

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

**Committee for Official Statistics**

**Draft Minutes**

**Meeting of Thursday 20 March 2014  
Board Room, Drummond Gate, London**

**Present**

**Members**

Professor David Rhind (Chair)  
Mr Partha Dasgupta  
Sir Andrew Dilnot  
Mr Roger Halliday  
Professor David Hand  
Mr Ed Humpherson  
Ms Jil Matheson

**Secretariat**

Mr Robert Bumpstead  
Mr Joe Cuddeford

**Other Attendees**

Mr Ian Cope and Mr Andy Teague (for item 3)  
Ms Pam Davies  
Mr Iain Bell (for item 7)  
Mr Martin Ralphs (for item 8)  
Ms Denise Lievesley (Chair of the European Statistics Advisory Committee, for item 2)  
Mr Duncan Millard (Chair of the GSS International Committee, for item 2)

**Apologies**

Dame Colette Bowe

**Declarations of Interest**

None

## 1. Apologies, Minutes and Matters Arising

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Dame Colette Bowe. The minutes of the previous meeting of 23 January 2014 were agreed as a correct record. Progress with actions was reviewed.
- 1.2 Ms Davies provided an update on the Government Statistical Service (GSS) capability project. Mr Ian Wood, who attended the January 2014 Committee for Official Statistics (COS) Seminar on capability, had now joined the Authority on secondment and had taken on a leading role in the capability project. There were a range of strands to this work and a timetable for deliverables was in development. It was agreed that Mr Wood would be invited to present an update to the next meeting of COS.

**Action: National Statistician's Office to present an update on the capability project to the next meeting of COS.**

- 1.3 Professor Hand provided an update on the Monitoring Review of the Audit of Administrative Data and Targets, for which he would be acting as non-executive project sponsor. The previous meeting of COS had considered an outline for this work and an update on progress would be considered at the Assessment Committee later that day.
- 1.4 The Chair reiterated the importance of meeting papers being circulated to Committee members at least one week in advance of the meeting.

## 2. European Statistics – strategic issues [SA(COS)(14)12]

- 2.1 Ms Davies provided an overview of the key strategic issues for the UK in the context of the European Statistical System (ESS).
- 2.2 The Committee discussed the inadequacy of the information currently available about which UK official statistics were collected to meet EU regulations, what the associated costs were to the UK statistical system, and what statistics were used for by EU policymakers. The Committee recognised the challenges of compiling this information, and noted that other EU countries had similar difficulties. Complexities included:
- i. some international requirements were overlapping and covered regulations or standards defined by more than one international body;
  - ii. it could be difficult to separate out what the UK produced solely for international purposes, and what the UK would continue to produce for UK purposes even if there were no international requirements; and
  - iii. in addition to 'what' is collected, international regulations often specified 'how' information should be collected. It was therefore also desirable to consider the UK's preferences for statistical production, for example using different methods, quality standards or at different frequencies. Whether these approaches met best contemporary standards and were economical needed to be factored in.
- 2.3 It was agreed that, notwithstanding the above complexities, it was **essential** to work towards better information on the effect on the UK statistical system of EU statistical requirements. A list of the major UK official statistics with information on why each was collected (e.g. for UK needs, for EU needs/regulations, for other international purposes) was vital. Costs should be included on this list wherever possible. Such a list would also be a very useful contribution to the statistics strand of the UK Government's Balance of EU Competencies review.

**Action: National Statistician's Office (NSO) to provide a list of the major UK official statistics with information on why each was collected (e.g. for UK needs, for EU needs/regulations, for other international purposes), with indicative information on costs included as best possible.**

- 2.4 The Committee heard that, while there were costs and constraints, there were also benefits of engagement with the international statistics system. These included increased comparability with other countries through common standards, the sharing of good practice and the pooling of resources. It was suggested that an additional benefit was the role of international standards in safeguarding the independence of statistics in a national context.
- 2.5 The Committee discussed the statistics strand of the UK Government's Balance of EU Competencies. It was agreed that, as this was a Government consultation, the call for evidence should not be hosted on the UK Statistics Authority website. It was suggested that the Statistics Authority may wish to further consider its role in relation to the consultation. It was noted that the questions as formulated were not straightforward for stakeholders to answer.
- 2.6 The NSO had developed its thinking on the UK's position in the ESS. The Committee requested that this should include:
- i. ways that the governance of the ESS could be strengthened, for example through provision of an independent secretariat and budget for the European Statistics Advisory Committee (ESAC);
  - ii. the need for a stronger and demonstrable connection between the use of European level data by EU policymakers, and the Eurostat work programme;
  - iii. the need for better information on the costs of complying with European statistical regulations;
  - iv. ways to ensure that EU statistical regulations which had served their purpose were removed; and
  - v. examples and case studies from the wider Government Statistical Service (GSS) in addition to the examples already included from the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

**Action: NSO to consider the Committee's comments with regards to the UK's position in the ESS.**

### **3. Beyond 2011 Programme – implications for the wider statistical system [SA(COS)(14)11]**

- 3.1 Mr Cope and Mr Teague introduced a paper which provided an update in the context of the imminent recommendation from the National Statistician on the future approach to the Census. The meeting considered the potential implications of the Beyond 2011 programme for the wider statistical system, the opportunities and risks it presents, and the actions that might be required as a result.
- 3.2 The Committee agreed that there was a need to think in the long-term, beyond the 2021 Census. ONS had completed much work on the feasibility of the options and the methodology, and there would now need to be further development before the model could be applied. This work should take place in an open way, with full engagement of the wider research and statistics community, for example via conferences.
- 3.3 The Committee asked how well the Beyond 2011 plans and those for other parts of ONS (e.g. the Electronic Data Collection process) were integrated in order to maximise benefits and reduce duplication. It was told that a Target Operating Model for data collection generally at ONS was needed. It was agreed to refer this issue to the ONS Board.

**Action: Secretariat to refer the issue of a Target Operating Model for data collection to the Chair of the ONS Board for consideration at a future meeting.**

**4. Report from the GSS Inter Administration Committee (IAC) [SA(COS)(14)13]**

- 4.1 Ms Davies introduced a paper which provided an overview of the work of the GSS Inter Administration Committee (IAC) for 2013/14.
- 4.2 The Committee heard that work on assessing the UK comparability of statistics had been well received by the GSS and the user community.

**5. Draft Monitoring Review Outline: Income Statistics [SA(COS)(14)14]**

- 5.1 Mr Stewart introduced a draft outline for a Monitoring Review on the coherence and accessibility of official statistics on income and earnings.
- 5.2 The Committee agreed that the report should focus on income and earnings, but should not extend to the wider issue of wealth.

**Action: Monitoring Review to be taken forward in light of discussion.**

**6. Draft Monitoring Review Outline: Uses of Health Statistics [SA(COS)(14)15]**

- 6.1 Mr Stewart provided an update on progress made with the Monitoring Review about the management and presentation of official health statistics for a wide range of users.
- 6.2 The Committee noted the progress that had been made and the plans for a pilot conference in Edinburgh in June.

**7. The National Statistics Publication Hub [SA(COS)(14)16]**

- 7.1 Mr Bell gave an update on progress with the National Statistics Publication Hub. The Government Statistical Service (GSS) and the Government Digital Service (GDS) were working together to develop a replacement of the release calendar functionality of the Publication Hub. The Committee was invited to consider the next steps and the process for final decision-making on whether to move to the replacement Publication Hub.
- 7.2 It was agreed that COS members would be provided with a prototype version of the new Publication Hub in April. Subject to comments and further development, the Authority Board would be invited to take a decision at its May meeting.

**Action: Mr Bell to provide prototype version of the new Publication Hub for circulation to members of COS. Secretariat to include discussion on the agenda for the May meeting of the Authority Board.**

**8. Update on the work of the Good Practice Team [SA(COS)(14)17]**

- 8.1 Mr Ralphs provided an update on the work of the Good Practice Team (GPT) for the period March 2013 to February 2014 and forward plans for the remainder of 2014.
- 8.2 The meeting heard that the good practice areas of the GSS website had been improved in February 2014 with additional resources on communicating statistics and working with users. Statistical commentary was a focus of the team and, in the past year, the team had delivered workshops and presentations across departments, developed training courses, reviewed statistical releases and provided ad hoc advice. The team had expanded the use of user reference panels and had embedded a 'working with users' module in the GSS induction course.
- 8.3 Mr Ralphs described a recent exercise to review all new statistical publications released on the Publication Hub, assigning a 'RAG' status to each. The Committee welcomed the work and the manner in which its results were illustrated. Members considered how the results of this exercise could best be disseminated; it was suggested that as a minimum, Heads of Profession could be provided with their own results. Prior to that however Mr Ralphs should seek to review the criteria for success by incorporating COS members' views since these might materially lead to different outcomes.

**9. Issues Raised with Authority [SA(COS)(14)18]**

- 9.1 Mr Bumpstead introduced a paper which provided an overview to the Committee of recent issues raised with the Authority.
- 9.2 The Committee noted the update. It was agreed that this item would be considered further up the agenda to allow more time for discussion at the next meeting.

**Action: Issues paper to be considered further up the agenda at the next meeting.**

**10. Risks for the Government Statistical Service and the National Statistician's Office [SA(COS)(14)19]**

- 10.1 The Committee noted a paper which contained proposals about risk management for the GSS and NSO and the latest risk registers. The meeting heard that a separate risk policy had been produced to cover the GSS and the NSO. The Committee discussed the risks, mitigations, and residual risk scores.

**11. A Perspective of the Government Statistical Service [SA(COS)(14)20]**

- 11.1 Ms Davies introduced a paper which provided an overview of recent activities of the GSS, and cessations of, and public consultations about, official statistics.
- 11.2 The Committee noted in particular the update on the European Data Protection Regulation. This has potentially catastrophic consequences for research and quite possibly for administrative data use. It was agreed that more information on this would be provided to the Committee at the next meeting.

**Action: NSO to provide further information about the European Data Protection Regulation to the next meeting.**

**12. Any other business**

- 12.1 There was no other business. The Committee would meet again on Thursday 29 May 2014 at 10:30am.



**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**  
**COMMITTEE FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS**

***Agenda***

***Thursday 20 March 2014***  
***Board Room, Drummond Gate, London, 10:30 to 13:00***

**Chair: Professor David Rhind**  
**Apologies: Dame Colette Bowe**

1	Apologies, Minutes and Matters Arising	Meeting of 230114
2	Beyond 2011 Programme – implications for the wider statistical system	SA(COS)(14)11 Mr Ian Cope and Mr Andy Teague
3	European statistics – strategic issues	SA(COS)(14)12  Ms Pam Davies
4	Report from the GSS Inter Administration Committee (IAC)	SA(COS)(14)13  Ms Pam Davies
5	Draft Monitoring Review Outlines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income Statistics</li> <li>• Uses of Health Statistics</li> </ul>	SA(COS)(14)14 SA(COS)(14)15 Mr Ed Humpherson
6	The National Statistics Publication Hub	SA(COS)(14)16  Mr Iain Bell
7	Update on the work of the Good Practice Team	SA(COS)(14)17  Mr Martin Ralphs
8	Issues raised with Authority	SA(COS)(14)18  Secretariat
9	Risks for the Government Statistical Service and the National Statistician's Office	SA(COS)(14)19  Ms Pam Davies
10	A Perspective of the Government Statistical Service	SA(COS)(14)20  Ms Jil Matheson
11	Any other business	

**Next Meeting: Thursday 29 May 2014, London, 10:30 to 13:00**





## SA(COS)(14)11 – Beyond 2011 Programme

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(COS)(14)11

***Beyond 2011 Programme***

Information on the Beyond 2011 Programme has been published on the Office for National Statistics.

To see these documents go to:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/search/index.html?pageSize=50&sortBy=none&sortDirection=none&newquery=Beyond+2011+Programme>



SA(COS)(14)12 – European Statistics

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(COS)(14)12

***European Statistics***

The call for evidence for the statistics strand of the UK Government's Review of the Balance of EU Competencies is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/voting-consular-and-statistics-review-of-the-balance-of-competences>



**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**  
**COMMITTEE FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS**

SA(COS)(14)13

***The GSS Inter Administration Committee***

**Purpose**

1. This paper provides an overview of the work of the Government Statistical Service (GSS) Inter Administration Committee (IAC) for 2013/14.

**Recommendations**

2. Members of the Committee for Official Statistics are invited to note and discuss the contents of this paper.

**Discussion**

3. The *Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007* presented an opportunity to review existing GSS operations and to develop more effective governance and planning mechanisms for the UK's official statistics system. The Authority Board decided at its meeting on 21 February 2008 not to create its own sub-committee on devolved administration matters; it felt that this aspect of the Authority's operations should be considered by the full Board of the Authority. To support the Authority's goals, the National Statistician established the IAC as part of the new governance arrangements for the GSS, to develop a systematic mechanism for addressing inter administration issues.
4. At its meeting of 20 October 2008 the IAC undertook to replace the Concordat on Statistics, which formed part of the Memorandum of Understanding between the UK Government, Scottish Ministers, Welsh Ministers and the Northern Ireland Executive Committee, with a new Inter Administration Working Agreement (IAWA). The Memorandum of Understanding, most recently revised in September 2012, sets out the principles that underpin relations between the UK Government and the devolved administrations.
5. The IAC reviews the operation of the IAWA annually and the last full review was undertaken at the IAC meeting on 11 February 2013. A number of changes were agreed that included the adoption of principles and practices for handling European statistical issues. At the IAC meeting on 25 April 2013 a discussion on the preparation of annual lists of disaggregated statistics resulted in agreement to hand over the responsibility of this task from the devolved administrations to the ONS Output Co-ordination Group. As a result there was agreement to amend paragraphs 6.3 and 6.4 of the IAWA. This latest version of the IAWA is at **Annex A**. It is also available on the Authority's website.
6. Since 2010 the IAC has been strengthening its links with Theme Leaders following general concerns about harmonisation and comparability across the four administrations and how best to respond to the Authority's initiative to improve compliance with Principle 4 Practice 6 of the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*. Hence, the IAC receives an annual report from each Theme Leader and invites two or three Theme Leaders to each meeting to discuss the work of their respective Themes.
7. As part of the work to ensure comparability across all four nations, the IAC set up a Comparability Task and Finish Group whose principle aim was to consider how best to meet user needs and expectations on comparability of statistics across the four nations. The Group presented its report to the IAC meeting in April 2013 which included guidance on a four nations comparability scale. As part of the next steps Theme Leaders were

tasked to identify the key statistics within their Theme and assess their comparability using the scale produced by the task and finish group. This work was completed in October 2013 and has resulted in a report ["Comparing Official Statistics across the UK"](#)

8. The IAC has continued to play a key role in ensuring that the devolved administrations are advised about relevant international issues such as the current changes being proposed to EU Regulation 223/2009 (European Statistical Law) and the proposed new European Data Protection Regulation.
9. The IAC often considers issues that have either been identified by the devolved administrations or by the IAC secretariat. As part of its business in 2013/14 there have been discussions on, for example, Education data, the Publication Hub and Data Sharing Legislation.

#### Forward Look

10. During 2014/15 the IAC will continue with much of the business already identified in this report and is committed to review both its terms of reference and the IAWA at its next meeting in June 2014. In addition there will be an increasing focus on the impending Scottish Referendum and the implications for the UK Statistical system should Scotland vote for independence.

**Pam Davies, National Statistician's Office, 13 March 2014**

#### **List of Annexes**

**Annex A Inter Administration Working Agreement**

## Annex A Inter Administration Working Agreement

### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 This document sets out an agreed framework for co-operation between the four administrations, i.e. the Scottish Government<sup>1</sup>, the Welsh Assembly Government, the Northern Ireland Government (from here on referred to as the Devolved Administrations) and the UK Government (UK Government Departments and Agencies) in relation to the production of official statistics. The UK Statistics Authority plays a role in overseeing the quality and comprehensiveness of official statistics across the four nations
- 1.2 The framework includes
- I. the aims;
  - II. key principles which will underpin all work between the administrations;
  - III. roles and responsibilities; and
  - IV. working level arrangements including dispute resolution.
- 1.3 The framework replaces the Concordat on Statistics which formed part of the 2001 Memorandum of Understanding.

### 2. Scope

- 2.1 The Framework is not intended to constitute a legally enforceable contract or to create any rights or obligations which are legally enforceable.
- 2.2 'Reserved' and 'devolved' are terms defined in the Devolution Acts<sup>2</sup> in the case of the former and in the latter case also in section 66 of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 (the 2007 Act). However the position with regard to statistics is not always clear as they may serve both reserved and devolved purposes. Likewise the definition of "wholly devolved" statistics used in the 2007 Act may not always be clear. Where it is necessary to determine into which category particular statistics fall, the emphasis will be on reaching agreement between the administrations though more formal resolution may be sought if necessary.

### 3. Aims

The aims of this Agreement are to:-

- I. ensure effective co-operation on statistical work within the United Kingdom in support of each administrations' policy and business objectives;
- II. support user needs across the four administrations; and
- III. ensure efficiency, effectiveness and continuous improvement.

### 4. Principles

- 4.1 All arrangements will comply with the principles of the devolution settlements and the 2011 Memorandum of Understanding, the Code of Practice for Official Statistics and all relevant legislation.
- 4.2 The administrations will work together to ensure the provision of coherent, reliable, consistent and timely statistics about the UK and the four countries as far as possible where it is agreed it is appropriate to do so, and will ensure that collective needs are met

<sup>1</sup> National Records of Scotland is part of the Scottish Government and is included in the scope of this agreement. Northern Ireland Departments are also included in the scope of this agreement and are represented by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). <sup>2</sup> The Scotland Act 1998, the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and the Government of Wales Act 1998

<sup>2</sup> The Scotland Act 1998, the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and the Government of Wales Act 1998

in an efficient and effective way. They will agree mechanisms which ensure that these statistics are readily available to all four administrations, international organisations, users, and the public.

- 4.3 The administrations will work together to ensure that any collective arrangements do not hinder the meeting of the needs of other administrations. The need for different approaches and different responses will be fully recognised.
- 4.4 Where concordats, working arrangements or service level agreements exist between two or more administrations or their departments or agencies on statistical matters they must be consistent with this Agreement.
- 4.5 The administrations recognise that information they produce or hold may be required for statistical purposes by another administration. They will share this information with each other as far as possible subject to availability, agreements about cost sharing and relevant legislation. Administrations will not be required to provide information to each other about the statistical advice which has been given to policy makers or Ministers (although they may agree to do so).
- 4.6 Subject to the terms of the concordats on EU and international relations, the National Statistician, as head of the GSS will retain responsibility for the fulfilment of UK statistical obligations to the EU and international bodies and for EU/international liaisons and co-operation on statistical matters. *In the exercise of the UK's statistical obligations to the EU, it is expected that UK government departments will adhere to the principles and practices for dealing with the devolved administrations as set out in Annex 1.*
- 4.7 Whilst re-use of already published information is unrestricted, where a statistical product makes substantial or significant use of statistics that are the responsibility of another administration, agreement of that administration will be sought, if possible on an annual basis. The content of such products will be checked with the other administration for quality assurance purposes.
- 4.8 Permission for the Office for National Statistics (on behalf of the UK Statistics Authority) to publish devolved statistics is subject to section 20 of the 2007 Act.
- 4.9 The administrations will work together to reduce the total burden on data providers whilst seeking to ensure that each administration has access to the information that it needs.
- 4.10 The administrations will share statistical expertise and development to promote best practice. They will agree to share specific development tasks, both to maximise the use of available specialist expertise, and as a means of cost sharing.
- 4.11 The administrations will work together to devise, develop and implement appropriate methods of planning that will support this Agreement. Each administration will produce its own statistical plan which will be shared in order to encourage cooperation and collaboration where possible.
- 4.12 In addition each administration will inform and seek comment from the others about any proposed significant changes to existing activity, or proposed release of statistical information, which might be considered relevant to other administrations.
- 4.13 The administrations will contribute to the work of the Governmental Statistical Service, promote its values, support its continuing development and ensure the full involvement of devolved administrations including NISRA on an appropriate basis.



- 4.14 The recruitment, development, movement and promotion of Government Statistical Service professional staff will be based on a common set of professional competences and in accordance with appropriate elements of the GSS People Committee's People Strategy and associated workplan (though it does not extend to NISRA).

## 5. Roles and responsibilities

- 5.1 Overall responsibility for implementing and developing this Agreement will rest with the GSS Inter Administration Committee (IAC) chaired by the National Statistician and including the Chief Statisticians from the Devolved Administrations, the ONS Director General and the ONS key account holder for the Devolved Administrations. Representatives from other government departments will be invited to attend meetings as appropriate.
- 5.2 The National Statistician is the UK Statistics Authority's principal adviser on matters related to official statistics (excepting those where the 2007 Act places obligations on the Head of Assessment), their Chief Executive, a member of the Authority's Board and the Head of the GSS. The National Statistician is therefore well-placed to advise the Authority about matters affecting the administrations such as the development of statistics on a comparable or non-comparable basis, funding for such statistics and their place within the wider statistical system.
- 5.3 In its role of co-ordinating the work of the GSS, the National Statistician's Office will invite statistical staff from across the administrations (including those who are not members of the GSS) to participate in, and keep them informed about, GSS activities, and consult with them about issues of statistical policy and methodology.
- 5.4 The National Statistician's Office will provide the GB administrations with advice and support on a range of professional, technical and personnel services, including brokering transfers, recruitment of Fast Stream Assistants and advertisement of posts across the GSS.
- 5.5 To ensure that the administrations are fully aware of impending European and UK legislation and are able to assess the impact upon their budget allocations, for each IAC meeting, the National Statistician's Office will provide a report on the latest international developments impacting upon the UK and Devolved Administrations.

## 6. Specific arrangements and dispute resolution

- 6.1 Existing arrangements for cost sharing will continue until one or more parties propose a change. Any party may propose a change where new demands are made, where the costs to the providers change, or where circumstances change. Any new arrangements are expected to comply with the Statement of Funding Policy found here [http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pbr\\_csr07\\_statement\\_of\\_funding\\_policy.htm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pbr_csr07_statement_of_funding_policy.htm).
- 6.2 Under the governance arrangements agreed by the Chief Statisticians and Heads of Profession, Theme Leaders will carry out work to identify and prioritise statistical requirements from a UK wide perspective. This work, with input from all administrations, will include identifying and prioritising inter administration issues and agreeing where it is desirable to produce harmonised data and where it is preferable to explain differences such that each administration's data relates to the relevant policy context. Additionally, Theme Leaders are expected to consider issues that are viewed as impacting upon data harmonisation, quality, reliability and comparability or are considered barriers to data sharing, comparison of GVA across administrations etc.
- 6.3 Subject to agreed arrangements regarding the quality assurance of statistical data, under section 20 arrangements, on an annual basis, each administration should

produce a comprehensive list of all of its disaggregated statistics that should be circulated throughout the four nations. Production of this list should allow each administration to determine whether it requires pre-release access to any of the disaggregated data being published. Where such access is required, each year upon receipt of the list, each administration should first check whether pre-release access arrangements are already in place and, if not, submit a formal request to the relevant data producer for pre-release access to the data. All requests must comply with the secondary legislation relating to pre-release access in force within each administration.

- 6.4 Where requests for such access cannot be made on an annual basis, e.g. where new products have been developed and produced, the producer organisation must notify the other administrations of their intentions to publish new disaggregated data. When notifying other administrations, the producer department must allow sufficient time for submission and approval of any requests for pre-release access to new information.
- 6.5 In all cases where it is not possible for producer organisations to reach agreement, the Inter Administration Committee will act as final arbiter. Where it is not possible for the IAC to reach agreement or it does not have the competency to do so, the matter may if the IAC so decides be referred to the Joint Ministerial Committee. In addition, the UK Statistics Authority will be consulted if it is appropriate to do so.

#### **7. Arrangements for review**

- 7.1 This agreement will be formally reviewed by the IAC after one year, and thereafter every five years or as requested by any party.
- 7.2 An assessment of the operation of the agreement will be conducted every year.

**November 2013**

## CONTEXT

1. The Memorandum of Understanding<sup>3</sup> between the UK Government, Scottish Ministers, Welsh Ministers and the Northern Ireland Executive Committee, published on 29 March 2010, sets out the principles which underlie relations between the four administrations. It distinguishes between policy matters which are not devolved in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland which are the responsibility of the UK Government and vice versa. The Memorandum is supplemented by four Agreements intended to ensure uniform arrangements for relations between the UK Government and the devolved administrations:-
  - i. The establishment of a Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC)
  - ii. Handling matters with an EU dimension
  - iii. Financial assistance to industry
  - iv. International relations touching on the responsibilities of the devolved administrations.
2. As a matter of law, international relations and relations with the EU remain the responsibility of the UK Government and UK Parliament. The UK Government recognises that the devolved administrations have an interest in policy making related to devolved matters and relevant arrangements are set out in ii and iv.

## PRINCIPLES

3. The Government Statistical Service (GSS) is to be guided by the following principles:-
  - The UK Government has undertaken to provide the devolved administrations with information, as early as possible, on all business within the framework of the EU which concerns devolved matters or non-devolved matters which appear likely to be of interest to them.
  - The devolved administrations are responsible for implementing and complying with EU obligations which concern devolved matters. In law, UK Ministers have powers to intervene to ensure the implementation of these obligations.
  - Any financial penalty imposed on the UK as a result of a failure of implementation or enforcement by a devolved administration on a matter falling within its responsibility is to be borne by the administration(s) responsible.

## PRACTICE

4. In practice, the implementation of these principles means that :-
  - The starting point is that where an EU statistical requirement falls, or is likely to fall, on the UK, compliance is a matter for all four countries. It is important to establish at the outset whether a requirement concerns a devolved or non-devolved matter and for the lead UK government department to be apprised. Guidance and advice on devolved and non-devolved matters is available from International Relations in the National Statistician's Office.
  - The lead UK government department is expected to ensure that liaison with the devolved administrations at official level takes place at the earliest opportunity from the first notification about the relevant statistical matter whether it relates to a proposed Regulation, the implementation of existing Regulations, compliance or any other related issue. In doing so, the department should work in tandem with the GSS International Committee and

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm78/7864/7864.asp>

International Relations in the National Statistician's Office. It should offer support throughout the time that the statistical matter is under consideration.

- Coordination of activities related to EU statistical issues is fundamental to helping the National Statistician fulfil her role on behalf of the UK and is undertaken by her International Relations team. Statisticians and others working in the GSS have a responsibility to alert that team directly, or via the International Liaison Officer network, of any statistical issues pertaining to the EU.

SA(COS)(14)14 – Draft Monitoring Review Outlines: Income Statistics

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(COS)(14)14

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***Draft Monitoring Review Outlines: Income Statistics***

This document has been published on the UK Statistics Authority website.

To see this document go to:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/monitoring/monitoring-reviews/review-outlines/mr-outline-05-14.pdf>



SA(COS)(14)15 – Draft Monitoring Review Outlines: Uses of Health Statistics

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(COS)(14)15

***Draft Monitoring Review Outlines: Uses of Health Statistics***

This document has been published on the UK Statistics Authority website.

To see this document go to:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/monitoring/monitoring-reviews/review-outlines/mr-outline-04-14.pdf>





**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**  
**COMMITTEE FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS**

SA(COS)(14)16

***Update on the Publication Hub***

**Purpose**

1. Last year it was agreed that the Government Statistical Service (GSS) and the Government Digital Service (GDS) should work together to develop a replacement of the release calendar functionality of the Publication Hub subject to GDS agreeing to a set of principles for working together. This paper updates the Committee for Official Statistics (COS) on progress since these agreements, the next steps and the process for final decision-making on whether to move to the replacement Publication Hub.

**Recommendations**

2. Members of COS are invited to note progress so far, next steps, and the proposed process for final decision making.

**Discussion**

Progress update

3. The Authority Board approved the development of the replacement of the release calendar functionality on gov.uk last year following discussions at COS which included the consideration of other options which were not progressed due to the costs associated with them. This was subject to GDS agreeing to the set of principles we set out on how we work together. GDS confirmed their acceptance of these principles in late 2013.
4. The main progress since we last updated COS is as follows.
  - i. GDS began work in February 2014 to develop the replacement of the release calendar functionality of the Publication Hub with the aim of a prototype available for testing and dual-running in early April 2014 (in line with the agreed schedule).
  - ii. Engagement with the GSS began in early March 2014 on key decisions on how to implement the replacement.
  - iii. The front-page of gov.uk has already been altered to remove the implied link between policy-making and statistics.
5. Progress against the key principles is set out in more detail in **Annex A**. The main issue identified to date is the need for GDS to develop blocking software to ensure only entries approved by the Head of Profession are published to the release calendar area. GDS understand the importance of this and we are working with them on how to resolve it.

Next steps

6. The outline timetable is set out below:
  - i. Remainder of March - Detailed design of the replacement release calendar will continue.
  - ii. 27 March - Presentation of progress to Heads of Profession across the GSS on the new release calendar functionality and remaining decisions taken with Heads of Profession covering:
    - a. level of training required for new system;
    - b. whether the system adequately reflects issues concerning the Devolved Administrations;
    - c. publication arrangements for low volume GSS publishers not currently on GDS; and

- d. length of back history of publication hub entries to be migrated.
  - iii. Early April - Prototype available internally within GSS for testing and demonstration purposes (will run as a live dual-run during the prototype stage).
  - iv. Mid to late April - Prototype will be available for COS members to view and comment on.
  - v. Late April - Changes from prototype demonstration taken on board.
  - vi. 1 May - Demonstration of replacement to the Authority Board for final decision on whether to migrate the release calendar of the Publication Hub to gov.uk.
  - vii. Early May - If decision to proceed is made then begin external communications with users on the migration of the Publication Hub to gov.uk.
  - viii. 1 June - Conditional on 1 May decision - live deployment of the release calendar functionality onto gov.uk.
  - ix. June onwards - Decommissioning of existing Publication Hub begins.
7. As can be seen from the process above there will be opportunities for involvement from Committee members and chances to comment on the replacement release calendar. This process of building a live prototype and iterative development will allow us to significantly de-risk the project and ensure Committee members are content prior to any full deployment.

Final decision-making

8. The final decision on whether the replacement Publication Hub meets our needs is scheduled for the Authority Board on 1 May 2014. Unfortunately the scheduling of the build work and COS meetings will not allow a full prototype to be demonstrated to COS. However, we will make arrangements for Committee members to be able to view the prototype and supply comments during April to ensure the Committee's views can be taken on board prior to presentation to the Authority Board on 1 May.

**Iain Bell, Chair of the GSS Presentation and Dissemination Committee, March 2014**

**List of Annexes**

**Annex A Progress against key principles**

**Annex A – Progress against key principles**

<b>Principle</b>	<b>Details</b>
In order to safeguard the perception of independence, the Authority should have control over the text that describes the Publication Hub, and also over the presentation of the link to the Hub from the gov.uk homepage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently early design does clearly move statistics away from department information on the front page of the site.</li> <li>• In discussion with GDS about what text should be at the top of the list of calendar entries</li> </ul>
Any new Publication Hub should retain the use of the National Statistics quality mark to distinguish those statistics that had passed an assessment, alongside a description of the meaning of the quality mark.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early designs do feature the quality mark, it is worth noting that the mark is already displayed alongside relevant statistical releases on GOV.UK. Also in discussion about how to use this to educate lay users as to what the kite mark symbolises</li> </ul> <p>The list of calendar entries will contain text to state whether each release is National Statistics or official statistics. Every landing page will have the appropriate kite mark.</p>
The time of release of the statistics – e.g. 9.30am – should be visible on the Hub.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in development.</li> </ul>
Entries in the Hub should also include appropriate metadata, particularly a link to the relevant Assessment Report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are working through appropriate metadata with GDS, and this is in hand.</li> <li>• Ability to link to other documents has already been delivered in early designs – this should satisfy the linking to Assessment Reports.</li> </ul>
An evolutionary approach should be taken towards development of a new system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed, we are taking an Agile approach to delivery which includes designing a Minimum Viable Product on which there is potential to deliver further functionality.</li> </ul>
The costs of the options should be fully set out, described and understood.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Costs and options submitted to COS previously – GDS solution was approved as most value for money option available.</li> </ul>



**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**  
**COMMITTEE FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS**

SA(COS)(14)17

***Update on the work of the Good Practice Team – March 2013 to February 2014***

**Purpose**

1. This paper provides the Committee for Official Statistics with an update of Good Practice Team (GPT) activities for the period March 2013 to February 2014 and forward plans for the remainder of 2014.

**Recommendations**

2. Members of the Committee are invited to note the summary of activities for this period and to provide feedback on the team's work and forward plans.

**Background**

3. The Good Practice Team last reported to the Committee for Official Statistics (COS) at its March 2013 meeting, when the final report of the GPT pilot was presented. This update has been prepared in response to the Committee's request for an update on the team's activities.

**Discussion****Changes to the Good Practice Team***Permanent establishment and expansion of the team*

4. Following the success of the pilot phase, the Good Practice Team was established on a permanent basis. The team has been expanded to six people: a Grade 6 lead, four Grade 7 analysts and a Senior Research Officer (SRO). Most of the expanded team has been in place since November-December 2013, with the remaining Grade 7 analyst vacancy to be filled in the next month or two. This is a very significant increase in resource, and will allow us to expand our reach and increase capability.

*Good Practice Team priorities*

5. The pilot phase of GPT work concentrated on improving statistical commentary and encouraging better collaboration with users of statistics. These remain our key priority areas and an update on progress is given below. Following input from Government Statistical Service (GSS) Heads of Profession, we have widened the focus on commentary to include other aspects of data dissemination and presentation. Two new priority areas have also been identified: quality and the GSS data strategy.
6. The new GSS website provides an opportunity to communicate good practice resources and initiatives with a wide audience across the GSS and to promote much more interaction across departments and their users. Making the most of this new resource and ensuring a first rate GPT presence on it is an important short term priority for the team.
7. Understanding more about perceived barriers to implementing good practice and working with producers of statistics to overcome these is another key focus for the coming year. Some initial work has been done with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on this topic, and we plan to expand this by engaging more effectively with managers at Grade 6 and Grade 7 level in GSS departments.

Update on Good Practice Team activities*GSS website*

8. We have improved the good practice areas of the GSS website. Most changes went live in February 2014. They include:
- i. a revamped launch page for good practice resources and new contact page;
  - ii. expanded resources on communicating statistics and working with users, bringing together guidance and case studies in a much more integrated way;
  - iii. we will be launching a Good Practice Team blog in March 2014; and
  - iv. interactive community pages for communicating statistics and working with users. The ability to interact with GSS colleagues via the new website is a great opportunity for improved collaboration and we will be working hard to promote the use of these new resources.

*Presentation and dissemination*

9. Statistical commentary remains a key focus for the team. Since March 2013, we have:
- i. delivered about 30 bespoke workshops and presentations on statistical commentary across GSS departments;
  - ii. developed and delivered a 'statistical commentary' module for the GSS Foundation course. The team is working with ONS to embed this module into their Statistical Analyst training scheme;
  - iii. continued to develop the GSS Commentary Champions group. The group is now established, and some departments have embedded peer review processes which are largely self-governing. However, this is not a consistent picture and there is more work to do to expand the network and build resilience locally;
  - iv. continued to facilitate an Assistant Statistician (AS) / Statistical Officer (StO) working group on statistical commentary.
  - v. joined up with the ONS Undergraduate Working Group on Economic Statistics to review statistical releases. This has been very successful and the team will be working with GSS commentary champions to roll the concept out more widely;
  - vi. presented a paper to the ONS Board reviewing GPT work with ONS in 2013. This will result in a series of workshops for senior civil servants focusing on continuous improvement that are planned for June 2014;
  - vii. input into the ONS Statistical Products Working Group and the GSS Task and Finish group on communicating uncertainty;
  - viii. provided ad hoc advice on statistical releases to departments including ONS, Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Department for International Development (DFID); and
  - ix. begun a 'light touch' review of all new statistical publications being released on the Publication Hub, assigning a 'RAG' status to each. This has focussed on statistics that will have a high profile during the Scottish referendum and 2015 general election. The first phase will be completed by the end of March 2014 (with about 200 releases assessed so far). The process has already been very helpful in gauging variations in quality and identifying good practice and areas for improvement and will help the team to focus interventions and monitor its impact.
10. The team is widening its focus to include other aspects of dissemination and presentation. The need to formalise training and guidance on basic principles of data visualisation and presentation across the GSS has already been identified and the team is working with the ONS Data Visualisation Centre on knowledge transfer with a view to having new guidance and training in place by summer 2014. The team will be leading a session at the GSS Data Presentation and Dissemination event in Leeds on 26 March.

*Working with users*

11. Since March 2013 the team has:

- I. expanded the use of user reference panels to provide feedback on statistical releases. The first of these focused on economic statistics and has contributed to the improvement of major ONS releases such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP). A new panel on Health and Social Care statistics was launched successfully in February 2014, supported by an online forum on StatsUserNet. Panel members include representatives from the Royal Statistical Society (RSS), the BBC, Full Fact, local government and the voluntary sector;
- II. delivered about 20 bespoke workshops on working with users across GSS departments and at the GSS Conference;
- III. embedded a 'working with users' module in the GSS Induction and GSS Foundations courses. Work is underway to add this to the ONS Statistical Analyst scheme.
- IV. collaborated with the Royal Statistical Society to create a new prize for the most improved statistical release in their 2014 awards;
- V. worked with DWP, Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG), Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), ONS, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) and the RSS to bring together users and producers of poverty statistics. This process will begin with an event in late April at JRF, to be followed up with a new StatsUserNet community and further events later in the year; and
- VI. planned a GSS event on effective use of social media for user engagement, to take place at Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) in May 2014.

12. Work on user engagement will expand during the next three to six months. Although work with users is already taking place around statistical commentary, wider user engagement is generally less well embedded and will require further, sustained intervention from GPT to build impetus and develop communities of interest.

*Emerging priorities: quality and the GSS data strategy*

13. Quality is a medium term priority for GPT. There are existing models for quality management and tools in place (in particular resources from ONS) to aid practitioners but there is no GSS 'quality community' as yet. The team is keen to explore how the idea of good practice communities might be applied usefully here.

14. The launch of the GSS Data Strategy and the emergence of numerous data-related initiatives around open data, big data and the wider use of management information have raised the profile of this topic in the GSS. Best practice for the GSS Data Strategy and working with departments to build a 'data community' are emerging priorities for the team, but this is an issue for the medium term. GPT will be represented on the newly formed GSS Data Committee in the first instance.

15. Good progress was made against the team's priorities in 2013, although there is a lot more work to do. We will be working hard to address the challenges that are faced and look forward to the opportunities presented by the expanded team and widening remit.

**Good Practice Team, National Statistician's Office, March 2014**





SA(COS)(14)18 – Issues raised with Authority

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(COS)(14)18

***Issues raised with Authority***

Issues raised with the Authority are published on the UK Statistics Authority website at:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/issues-log/index.html>



**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**  
**COMMITTEE FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS**

SA(COS)(14)19

***Risk Management***

**Purpose**

1. The Committee for Official Statistics (COS) has invited the National Statistician's Office (NSO) to present its proposals about Risk Management – both Government Statistical Service (GSS) risks and internal (NSO) risks. This paper sets out a draft NSO Risk Management Policy and the latest versions of the two risk registers.

**Recommendations**

2. Members of the Committee are invited to:
  - i. approve the NSO's Risk Management Policy; and
  - ii. comment on the GSS Risk and NSO Risk Registers.

**Discussion**

3. The NSO Risk Management Policy (**Annex A**) is based on the UK Statistics Authority equivalent. NSO risks and GSS risks are managed by the National Statistician and will be reviewed no less than every six months by COS. The policy sets out our overall approach to risk management covering both sets of risks. Day-to-day management of risks is undertaken in the NSO who monitor and maintain the two risk registers.
4. The GSS risk register currently includes eight strategic risks and the NSO risk register five risks all of which are largely operational. The Committee's views on whether these are the right risks would be welcome.
5. It is planned to present the Risk Management Policy and the GSS risk register to the next meeting of the Heads of Profession Group later this month.

**National Statistician's Office, 13 March 2014**

**List of Annexes**

**Annex A      NSO Risk Management Policy**



## Annex A



### NATIONAL STATISTICIAN'S OFFICE RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

1. This policy sets out how risks are managed in the National Statistician's Office (NSO). It applies to NSO risks and Government Statistical Service (GSS) risks and is based on the UK Statistics Authority equivalent policy.
2. The Authority Board decided to adopt the following approach at its meeting of May 2012:-
  - The Audit Committee has formal responsibility for monitoring of Authority risks. In 2011 the Audit Committee agreed that the Authority Board should consider a high-level set of risks that it could own and periodically review.
  - Identification and management of risks to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) is overseen by the ONS Board.
  - Monitoring and Assessment risks are managed by the Head of Assessment and will be reviewed no less than every six months by the Assessment Committee;
  - NSO risks and GSS risks are managed by the National Statistician and will be reviewed no less than every six months by the Committee for Official Statistics (COS); and,
  - ACE risks are managed by the Head of that Division and will be reviewed no less than every six months in trilateral meetings with the Head of Assessment and the National Statistician.
3. Further guidance on risk management is available in the ONS risk management policy<sup>1</sup>. Where the Authority's risk management policy differs to the ONS policy, the Authority policy will apply to Authority risks.
4. Registers of high-level strategic risks for the NSO and GSS are maintained by the NSO. Each document includes:
  - i. a description of the risk;
  - ii. possible scenarios by which the risk may become realised;
  - iii. an owner for each risk;
  - iv. a description of the inherent risk;
  - v. measures of mitigation; and,
  - vi. a description of the residual risk.
5. The scoring system used for describing inherent and residual risk is that used by ONS (numbers 1 to 5 for likelihood and 1 to 6 for impact). In addition, an overall risk description is retained shown in capitals and italics as 'low', 'medium' or 'high', for illustrative purposes. See below for more information.

<sup>1</sup> <http://intranet/managingyourwork/actscodesandlegislation/corporatepolicy/risk-and-issue-management-policy.asp>

6. Each risk register also includes an indication of the risk appetite. This is currently defined as “Open: Willing to consider all potential delivery options and choose the one that is most likely to result in successful delivery while also providing an acceptable level of reward (and value for money etc.)”.
7. COS will review the NSO and GSS risk registers every six months. Risk owners may escalate their risks at any time for consideration at a meeting of COS, or for consideration by the Chair of that Committee directly. COS will review this policy annually.
8. The NSO will prepare a biannual report to COS to inform its review of NSO and GSS risks. That report will be based on the monitoring of risks by the NSO Management Team which meets monthly. Day to day management of risks will be at Topic Lead level (Grade 7). Topic Leads are expected to escalate concerns about risks to the risk owner at the appropriate time.

**OVERALL RISK APPETITE**

Classification	Description
<b>Averse</b>	Avoidance of risk and uncertainty is a key Organisational objective.
<b>Minimalist</b>	Preference for ultra-safe business delivery options that have a low degree of inherent risk and only have a potential for limited reward.
<b>Cautious</b>	Preference for safe delivery options that have a low degree of residual risk and may only have limited potential for reward.
<b>Open</b>	Willing to consider all potential delivery options and choose the one that is most likely to result in successful delivery while also providing an acceptable level of reward (and value for money etc.)
<b>Hungry</b>	Eager to be innovative and to choose options offering potentially higher business rewards, despite greater inherent risk.

**SCORING RISKS**

**Likelihood x Impact = Exposure**

**Likelihood**

Rating	Description	Score
Rare	Less than 5% likelihood	1
Unlikely	5 to 20% likelihood	2
Possible	20% to 50% likelihood	3
Likely	50% to 80% likelihood	4
Almost Certain	over 80% likelihood	5

**Impact**

Rating	Score
Insignificant	1
Minor	2
Moderate	3
Major	4
Disastrous	6

**Risk Exposure Score**

<b>RISK EXPOSURE SCORE</b>	
1 - 4	Low Risk
5 - 12	Medium Risk
15 -20	High Risk
24 - 30	Corporate Risk





**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY  
COMMITTEE FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS**

SA(COS)(14)20

***A Perspective of the Government Statistical Service (GSS)  
February 2014 – March 2014***

**Purpose**

1. This paper provides an overview of recent activities of the GSS, and cessations of, and public consultations about, official statistics. It includes a mixture of both strategic and operational issues and is intended to help the Committee to decide which issues are worthy of an in-depth examination, whether in seminar format or a substantial paper.

**Recommendations**

2. Members of the Committee are invited to note the paper and provide comments.

**Discussion***Good Practice Team*

3. The Good Practice Team has continued to take forward its strategic priorities, particularly in statistical commentary and user engagement. This has included undertaking an assessment of the GSS's highest profile statistical releases in preparation for informing debate on the Scottish referendum and UK general election. The team has provided a separate paper for the Committee which provides more detail on this.

*Improving Statistical Capability*

4. As part of the 'Improving Statistical Capability' project, the National Statistician's Office (NSO) has begun to focus on planning for 'Analysts for the Future' – looking at the skills likely to be needed, the source of future graduates and the impact of Big Data. With this in mind, a pilot scheme to recruit data scientists rather than statisticians in a few departments is being considered.
5. Round 1 of the Statistical Officer (StO) recruitment 2014 is underway with 165 application forms having been received. Assessment Centres are taking place in London and Newport towards the end of March and the beginning of April.
6. The NSO is reviewing how best to satisfy the increased demand for StOs from departments and it seems likely that a second campaign will commence within the next month or so. More generally, the NSO is preparing some initial proposals for managing recruitment in 2014/15 and beyond which it will present to the Heads of Profession (HoPs) Group later this month. The current staffing numbers for the Government Statistician Group (GSG) are provided in **Annexes A to C**.

*Reform of Regulation 223 – The European Statistical Law*

7. The European Parliament (EP) has refused to continue negotiations on the reform of EU Regulation 223/2009 because the Commission has not been prepared to accept changes to the legal framework for Eurostat's governance. The Commission are insistent that governance must be the same for all Commission Directorates. Negotiations are therefore not expected to be renewed until the next Presidency (Italy) and after the forthcoming EP

elections. Our hope is that the ground we have already won in negotiations so far on ensuring that changes to the law respect subsidiarity in Member States will not be lost. There is a risk however that the Commission might radically re-visit its proposals, especially under its new configuration following the elections. Further risks are also inherent in potential new perspectives from the EP, following the elections.

#### *Eurostat Vision 2.0 – UK line is developing*

8. Member States (MS) and Eurostat have set up a Task Force to review the vision for European Statistics, in order to ensure that MS views and needs are appropriately taken into account in its design and development. A refreshed vision is being developed for approval in May 2014. The current vision is being implemented through a programme of interdependent infrastructure projects aimed at promoting improvements in the efficiency of statistical production through sharing data, services and tools, while at the same time ensuring quality of statistics. However, concerns have emerged among MS about potential up-front costs, confidentiality and quality issues, and duplicated costs for separate processes that may eventually be required to produce statistics for national purposes. ONS is leading the development of the UK line in consultation with the rest of the GSS.

#### *EU Balance of Competences – call for evidence*

9. Over the last nine months, the NSO has worked with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office/Cabinet Office Secretariat to plan the delivery of the statistics report for the Review of the EU Balance of Competences. Within the process there are two cross-Whitehall challenge panels, the first ahead of the release of the call for evidence and the second ahead of the final report. The former was held last week at which the NSO presented its plans and documentation. John Pullinger (Royal Statistical Society (RSS) President) served as the specialist challenger on Statistics and provided some useful feedback that will be used to modify the call for evidence which will focus on initiating public consultation on the impact of European statistics and the costs and benefits of EU statistical regulations. The call for evidence is likely to be published in the week beginning 24 March – the final date being subject to approval from Number 10.

#### *Data Protection Regulation – latest*

10. This Regulation continues its slow progress towards becoming European law (through negotiations between European Parliament and Member States). This is not helped by 4,000 proposed 'amendments' and the Commission's determination to make it a 'global gold standard' which will 'both benefit citizens who want to be able to trust on-line services, and the small and medium sized businesses looking at a single market of more than 500 million consumers'. The deadline for final agreement is the end of 2014. It is unlikely that the new legislation will come into force before mid 2016.

#### *Cuts and Consultations*

11. Since the last report to the Committee on 23 January 2014, there have been no notifications of cessations to the National Statistician.
12. The National Statistician's Office (NSO) has identified five new statistical consultations since the last update to the Committee, four of which are notable:
  - i. The Welsh Government is consulting on proposed indicators for the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2014.

- ii. ONS is consulting on 2012-based Subnational Population Projections for England. The purpose of this consultation is to share with users proposals being made for the outputs and production of the 2012-based Subnational Population Projections.
- iii. ONS is consulting on Country Groupings in International Migration Statistics. ONS would like views on the country groupings used in international migration statistics reporting and data tables.
- iv. HM Revenue and Customs is consulting on the simplification of Intrastat declarations to reduce the burden on businesses.

13. More details on each of the consultations can be found at **Annex D**.

**National Statistician's Office, March 2014**

#### **List of Annexes**

- Annex A Government Statistician Group staffing levels by department**
- Annex B Government Statistician Group by grade**
- Annex C Government Statistician Group by Region**
- Annex D Consultations about Cessation and Changes of Production of Statistics by GSS: 12/03/2014**



**Annex A Government Statistician Group staffing levels by department**

Department	May 2013		July 2013		August 2013		October 2013		January 2014		March 2014	
	SCS (FTE)	Non-SCS (FTE)	SCS (FTE)	Non-SCS (FTE)	SCS (FTE)	Non-SCS (FTE)	SCS (FTE)	Non-SCS (FTE)	SCS (FTE)	Non-SCS (FTE)	SCS (FTE)	Non-SCS (FTE)
BIS	3	55	3	56	3	59	4	59	4	60	4	61
DCLG	2	50	2	53	2	53	2	55	2	56	2	56
DECC	1	28	1	28	1	28	1	28	1	27	1	27
DEFRA	2	27	2	28	2	28	2	29	2	30	2	30
DfE	2	126	2	126	2	126	1	128	1	128	1	128
DfID	1	39	1	39	1	40	1	39	1	38	1	38
DfT	2	45	2	45	2	43	2	44	2	46	2	46
DH	1	51	2	54	2	50	2	52	2	53	2	54
NHSIC	1	91	1	92	1	92	1	92	1	92	1	92
DWP	3	171	3	176	3	175	3	181	3	184	3	184
HMRC	3	139	3	141	3	141	3	141	3	142	3	145
HO	2	25	2	25	2	25	2	25	2	27	2	28
MoD	1	65	1	68	1	69	1	73	1	77	1	79
MoJ	1	77	1	77	1	79	1	82	1	84	1	83
UKSA/ONS	19	132	20	138	20	140	19	143	18	142	18	142
SG	1	191	1	159	1	159	1	159	1	159	1	159
OTHERS	3	172	2	206	4	203	4	204	5	208	4	209
Sub-totals	48	1484	49	1511	51	1510	50	1534	50	1553	49	1561
Totals	1532		1560		1561		1584		1603		1610	

**N.B.** All data reported are rounded, full time equivalent figures. Data excludes staff currently occupying non-analytical posts.



**Annex B Government Statistician Group by grade**

	<b>May 2013</b>	<b>July 2013</b>	<b>August 2013</b>	<b>October 2013</b>	<b>January 2014</b>	<b>March 2014</b>
<b>Statistical Officer Grades</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>863</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>879</b>
<b>Fast Stream</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>148</b>
<b>Grade 6 &amp; 7</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>534</b>
<b>SCS1 (Deputy Directors)</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Directors and above</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1532</b>	<b>1560</b>	<b>1561</b>	<b>1584</b>	<b>1603</b>	<b>1610</b>
<b>Values are rounded to nearest whole number (FTE basis)</b>						





## Annex C Government Statistician Group by Region

GSG by Area	North	Wales/West	London/South East	Scotland	Other	Total
Statistical Officer Grades	238	127	377	133	4	879
Fast Stream	25	21	84	17	1	148
Grades 6 & 7	90	82	289	61	12	534
SCS1 (Deputy Directors)	5	13	20	2	1	41
Directors and above	2	5	1	0	0	8
Totals	360	248	771	213	18	1610

Values are rounded to nearest whole number (FTE basis)



Annex D

**CONSULTATIONS ABOUT CESSATION AND CHANGES OF PRODUCTION OF STATISTICS BY GSS: 12/03/2014**

This table summarises the consultations that have been notified to the National Statistician in the period 24 January 2014 to 12 March 2014 or have been discovered by the National Statistician's Office undertaking periodic trawls of departmental websites.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION	DESCRIPTION OF CONSULTATION	CONSULTATION END DATE AND RESPONSES
<b>Consultations identified prior to 7 March 2014</b>		
<p><b>Consultation on the output of the Mental Capacity Act 2005, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Return (DoLS) implemented in 2013-2014</b></p> <p>Department : HSCIC</p>	<p>This consultation invites responses on the proposed output of the revised Mental Capacity Act 2005, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Return (DoLS) for 2013-2014.</p> <p>HSCIC propose to review the way in which data is reported, and obtain information about what type of data and reporting formats you find useful and beneficial.</p> <p>HSCIC are consulting users following changes made to the Social Care data collections as a result of the Zero Based Review (ZBR). The ZBR recommended the revision of the Mental Capacity Act 2005, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Return (DoLS), which is now an annual return at case level. The first submission of the revised DoLS data to the HSCIC will occur in May 2014 and this data will be reported for the first time over the the next few months.</p>	<p><b>21 April 2014</b></p>
<p><b>Simplification of Intrastat</b></p> <p>Department: HMRC</p> <p>Opening date: 21 January 2014</p>	<p>This consultation invites comments on EU proposals to reduce the burden on businesses required to submit Intrastat declarations, and seeks evidence on their impact on businesses and the statistical data made available to users. HMRC also introduce a workable UK alternative to the EU proposals, and assess and compare the relative impacts, costs and benefits.</p>	<p><b>8 April 2014</b></p>

<p><b>Country Groupings in International Migration Statistics</b></p> <p><b>Department : ONS</b></p> <p><b>Opening Date: 21 January 2014</b></p>	<p>ONS would like views on the country groupings used in international migration statistics reporting and data tables.</p> <p>A variety of country groupings are currently used across different government departments and some groupings have become less relevant as trends in international migration have changed over time. Given the commitment to provide a coherent picture of international migration trends from across the different data available, the departments would like to harmonise the groupings used in the reporting of migration statistics.</p>	<p><b>18 March 2014</b></p>
<p><b>Consultation on the 2012-based Subnational Population Projections for England</b></p> <p><b>Department : ONS</b></p> <p><b>Opening date: 20 January 2014</b></p>	<p>The purpose of this consultation is to share with users proposals being made for the outputs and production of the 2012-based Subnational Population Projections. These projections provide indicative figures of the population over a 25 year horizon to 2037. The consultation will enable ONS to receive feedback from users which will improve the quality and acceptability of the projections when they are published.</p> <p>The target audience for this consultation are representatives from the English local authorities and counties and ONS has arranged a number of meetings which they may attend. However all users are welcome to comment on the consultation papers, in particular the proposed changes to the outputs.</p>	<p><b>28 February 2014</b></p>
<p><b>Proposed indicators for the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2014</b></p> <p><b>Department: Welsh Government</b></p> <p><b>Opening date: 28 November 2013</b></p>	<p>WIMD is the Welsh Government's official measure of relative deprivation in small areas in Wales. The latest index was published in 2011, and an updated index will be published in late 2014.</p> <p>The purpose of this consultation is to expose the current proposals for the domains and indicators for WIMD 2014 to critical review. We are consulting at this stage to allow time for consultation responses to be acted upon, where possible, prior to finalising the details for WIMD 2014.</p>	<p><b>27 February 2014</b></p>