UK Statistics Authority		

NATIONAL STATISTICIAN'S COMMITTEE FOR ADVICE ON STANDARDS FOR ECONOMIC STATISTICS

07 July 2026

UK Statistics Authority

NATIONAL STATISTICIAN'S COMMITTEE FOR ADVICE ON STANDARDS FOR ECONOMIC STATISTICS

Agenda

Date: 07 July 2026.

Time: 12pm.

Location: ONS Boardroom, Marsham Street

Time	**Item**	**Details**
12:00 – 12:05	Approval of minutes from previous meeting and declarations of interest National Statistician's Decisions	Martin Weale
12:05 – 12:10	Nomination of deputy chair	Martin Weale
12:10 – 12:30	Overview and status of actions from last meeting – NSCASE New Terms of Reference – Decision referral process	Martin Weale
12:30 - 12:50	Oral /slide update: 2025 SNA /BPM7 Progress note	Sanjiv Mahajan
12:50 – 13:00	Oral /slide update: Public Sector Quality adjustments	Richard Heys
13:00 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 14:00	Paper advice paper: Emissions permits in the UK national accounts and in UK public finance statistics	Katherine Mills
14:00 – 14:15	Oral /slide landscape: COFOG revisions	Gabe Kite
14:15 – 14:35	Oral /slide landscape: SEEA-CF review	Neil Wilson
14:35 – 15:25	Oral /slide feedback: UNSC 57th meeting	Simon Jones
15:25 - 15:40	Tea/coffee	
15:40 – 16:30	Oral /slide feedback: ONS and the International Beyond GDP landscape	Richard Heys
16:30 - 16:40	AOB	Martin Weale

NSCASE: Decisions made by National Statistician

Paper	Recommendation to National Statistician	Date	National Statistician Decision
UK's adoption a small number of deviations from the established 4 digit NACE classification rule	The committee confirmed its support for the small number of requests for deviation from the established 4 digit NACE classification rule, based on the detail of the paper and the re-assurance that aggregation from sub-classes below the 4 digit threshold would maintain international NACE and ISIC comparability	Jan 2026	Approved
Globalisation: Factoryless Goods Producers	**The Committee agreed with the ONS' recommendation that ONS base their treatment of Factoryless Goods Producers (FGPs) on the global manufacturing basis as detailed in SNA2025 and BPM7.**	**April 2025**	**Pending**
UK's adoption of industrial classifications of economic activity.	The Committee recommended that Option B NACE should be adopted to the 4^{th} digit level and ONS should have discretion with the 5^{th} digit. Any 3^{rd} or 4^{th} digit deviations the ONS wanted to make should be brought back to the Committee. NSCASE felt strongly about the impacts on international comparability and comparatively over time and felt that any proposals to deviate at the 3^{rd} or 4^{th} digit needed a strong case.	July 2024	Approved
Balance of Payments Principles Paper	The Committee recommended that the BPM7 should be adopted as the UK's default manual for Balance of Payments.	July 2024	Approved

System of National Accounts 2025 Principles Paper	The Committee recommend that the System of National Accounts 2025 should be the default international manual for the UK. NSCASE will consider in which cases the UK should diverge from the default standard after careful consideration of which best meets UK measurements needs.	Jan 2024	Approved
Treatment of Non-Monetary Gold in the UK National Accounts	The Committee supported option 1: Revise the current treatment of NMG so that it was excluded from both net trade and acquisitions less disposals of valuables and left as a balance sheet change, effectively reflecting a change in the asset composition. This approach was consistent with other counties such as USA, Japan, and Australia which were also affected by gold trade. Changes of ownership of NMG between residents and non-residents should be recorded in the non-financial balance sheet. However, the UK did not compile balance sheets for valuables. One member disagreed with the majority, concerned that in seeking to resolve a presentational issue the option excluded significant transactions from the national accounts and created a statistical discrepancy in net lending/borrowing; the member proposed a potentially simpler, less conceptually challenged, solution.	Oct 2023	Approved
Further information on Amendments made by Eurostat to the Manual on Government Deficit and Debt (MGDD), 2022 Edition	The Committee supported the recommendation to adopt the MGDD 2022. This is with the provision that any emerging evidence of a clear diversion from UK methodology and international best practice can be brought to NSCASE as separate agenda items.	Jul 2023	Approved
Globalisation: an outline of subtopics to be presented to NSCASE, and an introduction to	The Committee supported the implementation of Option 1 to follow the BPM7 guidance of retaining the current valuation of trade in goods methods and investigate feasibility of adopting	Jul 2023	Approved

the first subtopic of 'Valuation of Imports and Exports of Goods in the International standards'	valuation of imports and exports at the observed transaction value.		
Quality adjustment of public services	The Committee agreed that existing quality adjustments should in principle be introduced into the accounts. The Committee asked to be reassured that a high level of scrutiny would be applied to the work and that the appropriate stakeholders would be consulted.	April 2023	Approved
Conceptual Methods in Prices and Volume	The Committee strongly supported the paper's proposal to use the UVI method as a preferred method in the compilation of National Accounts where appropriate.	Jan 2023	Approved
New Public Private Partnerships	The Committee agreed that the Eurostat clarification note should be adopted alongside the existing EPEC PPP guidance.	Jan 2023	Approved
Treatment of Package Holidays in Consumer Prices	The Committee agreed to advise the National Statistician to adopt option 3 'Do not implement the Eurostat methodology but continue to seek improvements to the existing methodology and data collection through the alternative data sources transformation programme.'	Jan 2023	Approved

Pending final recommendation from Committee

Industrial Classifications Consultation Update	The Committee noted that, while the document referred to the dominance of UK requirements over international comparability, the advice offered by the Committee was likely to take international comparability into account. This meant that the issue of comparability would need to be addressed in the proposal which will be put to the Committee in Oct 2023 and April 2024.	Oct 2022	Recommendation not made to NS *Resolved: Updated paper was presented to committee in July 2024 and small revision in Jan 2026*
NSCASE Introduction to Natural Capital Depletion and Consultation on SNA Guidance Note WS.6	An overview on Natural Capital Depletion and Consultation on SNA Guidance Note WS.6 was provided to the Committee. The ONS sought to begin to inform the Committee that a number of potentially significant changes may arrive in SNA 2025, seek their thoughts and ensure they understand the potential ramifications at least to the degree that we do. The Committee welcomed the planned further papers.	April 2023	Recommendation not made to NS
Potential deviation from SNA2025 on classification of emission permits	The SNA classified emissions permits as produced financial assets. The ONS and Committee preferred the non-produced, non-financial classification and discussed whether a deviation was warranted. The ONS asked that the Committee make a decision following ongoing user engagement that was taking place under the GFSM consultations.	April 2025	Recommendation not made to NS *Updated paper presented to committee in July 2026*

NSCASE Log of Actions

January 22nd 2024 Meeting Actions		
Action	**Status**	**Information**
ONS to provide an update on discussions had with non-EU countries on their divergence from international manuals when possible.	Complete	The Secretariat is looking into previous research conducted by external contractor into how other countries diverge from international manuals. This will form the foundation of the update. n.b Although this is complete, the committee will continue to monitor developments in individual countries.
April 22nd 2024 Meeting Actions		
ONS to produce paper, ideally with other NSIs, to answer the questions of how to measure well-being	Covered in 2026	While discussing SNA2025 draft chapter 34: measuring well-being, the Chair asked that a short paper is produced that addressed the issue of measuring well-being. He asked that other NSIs feed into this and a timetable is produced.
Secretariat to circulate Committee feedback survey for discussion in July 2024	Complete	As NSCASE is reaching its two-year anniversary, the Chair asked that Committee members, the National Statistician and ONS colleagues were given the opportunity to feedback. The Secretariat will conduct the standardised process for committees across ONS.
Formal paper on BPM7 to be brought to the Committee in July 2024	Complete	The Chair asked that a formal paper be brought to the Committee for them to evaluate and advise to adopt BPM7 as the default methodology.
Richard Heys to share paper on measuring digitalisation	Complete	Richard agreed to circulate a paper written by Eurostat and the BEA on the satellite account and digitalisation.
Katherine Mills to clarify the treatment of mineral extraction	Complete	The Chair asked for information on the classification of mineral extraction under emissions permits.

Classifications unit to provide Committee with a list of relevant pros and cons of each option to be provided in the April recommendation paper.	Complete	Classifications Unit are working on the list of pros and cons to be returned to the Committee as part of their recommendations paper at the April meeting.
October 21st 2024 Meeting Actions		
ONS paper from EEWG to be shared with Committee	Complete	The ONS presented a paper on plans for SNA implementation to the Economic Experts Working Group
January 20th 2025 Meeting Actions		
Robert Heath to share his paper on emission permits to the Committee	Complete	The paper was circulated to the Committee.
ONS to review whether use of CPI in SUTs is a deviation from SNA	Complete	Not considered a deviation.
SNA Chapters 14, 18, and 29 to come back to Committee	Complete	The ONS brought these chapters to NSCASE at the April 2025 meeting for them to consider areas for deviation.
Secretariat to summarise where the Committee propose potential deviation from the SNA	Complete	Deviation log included in April 2025 pack.
April 28th 2025 Meeting Actions		
January 2026 Meeting Actions		
Actions relating to the implementation of statistical standards and guidelines should be removed from the Action log, since these now lie outside the remit of NSCASE (implementation of standards on Globalisation and factory less production, the implementation of guidelines relating to Islamic Finance and an action relating to the implementation of SNA 2025). **Action: ONS secretariat to update the Action log appropriately.**	Complete	The update Action log has removed these items.

The Committee agreed to a number of changes to the Terms of Reference (reporting in the absence of the national statistician (NS), include EsCoE and OBR as committee members in TOR, update the flow diagram to allow for NS to reject advice, voting restrictions to one per organisation, restrictions to substitute attendees. NSCASE asked that the finalised Terms of Reference be presented to the July NSCASE meeting for approval. **Action – ONS Secretariat to update and schedule updated Terms of Reference for the July 2026 meeting.**	Complete	The updated TOR has been circulated to the committee, requires their sign off.
Richard Heys led the discussion on the review of the papers scheduled for discussion at the 57th meeting of the UN statistical commission scheduled for the 3rd to 6th of March 2026. Richard noted that the work of NSCASE is now structured around reviewing the inputs into the UNSC meeting in January and reviewing the subsequent outputs from UNSC in July. ONS representatives indicated that the best approach would be for NSCASE, following ONS's consultation with other NSIs, to review briefing materials provided to the National Statistician, or their nominated deputy, prior to UNSC, on elements of the briefing relevant to NSCASE. **Action: ONS to speak to James Benford, the Deputy National Statistician attending this year's UNSC, to check whether this would possible.**	Complete	This was not possible in time
Item 4b: National Accounts: In January the committee discussed the UNSC papers covering National Accounts. Much of the content of these papers related to the implementation of SNA 2025 and was therefore outside of NSCASE's remit.	Complete	Ongoing feedback where appropriate to the committee in now embedded into the agenda.

Point 38: Rebecca Riley noted that it was important that NSCASE recognised implementation issues. Whilst NSCASE might support the introduction of new statistical concepts to assist the measurement of UK economic activity, if NSCASE is aware there is no available data to measure the concept, or the data is too expensive, then any conceptual recommendation would be ineffective. **Action: As Chair of the new National Accounts Committee, Nick Vaughan agreed to bring any such implementation issues back to NSCASE as appropriate.**		

Pending Actions (not to be added to minutes)		
Action	**Status**	**Information**
Katherine Mills to provide further clarity on emissions permits and licences to extract.	Paused: Not a priority for ONS. Will return to the Committee when SNA guidance received.	Following Katherine's note on the treatment of mineral extraction, the Chair had further questions on how the ONS would deal with inconsistency between treatment of emissions permits, negative extraction of resources, and positive extraction of resources.
Classifications unit to provide Committee with a list of relevant pros and cons of each option to be provided in the April recommendation paper.	Complete	Classifications Unit are working on the list of pros and cons to be returned to the Committee as part of their recommendations paper at the April meeting.
ONS to provide paper on emissions permits.	Complete	An IMF led workshop took place in the first week of December 2023 which reviewed the options laid out in the SNA guidance note with majority support for option 4a "Emissions Permits recorded as Financial Assets with taxes on production recorded at surrender (issuance value)". The IMF supported option 1 "Emissions Permits as non-produced non-financial

		assets” which Robert Heath also supported and shared a paper with the ONS outlining his position. A second workshop took place to consider all six options. 4a was recommended to the AEG and BOPCOM and subsequently taken to the UN Statistics Commission. ONS will update the committee on the current status of emissions permits in April and bring a further paper when the chapter is released.
An update on Contingent Liabilities will be provided in 2025 or when contingent liabilities are published	Not yet started (was expected in 2025)	Robert Heath noted paragraph 32 in the paper “Updates January 2024: The statistical recording of the Bank of England Asset Purchase Facility” stated that ONS aimed to introduce a statement for contingent liabilities with GFSM tables. He therefore asked that NSCASE be updated in around one year on this progress. Added to the back log for review.

Terms of Reference – National Statistician's Committee for Advice on Standards for Economic Statistics

Red text signifies changes to TOR since January 2026

Overview

1. The National Statistician's Committee for Advice on Standards for Economic Statistics (NSCASE) will play a central role in the governance of economic statistics, by supporting decisions about the international guidance used in the compilation of these statistics.

Introduction

2. At the UK Statistics Authority Board meeting on 30 September 2021, the Authority Board agreed to establish NSCASE, which would be advisory to the National Statistician.

3. NSCASE was established in June 2022. Its function is to support the National Statistician in ensuring its processes for influencing, adopting, and monitoring progress against international statistical standards are of a high standard.

4. Following NSCASE's review of SNA25 and BPM7, UKSA has taken the opportunity to review the remit, frequency and membership of NSCASE meetings to reflect better a change in demand for its services. The resulting changed roles and responsibilities and membership are outlined below.

Roles and Responsibilities

5. On issues identified by the National Statistician[1], NSCASE is responsible for providing strategic, independent advice to the National Statistician on the following to produce economic statistics:

- International standards (e.g. European System of Accounts, Government Finance Statistics),
- Guidelines, and
- Classifications (e.g. COICOP, COFOG.) For clarity, "classifications" here does not include the classification of public assets and liabilities.

6. Specifically, NSCASE is responsible for providing advice to the National Statistician on:

- The suitability of international statistical standards across the Office for National Statistics (ONS) suite of economic statistics, with reference to the specific measurement needs of the UK economy as well as the need to ensure appropriate international comparability and historical continuity.

[1] If the National Statistician role is vacant, reports and recommendations made by NSCASE will be directed to the interim governance body.

- Areas in which the UK should deviate from specific international standards (in part or in whole), the reasons for doing so (including any negative impacts), and which standards, if any, should be followed in their place.
- Where international standards remain in development or pend approval, but the UK would potentially benefit from beginning work on their possible implementation ahead of formal approval, advice should be given on whether the ONS should work on the assumption that these standards will be adopted, along with any initial considerations NSCASE has on which areas of the standards the UK would be advisable to deviate.
- Approaches the UK should take to influence the development of future international statistical standards and guidelines.
- The developments and progress of the SNA research agenda, particularly those elements relevant to measuring UK economic activity.

7. Where practical, and following approval by the National Statistician, ONS will facilitate transmission of the views of NSCASE to relevant international bodies on a timescale which makes it possible for NSCASE to influence the development of international standards.

8. Issues on standards for prices, labour market statistics and national accounts will be referred to NSCASE rather than the expert advisory committees on these issues.

9. NSCASE will provide advice by consensus where possible or otherwise by majority vote.

10. To facilitate timely advice, NSCASE can consider proposals via correspondence. Advice on these projects will be provided when more than fifty percent of appointed members, excluding any abstentions agree on the advice to be provided.

11. In a situation where the National Statistician has rejected NSCASE's advice, NSCASE would have a reasonable expectation that the National Statistician would publish reasoned arguments to support the rejection of the committee's advice.

Reporting and Governance

12. NSCASE provides strategic advice to the National Statistician, who is also the Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority, leader of the Analysis Function and head of the Government Statistical Service.

13. The Chair of NSCASE provides regular, public advice to the National Statistician on Committee discussions. The National Statistician in turn responds publicly to NSCASE and decides whether specific matters need to

be discussed by the UK Statistics Authority Board, in line with the provisions of the *Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007.*

14. The agenda will be prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with any determination of the National Statistician, considering input from the Chair and key stakeholders.

15. The NSCASE Secretariat will provide reports following each of its meetings to the National Statistician. At least seven days prior to its meetings, NSCASE will receive papers relevant to the meeting agenda, for example:

- International proposals for new ONS statistical methodology or guidance, or amendments to existing standards.
- Developments and progress of the SNA research agenda, in particular those elements relevant to measuring UK economic activity.
- Participation and contributions to relevant international statistical fora (e.g. UNSC, IMF and OECD periodical meetings and conferences) by ONS representatives.

16. Where expedited review is sought and NSCASE approve the proposal by correspondence, a minute of the discussion via correspondence will be presented at NSCASE's next meeting and published on the UK Statistics Authority website.

17. NSCASE will operate transparently. Meeting minutes and a list of projects considered will be made publicly available on the UK Statistics Authority website.

18. In alternate years, NSCASE will provide a report on its activities in the National Statistician's annual report.

Chairing

19. The Chair of NSCASE is appointed via open competition for a three-year term. Reappointment is permitted.

20. The Chair also represents NSCASE publicly, as necessary.

21. The Committee may appoint a Deputy Chair from among its members.

Membership

22. The Committee will comprise independent and trusted experts and will include:

- The Chair of ONS's external advisory Committee on National Accounts

- The Chair of ONS's external stakeholder advisory Committee on Prices
- The Chair of ONS's external advisory Committee on Classifications
- The Chair of ONS's external advisory Committee on Labour Market statistics
- Nominated representative from the Bank of England
- Nominated representative from His Majesty's Treasury
- Nominated representative from the Office for Budget Responsibility
- Director of the Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence
- Two independent experts will be recruited to ensure the Committee has a broad range of expertise.

23. Members of the panel are appointed for fixed terms of three years, by the Chair and the National Statistician. Re-appointments are permitted. The composition of the Panel will be reviewed periodically by the Chair, in partnership with the National Statistician.

24. The role of each member of NSCASE is to participate in consideration of the full range of issues within the Committee's remit.

25. The Chair may invite other relevant experts as appropriate to advise NSCASE and/or observers to attend.

26. Substitutes will be permitted to attend meetings, either a named replacement from institutions or a member (preferably Vice-Chair) of Advisory Committees.

27. Substitutes attending the committee are permitted, with some restrictions. In the case of NSCASE's Chair and external experts, substitutes should not be permitted. In the case of the Chairs of technical groups, substitutes should be limited to Vice-Chairs, whilst substitutes for the ESCoE, Bank and Treasury and the OBR positions will be permitted. These will be nominated by the relevant organisations.

Meetings

28. NSCASE will meet at least twice (January and July) a year. The Chair of NSCASE may convene additional meetings as necessary.

29. NSCASE meetings will be considered quorate and able formally to approve a proposal when more than fifty percent of appointed members are present, including the Chair or the Deputy Chair.

30. For a proposal to be formally approved by correspondence agreement from more than fifty percent of appointed members is required, excluding any abstentions.

31. Where agreement is needed on any decision, each organisation would be limited to one vote only regardless of the number of representatives present from that organisation.

Code of Conduct

32. Committee members are expected to provide their expertise and advice on topics they are asked to consider. Members may share 'SENSITIVE' material beyond the panel in advance to develop their advice, typically with colleagues. Any sharing of 'SENSITIVE' materials must comply with the Confidentiality Undertaking (which all committee members are requested to sign), requiring prior consent from the NSCASE Secretariat and Chair (decided on a case-by-case basis), and may require recipients to sign a Confidentiality Undertaking. 'HIGHLY SENSITIVE' information must not be shared beyond the panel.

33. On occasion members could be asked to consider topics of a sensitive nature. In these instances, certain restrictions will apply. These will be clearly set out by the committee secretariat in advance of receiving any papers. Members who feel they are not able to abide with the restriction will not receive papers and will be asked not to attend the relevant meeting.

Secretariat

34. The Secretariat will be provided by representatives of the ONS's Well Being, Innovation and Productivity division.

Transparency and confidentiality

35. NSCASE will operate transparently. Meeting agenda, papers and minutes will be published shortly after each meeting. Papers that are draft versions of scheduled publications, or which include pre-released data, will not be published ahead of their scheduled dates, but the minutes will clearly state when the final documents are expected to be published. Papers that are deemed to be market sensitive will be withheld from publication.

36. Panel members will have the opportunity to comment on minutes on issues of accuracy, before their publication. The NSCASE Chair will have the final approval of minutes. Minutes will be made publicly available within six weeks of the meeting date.

Inclusion and Diversity

37. NSCASE are committed to promoting diversity and inclusion in the running of the committee and their advice.

38. The Committee will seek the advice and involvement of ONS’s diversity networks in their work. This will include inviting representatives to attend meetings or sections of meetings, should this be relevant, and sharing minutes or papers, as agreed by the committee.

39. The Secretariat will ensure that all meetings and materials are accessible.

Review

40. The Committee will review the effectiveness of its meetings and its Terms of Reference in alternate years These reviews are published.

July 2026.

Annex 1 NSCASE Decision Referral Process

NSCASE meeting

Paper presented to committee for consideration.

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NSCASE secretariat

Minutes and advice and guidance.

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ONS Permanent Secretary and Business area lead

Review NSCASE advice and guidance against business priorities and resource constraints.

Combine business considerations with NSCASE advice and guidance.

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National Statistician*

Option 1 – Recognise NSCASE and ONS business advice – request further detail/information before again considering implementation.

Option 2 – Accept NSCASE advice and guidance and recognise resource and business priority constraints. ONS will delay implementation and get Permanent Secretary support at a later date.**

Option 3 – Accept NSCASE advice and guidance and implement into business, having gained Permanent Secretary support. The ONS will implement immediately.**

Option 4 – Reject NSCASE advice and guidance but provide reasoned arguments to support the rejection of the committee's advice.

Publish details of option adopted on UKSA website.

* If the National Statistician role is vacant, reports and recommendations made by NSCASE will be directed to the interim governance body.

** Implementation decisions link to ONS prioritisation framework. Higher priority topics will take precedent (option 3), and lower priority items (option 2) potentially entering a waiting period.

National Statistician's Committee for Advice on Standards for Economic Statistics

Oral /slide update: 2025 SNA /BPM7 Progress note

National Statistician's Committee for Advice on Standards for Economic Statistics

Oral /slide update: Public Sector Quality adjustments

Recording Emissions permits in the UK national accounts and in UK public finance statistics

Advice Paper

NSCASE 26(04)

Executive summary

1. This paper seeks NSCASE's opinion on how Emissions permits should be recorded in the UK national accounts and in UK public finance statistics.

2. The ONS proposes that the UK follows the 2025 System of National Accounts in respect of the recording of Emissions permits.

3. As such, ONS would like the Committee to endorse this proposal.

4. The Committee should note that initial feedback from the UK in the consultation phase was in favour of a different approach to that ultimately included in the 2025 SNA.

5. However, the ONS assesses that there is not sufficient evidence to justify the UK deviating from the 2025 SNA in how Emissions permits are recorded, especially given that the IMF Government Finance Statistics Manual will be consistent with the 2025 SNA treatment.

6. Stakeholders within ONS support this proposal, as do HM Treasury colleagues jointly responsible (with ONS) for the UK public sector finances release.

Introduction

1. The recording of Emissions permits was a research topic ahead of the 2025 System of National Accounts manual being published.

2. Members of NSCASE took a keen interest in this subject and papers were presented in April 2024 and January 2026 [see footnote for details[2]].

3. Opinion was split across international organisations and countries between two treatment options:

[2] January 2026 Paper NSCASE 26(02), April 2024 Paper NSCASE 24(11)

   a. Non-produced non-financial assets (contracts, leases and licenses right to use)
   b. Financial Assets with taxes on production recorded at surrender (issuance value)

4. During the consultation phase, the UK expressed a preference for treatment as a non-produced non-financial asset, but the conclusion reached for the 2025 SNA was to record as a financial asset and tax on production.

5. The update to the International Monetary Fund's Government Finance Statistics Manual (GFSM) is ongoing and due to conclude in 2027. Within this process, the recording of Emissions permits has already been considered. It is recommended that the GFSM is consistent with the 2025 SNA in respect of the recording of Emissions permits.

6. There are trading schemes in place for emissions permits. Some of these pertain to one country, such as the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (UK ETS), while others pertain to multiple countries, such as the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS).

7. In light of the potential for cross-border flows, the IMF Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics (BOPCOM) has also been consulted regarding the treatment of Emissions permits. Richard Heys represents the UK on this committee. The subject was discussed at their October 2025 meeting, and a Task Team was set up to consider it in more detail.

8. Ed Moskalenko from public sector division has represented the UK on the Emissions permits Task Team. It was confirmed in April 2026 that the Task Team recommended following the 2025 SNA treatment.

9. The discussion of the Task Team has now turned to practical matters related to implementation of that recording treatment and there are no plans to revisit the conceptual decision.

10. We now have the relevant information to enable us to put a recommendation to NSCASE about the treatment of Emissions permits and we would like to conclude this matter at the July NSCASE meeting.

11. The ONS proposes that the UK follows the 2025 System of National Accounts in respect of the recording of Emissions permits.

ONS Considerations

12. A key influential factor is the fact that the GFSM will be consistent with the 2025 SNA.

13. A secondary factor is that the 2025 SNA approach is close to the way that the UK has been reporting Emissions permits to date, and therefore the impact on headline statistics of implementing the 2025 SNA approach is likely to be relatively small.

14. UK Emissions Trading Scheme auction receipts were provisionally £2.1 billion for the financial year ending March 2026, which is about 0.2% all public sector current receipts in that financial year. The UK scheme began in April 2022, and receipts were highest in the financial year ending March 2024 at £6.0 billion, or around 0.6% of all public sector current receipts. Source: ONS public sector finances statistics Appendix D, identifier codes (FUQ3 and JW2O).

15. Our recent article, Looking Ahead – developments in public sector finance statistics: 2026, notes in section 4 that Emissions permits are an example where there are complexities in the accrual recording methodology. The statistical guidance specifies recording at the time the permit is surrendered, while source data are more readily available for the time at which a permit is auctioned.

16. A review of the accrual method is expected to start during 2026. If changes are necessary, we expect they would alter the amounts recorded in given time periods, but not the overall amounts of receipts from Emissions permits.

17. This paper has been prepared by the public sector division in ONS. Other potentially interested parties within ONS have been consulted and no objections to the proposal have been identified. We have consulted Environmental Economy Division, Wellbeing, Innovation, and Productivity Division and National Accounts Coordination Division.

18. The ONS and HM Treasury (HMT) are joint producers of the monthly UK public sector finances release and therefore HMT colleagues have been consulted for their opinion about our recommendation to follow the 2025 SNA recording for Emissions permits. These colleagues (Tom Orford and Jonathan Dawson) have confirmed they support the ONS proposal.

ONS Concerns

19. No new concerns have been identified.

National Statistician's Committee for Advice on Standards for Economic Statistics

Oral /slide background: COFOG revisions

National Statistician's Committee for Advice on Standards for Economic Statistics

Oral /slide background: SEEA overview

National Statistician's Committee for Advice on Standards for Economic Statistics

Oral /slide feedback: UNSC 57th meeting

National Statistician's Committee for Advice on Standards for Economic Statistics

Oral /slide feedback: ONS and the International Beyond GDP landscape