

Inclusive data taskforce

Annual progress report 2024





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Foreword from the National Statistician

I am very pleased to present this report which sets out the progress made across the UK statistical system in the 2023-2024 period towards more inclusive data and evidence. I am delighted that the report clearly demonstrates inclusivity is being embedded in data collection, production and dissemination across the Government Statistical Service (GSS).

This is evidenced by the Inclusive Data Taskforce (IDTF) commitment metrics which show that over 80% of projects set out in the original Embedding Inclusivity report are either complete or on track to be complete.

Whilst it should be celebrated that over 40% of commitments have been completed, we cannot afford to be complacent. We must not assume that once a project which set out to improve the inclusivity of our data in some way has met its original objectives, that it can be regarded as complete and no longer relevant to the wider programme.

We must continually revisit past work to ensure that the positive actions once taken to meet the commitment have become 'business as usual', so that inclusivity becomes further embedded into our work and remains at the heart of the GSS.

We are extremely grateful to our colleagues across the GSS, UK devolved governments, and other commitment owners for their work and contributions to the report, as well as the members of my Inclusive Data Advisory Committee (the NSIDAC), who provide invaluable guidance and steer on our journey towards a more inclusive statistical system.

It has been a positive year in the data inclusivity space, and we are looking forward to observing the further progress towards the IDTF commitments into 2025 and beyond.



Professor Sir Ian Diamond
National Statistician and Chief
Executive of the UK Statistics Authority



Executive Summary

In 2021, the National Statistician convened a task force with the objective of making a step-change in the inclusivity of UK data and evidence. The [Inclusive Data Taskforce report and recommendations](#) set out 46 recommendations under 8 Inclusive Data Principles, cross-cutting themes which highlight the priority areas for the most impactful work to be undertaken to improve inclusivity in data.

This was followed by the [Implementation Plan](#), led by ONS which set out a high-level work programme of ongoing and planned initiatives linked to the 8 Principles. This included 205 commitments across the UK government, devolved governments, charity and academia.

In 2023, a further 134 commitments were added to the total set, to outline further work, taking the total number of commitments to 339. As of May 2024, 284 of these commitments were either complete or on track to be complete. This suggests good progress has been made over the past year. The individual reasons for the status of the remaining commitments must be examined, and challenges to the progress of these identified so solutions can be developed.

This report sets out the progress and status of the commitments by each of the 8 Principles, alongside a case study from a range of UK government departments outlining individual projects which link to each of the themes.



Introduction

The Inclusive Data Taskforce (IDTF) [recommendations](#) and [Implementation Plan](#) provide a framework for monitoring the progress across the UK government, Devolved administrations, civil society and academia, towards greater inclusivity of UK data and evidence.

The IDTF was convened by the National Statistician in 2021, and while responsibility for monitoring the implementation of the recommendations sits within the Office for National Statistics (ONS), this programme has been embraced across government and sectors in the UK nations.

Implementation of the IDTF recommendations has far-reaching consequences for data collection, statistics and analysis across the UK statistical system.

The overarching aim of the Inclusive Data Taskforce programme is to embed inclusivity as standard practice across the UK statistical landscape in a sustainable way.

The progress made towards the recommendations over the past few years throughout the public sector is demonstrated within this report, which sets out information on the status of commitments by each of the 8 Inclusive Data Principles:

Inclusive Data Principle 1

Create an environment of trust and trustworthiness which allows and encourages everyone to count and be counted in UK data and evidence.

Inclusive Data Principle 2

Take a whole system approach, working in partnership with others to improve the inclusiveness of UK data and evidence.

Inclusive Data Principle 3

Ensure that all groups are robustly captured across key areas of life in UK data and review practices regularly.

Inclusive Data Principle 4

Improve the UK data infrastructure to enable robust and reliable disaggregation and intersectional analysis across the full range of relevant groups and populations, and at differing levels of geography.



Inclusive Data Principle 5

Ensure appropriateness and clarity over the concepts being measured across all data collected.

Inclusive Data Principle 6

Broaden the range of methods that are routinely used and create new approaches to understanding experiences across the population of the UK.

Inclusive Data Principle 7

Harmonised standards for relevant groups and populations should be reviewed at least every five years and updated and expanded where necessary, in line with changing social norms and respondent and user needs.

Inclusive Data Principle 8

Ensure UK data and evidence are equally accessible to all, while protecting the identity and confidentiality of those sharing their data.



A case study of projects linked to each of the Principles is also included, to evidence the approach and impact of the varying work ongoing to meet the recommendations and demonstrate the variety of work across government and with under-represented groups. The case studies included in this report were selected because the work featured one or more of the priority groups for the next financial year, which are set out in the Workplan 2024-2025 section of this report.

Data were collected for this report from all 29 commitment owners across government, the devolved governments and the third sector. The status of commitments reflect updates received between February and May 2024.

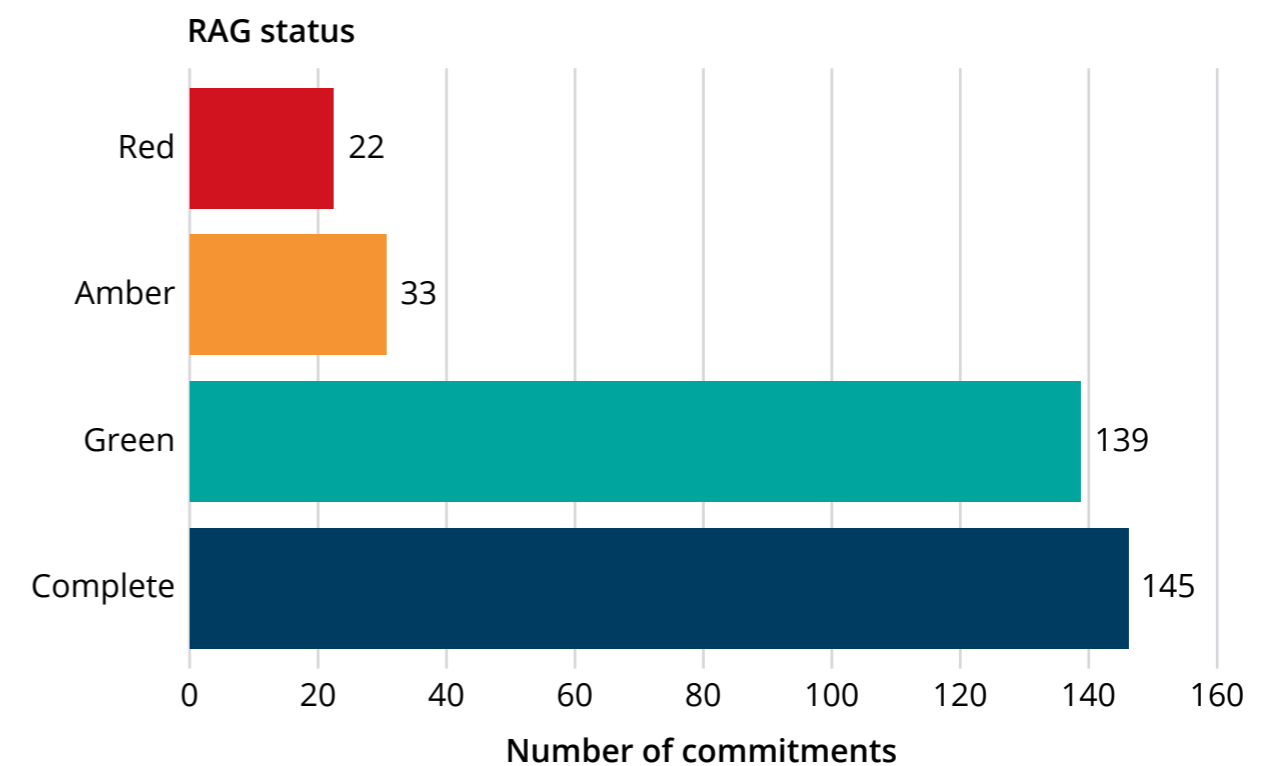
Considerable progress has been made since the commitments were established in 2022, despite pressures on resource and funding. Figure 1 shows the distribution of all IDTF commitments using a traffic light signal system, in which:

- complete signifies the work the commitment set out has been completed
- green signifies the work is on track
- amber signifies the work has been delayed
- red signifies the work has been significantly delayed or paused

Overall, 43% of commitments have been completed and 41% are making good progress. 10% are experiencing delays, and 6% are on hold for reasons including changes in departmental priorities.



Figure 1: Red, amber, green (RAG) status of all 339 IDTF commitments



Work to date

The National Statistician's Inclusive Data Advisory Committee (NSIDAC) was established in 2022 as an independent committee to advise the National Statistician on ongoing improvements in data inclusivity, quality and coverage, and how the Inclusive Data Taskforce (IDTF) commitments made across government and wider are progressing to meet the recommendations set out in the original report. The NSIDAC meet quarterly to review updates on the key IDTF commitments and provide advice to the ONS and other commitment owners across government to support progress.

The NSIDAC function is supported by the Government Statistical Service (GSS) Inclusive Data Sub-Committee (IDSC). The IDSC, chaired within ONS and attended by the Heads of Profession across a key range of government statistical producers and UK devolved governments, works in tandem with the NSIDAC to discuss opportunities and barriers related to inclusive data across the statistical system.

In 2023, the [Embedding Inclusivity in UK data report](#) was published, which included an overview of the progress made to 2023 across the commitments published in the [Implementation Plan](#). It set out key achievements and further plans for the 2023 to 2024 period. This report provides an overview of progress made towards commitments during the 2023 to 2024 period.



Workplan for 2024 to 2025

Alongside ongoing work to monitor and support the progress of the IDTF commitments, the NSIDAC and IDSC have developed a set of priority themes for the remainder of the programme to 2025.

Based on an assessment of the statistical system, the landscape of equalities data, and progress to date of programmes relating to under-represented groups, the Committees will be prioritising the development of more inclusive data for three themes:

1. children
2. disability
3. non-household populations (such as people who are homeless or live in communal establishments like care homes).

Adopting a focus on these three key areas will support progress to be made at pace to collect more and better-quality data, generate cross-cutting analysis, and provide insights into the experiences and outcomes of groups with intersectional characteristics. This approach will also promote the prioritisation of data on under-represented groups as part of the exploration of administrative data for use as statistical data.

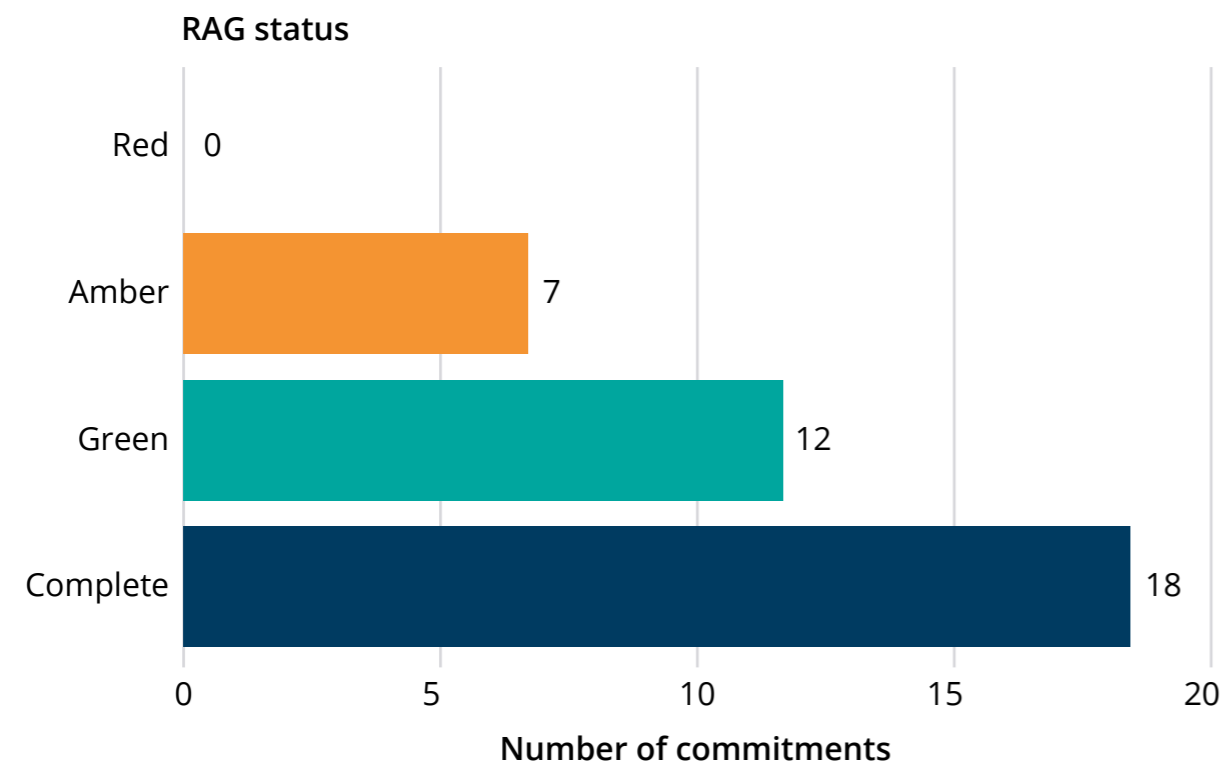


Inclusive Data Principle 1: Trust

About Principle 1: Create an environment of trust and trustworthiness which allows and encourages everyone to count and be counted in UK data and evidence.

There are 37 commitments under Principle 1. Figure 2 shows the distribution of the commitments by their RAG status. 80% of commitments were completed and green, with the majority of these being completed (49% compared with 32% green). Below we describe a commitment which promotes inclusivity in ONS' social surveys.

Figure 2: RAG status of all 37 IDTF commitments under Inclusive Data Principle 1



Case study: Inclusivity in Data Collection Programme, Social Surveys, Office for National Statistics

Commitment: ONS is undertaking a review of operational processes involved in collecting data in our current portfolio of social surveys to determine the barriers to taking part, including among those underrepresented in the statistics. This will enable the design of operational processes where barriers are prevented, removed, or mitigated against. Identifying barriers and proposing solutions will be completed in 2022, followed by research to identify the optimal solutions to implement.

The Office for National Statistics' (ONS') Inclusivity in Data Collection Programme has been running since October 2021. The aim is to identify barriers to participation in ONS social surveys and make operational recommendations to make ONS data collection more inclusive.

A programme of research has been carried out to understand experiences with the end-to-end survey process. This included qualitative research with people who have one or more of the five most common mental health conditions, people with visual impairments, people who are [deaf/Deaf](#) or hard of hearing, and neurodivergent people (with a focus on Autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Dyslexia).

Experiences differed both between group and within group. Barriers identified included difficulty interacting with and feeling excluded from ONS' postal letters and feeling vulnerable with unexpected visitors on the doorstep. Things which enabled survey completion included being able to complete online, and considering the benefit of taking part to themselves and their community against the effort of taking part.

In February 2024, a workshop was held with leaders in the social surveys field to share and discuss key research findings and successes and learnings related to the inclusivity of social surveys, to shape the future of our social surveys data collection.

The workshop, attended by ONS research and operations colleagues, and representatives from departments across the Government Statistical Service and UK survey organisations, focused on three themes:

1. individuals with physical or mental health conditions or neurodivergence
2. hard-to-reach groups
3. use of differential incentives

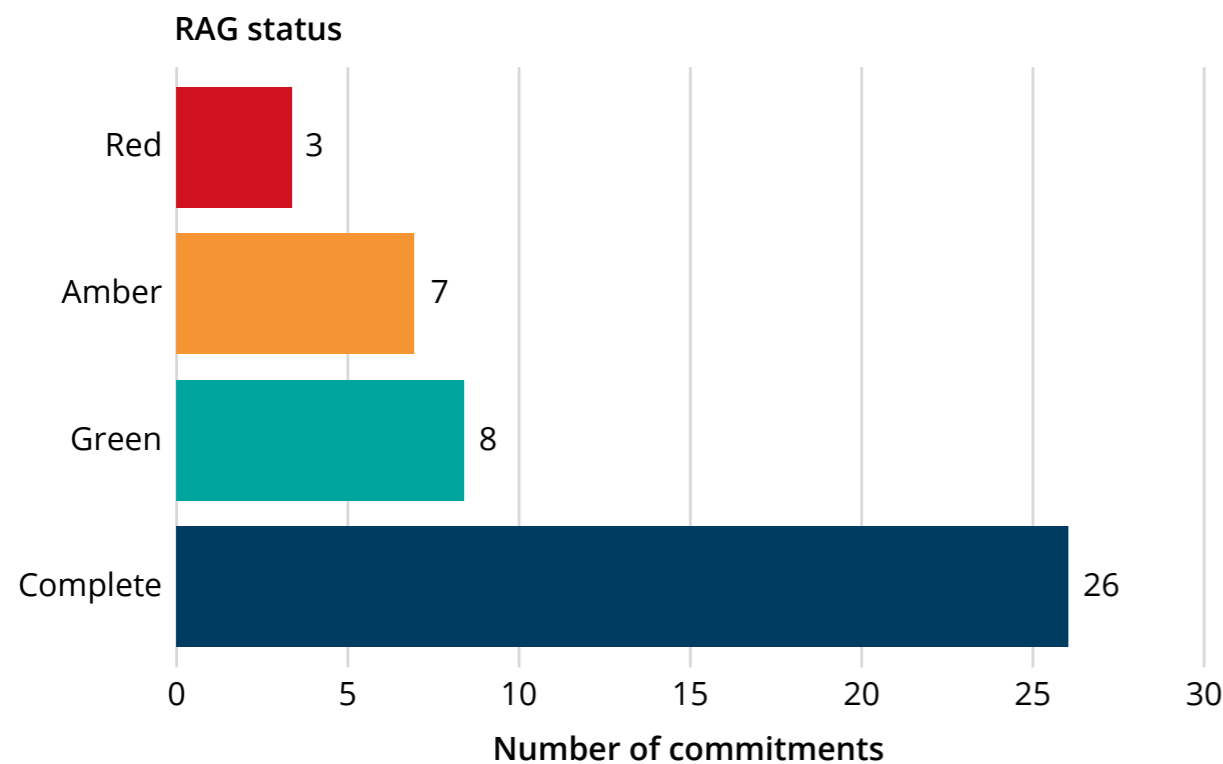
Learnings from the workshop have fed into shaping the recommendations from the research programme, which are looking at developing a survey journey better tailored to individual needs. The recommendations from the whole programme are currently being scoped to understand all the steps involved in implementation. These will then be prioritised, considering impact, feasibility and other organisational priorities.

Inclusive Data Principle 2: Systemic Working

About Principle 2: Take a whole system approach, working in partnership with others to improve the inclusiveness of UK data and evidence.

There are 44 commitments under Principle 2. Figure 3 shows the distribution of the commitments by their RAG status. 77% of commitments were completed or green (59% and 18% respectively). Below we describe a collaborative project between Cabinet Office and Department for Education which takes a whole system approach to improving the availability of data.

Figure 3: RAG status of all 44 IDTF commitments under Inclusive Data Principle 2



Case study: Improving the quality and availability of ethnicity data and evidence for looked-after children, Cabinet Office and Department for Education

Commitment: Using lessons learnt about ethnicity data quality in relation to health data, the Cabinet Office's Race Disparity Unit will make recommendations to improve data quality in different data collections. A prototype report for a specific data area will be developed through 2022 and will be expanded to other topic areas in 2023, depending on the response to the prototype.

The Cabinet Office's Equality Hub and the Department for Education (DfE) have developed and published a strategy to improve the quality and availability of ethnicity data and evidence for looked after children, and their routes out of care.

There are differences in outcomes and experiences between looked-after children of different ethnic groups, which cannot be explained by deprivation alone. The looked after children data strategy, published in April 2023, can help improve the evidence base, understand these disparities and make progress towards addressing them.

The [looked after children data strategy](#), published in April 2023, provides an overview of what data are currently available, and an assessment of the quality of available data. It also covers data quality areas and user needs, such as characteristics, outcome indicators, further exploratory analysis and the possibility of applying national results to the local authority level.

Based on the assessment of the availability and quality of the data, and user needs, priorities were identified including understanding the important metrics required for a new Children's Social Care Dashboard to help support learning and improvement; understanding what real-time data DfE and the sector would benefit from collecting directly from management information systems; and more detailed breakdowns of categories including ethnicity and outcomes.

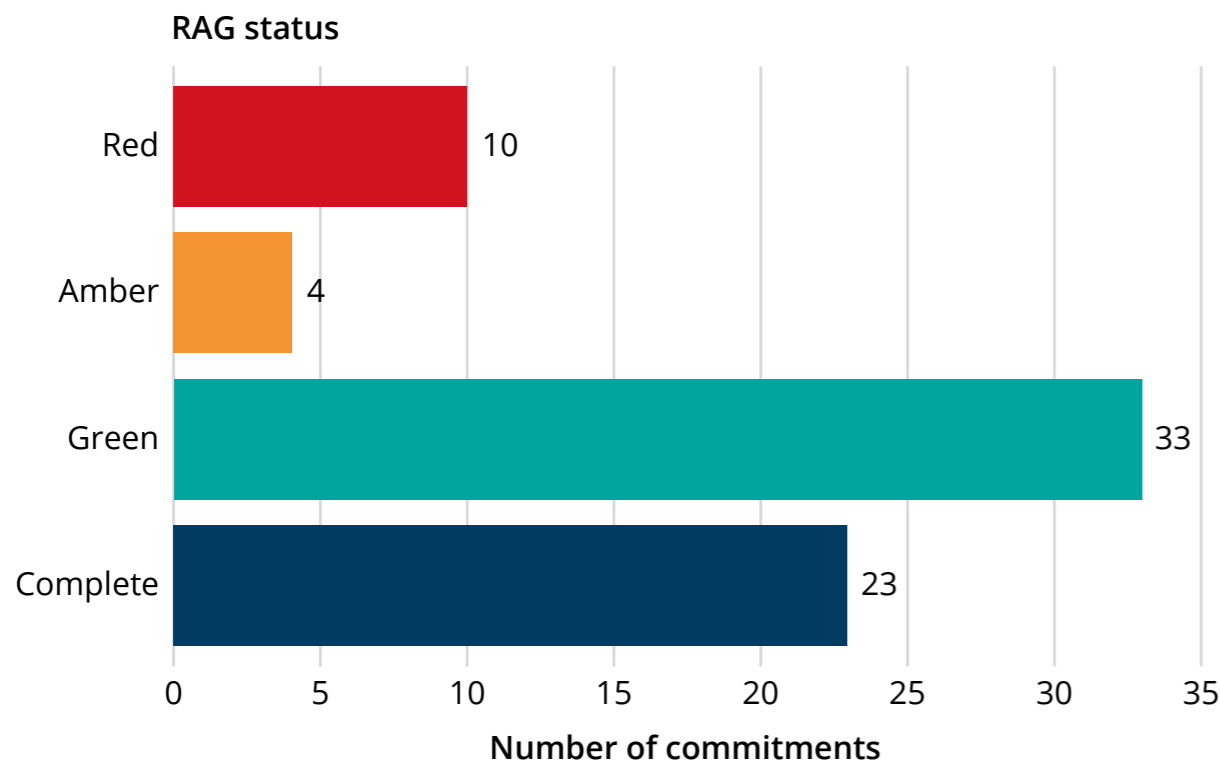
Some of the actions to address these priority areas have included adding ethnicity breakdowns to the data within annual releases. This includes data on [looked after children](#), including those who go missing, care leavers, and information on placement stability and school stability, and outcomes at [Key Stage 1](#), [Key Stage 2](#) and [Key Stage 4](#).

Inclusive Data Principle 3: Coverage

About Principle 3: Ensure that all groups are robustly captured across key areas of life in UK data and review practices regularly.

There are 70 commitments under Principle 3, the highest compared to the other Principles. Figure 4 shows the distribution of the commitments by their RAG status. 80% of commitments were green or complete (47% and 33% respectively). 14% of commitments in this Principle are red, which is high compared to the other Principles and can be linked generally to changing departmental priorities. Below we describe a project by Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government to release additional information alongside Homelessness Case Level Information Collection (HCLIC) publications.

Figure 4: RAG status of all 70 IDTF commitments under Inclusive Data Principle 3



Case study: New flows tables subgroups within Homelessness Case Level Information Collection (HCLIC) statistical releases, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Commitment: Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government have produced a range of new outputs from the statutory homelessness dataset (HCLIC) to meet user needs around the flows through the system of specific subgroups, including rough sleepers and those aged 18-20 leaving custody and care. User needs will be reviewed in advance of the next publication to ensure reporting reflects groups that are the highest priority.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) releases annual statistics on statutory homelessness assessments and activities in England, known as HCLIC publications, which provides information about those who local authorities have a duty to accommodate as they are homeless through no fault of their own, eligible for assistance, and have a 'priority need'. These releases provide information on demographics including age, ethnicity and employment status, to enable analysis of the data by sociodemographic background.

Regular user engagement and feedback enables MHCLG to be aware of changing user needs. Statistical products are updated to ensure timely and appropriate statistics are reported by updating data collection through new options and questions in the data specification.

These reporting requirements are validated through new burdens assessments and Central LA Partnership (CLIP-H) meetings with local authority representatives where feedback is provided on the ease with which these changes can be implemented. Policy colleagues and advisers are engaged with regularly to ensure the products are fit for purpose, and views from general users of statistics are welcomed through the mailbox and surveys.

To ensure that the diverse needs of a range of users are taken into account in data collection and reporting activities, a range of new outputs have been produced as part of the 2022-23 release. Flows tables, which explore the flow of households through homelessness duties and their outcomes, now include cohorts of households with physical ill-health and disabilities, learning disabilities, and access to asylum support. This will enable more in-depth analysis of outcomes by circumstance and comparison across multiple areas of disadvantage.

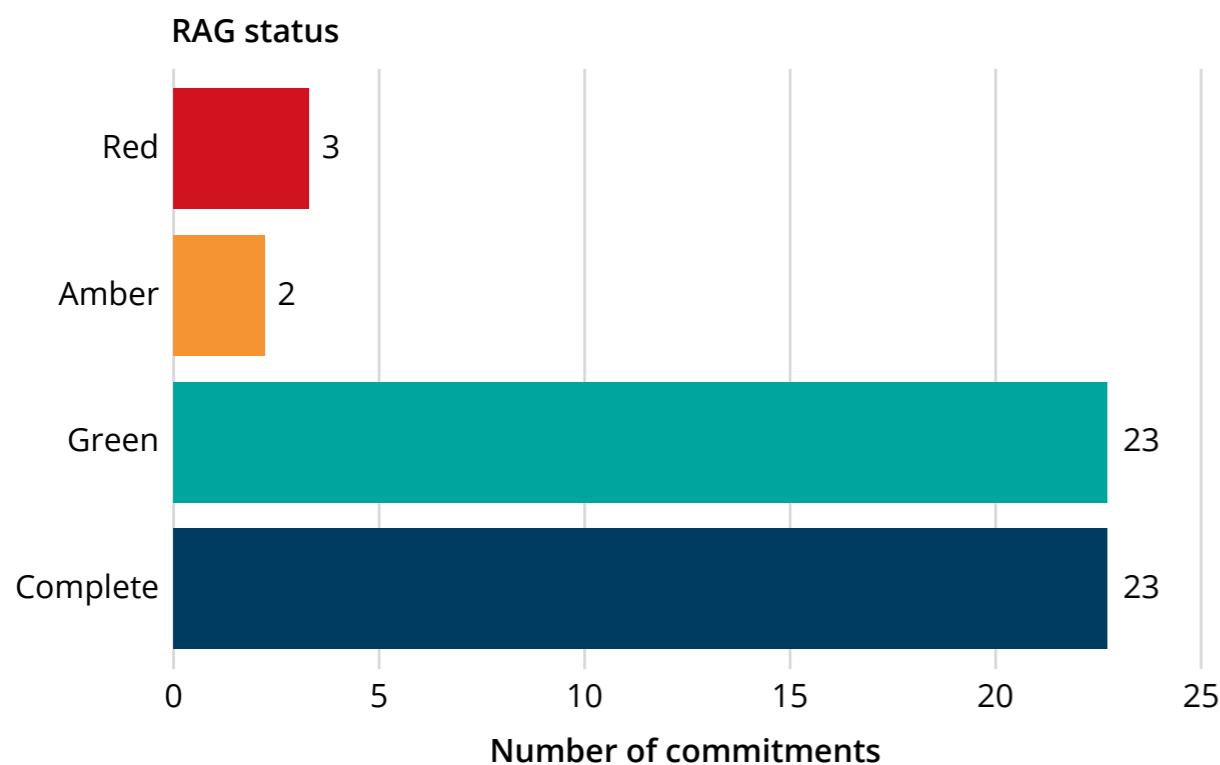
Going forwards, MHCLG plan to review the user requirements associated with the dataset and additional interests of stakeholders for potential new cohorts to include in the 2023-2024 annual publication.

Inclusive Data Principle 4: Disaggregation

About Principle 4: Improve the UK data infrastructure to enable robust and reliable disaggregation and intersectional analysis across the full range of relevant groups and populations, and at differing levels of geography.

There are 51 commitments under Principle 4. Figure 5 shows the distribution of the commitments by their RAG status. The majority of commitments are complete or green, with both at 45%. Below we describe a project completed by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport which boosted sample size to disseminate granular data.

Figure 5: RAG status of all 51 IDTF commitments under Inclusive Data Principle 4



Case study: Increase in sample size for the Participation Survey and Community Life Survey to provide more geographic granularity, Department for Culture, Media and Sport

Commitment: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) will explore the feasibility of merging multiple years of Community Life Survey (CLS) data to produce a pooled dataset to facilitate greater analysis of sub-groups. They will also explore the feasibility of producing small area estimates to increase the potential for analysis of smaller geographical areas. The sample size for the Participation Survey will also be increased to enable estimates to be produced at a lower level of geography.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sports' Participation Survey is a digital-first survey, with respondents encouraged to complete the survey online with paper survey option where needed. The Participation Survey entered its 4th year in April 2024 and is a robust, nationally representative survey of people aged 16 and over in England. The survey collects data on engagement in the cultural sectors, major cultural and sporting events, live sport and gambling, and the digital sectors. It also gathers information on demographics, including age, disability and education, and related areas including wellbeing and loneliness. The findings contribute to the evidence base for a number of policy areas, enable the monitoring of the accessibility of DCMS sectors, and provide valuable information on engagement.



The Participation Survey replaced the Taking Part survey, which ended in March 2020. While moving from a face-to-face survey to a push-to-web survey, DCMS increased the sample size from 10,000 to 33,000. Paper surveys are always available on request. The increased sample size allows for county-level statistics. It has also allowed DCMS to analyse and publish more granular demographic breakdowns, including by ethnicity and by religion.

In addition, as a result of a partnership with Arts Council England, the sample for the 2023/24 survey was increased further to 175,000, allowing for meaningful Local authority (LA) level estimates. Statistics from this data set will be published in July 2024, allowing for more granularity in the survey than ever before.

The plan is to boost the survey from county level to LA level once every 3 years, with the next boost planned for 2025/26. This LA level data will support a range of user needs, and will play a key role in supporting Arts Council England’s ‘Let’s Create’ strategy.

The Community Life Survey (CLS), which is also available online and in paper mode, also collects data on demographics including age, disability, and ethnicity, from adults aged 16 and over in England. The main themes the survey covers are community engagement, volunteering and social cohesion. This enables analysis of essential core topics including interaction with friends and family, feelings of belonging and satisfaction regarding their neighbourhood, and levels of happiness, satisfaction, anxiety and loneliness.

For the survey years of 2023/24 and 2024/25, DCMS are partnering with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government. This will enable an increase in the sample size from approximately 10,000 to 175,000, which will mean LA level estimates can be produced. Additional questions on Pride in Place and Life Chances will also be included. Next statistics from this data set will be published in autumn 2024.

DCMS also commissioned a research report to explore the suitability of using a model-based method to obtain LA level metrics for the Community Life Survey. This will be published in due course.

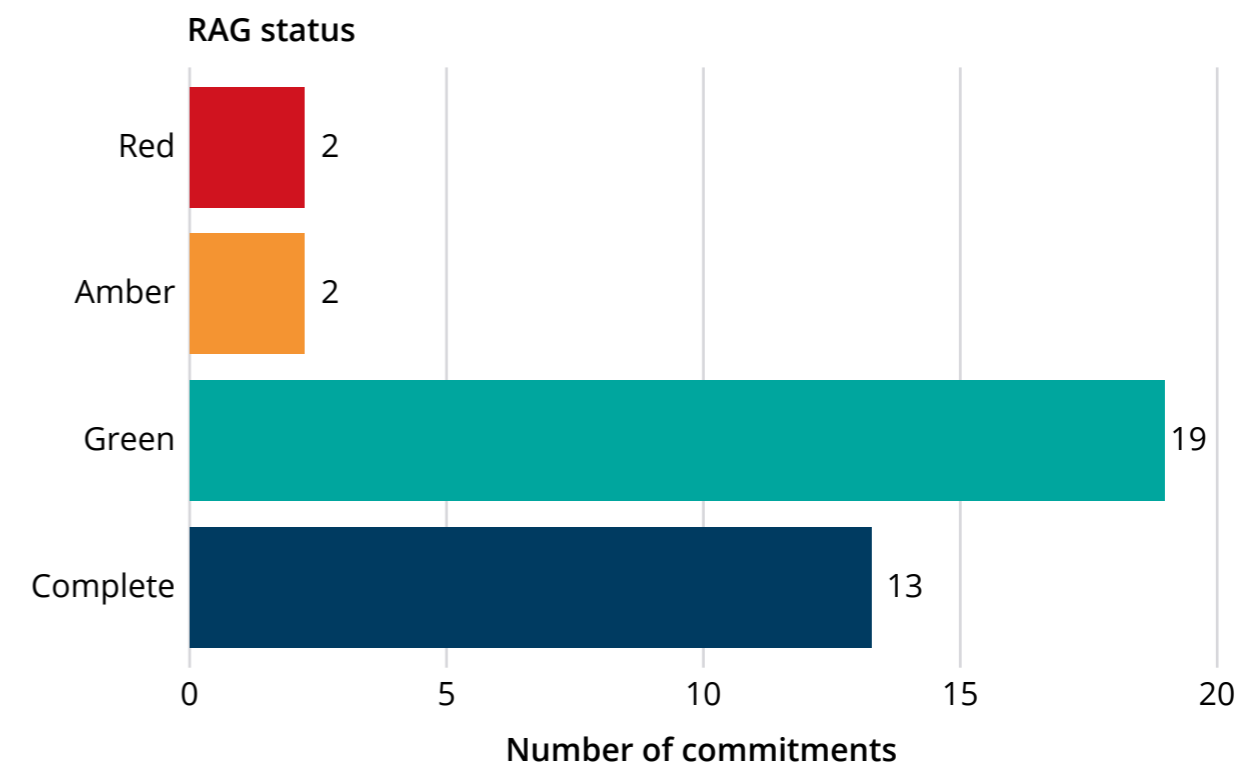
DCMS is currently undertaking a strategic review, including [consultation](#) of the survey needs of the department covering the Participation Survey and Community Life Survey. DCMS are considering options for the structure of social surveys in the future, ensuring that meeting user needs and achieving value for money remains at the forefront of any survey design.

Inclusive Data Principle 5: Concepts

About Principle 5: Ensure appropriateness and clarity over the concepts being measured across all data collected.

There are 36 commitments under Principle 5. Figure 6 shows the distribution of the commitments by their RAG status. Most commitments (89%) are green (53%) or complete (37%). Below we describe a project by the Welsh Government which aims to investigate the potential to collect evidence using a Social Model of Disability.

Figure 6: RAG status of all 36 IDTF commitments under Inclusive Data Principle 5



Case study: Collecting data in line with the Social Model of Disability, Welsh Government

Commitment 5.1.2: Welsh Government will investigate developing evidence that is in line with the Social Model of Disability from 2022.

The Welsh Government adopted the Social Model of Disability in 2022. The Social Model was developed by disabled people and is enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled People (UNCPRD), to which the UK is a signatory. It distinguishes between ‘impairment’ and ‘disability’ and recognises that people with impairments are disabled by barriers which commonly exist within society. This could include negative attitudes, institutional barriers such as a lack of reasonable adjustment policy, communication barriers such as inaccessible language, and environmental barriers such as a failure to provide appropriate building access for wheelchair users.

In 2022, the Welsh Government’s Minister for Social Justice reaffirmed the commitment to embedding the Social Model and the Welsh Government’s [Equality, Race and Disability Evidence Units](#) were established. The Evidence Units are committed to investigating ways of developing evidence in line with the Social Model of Disability. As such, initial investigations into how to co-produce research and work alongside disabled people incorporated advice from members of the Disability Rights Taskforce thereby ensuring that the lived experience of disabled people is at the heart of this research.

The Evidence Units are designing and testing standardised survey questions that reflect the Social Model of Disability, which could be incorporated into future data collections and social research. Guidance will also be developed which advises on the type of questions to be used and when. The research contract was awarded in February 2024 and is expected to be completed in Autumn 2025. The research itself will be conducted in line with the Social Model of Disability, ensuring it is inclusive and accessible for everyone involved, including stakeholders and participants.

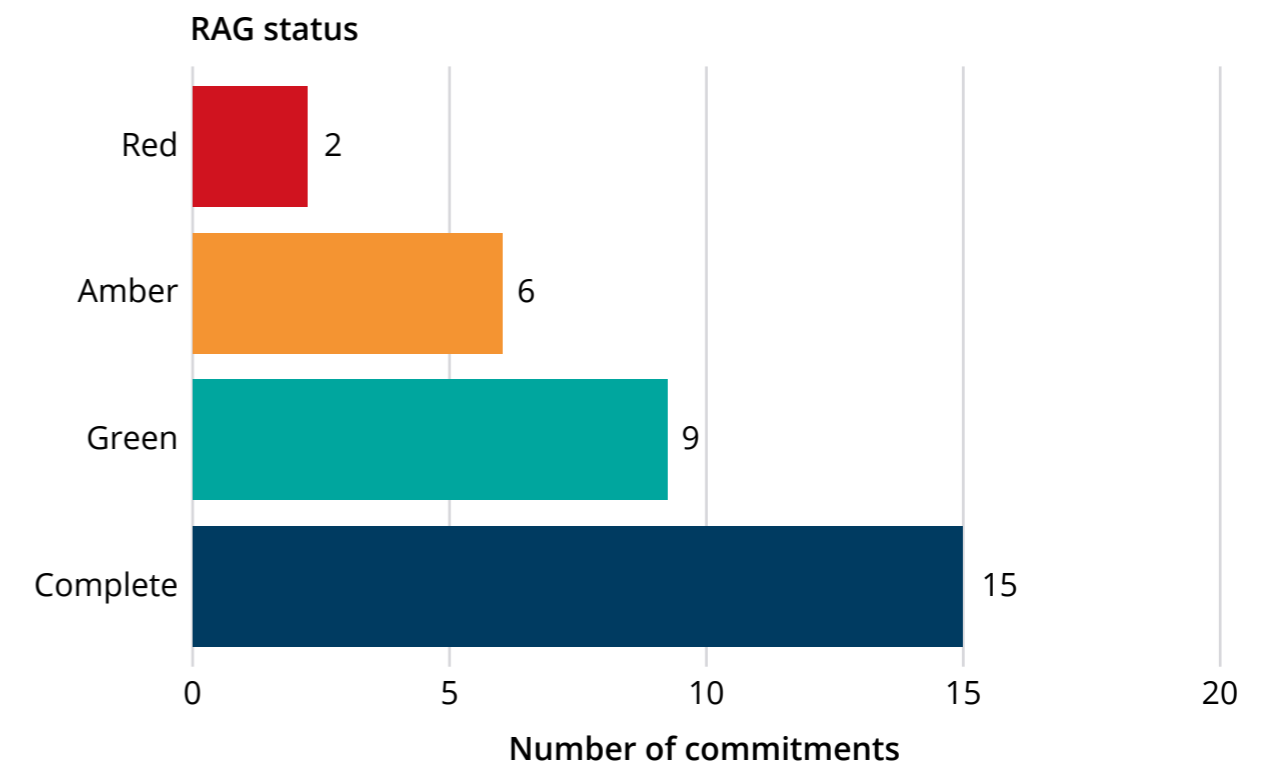
The recommended social model questions will have been cognitively tested by children and adults with different impairments and available in English, Welsh, British Sign Language, and other accessible formats.

Inclusive Data Principle 6: Methods

About Principle 6: Broaden the range of methods that are routinely used and create new approaches to understanding experiences across the population of the UK.

There are 32 commitments under Principle 6. Figure 7 shows the distribution of the commitments by their RAG status. Most commitments were either complete (47%) or green (28%). Below we describe a study into the lived experiences of statistically under-represented groups by Office for National Statistics.

Figure 7: RAG status of all 32 IDTF commitments under Inclusive Data Principle 6



Case study: Qualitative research on the lived experiences of statistically under-represented groups, Office for National Statistics

Commitment: ONS is undertaking qualitative research to examine the lived experiences of groups who are currently under-represented in UK data and evidence including: disabled adults' experiences accessing and engaging with activities, goods and services across the UK; the school experiences of children with special educational needs and disabilities in England; and the lived experiences, priorities and needs of Gypsy and Traveller communities.

In response to recommendations set out by the Inclusive Data Taskforce, the Qualitative Research team in the Centre for Equalities and Inclusion have published five research reports on the lived experiences of various statistically underrepresented groups. Groups included: disabled adults, Gypsies and Travellers, children with special educational needs and disabilities, all published in 2023, followed by experiences of survivors of domestic abuse in temporary safe accommodation, and displaced young people, published in 2024. The programme of qualitative research continues throughout this year and onwards.



Working with civil society organisations (CSOs) has been critical to accessing participants for the research, including those who might be missing or underrepresented in other service and data touchpoints. CSOs have provided insights into their communities, acted as gatekeepers for participant recruitment, and provided follow-on support for participants. For example, the support of a network of CSOs meant Gypsies and Travellers across different sites in England and Wales could be included in life history interviews which provided insight to culture, identity, and access to a range of services such as health and education.

A variety of innovative methods have been used across the projects to ensure the inclusivity and appropriacy of research. A lived experience, participant led approach to research ensures that participants can share what they feel is important and have more ownership over the research process. This helps to address some of the traditional power imbalances that can occur between researchers and participants and ensures that research is conducted 'with, not on' underrepresented groups.

Additionally, a peer research approach has been used for several projects. For example, in the displaced young people project, other displaced young people, who had completed research training, conducted interviews. This meant participants were able to share their experiences with those with similar characteristics and language to them, supporting comfort and ease of expression.

A large proportion of national datasets focus on data about adults, resulting in less data being available about children. To ensure their meaningful participation and that their voices were heard, a creative, flexible toolkit which could be adapted to meet different needs was developed. For example, using Lego play, drawings and journey mapping to support interactions and conversations with participants about their educational experiences.

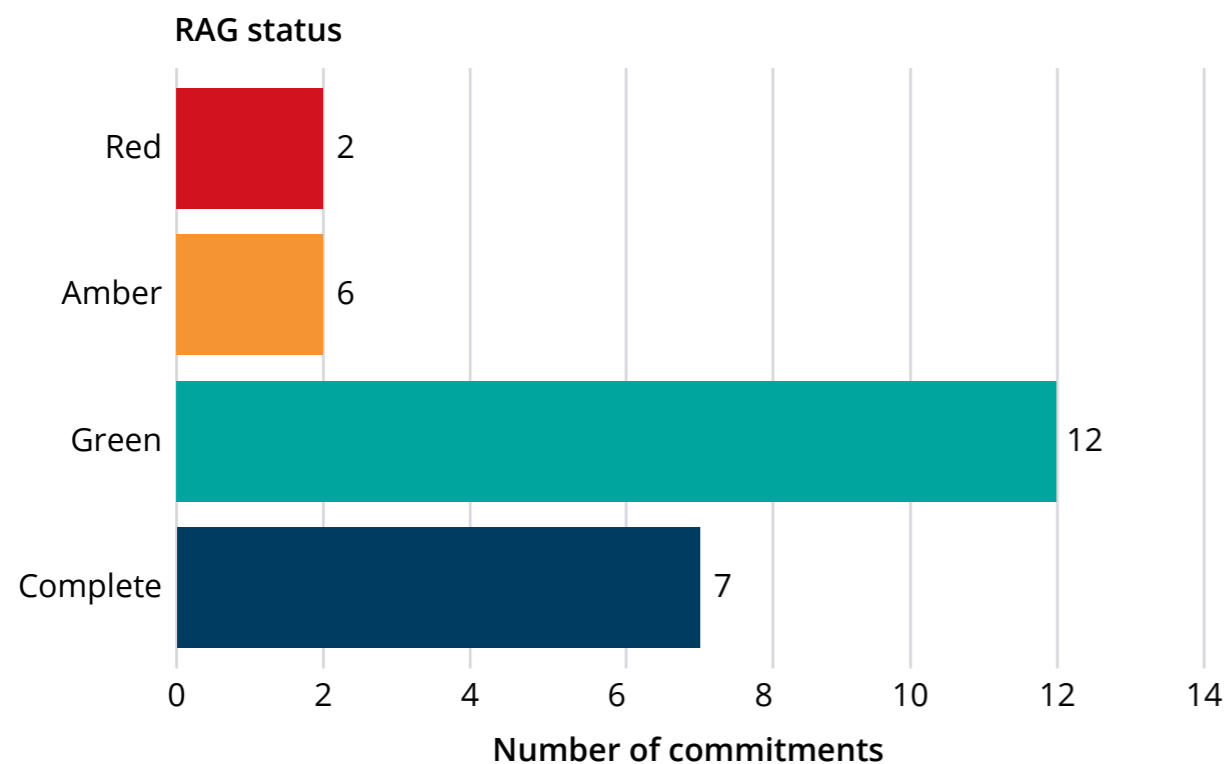


Inclusive Data Principle 7: Harmonisation

About Principle 7: Harmonised standards for relevant groups and populations should be reviewed at least every five years and updated and expanded where necessary, in line with changing social norms and respondent and user needs.

There are 23 commitments under Principle 7. Figure 8 shows the distribution of the commitments by their RAG status. 83% of the commitments were complete or green (52% and 30% respectively). Below we describe how the Government Statistical Service's coherence work plan addresses this commitment.

Figure 8: RAG status for all 23 IDTF commitments under Inclusive Data Principle 7



Case study: An updated Coherence workplan for the Government Statistical Service (GSS), Office for National Statistics / Analysis Function

Commitment: ONS will review the June 2021 published Government Statistical Service (GSS) Coherence Work Programme in collaboration across the four nations of the UK to ensure that it has a strong focus on inclusivity. An updated coherence Work Programme will be published in 2022.

The ONS leads a work programme to improve statistical coherence across government departments and the four UK nations. The ONS published the Coherence of Statistics workplan on the Analysis Function website, which it updates on an annual basis. Statistical coherence is about bringing together outputs on the same topic to explain more effectively the part of the world they describe. As there are such a wide range of data sources and analysis being produced across government and the four UK nations, it is vital we ensure our users are aware of how these statistics relate to each other, and how they can be compared with other statistics to make sense of society.

The UK Concordat on Statistics supports this coherence work across the UK. This is a jointly agreed framework for statistical collaboration between the UK Government and the devolved governments for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

The ONS has been working with producers of official statistics across the UK to produce a comprehensive work programme. This programme sets clear direction for future priorities, and summarises work underway on high-priority areas of shared interest, including:

- understanding economic recovery post pandemic
- cost of living
- health
- housing
- social care
- the environment
- a broad range of other topics that are important across all countries of the UK

A broad range of coherence work and analysis is highlighted through the [Coherence of Statistics release](#) relating to the NSIDAC priority themes. Specifically on non-household population data, the [People experiencing homelessness, England and Wales: Census 2021 was released in 2023](#), which provide insights that are supplementary to the regular official statistics on homelessness and rough sleeping.

Additionally, work on overarching equalities data is highlighted. Harmonisation and accessibility of statistics in relation to protected characteristics groups, people at greater risk of disadvantage, socioeconomic status and geography, is ongoing, and includes harmonised standards on topics such as [socioeconomic background](#). Work with the Cabinet Office Equality Hub on data-related actions from the [Inclusive Britain report](#) has involved consulting on standards for ethnicity data and engaging with people across different ethnic groups to understand more effectively the language and terminology with which they identify.

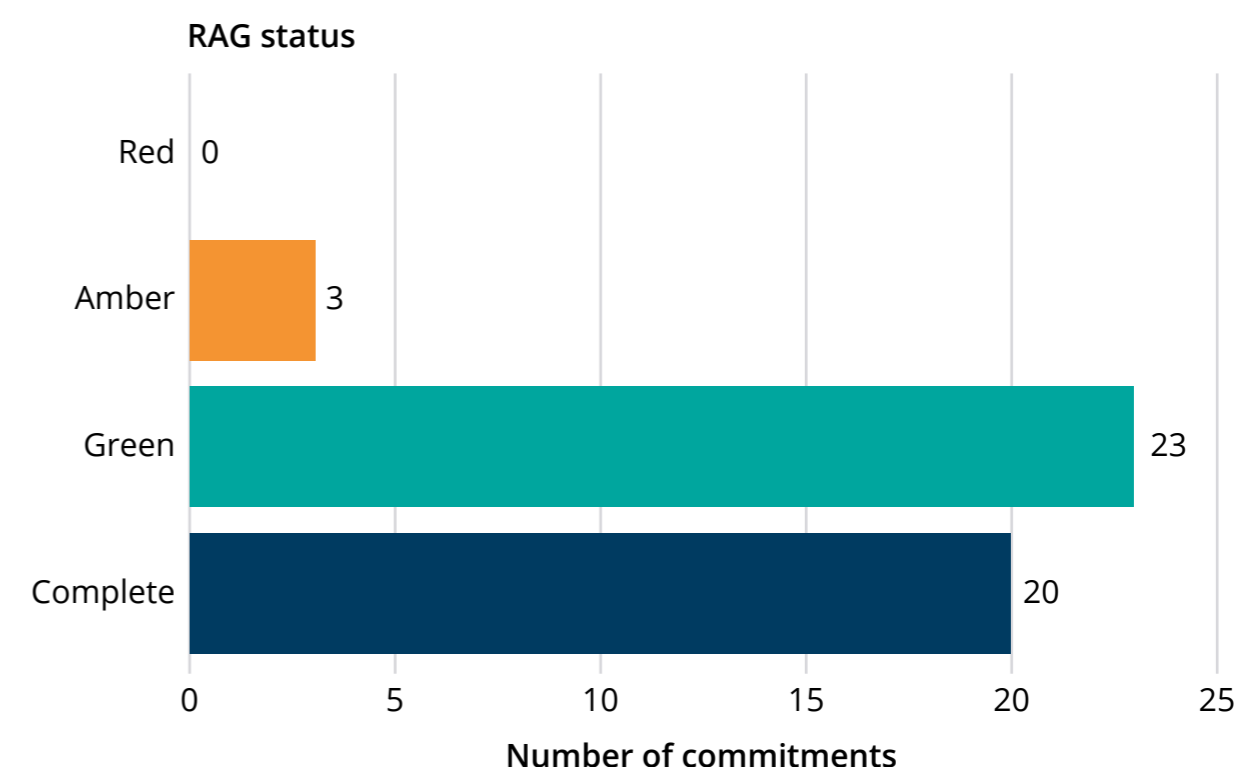
A dedicated [coherence page](#) has also been produced on the ONS website for users to find official statistics produced by or for the Government Statistical Service (GSS) and the devolved governments more easily. Forward plans include continuation of work with the devolved governments to publish new comparable UK-wide statistics for the number of young people 'Not in Education, Employment or Training' (NEET).

Inclusive Data Principle 8: Accessibility

About Principle 8: Ensure UK data and evidence are equally accessible to all, while protecting the identity and confidentiality of those sharing their data.

There are 46 commitments under Principle 7. Figure 8 shows the distribution of the commitments by their RAG status. Most commitments were green or complete (50% and 43% respectively). Below we describe a project by the Scottish Government involving the development of the Equalities Evidence Finder.

Figure 9: RAG status of all 46 IDTF commitments under Inclusive Data Principle 8



Case study: Development of the Equalities Evidence Finder, Scottish Government

Commitment 8.2.3: Scottish Government will continue to update and improve the Equality Evidence Finder (EEF), liaising with users to ensure it meets needs.

The Scottish Government and its partners have been working to improve the quantity and quality of evidence which they gather and use within policy making. The Equality Data Improvement Programme (EDIP), launched in 2021, has involved a series of activities to understand barriers to equality data collection, develop good practice guidance and case study examples, and progress data development in priority areas.

It has resulted in the publication and implementation of Scotland's Equality Evidence Strategy 2023-2025, which includes three core principles:

1. More robust and comprehensive data and evidence will be gathered on the [intersecting characteristics](#) of people in Scotland across a range of outcomes.
2. Equality evidence will be made more easily accessible so users will be able to access what they need, when they need it.
3. Good practice will be shared and promoted to support increased confidence and competence in the production and use of robust equality evidence.

The [EEF is an interactive database](#) with the purpose of bringing together the latest statistics and research for Scotland across a range of different equality characteristics and policy areas. It was first developed in 2012 and has since been maintained by Scottish Government's Equality Analysis Team.



The EEF is currently being reviewed and a technical development plan is being prepared within the Equality Analysis Team, which will outline plans to improve further the provision of Scottish equalities evidence by enhancing accessibility and usability of the Evidence Finder. This aims to explore the addition of new features, such as the presentation of intersectional evidence to allow for insights into the outcomes of people with intersecting characteristics.

The team continues to ensure the EEF is maintained, draws on the most up-to-date data, and meets accessibility requirements. Future improvement plans currently involve:

- ongoing engagement with data users, such as policymakers, analysts, and members of the public using existing channels to ensure development plans are driven by users' needs
- taking an agile approach to implementing iterative testing and development plans
- exploring ways to improve the maintenance of the EEF through automation and streamlining the data update process
- aligning with best practice for dashboard development and Scottish Government Design Systems
- enhancing the technical skills of the team involved in the EEF development



Conclusion

Since its inception in 2021, we believe considerable progress has been made across government to improve the landscape of inclusive data and analysis. Many of the commitments which have been completed have embedded inclusivity into the production and publication of data as 'business as usual', and the case studies here provide just a snapshot of the impressive work which has gone on over the past few years.

Over the next year, we will be reviewing the efficacy of the IDTF programme over the 2021 to 2025 period, and planning is underway to establish what comes next after March 2025 to further drive inclusivity of UK data and evidence.

The ONS is grateful to its collaborators across government, the devolved governments and the third sector for their contributions to this report.



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