UK Statistics Assembly

The agenda

UK Statistics Assembly Team

December 2024
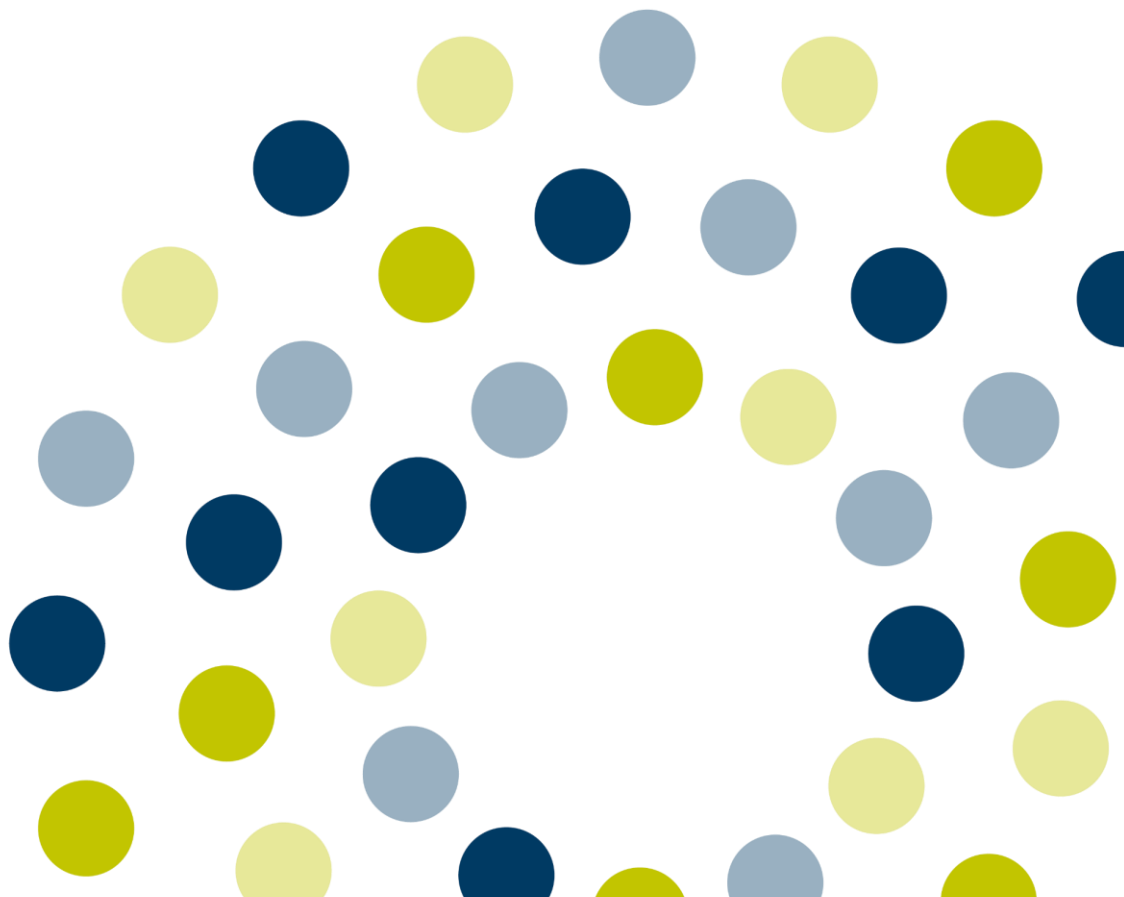
Contents

The agenda

The Assembly agenda has been informed by the call for contributions and developed to reflect user priorities. While recognising that not every single topic requested can be covered, it allows a broad range of perspectives and experiences to be discussed. All sessions will be available to in-person and online attendees.

Time	Foyer	Main hall	Breakout room A	Breakout room B	Breakout room C	Breakout room D	Breakout room E	Online
09:30	Registration Tea or coffee							Platform available to join
10:00 to 10:20		Chair's welcome						Welcome
10:20 to 10:25		Plenary 1: What we heard from the call for contributions						Plenary 1: What we have heard
10:30 to 11:30			Breakout 1: Economic statistics and measuring progress	Breakout 2: Coherence	Breakout 3: Data sourcing quality and methods	Breakout 4: User engagement	Breakout 5: Health disparities	Select one of the five sessions available
11:30 to 11:50	Refreshment break							Break
11:50 to 12:50			Breakout 6: Public sector performance	Breakout 7: Data linkage	Breakout 8: Net zero	Breakout 9: Future of the Census	Breakout 10: Business statistics	Select one of the five sessions available
12:50 to 13:50	Lunch and stalls							Break
13:50 to 14:50			Breakout 11: Equalities	Breakout 12: AI and technology	Breakout 13: Crime	Breakout 14: Labour market	Breakout 15: Local and regional data	Select one of the five sessions available
14:50 to 15:10	Refreshment break							Break
15:10 to 15:30		Plenary 2: International perspective						Plenary 2: International perspective
15:30 to 16:10		Plenary 3: Feedback from breakout sessions						Plenary 3: Feedback from breakout sessions

16:10 to 16:20		Next steps: the report		Next steps
16:20 to 16:30		Final remarks and Assembly closes		Final remarks and event closes

Those registered for the event in-person or online will have received an email inviting them to sign up to their choice of breakout group. We may change the session timings and topics to reflect attendee interest.

Breakout sessions

Breakout A: 10:30 to 11:30

Attend one of the following breakout sessions.

1.	**Economic statistics and measuring progress**	**What needs to be achieved to ensure the measurement of economic statistics keeps pace with societal and technology changes?** Changes such as digital transformation, evolving work patterns and environmental sustainability, all have impacts on the economy and economic statistics.
2.	**Coherence**	**What are the priority topics that need to be coherent between the 4 UK nations?** Official statistics are produced by different organisations across the four UK nations. Some different data collection approaches are used, and different outputs are produced to meet different user needs in each nation. How do we balance these user needs with the need to conduct analysis of the whole UK and compare parts of it?
3.	**Data sourcing quality and methods**	**Do we need an overall strategy for data sourcing to drive quality and resilience and ensure transparency to users?** The increasing use of administrative data and alternative data including citizens' and private sector data, data modelling and other new approaches means statistics are produced from a range of sources. However, this brings new challenges

		including assessing and transparently communicating quality, risk and reliability.
4.	**User engagement**	**How should the statistics system enhance user engagement and communications to better ensure user needs are met?**
		The Lievesley Review recommended an Assembly as part of a wider need to strengthen engagement and enable users to inform priorities across the UK official statistics system. There is a wide diversity of users and user needs - hence ensuring the official statistics system engages effectively, openly and fairly with all of the potential groups is a challenge.
5.	**Health disparities**	**How should we improve measuring health disparities across different communities, including health surveillance and monitoring?**
		Measuring health disparities in the UK is complex due to the interplay of socioeconomic, geographic and demographic factors, and the need for quality, granular data to capture inequalities across diverse communities and regions.

Breakout B: 11:50 to 12:50

Attend one of the following breakout sessions.

6.	**Public sector performance**	**What's needed to assess the performance of public services, such as the health service?**
		Relevant statistics are needed for public service providers, their users and citizens, to objectively assess performance.
7.	**Data linkage**	**What are the levers needed to enable better data sharing and linkage? How should the statistics system communicate with and involve the public on the ethical issues** **around the extent of data sharing and linking?**
		Sharing existing data across organisations and linking data together enables quicker and more extensive analysis without additional data collection. However it also raises technical

		issues on data matching, ease of access and software usage and ethical questions about use of personal data.
8.	**Net zero**	**How can we best bring net zero-related official statistics together to tell a coherent and complete story at national and local level?**
		Understanding the UK's progress towards net zero is likely to be a key requirement in coming years. It is important to ensure the most and coherent statistics are produced.
9.	**Future of the Census**	**What are the essential quality considerations for the future population and migration statistics system to deliver sustainable, timely statistics about the population?**
		ONS is leading and delivering a programme of research to improve its population and migration statistics. The proposed system, which has administrative data at its core, should enable ONS to produce statistics to meet user needs about the population more frequently and consistently than a traditional census.
10.	**Business statistics**	**What data gaps are there in business statistics, for example representation of ethnic minorities, small businesses and more?**
		Robust business statistics are needed to inform a wealth of policy and plans, in areas such as growth, net zero and green jobs, investment, sector-specific support and supply chain analysis.

Breakout C: 13:50 to 14:50

Attend one of the following breakout sessions.

11.	Equalities	**What statistics are needed to monitor equalities, in particular ethnicity?**
		What data collection mechanisms are needed to better address representation and diversity?
		Equalities monitoring is conducted across a wide range of areas of society such as education, health and business. To

		be effective, robust and inclusive data collection methods are needed.
12.	**AI and technology**	**What are the choices that we should make about the ways in which the UK official statistics system adopts (or does not adopt) AI and other emerging technologies over the coming years?**
		New data-driven technologies, such as AI, are already impacting on official statistics and users, changing the ways in which statistics are produced, communicated and used. The pace of development and adoption of such technologies is expected to continue to accelerate.
13.	**Crime**	Is there anything a single crime measure could add to better inform decision-makers and the public?
		Given the forever changing nature of crime and its impact on victims, official statistics are produced by separate crime types, with a number of programmes looking to improve these measures.
14.	**Labour market**	**How can labour market statistics measure the future labour market by best using surveys, administrative data and other data sources?**
		Response rates to social surveys are falling internationally raising the discussion about whether mandating survey completion would be effective. This is happening at the same time as new data sources are becoming available and changes to the labour market itself with the growth of the 'gig economy' and concerns about the impact of economic inactivity.
15.	**Local and regional data**	**How can data and statistics from local and combined authorities benefit national policymaking? What does the statistical system need to do to support these and other organisations in achieving this?**
		Local and combined authorities have a wealth of data that could be used outside their own organisations, with the right systems, culture and support to harness this data effectively.