

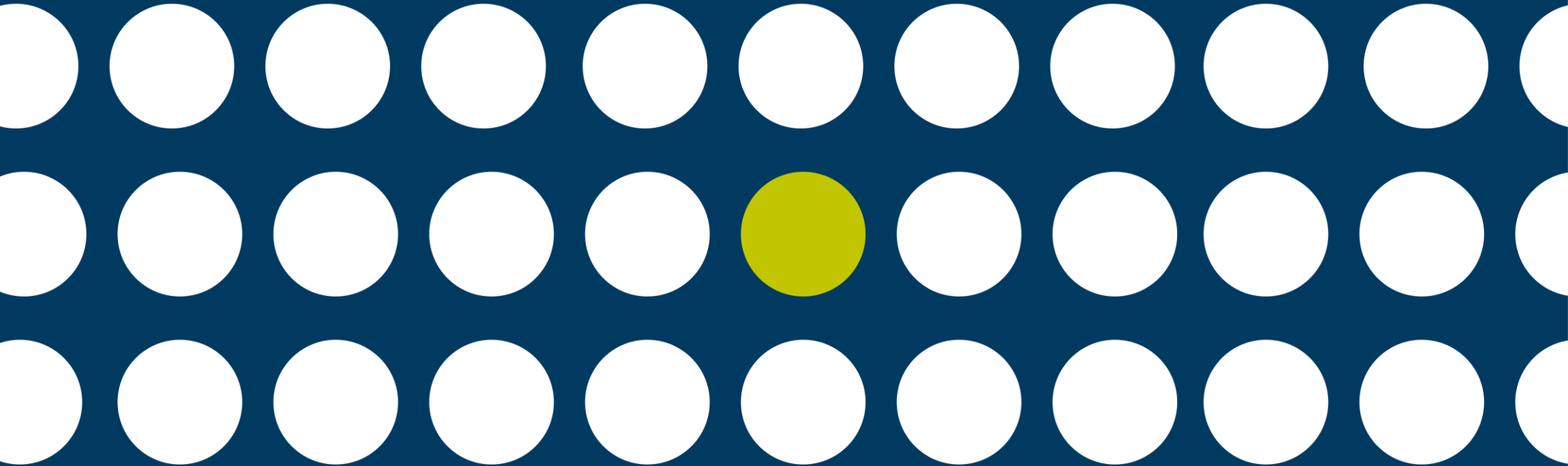
Candidate Pack

Committee Chair

*Advisory Panel on Consumer
Prices (Stakeholder)*



Office for
National Statistics



Thank you for your interest
in this position.

It is an **exciting** opportunity to
work with a **radical, ambitious,
inclusive and sustainable**
organisation.

Welcome



Consumer price statistics are among the most fundamental indicators of the state of the UK economy and are some of the most closely watched official statistics.

The Advisory Panel on Consumer Prices provides independent advice to the National Statistician on the uses and applications of consumer price indices. We are seeking to appoint a Committee Chair, to provide strategic leadership of the Committee.

Specifically, the Committee provides advice to the National Statistician on:

- The wide range of ongoing transformation work to improve the quality and granularity of ONS's consumer price statistics, including the use of large administrative sources such as electronic point of sale data.
- The ONS consumer prices work programme, including ongoing improvements to Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers' housing costs (CPIH) methods, and the development of the Household Costs Indices.
- The appropriate prioritisation of consumer prices development work.

The governance arrangements and structures underpinning the production of consumer price indices are crucial in ensuring the quality, integrity, and independence of these statistics. The Chair of the Panel will have to provide strategic leadership of the Committee, ensuring Panel discussions encourage open debate and effective decision-making, and that all members have the opportunity to contribute their views.

We are looking to recruit a new Committee Chair with the following specialist experience:

The Chair will require first class ambassadorial, communication and presentational skills and the presence, demeanour, and integrity to command the respect of panel members and other key stakeholders.

Candidates should demonstrate excellent leadership and strategic skills, as well as the ability to influence and communicate effectively with a wide range of people. Candidates must hold an expert working knowledge of the UK's consumer price data and their uses.

Professor Sir Ian Diamond

National Statistician

Why ONS?

The Office for National Statistics (ONS)

At ONS, our people are our strength, and we aim to be a brilliant and inclusive employer to over 5,000 colleagues, who work flexibly across all our sites and in co-located teams.

We have people in offices in Edinburgh, London, Manchester, Newport (South Wales), Titchfield (Fareham) and in the Darlington Economic Campus, alongside other departments. We also have a large team of interviewers, who are based throughout the UK.



What do our people say about us?

'A brilliant place to work with a genuine focus on people and career development'

Ross, Macroeconomic Statistics and Analysis

'One of my favourite things about working in ONS is that it is packed with committed and inspiring people who genuinely care about the impact we have across the whole of society in the UK.'

Anne, Population and Public Policy

'A modern and flexible working environment with a focus on staff and culture'

Tom, Recruitment Services

Inclusion & Diversity

ONS is dedicated to creating an inclusive environment to attract and retain top talent from diverse backgrounds and we aim to foster a workplace where differences are celebrated and colleagues can be their authentic selves, aligning with our mission to produce statistics for the public good. We are proud of our progress recognised through many awards.

We provide modifications to the recruitment process for applicants with disabilities or long-term health conditions. We also offer accessible versions of recruitment documents upon request. Please contact the recruitment team to discuss either of these or to assist candidates with any part of the application process at scs.recruitment@ons.gov.uk or call us on 01633 455556.



The Prince's
Responsible
Business Network

Race at Work Charter signatory



Our Mission

“High quality data and analysis to **inform the UK, **improve lives** and **build the future.**”**

Official statistics are for the benefit of society and the economy generally. They allow the formulation of better public policy and the effective measurement of those policies; they inform the direction of economic and commercial activities; they provide valuable information for analysts, researchers, public and voluntary bodies; and they enable the public to hold to account all organisations that spend public money, thus informing democratic debate.

[UKSA Website](#)

About the Role

Committee Chair

Advisory Panel on Consumer Prices
(Stakeholder)

Remuneration: £5,000 per year

Closing date: 13th January 2025

Background

Consumer price statistics are among the most fundamental indicators of the state of the UK economy and are some of the most closely watched official statistics.

They are used as the inflation target of the Bank of England, to index income tax thresholds, for index-linked gilts, for uprating benefits, and in wage bargaining.

The governance arrangements and structures underpinning the production of consumer price indices are crucial in ensuring the quality, integrity, and independence of these statistics.

The ONS has two Advisory Panels on Consumer Prices; a stakeholder panel to advise the National Statistician on the uses and applications of prices indices; and a technical panel to provide advice on the technical aspects of the statistics. These are referred to as the Advisory Panel on Consumer Prices Stakeholder (APCP Stakeholder) and the Advisory Panel on Consumer Prices Technical (APCP Technical).

Roles and responsibilities

The APCP Stakeholder provides independent advice to the National Statistician on the uses and applications of consumer price indices, to ensure that these statistics meet the needs of users and 'serve the public good.'

Specifically, the panel:

- Monitors and provides advice on the wide range of ongoing transformation work to improve the quality and granularity of ONS's consumer price statistics, including the use of large admin sources such as electronic point of sale data.
- Monitors and provides advice on the ONS

consumer prices work programme, including ongoing improvements to CPI and CPIH methods, and the development of the Household Costs Indices.

- Advises on appropriate prioritisation of consumer prices development work
- Raises other relevant issues or topics on the use and application of prices statistics, including on behalf of the user community.

Responsibilities

Reporting and governance

The Stakeholder Advisory Panel on Consumer Prices (APCP-Stakeholder) provides independent advice to the National Statistician on the uses and applications of consumer price indices.

Role specification

The Chair of the Panel will have the following key responsibilities:

- to provide strategic leadership of the Committee in order that it may effectively discharge its duties as set out in the [Terms of Reference](#);
- shaping Panel discussions to encourage open debate, effective decision-making, and ensuring that all members have the opportunity to contribute their views;
- to represent APCP-S publicly as appropriate.

Essential Criteria

- Strong leadership skills, with evidence of having provided visible leadership to a comparable organisation or committee;
- Strategic skills, including the ability to analyse complex issues and to think clearly, strategically, and laterally, extracting the essence of an argument from papers or presented evidence;
- Influencing and communication skills, including an ability to develop and maintain relationships with groups with disparate views and agendas; and
- Team working and collaboration skills, including an ability to work with other members and to participate in robust debate, challenging constructively the opinions of others, and working to achieve a shared consensus.

Specialist skills and expertise

- To facilitate liaison with the technical panel, users, and other key stakeholders, the Chair of the Panel should have an expert working knowledge of the UK suite of consumer prices statistics and their uses. The Chair will require first class ambassadorial, communication and presentational skills and the presence, demeanor, and integrity to command the respect of panel members and other key stakeholders.

Further information

The Panel meet four times each year, it is anticipated that the Chair will also meet regularly with the Chair of the Technical Panel and the Authority's Chief Executive.

The Chair may also be required to present to the Authority Board occasionally. This represents a commitment of approximately twelve days per year. Preparation for and attendance at meetings comprises the majority of this commitment.

The appointment will be for an initial period of three years. The possibility of renewal for a further similar period will be available subject to a performance review.

The Chair will be paid an honorarium of £5,000 a year. This position is non-pensionable. All reasonable travel and subsistence costs will be reimbursed.

Once appointed, for payment purposes you will be required to engage with one of our Recruitment Partners. ONS will provide you with the necessary information, if you have

any questions in the meantime, please email us on: scs.recruitment@ons.gov.uk.

The successful candidate must meet the security requirements before they can be appointed. The level of security needed is Baseline Personal Security Standard.

Conflict of interest and consideration of reputational issues

Holders of public office are expected to adhere and uphold the Seven Principles of Public Life and the Code of Conduct for Board Members of Public Bodies. Before you apply you should consider carefully:

- any outside interests that you may have, such as shares you may hold in a company providing services to government or which could be affected by access to market sensitive statistics;
- any possible reputational issues arising from your past actions or public statements that you have made;

- and/or - any political roles you hold or political campaigns you have supported; which may call into question your ability to do the role you are applying for.

Many conflicts of interest can be satisfactorily resolved and declaring a potential conflict does not prevent you from being considered. If you are shortlisted, we will discuss any interests that would be likely to conflict with their responsibilities as Chair of the Panel, including any proposals you may have to mitigate them. Please declare any potential conflict of interest as early as possible in the selection process and disclose information or personal connections that might, if successful, be open to misperception

Details of declared political activity will be published when the appointment is announced, as required by the Governance Code (political activity is not a bar to appointment, but must be declared).

Recruitment Timetable



Vacancy live

20th December 2024

Closing date

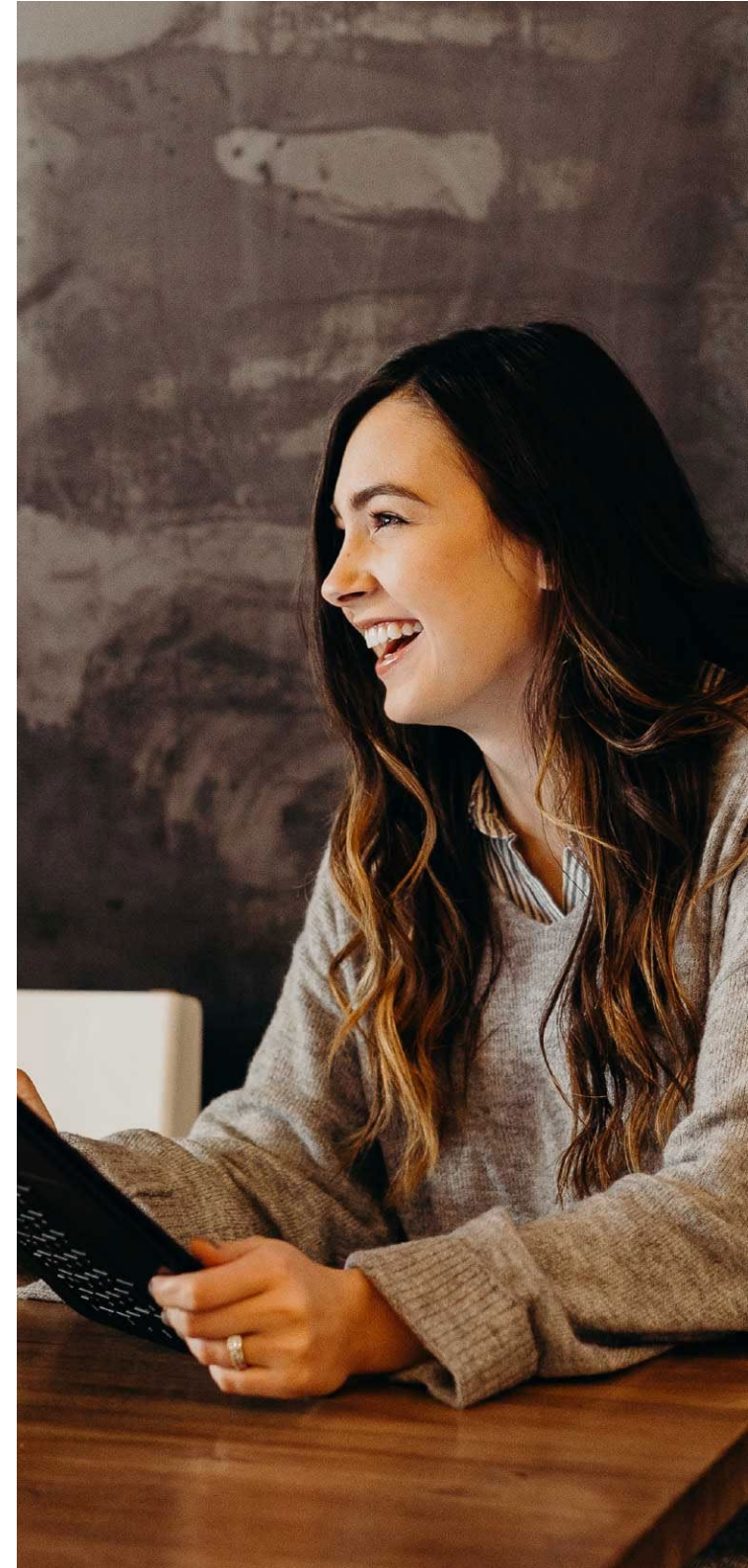
23:55pm on 13th January 2025

Interviews

11th February 2025

Chair appointed

March 2025



Selection Approach

Applications should include:

1. A **covering letter** explaining why this post interests you and how you meet the essential criteria as detailed on page 9 of this candidate pack using examples to demonstrate how you meet the general and specific requirements.
Your covering letter should be no longer than two sides of A4.
2. A **curriculum vitae** which includes:
 - Details of education and professional qualifications
 - Full employment history
 - Relevant achievements in recent posts

Please send your completed application to SCS.recruitment@ons.gov.uk with your CV and statement as attachments.

Applications will be sifted following the closing date and shortlisted candidates will be invited for an informal discussion aligned to their experience and the essential criteria. Conversations will be with the National Statistician and other panel members.

Security Clearance

Individuals appointed to the Office for National Statistics or UK Statistics Authority will be subject to National Security Vetting at BPSS level for this post.

If you are unsure that you meet the eligibility required, please contact scs.recruitment@ons.gov.uk before applying.

Contact

**Thank you for your
interest in this
position.**

Please send your completed application
to SCS.recruitment@ons.gov.uk

If you have any questions,
please get in touch:

Hiring Contact

E: michael.hardie@ons.gov.uk

Recruitment

E: SCS.recruitment@ons.gov.uk

T: 01633 455556