
Darren Tierney | Permanent Secretary

Simon Hoare MP
Chair, Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

1 July 2026

Dear Simon,

Today we have published the Office for National Statistics (ONS) strategy for the 2026-2028 period¹. Guided by the priorities established by the UK Statistics Authority Board, this strategy sets out how we will deliver our mission, to deliver high-quality, independent statistics, over the next two years, consolidating our recovery and organisational transformation.

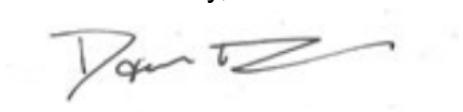
The strategy sets out a renewed focus on quality over quantity, strengthening our portfolio of critical statistics. We are developing our essential services, with an emphasis on making our data easier to find, use and understand. Additionally, we are improving our foundations by investing in our people and our data and technology.

The organisation has responded promptly to recent challenges and is building on its pledge to deliver quality, trustworthy statistics and excellence in delivery. Whilst there is a demand for the ONS to produce more and faster, our current priority is to enact change in a way that improves the quality of, and restores trust in, ONS statistics.

While this strategy concentrates on the immediate recovery period, we will also continue to plan ahead, taking deliberate steps toward the 2031 Census, expanding the use of technology and AI, and developing more integrated census, survey, and administrative data systems.

I look forward to continued engagement with the Committee and will update you on progress as the ONS delivers the priorities set out in the strategy. I am copying this letter to Penny Young, Interim Chair of the UK Statistics Authority Board.

Yours sincerely,



Darren Tierney

¹ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus/ourstrategyandplans/onsstrategies/onsstrategy2026to2028>