cabinet Office. It has also seen the Chancellor of the Exchequer request that I lead a review, working across government, into public sector productivity. Work has continued at pace to prepare for the launch of the consultation on the transformation of population and migration statistics this month.
3. We have also had a decision from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) on the future funding of COVID-19 surveillance and our Respiratory Infection Survey (CRIS). Finally, the Research Accreditation Panel has issued an initial decision on accreditation for the Integrated Data Service Digital Economy Act.

Review of recent activities

4. The **Independent Review of the Authority** launched earlier this month alongside a wide call for evidence. The lead reviewer, Professor Denise Lievesley, is in attendance at today's board meeting and is meeting key colleagues in Darlington throughout the day. She is also conducting a number of interviews with key stakeholders across government and beyond.
5. This month has also seen the Chancellor of the Exchequer commission Cat Little and Sam Beckett, second permanent secretaries at HM Treasury, and I to **review and improve measurements of public sector productivity**. This will require the Office for National Statistics (ONS) working with Other Government Departments to improve the collection of public sector output and outcomes data to enable the production of better productivity statistics. We will be aligning closely across government to deliver this.
6. We have finalised initial **budget allocations for 2023/24** with the financial planning round culminating in budget sign-off at the Executive Committee on 31 May. We have distributed delegation letters setting out initial budgets and responsibilities via Director's General (DG) on 13 June. We have provided flexibility to DGs to act in the context of their accountabilities/objectives in light of the constrained financial environment.
7. Earlier this month I travelled to **Manchester to open our office** there. It was great to meet with our new colleagues and understand more around how we can continue to make ONS a great place to work whilst attracting new talent from the local area. I have had similar sessions with colleagues in both our Titchfield and Newport sites.
8. It was my pleasure this month to communicate to staff that all colleagues at delegated grades would receive a **one off £1500 payment** to be paid in their June pay packet in recognition of the exceptional work that the Civil Service as a whole continues to perform during a time of increased costs. I held a live event to make the announcement and take questions and was pleased to have 2000 colleagues on the call. My thanks go to colleagues in our Communications and Digital Publishing (CDP) team who were able to organise the event at pace.
9. Our CDP teams also worked closely with analysts from topic areas to produce an interactive article on our website and social media channels around [How many people do my job?](#). This included exploration of age profiles by occupation, which is important

for understanding the changing profile of the labour market. Our promotion of the article resulted in widespread pick up among the media, including broadcast coverage. Bloomberg said the figures “laid bare the huge challenge facing many industries from Britain’s aging population as businesses already grapple with widespread skill shortages.” We also gained strong engagement from the education sector, policy makers, planners and the media with the addition of a dot-density view to our Census maps product on the ONS website. This dot-density view allows you to see spatial patterns across variables and is useful for spotting groupings of communities, [such as this example showing ethnic groups across London](#).

10. Our Geospatial Team did brilliantly at the **Geography in Government Awards 2023** (Geography Profession); ONS Geography won the “*Contribution to Geography*” category for the work the team did on the geospatial module developed for the MSc Programme in collaboration with Ordnance Survey.
11. The Analytical Hub’s work on the **Ukraine Humanitarian Surveys has won the Government Social Research award**, with judges praising the impact of the analysis as well as the speed in which it was set up, delivered and inclusive nature around language accessibility. We have also had a letter in from a respondent who is a Ukrainian national thanking us for the extraordinary support shown to the Ukrainian people. The same work alongside our work on Over-50s have been short-listed for the Royal Statistical Society Champion award.
12. This month saw cyber criminals exploit a vulnerability in the **MoveIT** file transfer software to steal data from a wide range of organisations including Ofcom, BBC, Boots and British Airways. Security and Information Management (SaIM) colleagues have engaged with the supplier who has confirmed no ONS data was compromised.
13. We are in conversations with the supplier regarding whether we need a proactive monitoring service for this product going forward.
14. SaIM colleagues also took part in an **organisational security health check** facilitated by the Information Security Forum (ISF) against its Standard of Good Practice for Information Security. SaIM achieved a score of 3.5 out of 4, which is the second highest recorded against similar organisations that are members of ISF. A report will be shared with Audit and Risk Assurance Committee.
15. ONS is working with the National Situation Centre (SitCen) to **establish a surge pool of analysts** who can be deployed from ONS to SitCen in a crisis scenario. The Memorandum of Understanding is being developed and we are working to ensure that this will be scalable in the medium-term to become a cross-government initiative.
16. The first report on the **quality investigations for gender identity census data** was published on 19 June with an updated statement advising that this is the first report and further work is underway. The next reports will be published in the summer. This allows time for further user engagement to ensure that the reports provide the best supporting information for users to interpret the data. Positive meetings have taken place between Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) and ONS quality, correspondence and communication teams with OSR praising the openness of ONS teams on this topic.
17. Colleagues in our Methodology Directorate have recently published the latest **ONS Working Paper Series** on exploring the use of multiple imputation latent class modelling for administrative data, exploring the quality of administrative data using qualitative methods and cataloguing errors in administrative and alternative data sources.
18. Preparations for the **Consultation launch (29 June 2023) on plans for the transformation of population and migration statistics** are progressing well, with the final internal readiness checkpoint held on 8 June. This was positive with all criteria marked as green or amber with a route to green. Engagement continues with

approximately 60 different bodies providing feedback to date at events including Roundtables, meetings and conferences. Accessibility, low-level geographical data, population flows and economic (in)activity have been some of the key themes raised.

19. UKHSA informed us on 9 June that **no funding will be available to cover the costs of CRIS in 2023/24**, and closedown activities have commenced. However positive conversations have begun on future collaboration on surveillance activities.
20. The latest set of **migration estimates** covering year ending December 2022 were published against elevated levels of speculation within the media. The figures dominated media coverage and included appearances on BBC and Sky. Further media engagements with an article in the Financial Times and Jay Lindop's appearance on BBC Radio 4's More or Less have followed.
21. Colleagues in the Data Science Campus (DSC) are responsible for the development of a **90-minute learning module** that will be made available to all Civil Servants as part of the One Big Thing initiative whereby every civil servant will undertake a day of data training throughout Autumn. The module DSC are developing will cover why data matters, how to use data effectively and the future of data in government.
22. The **Business Enterprise Research and Development survey** is fully onboarded onto our Electric Questionnaire platform. This is a huge milestone and means feeding real time data into the Statistical Processing Platform, with the validation, editing and work allocation functions processing around 2800 responses in its first week. The team have also delivered ahead of time the data feed to the Data Access Platform for the results outputs, all within a few short months.

Professor Sir Ian Diamond, National Statistician, June 2023

Update from the Director General for Regulation

Purpose

1. This paper provides the Authority Board with an overview of Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) activities.

Discussion

2. Our main areas of focus since the last Board meeting have been:
 - i. **Data linkage report:** OSR has conducted a review into the barriers and enablers to data sharing and linking across the public sector. Our report looks at the current situation, makes recommendations for improvement and sets out hopes for the future. We have compiled and addressed comments from our key stakeholders and are finalising the report to re-send to Regulation Committee for final sign-off. Given the number of comments received, we are anticipating a publication date of mid-July as not to clash with other key OSR releases.
 - ii. **Enhanced Scrutiny of Economic Statistics Programme:** The webpages are now live. We have branded the programme as '[Spotlight on Quality: Assuring Confidence in Economic Statistics](#)' to aid with communication of the purpose and approach of this work. We are finalising the report for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Producer Price Inflation Statistics, the first key output from this programme, with a view to publishing week commencing 3 July.
 - iii. **National Statistics Designation:** We published a [research findings paper](#) describing the new messaging on 15 June and are inviting comments over the summer (closing 8 September). Subject to any feedback received, we plan to implement the changes, accompanied by a promotional campaign targeting stakeholders and guidance for producers. We are currently completing the design of the three badges, incorporating feedback from the Board, and will submit the designs for approval to the Regulation Committee in July, to be included in a Code stocktake consultation over the autumn.
 - iv. **Gender identity:** On 19 June, we [wrote to ONS](#) to welcome the first of its additional research articles on gender identity and to outline the early findings from our review of Gender Identity data from the 2021 England and Wales Census. We found positive examples around the quality assurance process and how queries were triaged in ONS but suggested that there may have been scope to communicate the uncertainty of the estimates more clearly.
 - v. **State of the Statistical System 2022/23:** We will be publishing our report, which sets out what we see as the most important issues for the statistical system in the UK, on 28 June. To support the report, we have developed a new stand-alone guide, OSR's Guide to the UK Statistical System, which is designed to be a handy reference document for anyone wanting to understand more about the make-up of the statistical system in the UK. This will also be published on the 28 June.

Casework

3. In January 2023, we commissioned Professor Patrick Sturgis of the London School of Economics to review the way that we carried out a regulatory review of the COVID-19 Infection Survey run by the ONS. On the 18 May we published the [review](#) and [how we plan to act on it](#).
4. We have received 67 cases so far in 2023/24. Since the last Authority Board, we received concerns regarding gambling rates, school absence data, mortality data, asylum backlogs, teacher numbers, energy trends and criminal charge statistics.
5. We have closed 14 cases since the last meeting. We responded publicly to [Dame Angela Eagle MP](#) about national debt, to [Full Fact](#) on the Home Office's (HO) use of

statistics and data, to [Chris Bailey](#) on empty and second homes, and to [Munira Wilson MP](#) on Ultra Low Emission Zone compliance.

6. Following our engagement with the HO on intelligent transparency, we are encouraged by a recent release on [statistics relating to the illegal migration bill](#) that the HO published on the same day as the Prime Minister made a statement on illegal migration, to provide users with the data tables to support the Prime Ministers statements.
7. During the Privileges Committee debate on 19 June, [Sir Stephen Timms MP referred to interventions](#) made by OSR and the former chair of the UK Statistics Authority (the Authority), Sir David Norgrove, on Boris Johnson's use of employment statistics.

Wider reach

8. I was invited to talk at the House of Commons library on our public good research and to the Risk and Uncertainty conference in Cambridge to discuss OSR's expectations on communicating uncertainty.
9. We also published a guest blog from Joy Aston and Mark Durkee, from Centre for Data Ethics & Innovation - [The Algorithmic Transparency Recording Standard](#) which they have developed with the Central Digital Data Office in response to our report on [public confidence in statistical models](#) published in 2021.
10. Rob Kent-Smith and Anna Price spoke at a breakfast seminar at the Scottish Parliament organised by the Scottish Parliament Information Centre on the work of OSR and the intelligent transparency agenda. The event was attended by several MSP's and included a talk from Roger Halliday on statistical literacy.
11. OSR hosted a seminar for government analysts on Statical Literacy and Communication. With the help of David Freeman (ONS) and journalist Anna Lawlor, we explored what analysts can do to help the wider public audience understand, engage with, and trust their statistics and analysis. We had more than 300 attendees.

Issues on my mind

12. **Sex & Gender:** Our regulatory work on sex and gender statistics and data is managed as a cross-cutting work programme overseen by an internal OSR board, of which I am a member. We have been reviewing the gender identity census question and are also working to update our regulatory guidance on collecting and reporting data about sex in official statistics which we are aiming to publish in October.
13. **Cabinet Office Review:** I am focused on the upcoming review of the Authority by the Cabinet Office and met with Denise Lievesley last week. My office will prioritise requests for information from Denise and she has agreed to meet with the team to understand the breadth of what we do.

Ed Humpherson, Director General for Regulation, OSR, 21 June 2023

Population and Society

Assessments: Continuing engagement with NRS to discuss progress against requirements in the **2022 Census in Scotland** report.
 Planning underway for phase 3 assessment of **2021 Census**.
 Casework: Casework on the Home Secretary's use of statistics to describe the **asylum backlog** ongoing. Ongoing cases on ONS **monthly mortality statistics** and ONS **deaths by vaccination status** statistics.
 Compliance Checks: **Measuring the population**, Ongoing engagement with ONS teams ahead of consultation, feeding into recommendation on the future of census. Monitoring ONS's dynamic population model
Gender identity based on **2021 England and Wales Census** data; ongoing engagement with users and ONS, letter published in June with ONS first article, followed by a full report in August when all 4 articles are published.
 Systemic Review: **Migration transformation** ONS published its latest migration estimates in May alongside research and methods papers. OSR are currently reviewing and planning to publish an update on the migration statistics transformation later in the summer.

Economy, Business and Trade

Enhanced Scrutiny of UK **Economic Statistics (ESE stats)** Programme – Web pages on the programme have been published and the next pilot assessments have been agreed. Stakeholder engagement is ongoing, and we are exploring our role in ensuring confidence in economic classifications.
 Assessment: **Producer Price Inflation** statistics pilot as part of **enhanced scrutiny programme** due for publication in early July. New pilot developed to include statistics on Profitability of UK companies and Gross Operating Surplus of the market output sector.
UK Trade, Annual Business Survey, Purchases Survey and Business Demography continuing follow up with ONS.
 Compliance Checks/Reviews: **International Comparisons of Productivity** –review compliance with guidance on communicating uncertainty. **Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office** review compliance of Official Development Assistance statistics.
 Casework: Public letter sent to Dame Angela Eagle MP about the Chancellor's comments on **National debt levels**. Investigating IFS concern about the formula used by ONS to measure **Household Pensions in WAS**.

Housing, Planning and Local Services

Engaging with ONS, DLUHC and LUHC committee on **sub-national data** developments, to support public understanding of levelling up and local government performance.
 Assessments: **Statutory Homelessness in England statistics**: Continuing follow-up engagement in line with DLUHC action plan.
 Casework: Investigating concerns raised about the PM's use of statistics on **affordable homes built in London** at PMQs and published letter on the presentation of data on empty and second homes in DLUHC's **Council Taxbase** statistics.
 Compliance Checks/Reviews: Letter published on Department for Communities' **NI Homelessness statistics**. Drafting letters - WG's **Estimates of Housing Need and Homelessness accommodation provision and rough sleeping** management Information.
 Review begun of DLUHC's monthly **Building safety MI**.

Transport, Environment and Climate Change

Engaging with Scottish Government on new experiment statistics on **Farm level greenhouse gas emissions**
 Assessments: **People and Nature Survey (PaNS)**. Continuing engagement with Natural England action plan. Defra's **butterfly statistics** and linked compliance check of **wild bird statistics** for July Regulation Committee.
 Casework: Public letter sent to Munira Wilson MP regarding **London Mayor's** claims on **ULEZ** compliance.
 Compliance Checks: Following up with Home Office on the recommendations on **Scientific Procedures on Living Animals statistics**
 Systemic Reviews: **Transport Accessibility Statistics** following up with producers on recommendations from the 2022 review.

Labour Market and Welfare

Engaging with ONS on the **Household Financial Statistics** transformation
 Assessments: Statistics on **Employment and Earnings from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information (PAYE RTI)** assessment report published.
 Compliance checks: ONS transformation of the **Labour Force Survey (Phase 2)**. Drafting letter outlining initial recommendations. Plan to publish mid-late June. **DWP Benefit Sanctions** statistics, findings letter scheduled to be published late June.
 Systemic Reviews: **Income-based poverty statistics**, continuing engagement with GSS Income and Earnings coherence lead

Crime and Security

Casework: Following up informally with Home Office about **rape crime outcomes** reporting. Spoke to No 10 about Prime Minister's use of **rape convictions** statistics.
 Investigating concerns about the Crown Prosecution Service's **rape statistics**.
 Compliance checks/Reviews: **Sexual offences and child sexual abuse in England and Wales statistics underway**.
 Systemic Review: **Quality of police recorded crime statistics** continuing desk research and starting engagement

Health and Social Care

Assessment: **Scottish A&E waiting times** statistics drafting report ahead of July Reg Comm. Kicking off assessment of **English A&E waiting times** statistics.
 Casework: Investigating concerns about **gambling statistics in England**.
 Compliance Checks/Reviews: **Adult Oral Health Survey statistics** Compliance check underway.

Children, Education and Skills

Assessment: Scottish Government **Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence Levels** statistics underway. Recently confirmed the National Statistics designation for the **Key Stage 4 statistics**.
 Casework: Investigating concerns raised with us about **pupil attendance data** collected by DfE. Have responded privately to concerns raised with us about the use of a statistic on the **provision of curriculum resources** by DfE and Oak National Academy.

Policy & Standards

Designation refresh: We are publishing a findings paper following the testing of new language and related changes and inviting views by early September. We are refining the designs of possible new official statistics badges that will be submitted to the Regulation Committee in July.
Voluntary application and wider reach: The winner of the 2023 award for statistical excellence in showing TQV will be announced in early July. We are developing ways for redeveloping VA and are testing the ideas with stakeholders.
Code stocktake: We are planning the Code stocktake which will run over the autumn and involve a series of events and conversations with stakeholders. It will see whether the Code of Practice should be strengthened. It will include a public consultation, running for 12 weeks until mid-December. As well as asking for views about the Code, the consultation will include sections on the badges and ways of developing VA.

Data and Methods

Data Science: Now that our new data scientist has started, we have now re-launched our data science programme. Our first project is around understanding where statistics have been cited in public debate. We are working with the Data Science Campus on their ChatGPT pilot to help us answer this question.
External activities: We are engaging with external stakeholders on our draft data sharing and linkage report and incorporating comments. We presented at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) conference on Machine Learning in Official Statistics, in June which was very well received. We intend to publish in July. We are also responding to the AI White Paper on the regulation of AI and the 5 principles proposed for this UK wide.

Research

Research Programme: We are developing a think piece to support shared understanding of the 'public good of government statistics', and we shared the definition with Regulation Committee in May. We are working with procurement to contract out a research project investigating the role of statistics in decision making.

Insight

State of the Statistical System Report: Publication is on track for end of June and currently promoting a launch event for the day. Sharing update and key messages at June Insight Committee meeting.
Theory of Change: Picking up work to produce a document for our ToC that will provide a common understanding across the organisation.
Workflow system: We will be populating a version of the workflow with current live projects over July and August to allow us to test the system.

Cross Cutting

We are hosting a seminar for government analysts in June on **Statistical Literacy and Stats Communication**. We will explore what analysts can do to help the wider public audience understand, engage with, and trust their statistics and analysis.

Integrated Data Service – Update

Purpose

1. This paper provides the Authority Board with an update on the progress of the Integrated Data Programme (IDP), responsible for the delivery of the Integrated Data Service (IDS).

Recommendations

2. Members of the Authority Board are invited to note:
 - i. the Research Accreditation Panel (RAP) requires further evidence on some aspects of service operations before it will grant Trusted Research Environment status;
 - ii. plans for the transition of the Secure Research Service (SRS) will take into account some dual running with IDS to ensure we continue to meet needs of all users; and
 - iii. Google agreement on the IDS use of its BigQuery Omni product in the UK. This product will deliver the service's transformational 'Enable' data access pattern, allowing for data to be accessed in situ.

Background

3. The IDS continues in Public Beta. Given Digital Economy Act (DEA) accreditation status we will maximise analytical activity with existing legal gateways and processes.

Discussion

DEA: Progress and outcome of Research Accreditation Panel (RAP)

4. The Research Accreditation Panel were not able to reach a consensus to grant accreditation to the IDS at their June meeting despite a recommendation from independent assessors. The panel noted the progress made, particularly on the security controls which were approved as capable, but wanted to see more evidence of data maturity in service operations before accreditation could be given.
5. An invitation has been made to return to RAP in September, but we will seek to present further evidence sooner where we can.
6. Our approach now will be to maximise current analysis under existing legal gateways focussing on the priority areas as agreed below. This priority analysis will also help to build the further evidence requested by RAP.

SRS Transition

7. Following extensive discussions with Economic and Social Research Council, Administrative Data Research (UK) and some other external research bodies, we have agreed there is merit in a period of further dual running of the SRS beyond March 2024 to resolve concerns over tooling and the timetable for transition of the SRS.
8. We are keen this does not become an open-ended expectation of SRS operations and we are exploring with those parties for whom does the dual running apply and which SRS users should make the move to IDS sooner.
9. The IDS continues to aim not to import legacy into the design. Progress has been made in identifying cloud-native solutions for the statistical software SAS and SPSS, which is a step forward. Engagement continues with Stata, which has been the focus of the discussions.

Programme Update

10. The strategic approach for dissemination connectivity through IDS was approved at June's IDP Design Authority and integration plans are now being developed and will be presented to the appropriate governance boards for comment and discussion.

11. The IDS programme delivery remains broadly on track. SRS migration and resourcing continue to be a challenge for the programme but are being worked through. Delivery confidence was set at AMBER at the last Programme Board but may slip to AMBER/RED in light of DEA accreditation slippage.

Reviewing the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

12. The KPI dashboard provides a representation of the Pipeline of Future Analysis projects. There will be a notable increase of 24 users thanks to three new projects expected to be ingested shortly.

Alison Pritchard, Deputy National Statistician for Data Capability, June 2023

ARIES Quarterly Programme Delivery Report

Purpose

1. This paper provides the Authority Board with a progress update for the ARIES programme for quarter one 2023/24.

Recommendations

2. Members of the Authority Board are invited to note:
 - i. progress against plan since the last update, our current key challenges and associated management action, and our latest delivery confidence assessment;
 - ii. changes to scope to ensure the ongoing affordability and viability of the programme in response to work on the Full Business Case (FBC); and
 - iii. the good progress to date on our audit actions and the specific interventions we continue to implement and embed to strengthen our foundations.

Background

3. The ARIES programme brings together the four pillars of the Authority Strategy 'Statistics for the Public Good' (Ambitious, Radical, Inclusive, Sustainable) with the transformation aims of Economic, Social and Environmental statistics Group. It remains a key strategic enabling programme for Office for National Statistics (ONS) with a vision to deliver an ambitious transformation.
4. At the start of the 2022/23 financial year, the programme was reset to align with the outcomes of the Spending Review 21 settlement. It consists of six projects, each focussed on a combination of process enhancements, new measures, and risk reduction, with the aim of improving the quality and sustainability of our statistics.
5. Outline Business Case submission resulted in investment approval being granted by HM Treasury (HMT) for the period to March 2025. Our FBC was submitted to HMT at the start of Quarter One (Q1) 2023/2 and we are in the final stages of responding to their lines of enquiries.

Excellent progress made against plan through Q1, with a strong forecast for Q2

6. A table of our actual capability release milestone performance over the last quarter shows five out of five capability release milestones delivered on time and in full.
7. In our last update we reported that Public Sector (PLM471) New balance sheet metrics published in new-style Public Sector Finance release and research into central government expenditure was delayed until May 2023. We are pleased to report that the teams have managed to mitigate four weeks of the eight week forecast delay to deliver in April.
8. Also, in our last update we reported that Prices Rail Fares had been incorporated in the production of headline consumer price statistics in March 2023. In live monitoring through the production process has confirmed that the solution has stabilised into the live core production systems with no major incidents.
9. A table of our forecast capability release milestone performance forecast over next quarter shows three out of three capability release milestones forecast to be delivered on time and in full.

Smart scope changes have ensured ongoing affordability and viability of the programme

10. The ARIES Programme is in the second year of its three-year duration and submitted its FBC to HMT for approval in April 2023. As ARIES completed its first year of delivery it

has reflected on key learnings to inform forecast costs for its remaining term. These include:

- i. year one slippage of work into year two;
- ii. impact of changes in technology platforms, increased complexity, and learning;
- iii. impact of Transformed Labour Force Survey 2 quarter extension;
- iv. additional inflationary pressure; and
- v. introduction of contingency reflecting costed key risks across the programme.

11. Following conclusion of ONS Business planning, work has been undertaken to ensure the programme remains aligned with the capacity of the office. This has included the removal of scope as agreed at the ONS Executive Committee in May 2023 which has helped drive down programme pressure along with other measures. All of which has been incorporated into the ARIES FBC with HMT.

12. In addition to the mitigation of residual cost pressures, this scope reduction also releases critical resources that are being reassigned to other roles in the programme, helping to ease our recruitment challenge.

Completion of audit actions are on track as we continue to strengthen our foundations

13. The table below shows good progress against audit actions, and we are forecast to complete all actions by the end of Q1 as required.

	No. of actions	Themes
Total audit recommendation actions	15	Assurance (8), Vacancies (2), Governance (1), Theory of Change (2), Changing Priorities (2)
Complete	6	Assurance (4), Vacancies (1), Theory of Change (1)
In progress and on track for end of June	9	Assurance (4), Vacancies (1), Governance (1), Theory of Change (1), Changing Priorities (2)

14. In our last update, we reflected on our learning to date and noted that “the inherent challenge in all projects is high. Most of projects involve levels of innovation, high degrees of intricacy, organisational change, and some are exposed to time sensitive publication window constraints.” Managing this effectively demands a degree of sophistication and rigour with respect to the management of risk.

15. In response, we have invested significant time through Q1 to build the capability of teams to manage critical risks and assumptions robustly and proactively. We have introduced a ‘Swiss Cheese’ strategy to risk management on a project-by-project basis, termed our ‘Risk Immune System’. This is captured in each projects assurance map and will be bedded down over Q2.

Our key challenges are well understood and proactively managed

16. As with any complex programme we regularly encounter tough challenges. The table below summarises those that are noteworthy and what we are doing to address them.

Project(s)	Challenge	Management action	Key Risk Indicators
Transformed Labour Force Survey (TLFS)	Level of work to complete ahead of the planned Nov 23 LFS decommissioning milestone	Critical decisions and backlog prioritisation with Directors / fortnightly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development backlog burndown / twice weekly Forecast capacity to complete / twice weekly Survey and Output Quality metrics / weekly
Prices	Testing has taken longer than anticipated due to higher than expected defect levels in terms of both number and severity.	Development capacity increased. Testing resource and expertise increased. New Project Mgr. Various contingency options being explored to protect the March 2024 publication milestone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defect rate performance / twice weekly Forecast capacity to complete defect resolution / twice weekly
All	Recruitment. Given challenges last financial year with recruitment and the increased level of controls within ONS to manage overall affordability, filling vacancies is proving much more challenging.	Detailed management information put in place and weekly meetings held to drive the recruitment pipeline and identify and remove blockers proactively. Early identification of areas where alternative sourcing is viable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By person by stage full pipeline tracking and forecasting / twice weekly. Forecast impact assessment on delivery / weekly. Forecast impact on spend / weekly.

Conclusion

17. The ARIES Programme Board continues to assess the delivery confidence as Amber, with the following supporting rationale:

- i. smart scope changes have mitigated residual cost pressures, and ensured the business case remains attractive;
- ii. we have made excellent progress against plan through Q1, with a strong forecast for Q2;
- iii. we continue to be successful at resolving several significant challenges, with our current key challenges well understood and proactively managed; and
- iv. there is a strong belief across teams and stakeholders that the programme is genuinely learning and strengthening at the pace required, with further material strengthening of our foundations continuing through Q2.

18. The programme remains confident, but not complacent.

Jason Zawadzki, Director, Economic Statistics Change and Senior Responsible Officer for ARIES 2.0, 18 June 2023

Strategic Risk Profile Update

Purpose

1. This paper provides the Authority Board with an update on the strategic risk (SR) profile following liaison with strategic risk owners and discussions at the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) on 18 May 2023.

Recommendations

2. Members of the Authority Board are invited to:
 - i. review analysis of the wider strategic risk profile, including exposure scores against risk appetite;
 - ii. agree the updated risk appetite statement and range for SR2 and discuss the potential removal of SR10 as a strategic risk (paragraphs 9–11);
 - iii. review the analysis of the strategic risk owned by the National Statistician, overseen by the Board – ‘Independence and Trustworthiness’; and
 - iv. note progress in delivery of the Authority Risk and Assurance Strategy ‘Building Organisational Resilience’ (paragraphs 13-14).

Background

3. The strategic risk profile demonstrates the most significant risks to the successful delivery of the Authority’s Strategy and its strategic objectives, owned by the Authority’s senior leadership. The latest version of the strategic risk profile, appetite ranges and statements were signed-off by the Board at its November 2022 meeting.

Discussion

Independence and Trustworthiness risk

4. The Risk and Assurance (R&A) team have held sessions with the business to review and update the controls and future actions that support the management of the overarching risk ‘Independence and Trustworthiness’. A summary below of key activities that have contributed to our controls for this risk:
 - i. The National Statistician-appointment process was conducted thoroughly and in line with the correct procedures alongside the appointment of three new non-executive directors.
 - ii. Continued engagement with Parliamentary stakeholders and the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee over the last six months, including in relation to the effective running of the Authority.
 - iii. Continued engagement with public enquiries including a number of high-profile interventions in a wide variety of topics including use of asylum statistics, energy statistics and employment statistics.
 - iv. The latest Public Confidence in Official Statistics survey was undertaken in 2021 with work starting on the 2023 commission. Latest data from the annual stakeholder survey scores provided interim assurance that we are meeting stakeholders needs and are viewed as trustworthy.

Wider strategic risk profile

5. The exposure scores for SR4 ‘Security’ and SR11 ‘Data Access and Usability’ are now within appetite due to additional controls and progress against deliverables as well as positive metrics and assurance activity. This means that the Authority is now operating within agreed its risk appetite ranges for all strategic risks.

6. Additionally, SR1 'Keeping pace with analytical priorities' has been revised from a score of 16 to a score of 12 due to additional controls, governance, metrics and assurance in place. This has been agreed with the risk owner and through discussion at the May Analysis and Evaluation Committee.
7. As part of our ongoing risk management we continue to be mindful of budget constraints which may result in some business activities being paused, reduced, or stopped, and careful consideration will need to be given to whether this impacts the overall risk profile (positively or negatively). This is particularly relevant in respect of SR3, SR6 and SR8 whilst outcomes and implications of budget decisions are finalised.

Strategic risk profile update and horizon scanning

8. The R&A team held Risk Council sessions this month with representatives from across the business to explore emerging risks (threats and opportunities) to the organisation. Guided by intelligence from the Civil Contingencies Forward Look (issued by Cabinet Office Briefing Room), Gartner's quarterly emerging risks analysis, and Heads of Risk Network guidance, these emerging risks were reviewed from the Authority's perspective with support from across the business. While the R&A team are not proposing any changes to the current strategic risk profile, the review may result in updates to the current control framework or the addition of new risks at a directorate level.
9. Following a discussion at June Portfolio and Investment Committee and June ARAC we propose an amendment to the SR2 'Delivery of strategic ambition' appetite statement and range as follows:
 - i. "We have adopted an averse to minimal risk appetite for financial management, with no appetite for breaching central government financial controls and a preference to ensure we live within our financial means and prioritise appropriately. We are willing to tolerate limited financial impact where essential to delivery of our ambitions. This will include delivery of our strategic transformation programmes, being bold in our decision-making related to stopping low value activity, and seeking opportunities for partnerships, additional funding, and efficiencies."
10. The above reflects our position on financial propriety (averse) and delivery of ambition – which should arguably have a higher tolerance for risk (minimal). Therefore, we recommend an increased appetite range from two to four to two to six, which will enable us to deliver "spend to save" initiatives required for the Efficiencies and Savings Plan.
11. SR10 'Public Health Monitoring and Reporting' – this strategic risk was established during delivery of the Covid-19 Infection Survey (CIS). Since then there has been a significant change in context, with closure of CRIS and confirmation that there will be no further funding from UKHSA to continue the survey. Considering that key elements are covered by other Strategic Risks, there is a question of whether SR10 continues to be a *strategic level* risk for the organisation. It may be that we could manage relevant aspects of it (ongoing health statistics to meet legislative requirements and support answering key health policy questions) at a Directorate level as part of business as usual. We would welcome the Board's initial views on this.
12. The risk profile will continue to be assessed and overseen by the Executive Committee and ARAC on a quarterly basis, to ensure our profile continues to represent strategic risks for the organisation. We will hold some workshops with the executives and non-executive directors prior to the November update to the Board, where we will present an updated risk profile.

Risk and Assurance Strategy Delivery

13. An increase in risk and assurance maturity across the organisation is evident from the annual maturity assessment using the Gartner risk maturity tool. Risk and assurance training has been provided across the organisation alongside the launch of the new risk tool which has provided significant improvements in reporting functionality. This has resulted in improvements in the control frameworks, strategic risk metrics and assurance maps for all our strategic risks to support better judgements over their management. Additionally, a programme of reviews has been planned to strengthen second line assurance.
14. A revised Corporate Governance Assurance Statement process was developed for 2022/23 which has provided additional assurance over the adequacy of the control environment. There has been additional focus on fraud with a refreshed fraud risk assessment and assessment against the Counter Fraud Functional Standards which shows a generally positive position, which was reviewed by ARAC.

Conclusion

15. Following favourable progress of controls and future actions, alongside positive metrics, SR4 'Security, legal and ethical' and SR11 'Data access and usability' have been brought back within risk appetite, alongside the reduction in the score of SR1 'Keeping pace with analytical priorities'. This demonstrates the enhancements in controls and assurance and continued focus from risk owners, and for the first time all strategic risks are operating within risk appetite.
16. Our review of the other strategic risks has not indicated any changes in exposure score. However, we continue to monitor this with particular focus on quality (SR3), delivery (SR2) and people (SR5).

Natalie Tarr, Head of Assurance, June 2023

Annual Report and Accounts 2022/23

Purpose

1. This paper introduces the final draft version of the Annual Report and Accounts 2022/23, which has been reviewed by the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) and has been subject to audit by the National Audit Office (NAO).

Recommendations

2. Members of the Authority Board are invited to:
 - i. note the significant achievements in delivery over 2022/23, that are set out in the Performance Report section of the Annual Report and Accounts;
 - ii. note the financial performance that is set out in the Resources and Organisation section including the overall financial position that has been presented to ARAC and the Board, via the Integrated Performance Report, during the year; and
 - iii. authorise the Accounting Officer to sign the Annual Report and Accounts, and provide the final signed version to the NAO for certification, prior to it being laid before Parliament on 13 July.

Background and discussion

Delivery Performance

3. The Annual Report and Accounts provides an annual summary of the performance of the UK Statistics Authority, a statement on the governance of the organisation and the detailed statutory financial statements and supporting notes.
4. The 2022/23 version describes a continuation of successful delivery against our strategy including:
 - i. Our agile and flexible response to both urgent and emergent policy needs.
 - ii. Census output releases (starting with population and household estimates for England and Wales at local authority level) designated as National Statistics meeting the highest standard of trustworthiness, quality, and value once again.
 - iii. Wider topic releases including on migration, veterans, ethnicity, identity, labour market, language, religion, and travel to work. For the first time, these were visualised in interactive Census Maps down to granular local geographies.
 - iv. Substantial progress on subnational statistics and analysis in the past year, such as the release of hyper local Gross Value Added data.
 - v. Progress against our economic statistics transformation with a focus on quality improvements.
 - vi. Further progress towards the full operation of our Integrated Data Service.
 - vii. The continuation of the Inclusive Data Taskforce recommendations to inform new inclusive Office for National Statistics (ONS) output.
 - viii. Significant estate strategy milestone completion and evidential progress through our people plan with ONS becoming the first government organisation to make it onto the annual Glassdoor Employees Choice Awards.
5. Underpinning this performance has been a range of ongoing and standing statistical deliveries and outputs describing the economy, society and public health.

Financial performance

6. All control totals remained within expected parameters.

Conclusion

7. This paper sets out brief highlights from the Annual Report and Accounts that we recommend should be signed by the National Statistician as Accounting Officer for the Authority following the Board meeting.
8. The NAO will then pass the Annual Report and Accounts to the Comptroller and Auditor General for signature, prior to the report being laid before Parliament on 11 July.
9. The Board is asked to note the significant achievements across the year and provide final approval of the document prior to signature.

Rhys Thomas, Deputy Director Finance, 20 June 2022