

# Issues raised with the UK Statistics Authority in the year 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009

#### Description

#### March 2009 28 March

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28 March	Observations about the Code of Practice for Official Statistics: raising the public profile about the role of survey interviewers so as to improve survey response rates
25 March	EU Emissions Trading Scheme statistics and status of UK net emissions figures.
23 March	Numerical information about customer waiting times for passports issued by the UK Passport Service
18 March	Injury Statistics produced by the Football Licensing Authority
16 March	Breach of pre-release access to statistics rules on hospital outpatient statistics published by the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care
11 March	Breach of pre-release access to statistics rules on hospital episode statistics published by the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care
7 March	Reliability of data on the extent of prostitution contained in a Home Office report, Tackling Demand, and related Ministerial statements
6 March	Significance of clause 152 of the Coroners Bill for the security of confidential information collected for statistical purposes
4 March	Arrangements for pre-release access to official statistics in respect of wholly devolved statistics published by the Welsh Assembly Government
3 March	Breach of pre-release access to statistics rules on Public Sector Finances published by HM Treasury
2 March	Observations about the Code of Practice for Official Statistics: references to information design, taxonomy and reliability testing
February 2009	
26 February	Possible breach of pre-release access to statistics on the under-18 conception rate published by the Office for National Statistics
25 February	Volume of statistical releases on population and migration statistics published on the UK National Statistics Publication Hub on 24 February 2009
24 February	Timing of a ministerial announcement of improvements to population and migration statistics and the impact on the future financial allocation to local authorities
19 February	Fares and ticketing statistics published by Passenger Focus, and status of the National Passenger Survey
19 February	Statistics on terrorism and related convictions published by the Ministry of Justice and Home Office
19 February	Weighting factors used in the calculation of the Retail Prices Index
19 February	Classification of Royal Bank of Scotland and Lloyds Banking Group as public corporations, and inclusion of their liabilities in the calculation of Public Sector Net Debt
16 February	Continuing concern that ONS Retail Sales figures give an overly optimistic impression of trends in the retail sector
16 February	Plans for the 2011 Census
13 February	Suggestion that data published by the Hadley Centre identified that "global warming" ceased in 2004
12 February	Presentation of data on UK-born and non UK-born workers contained in a press release published by the Office for National Statistics on 11 February 2009
11 February	Presentation of data on victims of domestic violence in a Crown Prosecution Service consultation document published in August 2008
11 February	Reliability of local-area level population estimates and projections in respect of international migration data compared to administrative sources, including a request for assessment against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics
11 February	Reliability of data in the UK Passport Service biometrics enrolment trial

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Withdrawal of Sentencing Statistics published by the Ministry of Justice

- 10 February Breach of pre-release access to statistics rules on insolvency statistics published by the Insolvency Service
- 10 February Remit and methodology of the Migration Statistics Improvement Programme and the inter-departmental task force on migration statistics, and the impact of these on preparations for the 2011 Census
- 9 February Research published by the Local Government Association regarding the speed of payment of invoices by local authorities in the current economic climate
- 2 February Quality of management information relating to complaints to the Children & Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass)

# January 2009

- 29 January Reasons behind the delay in Ministry of Justice statistical releases on quarterly sentencing and probation statistics scheduled for 28 January
- 27 January The need for better statistical analysis of public expenditure at local levels
- 23 January Publication of polling data commissioned by the Equality and Human Rights Commission
- 19 January Breach of pre-release access to statistics on cancer survival rates by the Department of Health
- 16 January Presentation of statistics about Train Operating Companies in a press release published by Passenger Focus

12 January	Release on 26 December of Home Office data on the deportation of foreign national prisoners
8 January	Presentation of statistics on the number of children entering the criminal justice system and the treatment of data on Penalty Notices for Disorder

- 8 January Breach of pre-release access to statistics on UK emissions of air pollutants by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)
- 7 January Implications for the media of new statutory restrictions on pre-release access to school performance data published by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF)
- 6 January Reliability of waste collection and disposal statistics published by the Chartered Institute of Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)
- 5 January Sources of statistics in development of strategy in support of local authority Local Development Frameworks

### December 2008

11 December	Release of hospital admission statistics as part of a Home Office announcement about knife crime
11 December	Presentation of statistics about knife crime in a Home Office fact sheet
11 December	Comprehensiveness and geographical consistency of UK data on fetal, infant and maternal health
4 December	Status of the Land Registry house price index as the government's official house price index and exclusion of repossessions and auctions from the Land Registry index.
1 December	Timeliness of publication of ONS data on the establishment and closure of UK businesses

### November 2008

24 November	Best way to present the size of, and changes in, public sector employment
20 November	Continuing critical comment from the British Retail Consortium about official retail sales figures produced by the ONS
18 November	Lack of data on family breakdown provided in Indices of Social Exclusion
11 November	Adequacy of information contained in the ONS annual report for 2006/07 with respect to relocation and other plans to allow the reader to monitor progress against plans set out in earlier
	reports

# October 2008

29 October	Reliability of Department for Transport road accident and casualty data collected through STATS19 reporting system
29 October	Treatment of lending to Northern Rock in the UK national accounts
28 October	Classification of chemical and man-made fibres industries in the Index of Production and under the EU's classification system for economic activity (NACE)
24 October	Implications of the Authority's Code of Practice for the involvement of ministers and officials in decisions about the content of census questions
23 October	Correction of Home Office data on crimes of serious violence and the communication of reasons for a change in recording practices
21 October	Measures in place to prevent the presentation of misleading or inaccurate statistical evidence submitted by third parties to Government sponsored investigations, and publication of the
	interests of those submitting such evidence
9 October	Early release of Department of Health data on MRSA
1 October	Alleged breach of the Authority's draft Code of Practice regarding the early release of Scottish crime statistics
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### September 2008

30 September	Classification of direct selling under the EU's classification system for economic activity (NACE)
18 September	Role of external experts in evidence-based policy making
12 September	Concerns expressed at Scottish ministerial claims regarding the effect of under-21 alcohol off-sales ban on anti-social behaviour
3 September	Implications for nations other than England by the linkage of administrative data as part of the migration statistics improvement programme
3 September	Legal mechanisms to provide for the disclosure of administrative data from Welsh authorities for linkage

# August 2008

- 29 August Confidentiality of census records in light of the award of 2011 Census contract
- 29 August Quality of ONS statistics on retail sales and implications on levels of public trust in official statistics
- 28 August Circulation of Home Office press notice containing policy comment and statistical content of ONS and Home Office press briefing material distributed at a press conference hosted by the UK Statistics Authority
- 26 August Media reporting of data on the number of older workers in "Older workers losing jobs in credit crunch"
- 26 August Data published by the Department for Children, Families and Schools regarding inequality in schools
- 20 August Delay in publication of HMRC data on monthly property transactions and withdrawal of data published in July
- 20 August Report of New Local Government Network on the future of the decennial census

- 20 August Quality of ONS mid-year population estimates and progress of review to improve population and migration statistics
- 7 August Collection and release of data on Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) by the Department for Children, Schools and Families
- 4 August Delay in publication of the Department for Work and Pensions statistical bulletin Tax Benefit Model Tables

## July 2008

- 22 July HM Treasury announcement of preparations for a change in the fiscal rules in advance of publication of statistics on public finances on 18 July
- 8 July Responsibility for maintenance of online archive of Criminal Statistics statistical bulletin and supplementary tables in light of changes in the machinery of Government
- 7 July Analysis of Home Office data on Anti-Social Behaviour Orders
- 7 July Fawcett Society analysis of data on convictions for rape by police force area in England and Wales
- 4 July Inclusion of contact details of relevant statisticians in departmental statistical bulletins
- 2 July Analysis of data on overseas second home ownership in ONS statistical bulletin Economic Trends

## June 2008

- 30 June Quality of ONS data on retail sales
- 23 June ONS assessment of Private Finance Initiative schemes and symmetric adjustment to debts and assets for on-book schemes
- 20 June ONS retail sales data and apparent differences between published data and analyst expectations
- 17 June Request for views of the Authority regarding one of the preferred suppliers of services for the 2011 Census
- 16 June Delay in publication of the Department for Work and Pensions statistical bulletin Households Below Average Income
- 9 June Criticism of the Office for National Statistics by local authorities regarding migration statistics
- 6 June Availability of input-output tables for economic modelling and importance to academic researchers
- 5 June Attention drawn to parliamentary exchanges on 4 June regarding the use and misuse of statistics
- 3 June Methods of calculation of Gross Domestic Product

## May 2008

- 27 May Availability of official estimates of non-EU work-related migration
- 12 May Attention drawn to media comment on the quality of official measures of inflation
- 7 May Low levels of public trust in official statistics, especially in measures of inflation

# April 2008

- 28 April Accuracy of the Consumer Prices Index as a measure of inflation
- 21 April Content of questions asked in the Integrated Household Survey
- 11 April Non-inclusion of Bank of England statistics on the UK Statistics Authority Publication Hub
- 11 April Implications for statistical quality in light of the recuitment policy of the Office for National Statistics
- 10 April Analysis of data published by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport regarding the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 on live music events
- 7 April Availability of official estimates of non-EU work-related migration
- 7 April Delay in publication of the Department for Work and Pensions statistical bulletin Households Below Average Income
- 2 April Accuracy of data on MRSA cases supplied in answer to a written parliamentary question (HC Deb 26.03.2008, c202w)

Issues may be raised with the UK Statistics Authority by contacting:

authority.enquiries@statistics.gsi.gov.uk

Or by post: UK Statistics Authority, Statistics House, Myddelton Street, London, EC1R 1UW