

Issues raised with the UK Statistics Authority in the year 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012

Description

April 2011 5 April 8 April 12 April 15 April	Impact of changes in methodology on the presentation of statistics about the proportion of men and women consuming more than the weekly recommended number of units of alcohol, and related media reporting Proposals by the Department for Communities and Local Government to cease the Place Survey Ministerial statements about increases in the size of the NHS workforce based on Experimental Statistics the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care Availability of data on the "size of government statistics", for example the number of survey forms despatched, number employed in statistical work, number of statistical releases per annum, number of producer bodies, across central and local government Political statements about the number of deaths and emergency hospital admissions caused by assault by knives and other sharp objects during the course of the Scottish Parliament election campaign
May 2011 18 May 19 May 24 May 25 May 26 May 26 May 26 May	Methodological robustness of survey questions on well-being proposed in a consultation document produced by the Office for National Statistics Reliability of statements about the number (and proportion) of new jobs being filled by those born outside the UK Extent of, and period of time allowed for responses to, Government Department consultations on future plans for statistical expenditure Proposals by the Department for Communities and Local Government to cease funding of the Citizenship Survey Breach of pre-release access rules by HM Treasury in respect of Consumer Price Indices produced by the Office for National Statistics Presentation of statistics on alcohol-related admissions to NHS hospitals in a report published by the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care Presentation of statistics about influenza and other respiratory viruses in publications produced by the Health Protection Agency
June 2011 8 June 14 June 16 June 24 June 30 June	Presentation of statistics in media reports, attributed to Government sources, about the reduction of the number of children in relative poverty since 2003, alongside total spend on tax credits. Changes proposed by the Scottish Government to the publication of statistics about schools in Scotland Reliability of statistics produced by the Office for National Statistics on the performance of the construction industry Media reporting of statistics on hospital waiting times Reliability of statistics on expected pupil attainment in Wales, compared to actual attainment, and the availability of school-level examination performance data for schools in Wales
July 2011 8 July 17 July 23 July 23 July 26 July 26 July 27 July	Reliability of Scottish ministerial statements about the NHS workforce in Scotland Availability and accessibility of statistics on domestic fuel supply prices broken down by energy provider Publication of statistical evidence base used to inform decisions about vaccination and immunization Methodology used for a survey carried out on behalf of the Welsh Language Board, and the resulting interpretation of the results, about the prevalence of Welsh-speaking among parents of children being taught in Welsh in schools in Wales Observations by the House of Commons Work and Pensions Committee about the reporting of statistics on eligibility for Employment and Support Allowance, and fitness for work Further observations by the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee about the limitations of official UK migration statistics and the prospects for improvement Analysis of 'special events' impacting on UK economic growth presented in the first estimates of UK Gross Domestic Product for Q2 2011 produced by the Office for National Statistics



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1 August Presentation and reporting of statistics on Employment and Support Allowance

5 August Release of statistics on life expectancy and centenarians

8 August Validity of comparisons made using UK data from the Programme for International Student Assessment

10 August Withdrawal of funding for health statistics on smoking, drinking and use of health services

12 August The publication and subsequent correction of miscalculated estimates of Output in Construction

16 August The 'return to mean' effect and the commentary accompanying statistics about road accidents at speed camera sites in Scotland

18 August Statistical evidence used to support the case for HS2 high speed rail link

September 2011

1 September Accessibility and functionality of the website for the Office for National Statistics 2 September The statistical implications of the late registration of deaths reported to coroners

14 September Remarks by the Prime Minister about the number of jobs in the private sector at Prime Minister's Questions on 14 September

16 September Release of Office for National Statistics data requested by third parties

19 September Statements made in a speech by the Minister for Immigration about net immigration 23 September Concerns about the presentation and methodology for official House Price Statistics

October 2011

6 October Focus on quarterly change in Office for National Statistics Gross Domestic Product statistical releases and subsequent media reporting

10 October Comments by the Mayor of London to the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee about juvenile reoffending rates at the Heron Wing at Feltham Young Offenders Institution

25 October Timing of release of statistical information in a Home Office research publication on the characteristics of offenders and subsequent media coverage

November 2011

1 November Release and subsequent correction of incorrect data for the July and August 2011 monthly Index of Services estimates produced by the Office for National Statistics

10 November Selective release of statistical information on drug seizures in a Home Office press release in advance of the publication of official statistics

10 November Reliability of statements made by the Prime Minister and Home Secretary regarding illegal activity at the UK Border, and the availability of underlying data

16 November Availability of official statistics produced by the Department for Work and Pensions on the Work Programme

23 November Ministerial comments on the average age of first time buyers made during a broadcast radio interview

23 November Timing of policy announcements on the number of new homes built and the release of related official statistics

23 November Methodology used in NHS patient opinion surveys, and the availability of related guidance and explanation

28 November Quality of statistical information from the National Rail Travel Survey

December 2011

6 December Use of statistics by the Minister for Housing

9 December Concerns about the adequacy of ONS statistics on the UK economy

13 December Reliability of statements made by the Home Secretary regarding drug seizures

19 December Breach of pre-release access rules by a senior official in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in respect of Consumer Price Indices produced by the Office for National Statistics



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January 2012 3 January 6 January 12 January 12 January 20 January 23 January 25 January 30 January 31 January 31 January	Query about whether an ONS press release regarding Christmas-themed babies' first names would be followed up with releases to coincide with festivals of other faiths The methods used to calculate the Consumer Price Index in the context of its use for uprating pensions and other benefits, and to replace the Retail Price Index as the deflator in the National Accounts Publication policy for ONS statistics on average earnings of non-EU migrants Quality of data supplied by hospital trusts for official statistics produced by the NHS Information Centre on the amount of money that hospitals spend on feeding in-patients Handling of the release of statistics on the nationality of benefit claimants Suitability of the measure used by ONS to estimate the number deaths from malnutrition in hospitals Reporting of official statistics about the August 2011 public disorder Interpretation of trends in crime statistics for London Impact of a break in reporting of patient waiting times for the Imperial College Healthcare Primary Care Trust Reliability of figures on the number of people who die in custody after being restrained by police
February 2012 2 February 2 February 3 February 7 February 8 February 13 February 15 February 17 February 21 February 22 February 22 February 27 February	The role of mid-year population estimates in the design and delivery of services, both at a local and national level Use of official and non official statistics by the Bank of England Public criticism of the political use of Government Expenditure and Revenue Scotland (GERS) Arrangements for the public dissemination of ONS data tables prepared to meet ad-hoc requests Statements made by the Prime Minister at Prime Minister's Questions about the private renting sector, and whether the statements were supported by the available statistics Validity of ONS measures of productivity in the NHS and subsequent interpretation and use The availability of data from sources such as the Labour Force Survey Presentation of statistics on school exam performance by low, medium and high attainment status The Authority's assessment of the implementation by ONS of the Authority's recommendations about the Consumer Price Indices Possible breach of the Code of Practice in relation to revisions to Data Service data without notice to users Arrangements for release to the press of statistics about the Mandatory Work Activity Trial Scheme Public availability of Home Office Management Information on Tier 4 colleges The statistical basis for statements by the Minister for Employment on the number of work experience programme placements resulting in employment, and the number of those taking up placements that subsequently leave benefits
March 2012 1 March 1 March 12 March 16 March	Comparison of police recorded crime statistics - in particular those relating to crimes of violence - before and after the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in 2002/03 Availability to external bodies of detailed analysis of ONS data on infant mortality Arrangements for the public dissemination of an ad-hoc request for ONS data on unemployment among black males Methods used by HM Revenue and Customs to forecast the number of high earners, and the effect of this on calculations of the amount of revenue raised by the 50p tax rate in advance of the 2012 Budget Usability of the release calendar on the ONS website