

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

Minutes

**Thursday 29 May 2025
London Boardroom**

Hybrid Meeting

Members Present

Sir Robert Chote (Chair)
Dr Jacob Abboud
Peter Barron
Ed Humpherson
Professor Dame Carol Propper
Emma Rourke
Professor Sir David Spiegelhalter
Professor Mairi Spowage
Dr Sarah Walsh
Penny Young

Other Attendees

June Bowman
Sir Robert Devereux (for item 9)
Grant Fitzner (for item 9)
Tom Taylor

Secretariat

Sally Jones

Apologies

Sarah Moore

1. Apologies

- 1.1. Apologies were noted from Sarah Moore.

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 24 April 2025 were approved.

4. Report from the Authority Chair [SA(25)25]

- 4.1 Non-Executive Directors had met before the meeting. They had discussed the ongoing review by Sir Robert Devereux.
- 4.2 The Chair welcomed Emma Rourke to her first meeting as Acting National Statistician, noting thanks on behalf of the Board for taking on the role and offering support.
- 4.3 The Chair paid warm tribute to Professor Sir Ian Diamond for his contribution, commitment and energy he had brought to the role of National Statistician and to championing the vital role of statistics across society more broadly and wished him well for the future on behalf of the Board. Sir Ian had stepped down on 9 May due to ongoing health issues.
- 4.4 The Chair reported on his recent activities since the Board last met, noting the work across the Authority by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) in preparation for the forthcoming inquiry by the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee (PACAC).

5. Report from the Chief Executive [SA(25)26]

- 5.1. Emma Rourke noted her thanks and appreciation to Sir Ian Diamond, and the work he did during his five and a half years as National Statistician and Permanent Secretary.
- 5.2. Emma provided the Board with an overview of activity and issues since the last meeting highlighting the following:
 - i. the changes made to ONS's executive governance structure to better support action towards ONS priorities. This included broadening out of ONS Executive Committee (ExCo) and a simplification of the governance structure, with all ExCo subcommittees stood down and a move to weekly ExCo meetings facilitating a central forum for strategic decisions and collective leadership;
 - ii. the finance team were in discussion with HM Treasury colleagues to reach an agreed spending review settlement in June;
 - iii. the publication of the Future of Population and Migration Statistics recommendation was scheduled mid-June with further stakeholder engagement planned alongside;
 - iv. ONS continued to work with the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology with ONS hosting a joint workshop around technology assumptions on threats and opportunities in the coming years;
 - v. the work by ONS in preparation for the next publication of migration statistics in November, which would include supporting communications regarding the methodological change;
 - vi. the work by the ONS International Team to maintain ONS's international standing and influence noting the impact of any reduced Official Development Assistance funding in the coming years; and
 - vii. progress by ONS to address the long-standing issue of delays to coronial data associated with drug related deaths.
- 5.3. The Board heard that ONS continued to work with Ministry of Justice colleagues on the issue of delays to coronial data associated with drug related deaths. The ongoing pilot by ONS with Liverpool and Wirral was providing data on coronial certificates but no death registration certificates as yet, which highlighted the issue that needed

addressing. With regard to changes to ONS executive governance it was clarified that there were no immediate assurance gaps as a result of standing down ExCo subcommittees. The move to weekly meetings would enable ExCo to review the interdependencies across the strategic risk profile more frequently with coordinated mitigation. Convening Task and Finish Groups (T&FG) on a specific issue as needed, such as the Data Governance T&FG, would increase focus on significant risk remediation. It was noted that the update on the Integrated Data Service to the Board in June would provide clarity on the position of the programme.

6. Communications Update

- 6.1. Peter Barron presented the paper in Sarah's absence. He updated the Board on the development of metrics that would enable the Board to effectively mitigate communications risks.
- 6.2. The Board heard that a longer-term communications strategy was in development and would align with the ongoing work on the plan for core economic statistics. ONS would take a more proactive approach going forward with underpinning communications alongside publications, including having a spokesperson available on important issues.
- 6.3. The Board discussed the proposed metrics and provided feedback. It was noted that the Devereux review may highlight issues for consideration that would be useful to track. Over the next twelve months an overarching narrative reflecting ONS's recovery, would be developed. It was acknowledged that an open transparent approach would be taken.

7. Report from the Director General for Regulation [SA(25)27]

- 7.1. Ed Humpherson provided an update on regulation activity since the last meeting. OSR had concluded the consultation on the refresh of the Code of Practice for Statistics and published a summary report of feedback. Preparation for the PACAC Inquiry was a key area of focus for OSR.

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

- 8.1. The Chair reported on the work of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee which had last met on 16 May 2025.
- 8.2. The Committee had considered:
 - i. the pre audit financial position at year end 2024/25 including acknowledgement of the small percentage surplus;
 - ii. the breach of Cabinet Office controls regarding the contract for Crime Survey for England and Wales and impact of the cumulative expenditure for 2023/24 and 2024/25 on this financial year;
 - iii. the update on the refreshed strategic risk profile with a focus on risks outside of appetite, and the need for further work on the interdependencies of risks;
 - iv. a risk deep dive into technological resilience specifically legacy and interdependencies with statistical quality and strategic resourcing; and
 - v. delivery of the Internal Audit Plan 2024/25 and discussion of the Data Governance Report.
- 8.3. The Committee agreed that a paper on people and strategic resourcing would be scheduled for the June meeting.

9. Plan for Core Economic Statistics

- 9.1. The Chair welcomed Sir Robert Devereux to the meeting. Sir Robert Devereux provided an update on progress of his independent review and plans for publication, noting the intention to publish the review outcome alongside the plan for core

economic statistics, which was being developed by ONS at pace. Stakeholder engagement would be undertaken ahead of publication.

- 9.2. Members were provided with a hard copy of the draft plan for core economic statistics at the meeting. Sir Robert Devereux welcomed the development of the plan by ONS and shared his thoughts on options in terms of the level of detail needed in order to provide the assurance needed by both the Board and stakeholders. The plan reiterated ONS's commitment to improve quality, reduce risk and move data and core statistics to a more sustainable footing. Sir Robert Devereux acknowledged that the challenges faced by ONS had in part related to prioritisation decisions and that he considered they had the capability to deliver change.
- 9.3. Members of the Board discussed the draft plan for core economic statistics. The following points were considered in discussion:
- i. the need for the Board to have the appropriate level of assurance on deliverability of the plan;
 - ii. the plan should clearly set out that it is ONS's response to OSR's Systemic Review of ONS Economic Statistics;
 - iii. ONS had undertaken two pilots looking at embedding continuous improvement and statistical engineering, which was a learning point for ONS on prioritisation;
 - iv. the need to provide better delivery assurance through improved management information;
 - v. the importance of the Board being able to support the plan based on further detail to be provided including a timeline for delivery and available resources and capability; and
 - vi. the plan would provide ONS with the basis for a culture shift in terms of delivery. The plan would be a living document with annual published updates on delivery and regular oversight by the Executive Committee. ExCo was already in the process of considering the assurances needed to underpin delivery of the plan.
- 9.4. The Board agreed on the format of the plan. A further meeting would be scheduled for Non-Executive Directors at which the required level of detail and assurance would be provided to enable the Board to endorse the plan.
- 9.5. Sir Robert Devereux briefly outlined the high-level findings of his review. He also noted that on publication of his review it was his intention to endorse ONS's plan for core economic statistics. Timing of publication of both documents were in the process of being agreed.

10. Any Other Business

- 10.1. The Board will next meet on Thursday 26 June.

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY
Agenda
Thursday 29 May 2025, 11.00-14.00
London Boardroom, Hybrid Meeting

Chair: Sir Robert Chote
Apologies: Sarah Moore
Attendees: Sir Robert Devereux (for item 7),
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 24 April 2025
2 11:20-11:30 10 mins	Report from the Authority Chair	SA(25)25 Sir Robert Chote
3 11:30-11.50 20 mins	Report from the Chief Executive	SA(25)26 Emma Rourke
4 11.50-12.00 10 mins	Communications Update	Oral update Peter Barron
5 12.00-12.10 10 mins	Report from the Director General for Regulation	SA(25)27 Ed Humpherson
6 12:10-12.25 15 mins	Report from Committee Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audit and Risk Assurance Committee 	Oral update Dr Jacob Abboud
12.25-12.35 10 mins	Break	
7 12.35-13.55 1 hour 20 mins	Economic Statistics	Oral update Sir Robert Chote Sir Robert Devereux Emma Rourke
8 13:55-14:00 5 mins	Any Other Business	

Next meeting: Thursday 26 June, Manchester Boardroom

Chair's Report

Purpose

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

Review of Recent Activities

2. This month, on 9 May, the UK Statistics Authority announced that Sir Ian Diamond would be stepping down as National Statistician for health reasons. I pay tribute to Sir Ian for his leadership of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the Government Statistical Service for many years, particularly through the pandemic and the 2021 Census. I am grateful to Emma Rourke for agreeing to step up and take on the role of Acting National Statistician while we confirm longer-term arrangements.
3. Sir Robert Devereux and I have been in near-daily contact on the progress of his review and we have held two briefing sessions with non-executive directors to update them also. Robert and I have worked closely with the Cabinet Office, as our sponsor department and co-commissioner of the review, on its progress and to discuss the handling of ONS's leadership transition.
4. The Authority has submitted its written evidence to the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee (PACAC) inquiry on the work of the Authority which includes specific chapters from the ONS and the Office for Statistics Regulation on their respective areas of the inquiry's terms of reference. We look forward to attending the Committee in July to answer their questions.
5. I have continued to hold my regular catch-ups with the Acting National Statistician, Director General for Regulation, Deputy Director of Strategy and Policy, and Committee chairs.

Correspondence

6. On 8 May I responded to a letter from Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP on the use of statistics by the First Minister of Scotland on the poverty-related educational attainment gap.

Sir Robert Chote, Chair, 22 May 2025

Chief Executive's Report, May 2025

Purpose

1. This provides the UK Statistics Authority Board (the Board) with an overview of activity since the last Board meeting on 24 April 2025, aligned to our priority outcomes for 2025/26 as provided within our latest Strategic Business Plan.

An update on organisational changes, and ongoing reviews

2. On 9 May 2025, I began in my new role as Acting National Statistician. I want to put on record my thanks and appreciation for Sir Ian Diamond, and the work he did during his five and a half years as National Statistician and Permanent Secretary.
3. As an organisation, we continue to engage with the Devereux Review. I look forward to the conclusion of the Review in the coming weeks and welcome any recommendations that will be put forward. Alongside this Review, we have worked closely with the UK Statistics Authority (the Authority) and the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) to submit a joint piece of written evidence to the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee's (PACAC) inquiry into the work of the Authority.
4. Whilst we await the outcomes of the Devereux Review, I have made changes to our executive governance structures to better support action towards our priorities. Notably, this has seen Liz McKeown (Core Economic Outputs), Mary Gregory (Core Population Outputs), Sarah Henry (Methodology) and Kate Davies (Data Collection) added as permanent members of the Executive Committee (ExCo). In addition, I have simplified our executive committee structure. All executive sub-committees have been stood down, and we will move to a more frequent weekly ExCo meeting as the central forum for strategic decisions and collective leadership. These changes are designed to make our governance more purposeful and better aligned to our strategic ambitions.
5. As well as changes to our executive governance, I'm delighted to appoint Grant Fitzner as Acting Director General of ESEG. Grant is an experienced leader within the organisation who is well placed to ensure our continued delivery against the 2025/26 Office for National Statistics (ONS) Strategic Business Plan. In the meantime, Richard Heys will backfill as Director for Macroeconomic and Environment Statistics and Analysis.

We continue to liaise with HM Treasury (HMT) colleagues and expect the conclusion to the Spending Review in the coming weeks

6. We are at the earliest stage of 2025/26 and will be operating a reduced level of financial reporting for Periods One and Two (April and May). This follows the pattern of previous years and allows the team to carry out further improvements in readiness for the new year. April expenditure does not take into account the full monthly assessment of accruals which will be factored into May and June figures.
7. We anticipate additional budget associated with the continuation of the dual run of TLFS/LFS during 2025/26. This is not yet reflected in our overall budget figures or published business plan (the business plan publication preceding the Main Estimates fiscal event where the additional funding was delegated).

We have strengthened our focus for delivering our core economic statistics

8. I'm pleased that work is well underway on our Economic Statistics Strategy, following the recommendations presented by the OSR as part of their review into ONS Economic Statistics. This strategy will prioritise quality and embed improvements to our core economic statistics, setting these statistics on a sustainable footing.

9. Across the last month, we have continued to deliver our core economic statistical outputs, having released the latest suite of Labour Market (LM) statistics on 13 May; the latest monthly estimate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on 15 May, and the latest measure of inflation on 21 May.
10. Alongside the delivery of our core economic statistics, teams across the ONS are making the vital transformations needed to ensure the sustainable delivery of these outputs moving forwards, such as our work to stand up the non-Labour Market aspects of the new Transformed Labour Force Survey (TLFS) Programme. This includes a rapid stocktake of user needs and TLFS variable quality, to inform decisions needed on the final scope of the non-Labour Market work and success criteria for the Plus survey.
11. Whilst our core outputs remain strong, we have informed OSR of our plan to request suspension of the accreditation of Wealth Statistics, and teams are progressing with methodological work to identify the best routes to recover the quality of the Wealth and Assets Surveys (WAS). We're also working to improve the production of Producer Prices Inflation (PPI), following the discovery of historical chain-linking errors in the PPI data. We are in the process of completing a set of deliveries using the new methods, which will ensure corrected data are available to use in Blue Book and Pink Book 2025. We are planning to be able to resume the full monthly publication of PPI in the summer.
12. May has been an important month for the use and delivery of the full suite of our economic statistics outputs. The Economic Forum took place on 19 May, where we presented new insights into how energy intensive industries have performed in recent years; Public Sector Division responded to HMT with advice on a high-priority statistical classifications matter; the latest UK Health Accounts were published at the end of April, and, on 8 May, we published our Quarterly Public Services Productivity (PSP) estimates up to Quarter 4, 2024. This was our first quarterly release since incorporating improvements to our accredited annual release following the PSP Review.
13. Across our social and environment statistics, we have now released the ONS Centre for Crime and Justice work on "Redevelopment of domestic abuse statistics: research update May 2025", an important milestone that allows us to better understand the impact of domestic abuse on victims. Environment Division have published a range of outputs, including Environmental Taxes and the UK's material footprint.

In the coming months, we will continue our production of top quality statistics on health, population and migration

14. As we prepare for the outcome of our recommendation on the Future of Population and Migration Statistics, Jason Zawadzki, Ruth Studley and I met with HMT and Cabinet Office colleagues to provide sight of the Census Taskforce work that is underway.
15. Planning for a topic consultation exercise to support the Census has commenced. The consultation, designed to support topic prioritisation, is expected to go live in Autumn 2025 subject to government accepting the recommendation.
16. Our regular publication of our latest Long-Term International Migration estimates, covering year to December 2024, was released on 22 May, and highlights our continued commitment to providing high-quality independent migration statistics.
17. ONS presented at the Public Health Protection Conference on how we support the health of the nation through our official statistics delivery, and promoted our official statistics and externally-funded research into health, and wider ONS activity such as the roles of ONS Local and the Pandemic Preparedness Toolkit.

We're undertaking user engagement and sharing best practice to cement our reputation and trustworthiness for delivering high-quality statistics and analysis

18. Communications and Digital Publishing (CDP) are driving forward development of our long-term Communications Strategy that will seek to build on ONS' reputation for

delivery of trustworthy and independent statistics. CDP continue to transform our digital content to improve user satisfaction and drive efficiencies. This includes their recently completed work on developing a new Weekly Deaths Dashboard, improving usability and cutting production time, and a new Input Output Tool to reveal how UK industries use and produce goods, enhancing economic insight.

19. Our Explore Local Statistics (ELS) service was successfully transitioned from Beta to Live on the ONS website in April, becoming the first digital product to be hosted on the new website platform. ELS continues to have a substantial positive impact, with ONS field interviewers using ELS on the doorsteps to show people how their data will be used to produce statistics and reassure them that the data is aggregated and won't identify them.
20. Our ONS Local teams have been supporting local stakeholders through hosting a Mayoral Combined Authority roundtable; introducing the service to the newly formed Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority; supporting local areas to inform their Local Government Reorganisation planning, producing a range of statistics on a variety of potential new boundaries for different reorganisation scenarios.
21. The first Government Statistical Service (GSS) Community call took place on 1 May, followed by GSS networking sessions and GSS Deputy Head drop-in sessions. The important role that the GSS play is highlighted by our collaboration with the Royal Statistical Society (RSS) on a report on the future of the statistics profession. This included the publication of a report from the joint RSS/GSS roundtable which took place in October on this topic, as well as launching a feedback form to seek further opinions from the wider statistical community.
22. Continuous improvement and knowledge sharing has been at the heart of the work of the teams across ESEG in recent months, with the Prices team presenting at the Consumer Prices Index Expert Group meeting in Geneva. ESEG also delivered an earnings symposium in partnership with the Wage and Employment Dynamics (WED) project, Administrative Data Research UK (ADRUk) and the Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence (ESCoE), bringing together earnings data producers and expert users to explore ONS earnings datasets, and to discuss plans for developing data, methodologies, policy applications, and research uses. Finally, teams have also delivered presentations to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) cooperation programme on our practices in delivering the requirements of the System of National Accounts.

Making progress on greater linked data capabilities that result in faster, evidence-based decisions across government

23. I am pleased that our Data Growth and Operations colleagues have received positive endorsement from the National Data Guardian of the National Health Service (NHS) and the Secretary of State for the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) in support of ONS's ambitions to further link health and economic data. Our ambitions for improving data capability are underpinned by our data strategy, which has been extended to December 2027, and will allow us to explore how we can strengthen the governance of the data estate across the organisation.
24. Since the latest National Infrastructure and Service Transformation (NISTA; previously Infrastructure Project Authority) gateway review, the Integrated Data Programme (IDP) team have developed an "assurance of action plan" to address the recommendations. NISTA are due to undertake a follow-up review in early July.
25. As part of our new governance changes, I have commissioned the first Task and Finish group that aims to address the conclusions of the recent "Unsatisfactory" Audit for Data Governance. This group will be led by Pete Benton and set up for a duration of three months, reporting into ExCo monthly. A final paper will be submitted in mid-August.

26. Our Legal team had an extraordinary Research Accreditation Panel meeting on 15 May, convened to specifically discuss two programmes of research submitted to the Integrated Data Service and a governance framework proposal for broader research access going forward. Legal Services have also been meeting with the Bank of England to consider ways in which ONS data, particularly the Inter-Departmental Business Register can be better utilised.

We're modernising our digital infrastructure, and improving our people capabilities, to ensure the organisation is put on a sustainable footing for the future

27. Work to migrate the Monthly Business Survey (MBS), Quarterly Business Survey (QBS), and Construction from Common Software to Statistical Production Platform (SPP) and Data Access Platform (DAP) is progressing well, with QBS passing its Authority to Operate (AtO) review in recent weeks meaning it is ready for go-live. MBS is expected to pass its AtO review by the end of May. Focus will then turn to Construction with a view to getting these three systems off Ingres technology by December, highlighting our commitment to upgrading our digital infrastructure.
28. We're continuing to utilise Artificial Intelligence (AI) within our existing processes. From 1 May, the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings team began using an AI text classification tool to support occupation coding. This marked the first use of Large Language Models in ongoing ONS statistical production, and reduces the time required to code survey free text to occupations by almost 50 per cent, offering numerous benefits to employee experience. Building on this success, the Data Science Campus are now exploring opportunities to deploy the tool across other statistical areas.
29. Digital Services have made significant progress in defining and implementing the Software Development Technology Strategy, with progress being made on the publication and implementation of software engineering principles, policies, and guidelines through Technical Advisory Group.
30. It was a real privilege to join colleagues at the Excellence Awards to recognise the brilliant work happening across the ONS. These awards reflected the best of the ONS, across categories such as Innovation, Sustainability and Inclusion. I want to put on record my recognition of all the nominees.
31. I am proud to share that our Cyber Security team has been recognised at this year's Government Security Awards, winning Operations Team of the Year. This is a fantastic achievement that reflects the team's skill, dedication and commitment to protecting the data we hold.
32. Following a recruitment exercise, the ONS Welsh Language team has recommenced work to raise awareness of the Welsh language and our obligations, while also helping to support staff develop their Welsh language skills and provide guidance on best practice.
33. Over the coming weeks, we'll be completing the move to our new Manchester office, and I look forward to attending the opening on 2 June. In the last week, we have also announced our plan to relocate from our London office at 2 Marsham Street to Great Minster House in 2027, as part of the wider Places for Growth strategy. This relocation supports the government's aim to create a more sustainable, cost-effective estate. For ONS, the new space will continue to support our operational needs and provide a modern working environment for our teams in London.

Emma Rourke, Acting National Statistician, 22 May 2025

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(25)27

Update from the Director General for Regulation

Purpose

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

Discussion

2. It has of course been a time of significant change for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), with Sir Ian's departure. While this is important for us at OSR, it has less immediate impact on us than on the ONS. This reflects the clear separations between ONS and OSR, which means that our governance and leadership remains consistent and resilient; and because so much of our work involves other producers of statistics, both in the UK Government, and in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
3. Key regulatory activities since the last Board meeting include:
 - i. **Labour Market Statistics in Wales:** On 28 April we responded to a request by the Welsh Government's, Chief Statistician by agreeing to temporarily suspend official statistics status for Labour Market statistics from the Labour Force Survey (LFS);
 - ii. **Review of UK Trade Statistics:** On 20 May we published our [review of UK Trade Statistics](#), produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The review assesses compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics and evaluates progress since the previous assessment in 2015, which followed the removal of the Accredited Official statistics status in 2014. This review considers the progress ONS has already made, and the further work required before the trade statistics can be considered for re-accreditation. This report also includes the first publication of our new 'overview' page which we are using across our compliance work to improve the clarity and accessibility of our regulatory findings. We will be evaluating this new approach over the summer and would welcome any comments from the Board; and
 - iii. **Refreshing the Code of Practice for Statistics:** We have completed our review of consultation feedback and published [a summary report](#), which outlines what we were told and what we will do in response. We will bring a revised version of Code 3.0 to the Authority Board in June.

Casework

4. Since the last Authority Board, we have received 12 new cases, resulting in a yearly total of 23 cases considered by OSR and the UK Statistics Authority this year so far (2024/25 total: 219).
5. Since the last Authority Board, we have sent one public casework response to Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP on comments by the First Minister regarding the Scottish attainment gap. We now have no active cases from Parliamentarians.
6. We will shortly be publishing our statement that will address outstanding gambling casework from the previous year, this will accompany a compliance review of the Gambling Survey for Great Britain. This regulatory work will result in the closure of five complex cases. Other subjects we have covered in this period include multiple cases on the language used to describe migrant returns, Comparability of National Health Service (NHS) performance between nations, and statements on changes in unemployment figures.

Engagement

7. External events:

8. On 23 April, I spoke at and chaired a joint event with the Market Research Society (MRS), Better Statistics and OSR on integrity in practice and why different professional standards bring us together not apart. The session focused on the benefits of applying the MRS Code of Conduct and the Code of Practice for Statistics to help confront the challenges experienced by market researchers and government analysts. I introduced the Code of Practice for Statistics, emphasising that we share common goals in our commonality of mission and universal principles. Debrah Harding, the managing director of MRS, said that there is scope to work in a collegiate way to recognise the commonalities between our frameworks.
 - i. On 7 May, I spoke at Data Bites, a monthly hybrid event series aimed at highlighting interesting data projects in government. I drew on my recent blogs on road traffic collisions and NHS performance data;
 - ii. On 8 May, I spoke at an OSR seminar for around 200 government analysts on the barriers to and enablers for data sharing, access and linkage, alongside Seema Yalamanchili (Imperial College London) and Emma Gordon (ADR UK);
 - iii. On 15 May, I spoke at the Royal Statistical Society's (RSS) Public Statistics Advisory Group about the work of OSR, highlighting our economic statistics review and intelligent transparency. The Group were interested in the potential impacts of the PACAC enquiry, the review by Sir Robert Devereux, and the Spending Review;
 - iv. On 21 – 23 May, I attended the ESCOE conference and chaired a panel session GDP beyond the bottom line: measuring what matters most, the panel included Diane Coyle (University of Cambridge), Richard Heys (ONS), and Chris Giles (Financial Times) presenting different perspectives on both the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Beyond GDP agenda. OSR also had a session on our recent review of economic statistics and a posted session on our Spotlight on Quality framework for assessment of economic statistics; and
 - v. On 22 May, I spoke to the BBC Verify team about the work of OSR.

Issues on my mind:

9. Reviews: Preparation for the PACAC hearing will occupy a lot of my time over the next month.
10. Developing OSR's strategy: We are developing our strategy alongside the Authority's overall, system-wide strategy.

Ed Humpherson, Director General for Regulation, OSR, 21 May 2025