

ADVISORY PANEL ON CONSUMER PRICES – STAKEHOLDER

Stakeholder Panel future discussion Plan

Expected publication: Alongside minutes

Purpose

1. Future discussion plans are tabled to Panels in order that members are sighted well in advance in terms of which agenda items will be discussed throughout the year, and so Prices Division can prepare with more certainty when workstream updates should be brought to the Panel.
2. It was agreed that updated future discussion plans would be provided to the Panel when appropriate (generally every two or three quarters). As such, this paper provides a draft forward discussion plan, alongside information (when possible) on what types of issues will be discussed as part of each agenda item.

Actions

3. The paper is primarily for information, but we'd appreciate the Panel's thoughts on whether:
 - a. there should more agenda items added to the future discussion plan.
 - b. each agenda item has been assigned to the correct quarter.

Future Discussion Plan

July 2026 (Stakeholder Panel only)

1. Basket Quality Review

The Panel have asked for a standing agenda item for updates to be provided on,

1. Progress on the high and medium priorities in the development plan
2. Progress on the 'deep dive' items
3. The Continuous improvement board
4. Anything arising from the Devereux Review or the ONS Economic Statistics Plan that has had an impact on Prices Division
5. Any significant changes in terms of the risks listed on the risk register (N.B. the Panel will specifically discuss contingency planning around the potential loss of scanner data alongside a summary of past and future work on the transition away from legacy systems)

Therefore, the purpose of this agenda item is to provide these updates and to allow the Panel to ask any questions they may have.

2. Household Costs Indices

The Panel have asked for a standing agenda item for an update on development of the Household Costs Indices. Therefore, the purpose of this agenda item is to update the Panel on progress and to provide time for any discussions required on methodological or other issues.

3. PIPR methodology

Following the OSR and the Panel Chair receiving a letter from Better Statistics, the Panel discussed the issue of PIPR not being based solely on recent evidence of changes in pricing. The Panel agreed that it would be helpful to discuss this issue at a date in the future and requested that ONS produce a paper which will allow discussion on whether the stock-based methodological approach in PIPR is consistent with calculating consumer price indices using the acquisition approach.

4. UK House Price Index (HPI) methodology review

As the UK HPI approached 10 years in production, a two-phase development plan for the UK HPI launched in 2024. Phase 1 (to replatform the HPI system from legacy software into Python) completed in April 2026, so ONS has launched Phase 2: a comprehensive methods review.

In recent years, several areas for potential improvements have been identified in the UK HPI methodology, some of which have previously been presented to APCP-T in 2023 and 2025. Now entirely on a Python-based system, ONS is in a strong position for the first comprehensive methods review of the UK HPI since its launch in 2016, starting in April 2026 in collaboration with ONS Methodology division. In the July 2026 APCP panels, we will present a forward work plan to demonstrate the priority order of methodology elements we are reviewing. Further updates will be provided to the APCP Panels as the methodology review progresses.

September 2026 (Stakeholder Panel only)

1. Basket Quality Review

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- Progress on the high and medium priorities in the development plan
- Progress on the 'deep dive' items
- The Continuous improvement board
- Anything arising from the Devereux Review or the ONS Economic Statistics Plan that has had an impact on Prices Division
- Any significant changes in terms of the risks listed on the risk register

Therefore, the purpose of this agenda item is to provide these updates and to allow the Panel to ask any questions they may have.

2. Household Costs Indices

The Panel have asked for a standing agenda item for an update on development of the Household Costs Indices. Therefore, the purpose of this agenda item is to update the Panel on progress and to provide time for any discussions required on methodological or other issues.

3. Future discussion plan

The Panel agreed in February 2024 that a future discussion plan for the Panel's work should be produced and updated every six to nine months (or more often if necessary), in order that Panel members are sighted well in advance in terms of which agenda items will be discussed in the future,

and so Prices Division can prepare with more certainty when workstream updates should be brought to the Panel.

September 2026 (Joint Panel)

1. Prices landscape & communication of the 2030 RPI change

Last September the Panel discussed the Prices Landscape in the context of the 2030 RPI change. The Panel also discussed how the role of the Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers' Housing costs' (CPIH) is described, the wording of the planned reform of the Retail Prices Index (RPI) in 2030, and the development work required for Household Costs Indices (HCIs).

Following the discussion, ONS committed to reflecting on the feedback before bringing an updated paper and proposals to the Joint Panel.

David Beckett

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April 2026