

# **UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

## **Minutes**

**Thursday, 2 October 2014  
Boardroom, London**

### **Present**

#### **UK Statistics Authority**

Sir Andrew Dilnot (Chair)  
Professor David Rhind  
Professor Sir Adrian Smith  
Dame Colette Bowe  
Ms Carolyn Fairbairn  
Dame Moira Gibb  
Professor David Hand  
Mr Ed Humpherson  
Dr David Levy  
Mr John Pullinger  
Mr Glen Watson

### **Secretariat**

Mr Robert Bumpstead  
Mr Joe Cuddeford

### **Apologies**

None

### **Other Attendees**

Mr Paul Johnson and Mr Eric Crane (for item 8)  
Ms Pam Davies (for item 12)

**1. Apologies**

- 1.1 There were no apologies received.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

- 2.1 Dame Colette declared that she had been appointed as the chair of the Banking Standards Review Council.

**3. Minutes and matters arising from previous meetings**

- 3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 31 July 2014 were agreed. Progress with actions was reviewed.
- 3.2 The meeting noted that, since the last meeting of the Authority Board, the National Statistics designation had been withdrawn from the Consumer Price Index including owner occupiers' housing costs (CPIH), following a public exchange of correspondence between the National Statistician and the Authority Chair on 14 August.

**4. Report from the Authority Chair**

- 4.1 The Chair reported on his recent activities, which included presenting the Excellence in Official Statistics awards at the Royal Statistical Society annual conference, and attending the steering group for the ongoing Monitoring Review about the use of deflators in official statistics publications.
- 4.2 The Chair reported that proposals to streamline the Statistics Authority's sub-committee structure had been implemented, with the Authority Board adopting the business of the former ONS Board and the Committee for Official Statistics. The principal sub-committees of the Authority Board were: a Regulation Committee (formerly Assessment Committee), an Audit and Risk Assurance Committee, and a Remuneration Committee. In addition to these committees, the National Statistician had convened an executive group that would manage the day-to-day business of statistical production.
- 4.3 The Board noted the effort and professionalism shown across various ONS business areas, over the last few months particularly, to meet challenging timetables to prepare the articles and releases for publication which accompanied a significant set of changes to the UK National Accounts. Members of the Board expressed their thanks to all those who had been involved in the work.

**5. The Scottish referendum and official statistics**

- 5.1 The Board discussed the possible implication for statistics of the result of the Scottish referendum on independence. With regards to the production of statistics, issues considered included the likely increase in demand for regional statistics (including for cities), potential challenges and costs in producing economic statistics at regional levels, and the coherence of the UK's economic statistics.
- 5.2 The meeting also considered the role of the Statistics Authority as the UK regulator for statistics. Devolution had been built into the *Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007*. The Authority reported to the UK Parliament, the Scottish Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales and the Northern Ireland Assembly. From the outset it had operated in a way consistent with devolution, establishing an office in Edinburgh as well as London and Newport. If responsibility for the production of particular sets of statistics was further

devolved, the Authority was in a position to assess statistics and ensure that standards remained high during transition.

## **6. Reports from Committee Chairs**

### Regulation Committee

- 6.1 Professor Rhind reported on the meeting of the Regulation Committee held on 25 September. The Committee had considered a proposed new policy on the use of ad hoc statistical releases, and six draft Assessment Reports including: the Services Producer Price Index; statistics on inpatients formerly detained in hospitals under the Mental Health Act; and statistics on ambulance service quality indicators.
- 6.2 The Committee had also discussed possible new work which the Authority might undertake with regards to crime statistics, following the recent removal of the National Statistics designation of police recorded crime statistics and other questions about quality and coverage of crime statistics generally. It was agreed that, following the conclusion of an on-going review of the governance of crime statistics, Mr Pullinger would report back to the Board by the end of the year on developments with crime statistics.

### ADRN Board

- 6.3 Professor Hand reported on the meeting of the Administrative Data Research Network (ADRN) Board held on 29 September. The meeting had considered:
- i. a planned Gateway Review ahead of the launch of the Network;
  - ii. legislative issues including reform of UK laws and the potential for new European data protection legislation;
  - iii. arrangements for an approvals panel;
  - iv. potential selection bias from partially linked datasets; and
  - v. the potential cost of data extraction from government departments.
- 6.4 The Authority Board considered whether a new Authority committee for ethics should be established. Such a committee could make decisions about research applications to the ADRN, and/or it could be a forum to explore wider issues related to ethics and data. A paper would be provided to the next Authority Board meeting for discussion.

### Audit and Risk Assurance Committee

- 6.5 Dame Colette reported on the meeting of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee held on 1 October, which had considered the Committee's priorities for the year ahead. It would continue to provide assurance on the efficacy and adequacy of internal controls, and it would also provide more focus on risks to all parts of the Authority, including both production and regulation. The Committee would operate as a working space to discuss issues and potential problems. It would tie its work firmly to the overall corporate strategy and therefore would focus on the risks to delivery of the strategy.
- 6.6 The Authority Board agreed to hold a short workshop about risk at a future meeting.

## **7. Report from the Chief Executive [SA(14)32]**

- 7.1 Mr Pullinger introduced a paper which reviewed progress since the last meeting and set out proposed actions over the period up to the start of the next financial year. The Board noted recent examples of successes, steps taken to reduce barriers to effectiveness, on-going recruitment to build senior leadership capability, and a number of actions taken to simplify and align accountability. The Board welcomed the update.

**8. Update on the Review of the Range of Prices Statistics [SA(14)34]**

8.1 Mr Johnson provided a summary of progress with the Review of the Range of Prices Statistics and emerging recommendations. Since Mr Johnson reported to the June Authority Board meeting, the review team had continued to develop a report and recommendations, and had held discussions with key stakeholders around emerging findings, including with its Advisory Group of experts. Having identified further work to be done, the review team had revised the expected publication date of the report to the end of 2014. This had been communicated via the Authority website and in meetings with stakeholders.

8.2 The Board thanked Mr Johnson for his continuing work on this important matter.

**9. Report from the Director General for Regulation [SA(14)33]**

9.1 Mr Humpherson provided an update on regulation activity since the last meeting.

9.2 The meeting heard that there were signs of increasing awareness of the value of the National Statistics designation. A regulatory culture of openness was being promoted, which had led to some producers of official statistics coming forward to discuss concerns about quality. However there was still insufficiently widespread recognition of the National Statistics brand and further effort would be directed in this area.

9.3 The meeting considered developments with monitoring work about the auditing of administrative data. The Monitoring and Assessment team had published a draft report in July and had been consulting on the draft recommendations. Once the regulatory standards had been established, the focus would then be on encouraging producers to utilise the opportunities that administrative data offered.

**10. Combined strategy [SA(14)35]**

10.1 Mr Pullinger introduced a draft combined strategy, which brought together material from the existing Authority, ONS and GSS strategies. The combined strategy was intended to facilitate the removal of silos, simplify and align accountability and decision-making, and join up activities across the statistical and analytical service.

10.2 The Board welcomed the combined strategy. Some amendments were discussed and agreed. A final revised document would be circulated for approval by the Board in the coming weeks.

**11. Census update [SA(14)36]**

11.1 Mr Watson introduced a paper which provided an update on the development of the business case for the Census Transformation Programme, which would be submitted to HM Treasury in October 2014.

11.2 The Board noted the update. It was reiterated that benefits to the wider organisation from the Census 2021 programme should be maximised, to the extent that this could be achieved without risking delivery of the programme.

**12. The government's review of the EU Balance of Competencies [SA(14)37]**

12.1 Ms Davies introduced a paper which provided an update on the statistics element of the Government's Review of the EU Balance of Competencies.

12.2 The Board noted the draft report. As the document would be a Government report, the judgements about the appropriateness of the current balance of competencies would be for the Government, rather than for the Statistics Authority.

**13. Any Other business**

13.1 There was no other business. The Authority Board would meet next on 6 November 2014 at 10:30 in London.



# UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

## *Agenda*

**Thursday 2 October 2014**  
**Board Room, London, 10:30 – 16:00**

**Chair: Sir Andrew Dilnot**

**Apologies: None**

1	Minutes and matters arising from previous meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Declarations of interest</li></ul>	Meeting of 310714
2	Report from the Authority Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Governance</li><li>• Recruitment</li><li>• Economic statistics</li></ul>	Sir Andrew Dilnot
3	Scottish referendum and official statistics	Discussion Sir Andrew Dilnot
4	Reports from Committee Chairs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ADRN Board</li><li>• Audit and Risk Assurance Committee</li><li>• Regulation Committee</li></ul>	Professor David Hand Dame Colette Bowe Professor David Rhind
5	Report from the Chief Executive	SA(14)32 Mr John Pullinger
6	Report from the Director General for Regulation	SA(14)33 Mr Ed Humpherson
7	Update on the Review of the Range of Prices Statistics	SA(14)34 Mr Paul Johnson
8	Combined strategy	SA(14)35 Mr John Pullinger
9	Census update	SA(14)36 Mr Glen Watson
10	The government's review of the EU Balance of Competencies – statistics	SA(14)37 Ms Pam Davies
11	Any other business	



## UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(14)32

### *Chief Executive's Report*

#### **Purpose**

1. This paper reviews progress since the last Board meeting and my proposed actions over the period up to the start of the next financial year (and the General Election).

#### **Recommendation**

2. Members of the Authority Board are invited to note progress and planned actions over the coming months.

#### **Discussion**

3. At the Board meeting on 31 July I gave a review of what I had heard from people inside and outside the UK statistical system during my first month in post. During August and September, Glen Watson and I have been engaging staff across the Office for National Statistics (ONS), the wider Government Statistical Service (GSS) and beyond on plans for the future. I have felt supported and encouraged by the commitment and enthusiasm that has been shown for the future direction we are setting out.
4. The last three months have been very busy with some major releases of statistics. I am also realising just how extraordinary the UK statistical system is - every day, across the GSS, we are publishing material that is making a major contribution to decisions affecting the future of our nation. Supporting the great majority of our staff working in service delivery roles needs to remain a strong management focus.
5. At the same time we are readying ourselves for the major changes we know to be necessary if the statistical system is to thrive in the longer term. I am confident that we are on track with our planning despite the many risks and pitfalls to be navigated. Those outside the system are willing us to succeed - our success matters to them - but only we can make it happen. Everyone will need to play a part.
6. My thinking for implementation of our strategy is for all our staff to be thinking about their own role - how can I be more helpful to those I serve; how can I demonstrate professionalism by delivering a high quality service that will be trusted; how can I innovate, being curious about what I can do to make things better; how can I be more efficient in my use of resources, money and time; how can I develop my capability and learn new things.
7. The attached document sets out planned actions for developing National Statistics over the months ahead. I am keen to hear the views and advice of the Board.

**John Pullinger, National Statistician, 25 September 2014**

#### **List of Annexes**

**Annex A Developing National Statistics - Planned actions over the next few months**



### Developing National Statistics - Planned actions over the next few months

1. At the Board meeting on 31 July I gave a review of what I had heard from people inside and outside the UK statistical system during my first month in post. I said that in five years' time I would expect that decision-makers across the spectrum, including individuals and businesses as well as government, would value National Statistics as being helpful to them. The biggest decisions would get the best ratings for helpfulness. Confusion about statistics will be much rarer and will be systematically countered by the creation of an information base, equally available to all, that is accepted and used with confidence. The more our economic and social value is accepted and appreciated the more we would be able to draw in the financial and human resources to invest and innovate. Those working as part of the statistical system would feel they are well led and able to make a special contribution to the public good.
2. I identified three priorities for attention. First, informing decisions about the economy. Second, developing population statistics and making a contribution to public policy. Third, investing in data capability - human and technical - placing us at the heart of Civil Service Reform, working with the Cabinet Office and others in thinking through the implications of the data revolution on policy making and service delivery.
3. I noted that the five year horizon is for significant change but in the months ahead we must focus on ensuring that essential statistics are released on schedule and are accepted by our customers. I felt that a major shock to the system now could be counterproductive and said that I did not intend to launch a new change programme. Instead I set out an intention to build on the plans already put in place by the Authority, by ONS and by the GSS notably by:
  - i. showcasing examples of where statistical and analytical work is already assisting decision making in order to demonstrate what success looks like;
  - ii. systematically removing barriers to performance and cooperation - giving people the tools to do their jobs;
  - iii. building leadership capability; and
  - iv. simplifying and aligning accountability.
4. During August and September I shared this analysis and proposition widely. This included a series of joint presentations by Glen Watson and me to GSS, ONS and statistics user audiences. There was a lot of engagement and many detailed, thoughtful and constructive suggestions that have helped shape our thinking. As a result areas that will benefit from greater attention include statistics related to places (which is even more important for us following the outcome of the referendum on independence for Scotland), information about the environment more generally and international matters. My assessment is that the actions we are now taking will stack up well in cost benefit terms and will also support equality, enabling all to contribute successfully to our common endeavour.
5. During this period there has been much to showcase:
  - (a) the release of revisions to the economic picture leading into, through and out of the recession, described as the largest set of changes for a generation, has been an extraordinary endeavour delivered with great professionalism;
  - (b) across the service as a whole statistical activity continued during the period running up to the referendum on independence for Scotland without fuss or controversy;

- (c) the Royal Statistical Society awards for statistical excellence in official statistics celebrated the work of the Ministry of Justice Data Lab and the National Energy Efficiency Framework. Both projects were lauded for their ability to help make important decisions;
  - (d) the dedesignation of the CPIH series was well received by important stakeholders signalling the seriousness with which we take our responsibility for quality;
  - (e) the release of the latest statistics on wellbeing has highlighted again an area where the UK is generally seen as a world leader;
  - (f) DfT statisticians have done some great work to produce easy to understand and engaging releases that drive home the key messages in their numbers. They are taking the initiative to share their approach with others, and are holding workshops in the autumn to share their expertise;
  - (g) the management of operations at the Newport site during the NATO summit was nicely judged enabling business to continue without a hitch during a challenging week for statistical releases; and
  - (h) more generally, I am realising just how extraordinary our statistical system is. Every day, across the GSS, we are publishing material that is making a major contribution to decisions affecting the future of our nation.
6. There have also been some helpful steps seeking to reduce the barriers to effectiveness:
- (a) work on the ONS website is now moving forward in full cooperation with the Government Digital Service and supported by Methods Digital with an expectation that a new alpha site will be ready before Christmas;
  - (b) as well working with the GSS Heads of Profession Group I have started as Chair of the Departmental Directors of Analysis Network, joined the Board of the Whitehall Policy Profession and Heads of Analysis Group and made helpful connections with the Government Office for Science. Each of these groups is well placed to join things up and avoid different communities within the system butting up unhelpfully against each other;
  - (c) Glen Watson is playing a leading role in developing a process to align and deliver initiatives emanating from the European Commission in a more practical and less onerous way; and
  - (d) there are many encouraging examples of people taking the initiative to work together to resolve issues rather than accepting the status quo, feeling powerless or resentful.
7. We are building leadership capability:
- (a) Nick Vaughan has joined ONS at Director level from HM Treasury and Steve Ellerd-Elliott has taken over as Head of Profession at the Ministry of Justice;
  - (b) we are recruiting for new Director General, Economic Statistics and Director General, Data Capability posts. These posts will be based in ONS but with a system-wide remit; and

- (c) we are also recruiting for the Director, Data Collection position and also Chief Digital Officer and Chief Technology Officer positions at Deputy Director level. Again, these posts will be based in ONS but will be positioned to play a role across the GSS and beyond.
8. A number of steps to simplify and align accountability have been taken, including:
- (a) synthesising the Authority, GSS and ONS strategies to provide one guide that should be capable of allowing us to set a direction, monitor progress and enable everyone to see how they can contribute to our collective success;
  - (b) creating a National Statistics Executive Group, chaired by me and designed to support me across the range of my functions, and disbanding the ONS Executive-Leadership Team;
  - (c) making Glen Watson a Deputy National Statistician;
  - (d) changing the reporting line of the ONS Finance function so it reports direct to me as Accounting Officer;
  - (e) supporting Colette Bowe as new Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee; and
  - (f) giving the ONS Portfolio Delivery Unit a management role across the portfolio of programmes rather than just being a coordination function.
9. Over the coming months our main efforts in the area of economic statistics will be to take forward the recommendations in Kate Barker's review of National Accounts and, once it is published, Paul Johnson's review of consumer prices statistics. An early area of progress will be on Flow of Funds, where we will work jointly with the Bank of England.
10. To assist with all this we will set up a London base inside ONS to complement the skills we have in Newport. This will make it easier for us to second staff from elsewhere in the GSS, the Bank of England and various other bodies to work together on solving economic "puzzles" and taking forward development work. Once the DG Economics post is filled we will further enhance our ability to draw on the best possible expertise.
11. In the area of population and public policy we will be seeking agreement from HM Treasury for the business case for the 2021 census and launching the Administrative Data Research Network. We will also be sharpening the case for data sharing legislation that hopefully can be brought forward early in the next Parliament. More generally, we will pull together the threads of our data collection strategy, building on some excellent work on information architecture. Notably, we will begin electronic data collection from businesses as soon as system testing is complete, expected to be in April next year.
12. In addition, I intend that this area, led by Glen Watson, will also support me, working across the GSS, by having oversight of issues connected with places, including devolution, the environment, wellbeing, sustainable development and on the international aspects of all these matters. As the General Election approaches we will be publishing a compendium report to inform the electorate and working closely with Ed Humpherson and his team, and the Cabinet Office, to establish rules of the game during what we can expect will be a challenging period.
13. In the area of data capability, the first priority will remain the ONS website until we have a working system that is getting positive feedback from those who use it. Early signs are promising but we will need to continue to support this work through to conclusion. At the

more strategic level, the agreement to recruit at Director General level in this area signals a responsibility across the civil service that we must take up with vigour.

14. We will need actively to work with teams in the Cabinet Office, the Government Office for Science, the various analyst professions, and the finance and policy profession across government. The Cabinet Office is looking to us to pick up the baton, ideally before Christmas, and start making a serious contribution to the Civil Service Reform programme. Closer to home, we are reviewing our programme management capability. In addition, we are working on a report on statistical capability for consideration by the Board in early 2015.
15. The context for all our work continues to be dominated by the challenging fiscal climate. Preparations for the next Spending Review are already well underway. It will be essential for us to demonstrate that our finance function is first rate and that we are delivering a "digital dividend" from our investments. The statistics futures work that we have been undertaking will help us develop a robust evidence base for what will be challenging decisions. This will also be coupled with more developed workforce plans and improvements to our suite of management information aligned to the integrated strategy.
16. We have an exciting period ahead but the risks we face need careful management if we are not to slip up. Supporting people working on the front line of service delivery, whether they be survey interviewers, data collection teams, those preparing results to tight deadlines for release and many other roles will remain critical as will a continued focus on excellent communication and relationship building.
17. I have been grateful for the wonderful support of colleagues across ONS and the wider GSS over my first three months and am looking forward in return to supporting them over the months ahead.

**John Pullinger, National Statistician, September 2014**

## UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(14)33

### *Report from the Director General for Regulation*

#### **Purpose**

1. This paper provides an update on regulation activity since the last meeting.

#### **Recommendation**

2. Members of the Authority Board are invited to note progress and planned actions.

#### **Discussion**

3. Over the summer we have made progress in a number of areas.
  - i. National Statistics designation. We are seeing some signs that our efforts to promote awareness of and value in the National Statistics designation are making progress. Producers of statistics are starting to engage more openly with the regulatory side where they have issues or concerns they wish to explore. For example, on Consumer Price Index, including owner occupiers' housing (CPIH), the Office for National Statistics (ONS) engaged constructively and openly, and we were able to apply our new policy on temporary suspensions effectively. As a result, the market and media reaction seemed less negative than we'd feared. Alongside this several producers (the Department for Work and Pensions, the Home Office, NHS Scotland, General Register Office, and the Department for Transport) have come forward to discuss concerns about aspects of quality in forthcoming publications - a new and very welcome phenomenon.
  - ii. Widening application of the Code. We have designated ONS's statistics on personal well-being as National Statistics. We have judged that, subject to the implementation of some requirements, the Department for Education's school performance tables can be designated as National Statistics. This shows that the Code can be flexible and cover new areas (well-being) and outputs that are disseminated in on-line formats rather than traditional published bulletins (school performance tables).
  - iii. Quality assurance of administrative data. Following the de-designation of crime statistics, we published our ground-breaking review in July. Since then we have started to consult widely to raise awareness of our key message: administrative data are not always reliable but this need not be a cause of despair for statisticians, because there are a range of practices available to obtain assurance on underlying quality. This message is not always welcome to statisticians, but it is starting to gain traction among the more forward-thinking members of the community.
  - iv. Interventions. The Authority made high profile interventions on: the Prime Minister's comments about the number of jobs created that go to foreign workers; the Government's use, in parliamentary debate, of figures about hospital waiting times; and inconsistencies in the recording and reporting of the amount of tax collected through initiatives to increase tax compliance.
4. Current challenges include:
  - i. National Statistics. Though there has been good progress, described above, there is still insufficiently widespread recognition of the value of the brand, either within or outside the statistical community. It will take a sustained effort over the medium term to make a real impact on this.

- ii. Internal developments. I have been overseeing a series of projects to improve our impact, including reviewing our processes, improving stakeholder engagement and refreshing the content of the regulation pages on the website. These projects, coupled with an ambitious work programme, are placing significant demands on staff and I will be working with my senior team in the coming weeks to see what can be done to ease the pressures on key individuals.

5. Looking to the final quarter of 2014 and the first quarter of 2015, priorities are:

- i. sharpening up the way we respond to concerns about abuses of official statistics, so that in the run-up to the Election we are well-placed to be agile and effective;
- ii. economic statistics: we have two important reviews to publish between November and February – on statistics on income and earnings (likely to be an election battleground) and another on the use of deflators to compare data from different time periods;
- iii. quality assurance of administrative data: we aim to publish our final version – effectively our regulatory standard – in January. A key moment for the Authority as regulator;
- iv. health statistics: we have a programme of work assessing health statistics in England, an area we believe is in need of significant improvement.

**Ed Humpherson, Director General for Regulation, 26 September 2014**

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(14)34

***Update on the Review of the Range of Prices Statistics***

The review of the range of prices statistics will be published on the UK Statistics Authority website in due course.



SA(14)35 – Combined Strategy

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(14)35

4

***Combined Strategy***

This document has been published on the UK Statistics Authority website and is available at:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/news/uk-statistics-authority-statement-of-strategy-2015-2020-better-statistics-better-decisions.pdf>



**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY  
AUTHORITY BOARD**

SA(14)36

5

***Census Transformation Programme Business Case Update***

**Purpose**

1. This paper provides a final update on the development of the business case for the Census Transformation Programme which will be submitted to HM Treasury in October 2014.

**Recommendation**

2. Members of the Authority Board are invited to note:
  - the programme's change of name from the Beyond 2011 Programme to the Census Transformation Programme, which will take effect from 1 January 2015;
  - the extensive business case assurance and approval process that has now been completed; and
  - the programme costs included in the business case

**Discussion**

3. As noted in the update provided to the Authority Board at its meeting on 31 July 2014, the Government has made a very positive formal response to the National Statistician's recommendation for a predominantly online census in 2021 supplemented by increased use of administrative and survey data.
4. We now need to submit an 'interim Outline Business Case' to Treasury to formally underpin the recommendation and to support a bid for 2015/16 funds. It will also form the basis for our bid in the anticipated 2015 spending review. The business case has now been approved by the ONS Executive Leadership Team and we plan to submit it to HM Treasury by 10 October 2014.
5. The paper brought to the Authority Board on 31 July included information about implementation plans, the relationship to other ONS activities, a brief summary of the five cases included in the business case, and the business case assurance and approval process.
6. This paper provides an update in particular on the assurance and approval processes for the interim Outline Business Case, and summarises the final spending bid.

**Assurance mechanisms**

7. All the assurance and approval processes outlined in the previous paper have been completed.
8. The business case has now been approved by:
  - i. the Beyond 2011 Programme Board;
  - ii. the ONS Business Investment Group;
  - iii. the ONS Portfolio Scrutiny Committee; and
  - iv. the ONS Executive Leadership Team
9. In addition it has been assured by:

- i. a Business Case Review Group, which has met quarterly for the past three years, and includes Joe Grice (ONS Chief Economic Advisor), Treasury, ONS Portfolio Delivery Unit and a user representative (Professor David Martin);
  - ii. Deloitte experts (cost-benefit analysis only);
  - iii. Oxford Global Projects (optimism bias adjustments through reference class forecasting - as per Treasury Green Book guidance); and
  - iv. an Office of Government Commerce (OGC) Gateway review team (whole programme review).
10. All have confirmed the validity of the business case development approach and outcomes.
  11. In summary, the OGC Gateway review gave the programme an "amber/green" delivery confidence rating, and concluded that "this is a well run programme with strong likelihood of success".
  12. The Gateway review also concluded that:
    - "there is widespread confidence in the approach that the programme has adopted following the following the public consultation exercise and a broad consensus the ambition for the 2021 Census can be delivered";
    - "the goal of using administrative data is important to ONS, Ministers and wider stakeholders"; and
    - "stakeholder engagement and management is a real strength in the programme and is judged by many as exemplary".
  13. With regard to the business case, the Gateway review concluded that "the cost/benefit remains very positive and the case for change is strongly made".
  14. The possibility of a second review of the business case by Adrian Smith and David Rhind was raised at the last Authority Board meeting. In discussion with the Board secretariat, in the light of the extensive assurance and approval processes, it was agreed that this would not be necessary.
  15. Some minor drafting comments remain outstanding, and the final version will be signed off by the Programme's Senior Responsible Owner, Ian Cope, before submission to Treasury by the Chief Finance Officer, Paul Layland.

#### Programme finance

16. The programme costs are based on a detailed cost model and, as per Treasury/Major Projects Authority guidance, provide a cost envelope (including contingency/"optimism bias adjustment") within which we are confident the programme can be delivered. Cost estimates will be refined over time, and we have indicated to Treasury that these are likely to reduce as we get increasing clarity over plans and the details of the census operational design. Estimates will be refined when the next business case is submitted in early 2016, with an interim update for the anticipated 2015 spending review.

17. The costs (£ million), in 2015/16 prices, are as follows:

2021 Census costs	588
2021 Census optimism bias	88
<b>Total Census Costs</b>	<b>676</b>
Admin Data, Beyond 2021	120
Optimism bias	83
<b>Total admin data / beyond 2021 costs</b>	<b>203</b>
<b>Grand Total (15/16 prices)</b>	<b>879</b>

18. Applying inflation assumptions for each year over the next decade gives an estimated cash cost of £974 million.
19. The business case for the Census Transformation Programme has been extensively assured, and is now ready for submission to HM Treasury.

**Pete Benton, Beyond 2011 Programme Director, 23 September 2014**



SA(14)37 – The Government’s Review of the EU Balance of Competencies -  
Statistics

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(14)37

***The Government’s Review of the EU Balance of Competencies-Statistics***

This document will be published in due course at the link below:

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