

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

Minutes

**Thursday 25 January 2024
London Office**

Hybrid Meeting

Members Present

Sir Robert Chote (Chair)
Dr Jacob Abboud
Professor Sir John Aston
Professor Sir Ian Diamond
Ed Humpherson
Sian Jones
Nora Nanayakkara
Professor Dame Carol Propper
Professor Sir David Spiegelhalter
Penny Young

Other Attendees

Robert Bumpstead
Will Laffan (for item 9)
Emma Rourke (for item 9)
Ruth Studley (for item 9)
Tom Taylor
Jennet Woolford (for item 9)

Apologies

Alison Pritchard

1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies were noted from Alison Pritchard.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 There were no new declarations of interest.

3. Minutes and matters arising from previous meetings.

3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 November were agreed.

4. Report from the Authority Chair [SA(24)01]

4.1 Non-Executive Directors had met prior to the Board meeting. They had discussed the review of the Authority by Professor Denise Lievesley.

4.2 The Chair reported on his recent activities since the Board last met. Sir Robert had an introductory meeting on 16 January with Laura Gilbert and Steffan Jones, Joint Chief Analysts for No 10 and Cabinet Office respectively, who had recently been appointed as the Authority's senior departmental sponsors. The relationship with senior sponsors would be underpinned by criteria for handling any potential issues of conflict.

4.3 Correspondence by Sir Robert included a letter to Shaun Bailey MP about claims made by the Shadow Chancellor following the Autumn Statement; and a letter to Alistair Carmichael MP and Stephen Kinnock MP on the asylum backlog.

5. Report from the Chief Executive [SA(24)02]

5.1 Sir Ian provided the Board with an overview of activity and issues since the last meeting, highlighting the following:

- i. the finance team continued to manage the year end position in line with the controls in place, with an improved financial position this month;
- ii. HM Treasury (HMT) had approved the Supplementary Estimate confirming funding for the Future of Population and Migration Statistics Programme and the work on Public Sector Productivity. Due to delays within HMT the funding would not be received until late March. As such, and with the support of HMT, finance were applying for a Contingencies Fund Advance (temporary cash advance);
- iii. progress of work on data sharing across the UK;
- iv. ONS had published Crime statistics on 25 January, which had attracted some media attention highlighting that they did not include domestic abuse. ONS would be publishing separate statistics on domestic abuse in the coming weeks; and
- v. the approach to addressing the recent issue with the Labour Force Survey (LFS) had impacted positively. ONS had announced plans on 12 January about the next release of LFS data in February. The Transformed Labour Force Survey (TLFS) remained the strategic solution to the LFS. Given the challenges with the LFS the quality of social surveys was a key focus of attention for the organisation. Penny Young had met Alex Lambert and team on 11 January to discuss the strategic context for survey response rates, the LFS and dual running with the TLFS.

5.2 The Board discussed the recent Post Office Horizon scandal in relation to the role of Boards more generally including the relationship between Executive and Non-Executive Directors; and the role of NEDs in providing oversight challenge and scrutiny. The Authority had a Whistleblowing policy in place, which was reported to the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee on an annual basis. Members noted the value of any Board linked directly to the diversity, knowledge and experience of its members. The potential for group think could be avoided by all members evaluating the issues and consequences. With regard to ONS systems it was noted that legacy transformation was a key area of focus as part of the ongoing business planning process.

- 5.3 Members also discussed the communications underpinning the release of Crime Survey statistics earlier in the day, noting the need for clarity to avoid any misunderstanding.

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

6.1 The Chair reported on the work of the Audit Risk and Assurance Committee which had last met on 18 January 2024.

6.2 The Committee had considered:

- i. the financial position with assurance provided by the finance team on the controls in place to reach a balanced budget at year end;
- ii. an update on the strategic risk profile with a focus on areas of challenge;
- iii. delivery of the Internal Audit Plan 2023/24 with assurance from the Head of Internal Audit that the remainder of the plan would be delivered on time;
- iv. Internal Reports on Statistical Quality, Errors and Corrections and Cloud Technology, which was scheduled for further discussion at the March meeting; and
- v. the External Audit Timetable for year-end financial statements.

7. Report from the Chair of the Regulation Committee

7.1 The Chair reported on the work of the Regulation Committee which had last met on 14 December.

7.2 The Committee had considered:

- i. the draft Assessment Report of Accident and Emergency Statistics in England and Wales;
- ii. progress of the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) review of Police Recorded Crime;
- iii. OSR's draft business plan;
- iv. planning for the general election including capability and resources;
- v. the transformation of population and migration statistics and OSR's approach to accreditation;
- vi. OSR's Economic Statistics programme of work; and
- vii. the timing of the accreditation of the Transformed Labour Force Survey.

8. Report from the Director General for Regulation [SA(24)03]

Ed Humpherson provided an update on regulation activity. OSR had published its assessment of Profitability of UK Companies and Gross Operating Surplus, which had found many strengths in the statistics, and identified areas for improvement.

8.1 The Board heard that OSR had met with a group of philosophers as part of a round table on misinformation. The aims of the round table were to relate philosophical concepts to the work by OSR in the context of an upcoming election.

8.2 The review of the Code of Practice for Statistics was ongoing. The call for evidence had received 50 contributions.

9. Census 2023 – the future of population and migration statistics [SA(24)04]

9.1 As this area of work is policy in development, the minute from this item will be published upon completion.

10. Any Other Business

10.1 The Board would next meet on 29 February.

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

Agenda

25 January, 11.15 - 14.00

London Boardroom

Chair: Sir Robert Chote

Apologies: Alison Pritchard

Attendees: Emma Rourke (for item 6), Ruth Studley (for item 6)

NED Session: 10.30 - 11.15

1 11.15-11.20 5 mins	Minutes and matters arising from previous meeting Declarations of interest	Meeting of 30 November 2023
2 11.20-11.30 10 mins	Report from the Authority Chair	SA(24)01 Sir Robert Chote
3 11.30-12.00 30 mins	Report from the Chief Executive	SA(24)02 Prof. Sir Ian Diamond
4 12.00-12.10 10 mins	Report from Committee Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Audit and Risk Assurance Committee• Regulation Committee	Oral Update Dr Jacob Abboud Penny Young
5 12.10-12.20 10 mins	Report from the Director General for Regulation	SA(24)03 Ed Humpherson
12.20-12.25 5 mins	Break	
6 12.25-13.55 90 mins	Census 2023 – the future of population and migration statistics	SA(24)04 Emma Rourke Ruth Studley
7 13.55-14.00 5 mins	Any Other Business	

Next meeting: Thursday, 29 February 2024, London Boardroom

Chair's Report, January 2024

Purpose

1. This paper provides the Board with an overview of the Chair's activity in December and January.

Review of recent activities

2. On 6 December and 17 January, I met with Denise Lievesley to discuss the progress of her review. The draft report is currently with the Minister, Baroness Neville-Rolfe, for comment. Its precise publication date is still to be confirmed.
3. On 19 December, I had an introductory meeting with Doug Chalmers, the new chair of the Committee for Standards in Public Life. We discussed his priorities for his new role which included thinking about the impact of Artificial Intelligence.
4. On 11 January, Sir Ian, Emma Rourke and I attended an all-statisticians meeting of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and its arms-length bodies, hosted by Lucy Vickers, Head of Profession for Statistics at DHSC. We joined a panel alongside presenters from DHSC, the UK Health Security Agency, NHS England and NHS Business Services Authority hearing about the priorities for their respective portfolios, and then took questions from the audience.
5. On 15 January, I met with Stian Westlake, Executive Chair of the Economic and Social Research Council. We discussed upcoming priorities for the Authority, support for independent research institutions and researchers' use of the Integrated Data service and Secure Research Service.
6. On 16 January, I had an introductory meeting with Laura Gilbert and Steffan Jones, joint Chief Analysts for the Cabinet Office, who have recently been appointed as the Authority's senior departmental sponsors. We discussed upcoming priorities for the Authority and where they can support and stay engaged, particularly the Lievesley review and the recommendation on the Future of Population and Migration Statistics.
7. I also held my regular catchups with the National Statistician, Director General for Regulation, Chief of Staff, Deputy Chair, and the Chairs of the Regulation and Audit and Risk Assurance Committees.

Casework and correspondence

8. On 19 December, I responded to Sarah Olney MP regarding the Prime Minister's claims about public sector debt.
9. On 16 January, I responded to Shaun Bailey MP about claims made by the Shadow Chancellor following the Autumn Statement.
10. On 18 January, I responded to Alistair Carmichael MP and Stephen Kinnock MP on the asylum backlog.

Upcoming activities

11. On 2 February, Sir Ian and I will meet Alex Chisholm, Chief Operating Officer for the Civil Service and Permanent Secretary for the Cabinet Office, to conduct the Office for National Statistics mid-year stocktake.

Sir Robert Chote, Chair, 18 January 2024

*Chief Executive's Report, January 2024***Purpose**

1. This provides the Board with an overview of activity for January 2024.

Summary

2. December and January have seen promising progress on navigating both a challenging internal and external environment. Our major **migration release** was well managed in November, receiving positive reaction from media and stakeholders whilst the **Labour Force Survey (LFS)** recovery plan is starting to see some initial success. However, we are now managing the knock-on impact of this prioritisation on wider **social survey response rates** which now pose an issue.
3. Internally, we have begun implementing our new approach to **hybrid working**, with a significant uptick in office attendance at the start of January. Business planning and **prioritisation** is now in full swing, focusing on allocating and setting budgets much earlier than was achieved in this financial year. Several senior **staffing moves** have also been successfully implemented over the last couple of months.
4. We continue to positively engage with the **Denise Lievesley** review of the UK Statistics Authority and have met with Baroness Neville-Rolfe on this topic – this is not now expected to be published any earlier than February. Cross-government engagement also continues on the upcoming **recommendation on the Future of Population and Migration (FPMS)** statistics. This is covered in more detail within the individual Board paper.

Review of recent activities

5. Our final **Transformed Labour Force Survey (TLFS)** development upgrade went live on the survey in December after significant work. Slightly later than originally planned, we are now finalising analysis on the latest headline labour market data from the new survey which will inform the LFS decommission timetable.
6. In the Data Science Campus (DSC), work is underway with Digital Services and Technology and Social Surveys Transformation to build a Generative Artificial Intelligence model that assists colleagues working in TLFS. It will take free text from the survey input and assign the respondent to a **SIC and SOC code**. Our aim is to improve the accuracy and efficiency of the current classification process.
7. Within **business survey transformation**, key milestones continue to be delivered across the Business Statistics Transformation project (under Ambitious, Radical, Inclusive Economic Statistics towards the delivery of Research & Development statistics phase 2. Prior to Christmas, the Business Enterprise Research and Development (BERD) results system passed a key quality gate and are now progressing towards a publication of the new data early 2024. This is a significant milestone in the development of these key statistics.
8. On **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**, as part of our response to the recent Office for Statistics Regulation GDP rapid review, we have updated our GDP release day information to include enhancements to the wording in our bulletins and additional detail of data coverage. We published in December an accessible [blog](#) on our approach to uncertainty, replicating our previous recession blog which was well received and we continue to look into presenting uncertainty.

9. In November we published a suite of population and international **migration releases** accompanied by a [blog](#) by Emma Rourke which discussed the main drivers for migration to the UK, why we update our estimates of international migration and the transformation of the population and migration statistical system. We also published the latest research article update into how we are refining and improving methods to produce [Admin-Based Population Estimates \(ABPE\)](#) in December.
10. Our **migration releases** landed smoothly with the focus of heavy media coverage on the numbers themselves and the underpinning behaviours that shaped them. Commentary on the reliability of the ONS data was almost wholly neutral in tone. Communications and Digital Publishing colleagues worked in close collaboration with the migration team to deliver an intensive multi-channel communications plan, including media briefings and one to one sessions for the leading commentators. Our messages were amplified via bespoke, bite-sized content on our social media channels, a video 'explainer', the National Statistician's blog and through the creation of 'white-label' graphs that media outlets included in their coverage.
11. Statistics on **homeless deaths** have seen increased interest over the past couple of weeks. We have received a piece of official correspondence and a parliamentary question tabled by the Shadow Minister for Building Safety and Homelessness on a proposal to cease ONS' Deaths While Homeless publication in the Department for Health and Social Care's consultation on health and social statistical outputs. This correspondence was prompted by an [article](#) published in the Guardian on the topic. This has highlighted the need for us to be proactive and ready in explaining tough prioritisation decisions effectively and at pace.
12. On **excess deaths** methodology, we are working on refining aspects of the methodology and performing further testing ahead of its implementation for all four UK countries. The methodology article is planned for release in February and stakeholders from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, the Department for Health and Social Care and the Devolved Administrators continue to be actively involved.
13. The **Winter Covid Infection Survey questionnaire** ran smoothly over the Christmas period, achieving 80 per cent response rate for the period between Christmas and New Year. The latest results were published by ONS and The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) on 11 January. Questions asking about GP access, on behalf of NHS England have also now been added too.
14. The **Analytical Hub** in collaboration with the DSC have been supporting the Cabinet Office and Government departments in the response to the Israel-Hamas conflict. We have been providing shipping indicators for key critical straits to inform decision making. Separately, we are providing a group of eight ONS analysts who are forming a new **Crisis Surge Team** within the National Situation Centre. They will be available to be loaned at short notice during major incidents and crises to support government's analytical response. They will gain experience of crisis operations, allowing them to apply this to rapid response work in ONS.
15. We have also published [a landmark publication on innovative, timely B2B payments and supply chains data and insights](#), using **interbank payment systems**. This followed the Direct Debits indicators that are published regularly in the Real-Time bulletin, and the significant first publication of [Visa card spending big data insights](#) one month earlier. During December and January, I also met with senior executives from both Visa and Vocalink to discuss the importance of our partnerships.
16. Internationally, the DSC launched the **International Data Masterclass**: an open online course aimed at building data skills in leaders in global governments and the public sector. Launch events took place in Rwanda (National Institute of Statistics Rwanda) and Ghana (Ghana Statistical Service). In the new year we will continue to roll-out the

program to wider users, with continued support from our collaborators: The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and The United Nations Statistics Division.

17. On 19 January, the ONS Newport office hosted the Welsh Language Commissioner, Efa Gruffudd Jones. She met the National Statistician, the ONS Welsh Language Team, and the new ONS Welsh Language Champion, Ruth Studley. The Welsh Language Commissioner has commended the office for its recently revised Welsh language scheme, and as part of the visit will receive more information about plans for implantation, our Welsh operations, and a tour of the office.
18. We have made good progress at pace on **public sector productivity**. January sees the official launch of the Time Use Survey for Public Sector workers, where we are looking to capture detail on the administrative burden place on key workers. The initial coverage of the survey will be focused on previous respondents to the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) supplemented with additional respondents from the education and justice sectors. The participation element of survey was launched on the 9 of January 2024. Results with associated qualitative research are planned for publication on 1 March 2024 and are expected to feature in Spring Budget.
19. There has also been strong delivery in Prices where in December we published the first quarterly publication of the **Household Costs Indices** (HCIs) which looks at households' experience of inflation. To launch the publication, we organised a set of three webinar sessions to showcase the new quarterly publication and support user understanding of these statistics. The ONS also attended an event on the HCIs led by the Royal Statistical Society and Resolution Foundation, where we presented our recent findings and were part of a panel session of experts. The feedback from the publication and the events has been overwhelmingly positive, with many welcoming our work and highlighting the importance of these statistics.
20. The Analytical Hub, with Cabinet Office and HM Treasury colleagues are developing a "**State of the State**" product, which will present key UK statistics to outline current and past trends across demography, society, the economy, and beyond, and what these might mean for the future. This aims to support Permanent Secretaries and their departments in medium-term thinking, particularly ahead of the next Parliament. This will be part of a wider suite of other horizon scanning work happening in the Cabinet Office (UK in 2024, Systems Challenges) and government departments.
21. On the **environment**, we published a set of five outputs leveraging policy, media and public interest around the United Nations COP28 climate conference, including Census-based analysis of jobs in high emissions industries, OPN data on climate change action and inaction, and the latest UK natural capital accounts – giving full breakdowns for all four nations for the first time.
22. Corporately, we have been engaging with counterparts from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to discuss capability and its associated challenges, successes and aspirations. This will be expanded to joining a people focused working group with ABS, Statistics New Zealand, and Statistics Canada, broadening this strong relationship. We have also been awarded 'Highly Commended' by the Commissioners' Mark of Excellence 2023. Among a wide range of competitive applications from 19 Departments and teams across Government, ONS were ranked second by the panel. Our submission this year focused on our innovation in recruitment and commitment to widening the pool of applicants for civil service jobs.

Professor Sir Ian Diamond, National Statistician, 17 January 2023.

Update from the Director General for Regulation

Purpose

1. This paper provides the UK Statistics Authority Board (the 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. Ongoing work:
 - **Election planning:** We submitted a paper to Regulation Committee setting out our approach to managing casework during a potential election spike. The paper also included our plans to support the statistical system. We continue to engage with Full Fact and other regulators in the lead up to the Election;
 - **Sex and Gender:** We have engaged with a range of stakeholders in December and January on our proposed updated guidance on sex and gender. We plan to share the updated guidance with the Regulation Committee and to publish the later in February;
 - **Police recorded Crime Review:** We shared an information draft of our review of Police Recorded Crime Statistics in England and Wales with Regulation Committee in December. We are currently developing our recommendations and are working towards publishing a final report in March; and
 - **Future proofing the Code of Practice for Statistics:** Our call for evidence is now closed with over 50 contributions. We plan to present our early findings to the Regulation Committee in February and update the Board in March, recommending a refresh of the Code to incorporate the feedback from stakeholders in the Code content and its presentation. We will also give recommendations related to the badges for accredited official statistics, official statistics, and official statistics in development, and on the refresh of the voluntary application of the Code scheme.
 - ii. Published work:
 - **Update to ONS transformation of Long-term international migration:** On 7 December we published a [report on progress](#) made by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on the actions outlined in our [review of migration](#) statistics published in March 2022. The update report concludes that nine of OSR's recommendations can now be closed, and it recognises the ambitious and innovative work that ONS is progressing. There are four recommendations that ONS has not yet addressed in full which focus on:
 - a) Plans for the ongoing review of data sources;
 - b) Developing and publishing measures of uncertainty;
 - c) Publishing long-term plans for international migration statistics; and
 - d) Publishing a population and migration transformation road map.
 - **Review of mental health statistics in England:** In December we published a [follow up](#) to our [review of mental health statistics in England in 2019/20](#) in which we summarised the largely positive progress against the findings of our review.
 - **Profitability of UK Companies and Gross Operating Surplus:** Last week we published our assessment of statistics on profitability and surplus. This is the

second assessment we have carried out in our [Spotlight on Quality](#). Our assessment found many strengths in the statistics and identified five requirements to improve the quality of these statistics.

Casework

3. We have received 182 cases so far in 2023/24, including 36 cases since the last meeting 15 of which were opened in January. These cases include concerns around 20 mph speed limits in Wales, The Office for Budget Responsibility forecasts, the housebuilding figures, Ministry of Defence Drone numbers, vaccine safety, knife crime, asylum backlogs, tax cuts and NHS waiting lists.
4. We have closed 29 cases since the last meeting including public interventions on: [20mph speed limit in Wales](#), [Census data on Gender Identity](#), [comments made by the Prime Minister on Debt falling](#) and [withdrawn asylum applications](#).

Wider reach

5. **Conferences and Speaking** engagements: I spoke at a conference for researchers in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, on a panel with Catherine Hutchinson of the Evaluation Task Force. I was also invited to the University of Exeter to deliver a lecture on the public good provided by statistics. I also met with Ivan Murenzi (National Institute of Statistics Rwanda).
6. **Misinformation round table**: I invited a group of philosophers to meet with us to discuss how to proactively and reactively respond to misinformation. The aims of the round table were to relate philosophical concepts like context collapse to the real examples that face OSR in the context of an upcoming election.
7. **Voluntary adoption**: We welcomed Carnegie Trust into the community of Voluntary Adopters of the Code in November for their work on their Life in the UK Index which measures the collective wellbeing of the people of the UK.
8. **OSR priorities**: We published a [news story](#) asking for feedback on areas we should be focusing on in the next 12 months and beyond. We plan to engage with stakeholders to seek their input for our 2020-2025 strategy.

Issues on my mind

9. **Code Review**: With the call for evidence now complete, we now need to draw together our proposals on whether or not to update aspects of the Code.
10. **Election**: One of the main areas of focus for OSR this year is the upcoming election. We have already seen an increase in casework for January, with a focus on government targets and manifesto pledges and we expect this to continue throughout the year. We are working on the actions we highlighted in the Regulation Committee paper to prepare a number of position statements on a range of topics and are trialling a new casework team structure that should enable us to have more flexibility if we receive an increase in cases.
11. **Hybrid**: In line with the rest of the Authority, we introduced minimum 20 per cent office attendance in January, this will increase to 40 per cent in April. Early indications are that people are attending as we would expect, and we will be increasing our in-person collaboration over the coming months.

Ed Humpherson, Director General for Regulation, OSR, 17 January 2024.

Transport, Environment and Climate Change

Continued engagement to support **Transport for London**, who voluntarily adopt the Code, in embedding practices into its data reporting.

Assessments: Defra **Butterflies**' team has published its latest outputs with improvements made based on our assessment meeting requirements. The **People and Nature Survey (PaNS)** requirements are near completion, we expect to confirm accreditation.

Casework: Reviewing concerns about Transport for London's Low Traffic Neighbourhoods report and the transparency of data within it. This is part of continued engagement we are having with TfL on intelligent transparency.

Systemic Review: Exploring options for an OSR piece on **citizen science** at the request of Regulation Committee. **Transport Accessibility** presenting at a Royal Statistical Society

Population and Society

Paper for Regulation Committee, update on ONS's transformation of **population and migration statistics**. Continued engagement with the devolved administrations on **population transformation** plans.

Assessment: Phase 3 planning underway of **2021 Census**.

Casework: Responded to letters from Alistair Carmichael MP and Stephen Kinnock MP about the Prime Minister's claim that the asylum backlog has been cleared.

Systemic Reviews: OSR letter and report to acknowledge ONS' progress on **migration transformation**, set out our view of the current position and our expectations.

Economy, Business and Trade

Reviewing ONS **public sector classification process**, user engagement to understand risks. Developing a version of the framework used for the **Spotlight on Quality** to share with stakeholders.

Assessment: Report for Spotlight on Quality on the **profitability of UK companies** and **GOS statistics** presented to Regulation Committee meeting.

Confirmed accreditation of **Business Demography** statistics.

Casework: Responded to a letter from Shaun Bailey MP on comments made by the Shadow Chancellor on the size of the economy. Also preparing a response to a letter from James Murray MP on government communications surrounding the cut to National Insurance Contributions.

Rapid Review: Conducting review of **revisions of GDP** and drafting report.

Crime and Security

Systemic Review: Quality of **police recorded crime statistics**: discussing findings and draft recommendations with stakeholders and revising draft report.

Housing, Planning and Local Services

Engaging with **Housing Ombudsman Service** and **UK Housing Review** team to promote working in line with TQV. Keeping a watching brief regarding the potential new **RAAC data** sources across the housing sector in UK.

Compliance Check: Initiating review of **Scottish Government Scottish Housing Condition Survey** statistics following temporary suspension of accreditation last year. Arranging follow up on **DLUHC Building safety MI**. Held follow up meeting on **Valuation Office Agency Council Tax Stock and Council Tax Challenges and Changes** statistics.

Health and Social Care

Scoping for a discussion of the use of statistics about **health and care inequalities across the UK**.

Assessment: Published report about **English A&E waiting times statistics**.

Planning an assessment of statistics about the **Adult Social Care Workforce** in England.

Casework: Received a letter from the campaign organisation 38 degrees regarding the Department for Health and Social Care's claim that NHS waiting lists in England have reduced.

Compliance Check: review of new **Winter Coronavirus Infection Study** statistics published by UKHSA and ONS. Planning check of the **Scottish Health Survey statistics**.

Systemic Reviews: Published report of the follow-up of **England mental health statistics**. Commenced follow-up of **NI mental health statistics**. Planning review of **mental health statistics** in Wales published by the Welsh Government.

Children, Education and Skills

Exploring ways to build relationships with charities to promote the Code and VA.

Assessments: Collating evidence and considering potential requirements on the **Graduate Outcomes Survey** statistics produced by Jisc (previously HESA).

Compliance Check: Review of the **Higher Education Student statistics** produced by Jisc to monitor the impact of the data futures transformation (previously HESA).

Labour Market and Welfare

Liaising with ONS after its decision to stop the **Household Financial Statistics Transformation (HFST)** project and what this means for NS confirmation of **ONS's Family Spending** publication.

Assessments: DWP's **Personal Independence Payment (PIP)** statistics, draft report with the producer team for comment, ahead of Regulation Committee meeting.

HMRC/ONS **Estimates of employment and earnings** from **PAYE RTI data**. Meeting the producer to discuss progress against their action plan.

Rapid Reviews: Review ongoing of ONS's and NISRA's **Transformed Labour Force Surveys**

Regulatory Activities Dashboard

January 2024

Research

Continuing **literature review** seeking to further understand and formalise our knowledge of the role statistics play in policy (both policy development and evaluation).
Awarded the contract for our **research project** about the role of statistics in decision making by individuals, which seeks to illuminate hidden ways in which statistics serve the public good.
Stakeholder engagement: Our journal article on statistics that serve the public good has been accepted pending minor revisions by the Statistical Journal of the International Association of Official Statistics – we are amending presently.

Insight

We are in pre-planning stages of the next **State of the Statistical System Report**. We have used feedback from the previous team to improve the process for the next round.
Insight Project based on the theme of **Reducing Outputs** is underway. The project team will collate and disseminate OSR work/guidance on the theme. This initial project will provide a framework for a series of projects on different themes.
Ongoing work on the **Gap Analysis** of the 5 Year Strategy. Engaged with OSR team on evidence at first team business planning event.

Data and Methods

Developing tools to support regulators in their work on **police-recorded crime statistics, quarterly GDP estimates and monitoring RAAC (Reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete)-related parliamentary discussions**. This work is going through the ONS Cyber Security processes to go into production.
Participated in the pre-AI Security Summit workshops hosted by the Royal Society.
Chaired a discussion on Large Language Model (LLM) skills for the cross-government Text Data Subcommunity
Planning underway for the **Data Linkage and Sharing** follow-on report.

Policy & Standards

We completed our event series for the **Code review** with a stakeholder in-person event at the RSS. The call for evidence closes on 11 December. Producers are working on implementing the new language and changes made following the **National Statistics designation review**. We are supporting by speaking at producer sessions and publishing updated guidance including on official statistics in development.

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY
AUTHORITY BOARD**

SA(24)04

The Future of Population and Migration Statistics

As this area of work is policy in development, this paper will be published upon completion.