

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

Minutes

**Meeting of Friday 24 February 2012
Board Room, Drummond Gate, London**

Present

UK Statistics Authority

Sir Michael Scholar (Chair)
Lord Rowe-Beard
Mr Richard Alldritt (not for items 12 to 13)
Dr Colette Bowe
Mr Partha Dasgupta
Dame Moira Gibb
Mr Stephen Penneck (not for items 9 to 13)
Professor David Rhind
Sir Jon Shortridge

Secretariat

Mr Robert Bumpstead
Mr Joe Cuddeford

Other Attendees

Mr Ross Young (for item 8)

Apologies

Ms Jil Matheson

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Ms Matheson.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes, matters arising from the previous meeting

3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 January were accepted as a true and fair account.

3.2 It was agreed that item 6 on the agenda regarding ONS 2012 would be taken at the end of the meeting.

4. Authority Chair's Report

The Chair reported that the Chair of the Public Administration Select Committee (PASC) had raised an issue related to statistics on crime and the riots of summer 2011. The Monitoring and Assessment team had investigated and the team's findings would be published on the Authority website in due course. The meeting welcomed the positive engagement with PASC and confirmed that the office of the Chair would continue to be resourced so as to be in a strong position to respond to future issues.

5. Reports from Authority Committee Chairs

Assessment Committee

5.1 Sir Michael Scholar reported on the outcome of the February Assessment Committee, which had considered 11 draft assessment reports via correspondence and these would be considered later in the meeting.

Committee for Official Statistics

5.2 Professor Rhind reported on the meeting of the Committee for Official Statistics held on 15 February. The meeting had considered progress with improving the commentary that accompanies official statistics. A suggestion had been made at the meeting that the Authority should facilitate the production of one or more exemplar statistical releases from ONS. The Authority Board welcomed this suggestion and agreed to set up a workshop to improve selected statistical releases. A separate but related issue of the support offered by ONS to journalists should be considered by the ONS Board.

Office for National Statistics Board (ONS)

5.3 Sir Jon Shortridge reported on a meeting of the ONS Board on 17 February. The meeting had considered a report from the Director General of ONS and had reviewed risks and progress with major programmes and projects. The Board had considered reports on the decline in use of the ONS website, the Web Data Access project and plans for release of the first outputs from the Census.

5.4 The meeting had also heard that the Chair of the ONS Board had recently visited the ONS site at Christchurch and would be discussing the issues arising at the next meeting of the ONS Board.

6. ONS Publications Policy and the Media [SA(12)07]

- 6.1 The Chair introduced a paper which discussed the circumstances surrounding the media reporting of ONS mortality statistics on the number of people who die from malnutrition and thirst in hospitals, and the number of people who die from pressure ulcers and infected wounds. The meeting heard that ONS had provided data to newspaper journalists, accompanied by a good account of the potential pitfalls in interpretation, but that this explanation, along with the statistics, had not been published on the ONS website; and that the statistics themselves had been misrepresented in the Press. The case raised wider questions about the current ONS practice, including the provision of a grace period to the customer before supplying the data or explanation to others.
- 6.2 Mr Penneck reported that there had been a lack of clarity within ONS with regards to its publications policy, that practice had been inconsistent, and that practice was being reviewed.
- 6.3 The meeting agreed that the remedial action needed was clear and remitted implementation of the matter to the ONS Board, prior to subsequent approval at the next Authority meeting.
- 6.4 The meeting heard that the National Statistician would develop further guidance on the application of the Code to the publication of secondary data and analysis for the wider Government Statistical Service.

7. Corrections to ONS Statistical Releases

The meeting heard that new proposals for the correction of statistical releases had taken ONS longer to develop than anticipated, but a solution had now been devised. The meeting agreed that these proposals should be circulated to Board members for consideration.

8. Draft Monitoring Brief: Statistics for Parliamentary Constituencies [SA(12)08]

- 8.1 The meeting considered a draft Monitoring Brief on statistics for parliamentary constituencies. The Authority Board had considered earlier drafts at its meetings of 28 October 2011 and 27 January 2012.
- 8.2 The Board agreed that the amendments that had been made adequately reflected the differing degrees of complexity in implementation for various statistics. The meeting approved the Brief for publication, subject to some further agreed minor amendments, and commended the authors of the brief.

9. Assessment Reports for Approval [SA(12)09]

- 9.1 Mr Alldritt reported that the Assessment committee had recommended that the following ten assessment reports be published:
- i. AR 181: Statistics on Forestry (Forestry Commission)
 - ii. AR 182: Statistics on Output in the Construction Industry in Northern Ireland (Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency)
 - iii. AR 183: Statistics on National Insurance Contributions and Qualifying Years and Second Tier Pension Provision (Department for Work and Pensions)
 - iv. AR 184: Statistics on Road Reliability and Congestion (Department for Transport)
 - v. AR 185: Statistics on Post-School Education, Training and Employment (Department for Education)

- vi. AR 186: Statistics on Defence Personnel (Ministry of Defence)
- vii. AR 187: Statistics on UK Business Population and Demography (Office for National Statistics and Department for Business, Innovation and Skills)
- viii. AR 188: Statistics on Children's Social Care in Northern Ireland (Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Northern Ireland)
- ix. AR 189: Statistics on Scottish Businesses and Research and Development (Scottish Government)
- x. AR 190: Statistics on Culture, Leisure and Sport (Department for Culture, Media and Sport)
(In total 10 Assessment reports, covering 29 outputs)

9.2 The meeting approved these assessment reports for publication.

10. Draft Assessment Report 180: Annual Business Inquiry [SA(12)10]

10.1 The meeting noted the challenging requirements and suggestions in the assessment report and the positive response from ONS in respect of meeting them.

10.2 The meeting approved the report for publication. It was agreed that progress made by ONS in meeting the requirements would be considered by the Authority Board prior to designation as National Statistics.

11. Assurance on Statistical Certification in Greece

Mr Alldritt reported on recent meetings sponsored by Eurostat and initiated at the request of a consultant working on Eurostat's behalf with the Greek statistical office.

12. ONS 2012

The meeting noted, and discussed, the latest developments in the ONS 2012 work programme to deliver the ONS vision and improvements in ONS outputs and services.

13. Any other business

There was no other business.

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Agenda

Friday, 24 February, 2012
Board Room, Drummond Gate, 11:15 - 15:00

Chair: Sir Michael Scholar

Apologies: Ms Jil Matheson

1	Minutes and matters arising from previous meeting Declarations of interest	Meeting of 270112
2	Authority Chair's Report	Oral Report Sir Michael Scholar
3	Reports from Authority Committee Chairs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Assessment Committee● Committee for Official Statistics● ONS Board	Oral Reports Sir Michael Scholar Professor David Rhind Sir Jon Shortridge
4	ONS Publications Policy and the Media	SA(12)07 Secretariat
5	Corrections to ONS Statistical Releases	Oral Report Mr Stephen Penneck
6	ONS 2012	Oral Report Sir Michael Scholar
7	Draft Monitoring Brief: Statistics for Parliamentary Constituencies	SA(12)08 Mr Ross Young
8	Assessment Reports for Approval Draft Assessment Report 180: Annual Business Inquiry	SA(12)09 SA(12)10 Mr Richard Alldritt
9	Assurance on Statistical Certification in Greece	Oral Report Mr Richard Alldritt
10	Any other business	

Next Meeting: Friday, 30 March, 2012
Drummond Gate, London, 11:15 - 15:00

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SA(12)07

ONS Publications Policy and the Media

This document has been published on the Office for National Statistics website.

To see this document go to:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/media-centre/statements/ons-publication-policy-on-ad-hoc-media-requests/index.html>

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(12)08

Draft Monitoring Brief: Statistics for Parliamentary Constituencies

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-briefs/monitoring-brief-2-2012---statistics-for-parliamentary-constituencies.pdf>

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(12)09

Assessment Reports for Approval

These documents have been published on the UK Statistics Authority website.

To see these documents go to:

Assessment Report 181: Statistics on Forestry

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-181---forestry-statistics.pdf>

Assessment Report 182: Statistics on Output in the Construction Industry in Northern Ireland

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-182---statistics-on-output-in-the-construction-industry-in-northern-ireland.pdf>

Assessment Report 183: Statistics on National Insurance Contributions and Qualifying Years and Second Tier Pension Provision

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-183---statistics-on-national-insurance-contributions-and-qualifying-years--and-second-tier-pension-provision.pdf>

Assessment Report 184: Statistics on Road Reliability and Congestion

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-184---statistics-on-road-reliability-and-congestion.pdf>

Assessment Report 185: Statistics on Post-School Education, Training and Employment

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-185---statistics-on-post-school-education--training-and-employment.pdf>

Assessment Report 186: Statistics on Defence Personnel

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-186---statistics-on-uk-defence-personnel.pdf>

Assessment Report 187: Statistics on UK Business Population and Demography

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-187---statistics-on-uk-business-population-and-demography.pdf>

Assessment Report 188: Statistics on Children's Social Care in Northern Ireland

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-188---statistics-on-children-s-social-care-in-northern-ireland.pdf>

SA(12)09 – Assessment Reports for Approval

Assessment Report 189: Statistics on Scottish Businesses and Research and Development

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-189---statistics-on-scottish-businesses-and-research-and-development.pdf>

Assessment Report 190: Statistics on Culture, Leisure and Sport

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-190---statistics-on-participation-in-culture--leisure-and-sport.pdf>

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SA(12)10

Draft Assessment Report 180 – Annual Business Inquiry

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

To see this document go to:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-180---statistics-from-the-annual-business-survey.pdf>

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

Information Paper

Results of the 2011 People Survey

Purpose

1. This paper presents the 2011 People Survey results for the UK Statistics Authority.

Recommendations

2. Members of the Authority Board are invited to note the findings from the 2011 People Survey.

Discussion

3. The 2011 People Survey is the third annual Civil Service-wide survey of staff attitudes and experiences of work. The survey was carried out in 97 organisations between 19 September and 21 October 2011.
4. Due to problems with the survey design in previous years, results for the different areas of the Authority (the Monitoring and Assessment team, the National Statistician's Office and the Secretariat) were unreliable. The survey design was improved in 2011 and results now allow comparisons to be made.
5. An 'Employee Engagement Index' is calculated as a weighted average of responses to five key questions, with a higher score indicating a positive response. The questions cover pride, advocacy, attachment, inspiration and motivation. The Employee Employment Index scores for the Authority are as follows:

Monitoring and Assessment	69%
National Statistician's Office	60%
Secretariat	75%
Statistics Authority (excluding ONS)	66%
Civil Service Average	56%
ONS	56%

6. The table at **Annex A** presents these scores alongside results from other government departments.
6. Detailed results for the Monitoring and Assessment team, the National Statistician's Office and the Secretariat are at **Annex B**.
7. Information about follow-up activity and how the business areas are using the findings of the results can be provided on request. Results for ONS were discussed at the January meeting of ONS Board [SA(ONS)(12)09].

Secretariat, February 2012

List of Annexes

- Annex A Employee Engagement Index scores by organisation**
Annex B Detailed scores for the UK Statistics Authority

Results of the 2011 People Survey

	Organisation	Engagement Index
1	Attorney General's Office	73
2	Wilton Park	72
3	The Royal Parks	71
4	Department for International Development	71
5	Vehicle Certification Agency	69
6	HM Inspectorate of Education	69
7	Foreign and Commonwealth Office (excluding agencies)	68
8	National Savings & Investment	68
9	UK Statistics Authority (excluding ONS)	66
10	Veterinary Medicines Directorate	66
11	Debt Management Office	66
12	Estyn	66
13	National Measurement Office	65
14	HM Treasury (excluding agencies)	65
15	Government Actuary's Department	65
16	The National Archives	65
17	Historic Scotland	65
18	Social Work Inspection Agency	65
19	Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service	64
20	Ordnance Survey	64
21	Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Ministry of Defence)	64
22	Transport Scotland	64
23	Office of Fair Trading	63
24	Scotland Office, Office of the Advocate General and Wales Office	63
25	Accountant in Bankruptcy	63
26	Treasury Solicitor	62
27	Fire Service College	62
28	Department of Energy & Climate Change	62
29	General Register Office for Scotland	62
30	Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator	62
31	Companies House	61
32	The Planning Inspectorate	61
33	Met Office	61
34	UK Hydrographic Office	61
35	Centre for Environment, Food and Aquaculture Science	61
36	Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency	61
37	Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service	61
38	Department for Education	60
39	Government Equalities Office	59
40	Ministry of Justice Arms Length Bodies	59
41	Scottish Government (excluding agencies)	59
42	Ministry of Defence (excluding agencies)	58
43	Health and Safety Executive	58
44	Cabinet Office (excluding agencies)	57
45	Veterinary Laboratories Agency	57
46	Home Office (excluding agencies)	57
47	Highways Agency	57
48	National Archives of Scotland	57
49	Scottish Court Service	57
50	Scottish Public Pensions Agency	57
51	Welsh Assembly Government	57
52	Office for National Statistics	56
53	Civil Service overall 2010 benchmark (median)	56
54	Buying Solutions	56
55	Export Credits Guarantee Department	56
56	Criminal Records Bureau	56

Results of the 2011 People Survey

	Organisation	Engagement Index
57	Ministry of Justice (excluding agencies)	56
58	Maritime and Coastguard Agency	56
59	Scottish Prison Service	56
60	Central Office of Information	55
61	Charity Commission	55
62	Foreign and Commonwealth Office Services	55
63	Department of Health (excluding agencies)	55
64	National Offender Management Service	55
65	Tribunals Service	55
66	Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission - Corporate Services	55
67	National School of Government	54
68	Department for Culture, Media and Sport (excluding agencies)	54
69	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (excluding agencies)	54
70	Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	54
71	Office of the Rail Regulator	54
72	Scottish Housing Regulator	54
73	Crown Prosecution Service	53
74	Office of the Public Guardian	53
75	Disclosure Scotland	53
76	Intellectual Property Office	52
77	Defence Support Group	52
78	HM Courts Service	52
79	Ofsted	52
80	Serious Fraud Office	51
81	Insolvency Service	51
82	Office of Government Commerce	51
83	Animal Health	51
84	Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (excluding agencies)	50
85	Food and Environment Research Agency	50
86	Identity & Passport Service	50
87	Department for Transport (excluding agencies)	50
88	Driving Standards Agency	50
89	Student Awards Agency for Scotland	50
90	Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	49
91	Department for Communities and Local Government (excluding agencies)	48
92	Food Standards Agency	48
93	Valuation Office Agency	48
94	Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission - Commission Executive	48
95	HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate	47
96	Government Car and Despatch Agency	47
97	Department for Work and Pensions (including Jobcentre Plus)	46
98	UK Border Agency	44
99	Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority	44
100	Registers of Scotland	44
101	Land Registry	41
102	Government Office Network	40
103	Rural Payments Agency	40
104	Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission - Child Support Agency	38
105	HM Revenue and Customs	34

¹ Scores for UK Statistics Authority and Office for National Statistics are for the 2011 survey. Results for other departments are currently only available for the 2010 survey.

Results of the 2011 People Survey

	M&A	NSO	Secretariat	Civil Service	ONS
Employment Engagement Index	69	60	75	56	56
My work	M&A	NSO	Secretariat	Civil Service	ONS
I am interested in my work	100	90	100	88	87
I am sufficiently challenged by my work	79	63	70	75	69
My work gives me a sense of personal accomplishment	86	72	80	72	69
I feel involved in the decisions that affect my work	50	58	80	49	46
I have a choice in deciding how I do my work	79	74	100	71	72
Organisational objectives and purpose	M&A	NSO	Secretariat	Civil Service	ONS
I have a clear understanding of the Authority/NSO/ONS's purpose	86	90	100	84	84
I have a clear understanding of the Authority/NSO/ONS's objectives	71	84	100	79	77
I understand how my work contributes to the Authority/NSO/ONS's objectives	86	84	100	81	82
My line manager	M&A	NSO	Secretariat	Civil Service	ONS
My manager motivates me to be more effective in my job	57	50	90	63	63
My manager is considerate of my life outside work	100	63	90	79	82
My manager is open to my ideas	86	63	100	79	77
My manager helps me to understand how I contribute to the Authority/NSO/ONS's objectives	57	58	100	59	56
Overall, I have confidence in the decisions made by my manager	71	68	100	71	70
My manager recognises when I have done my job well	64	65	100	76	78
I receive regular feedback on my performance	71	32	80	60	63
The feedback I receive helps me to improve my performance	64	42	60	58	56
I think that my performance is evaluated fairly	57	28	90	62	64
Poor performance is dealt with effectively in my team	36	5	80	37	37
My team	M&A	NSO	Secretariat	Civil Service	ONS
The people in my team can be relied upon to help when things get difficult in my job	86	60	90	82	82
The people in my team work together to find ways to improve the service we provide	86	55	90	79	77
The people in my team are encouraged to come up with new and better ways of doing things	93	55	100	69	71

Results of the 2011 People Survey

	M&A	NSO	Secretariat	Civil Service	ONS
Learning and development					
I am able to access the right learning and development opportunities when I need to	57	55	90	54	61
Learning and development activities I have completed in the past 12 months have helped to improve my performance	50	50	60	45	44
There are opportunities for me to develop my career in the Authority/NSO/ONS	14	40	60	32	33
Learning and development activities I have completed while working for the Authority/NSO/ONS are helping me to develop my career	50	55	80	40	38
Inclusion and fair treatment	M&A	NSO	Secretariat	Civil Service	ONS
I am treated fairly at work	93	70	100	78	82
I am treated with respect by the people I work with	100	85	100	83	87
I feel valued for the work I do	71	45	90	59	61
I think that the Authority/NSO/ONS respects individual differences (e.g. cultures, working styles, backgrounds, ideas, etc)	93	60	100	70	79
Resources and workload	M&A	NSO	Secretariat	Civil Service	ONS
In my job, I am clear what is expected of me	71	70	100	89	87
I get the information I need to do my job well	71	68	100	71	72
I have clear work objectives	64	65	80	82	79
I have the skills I need to do my job effectively	100	85	100	89	90
I have the tools I need to do my job effectively	64	75	60	73	71
I have an acceptable workload	50	45	90	71	69
I achieve a good balance between my work life and my private life	71	60	89	77	78
Pay and benefits	M&A	NSO	Secretariat	Civil Service	ONS
I feel that my pay adequately reflects my performance	43	35	40	32	31
I am satisfied with the total benefits package	50	30	40	34	35
Compared to people doing a similar job in other organisations I feel my pay is reasonable	43	20	40	28	25
Leadership and managing change	M&A	NSO	Secretariat	Civil Service	ONS
I feel that the Authority/NSO/ONS as a whole is managed well	50	35	100	41	34
Senior Civil Servants in the Authority/NSO/ONS are sufficiently visible	86	70	90	45	33
I believe the actions of SCS are consistent with the Authority/NSO/ONS's values	71	45	90	39	29

Results of the 2011 People Survey

I believe that the Authority/NSO/ONS's senior managers have a clear vision for the future of the Authority/NSO/ONS	38	65	90	39	34
Overall, I have confidence in the decisions made by the Authority/NSO/ONS SCS	64	50	100	36	25
I feel that change is managed well in the Authority/NSO/ONS	50	40	80	27	22
When changes are made in the Authority/NSO/ONS they are usually for the better	64	40	60	23	18
The Authority/NSO/ONS keeps me informed about matters that affect me	57	60	100	55	58
I have the opportunity to contribute my views before decisions are made that affect me	46	63	90	36	30
I think it is safe to challenge the way things are done in the Authority/NSO/ONS	79	55	100	38	40
Engagement	M&A	NSO	Secretariat	Civil Service	ONS
I am proud when I tell others I am part of the Authority/NSO/ONS	64	55	60	52	49
I would recommend the Authority/NSO/ONS as a great place to work	64	50	80	43	49
I feel a strong personal attachment to the Authority/NSO/ONS	57	45	80	45	40
The Authority/NSO/ONS inspires me to do the best in my job	64	35	60	38	35
The Authority/NSO/ONS motivates me to help it achieve its objectives	57	35	70	35	32
Taking action	M&A	NSO	Secretariat	Civil Service	ONS
I believe that SCS in the Authority/NSO/ONS will take action on the results from this survey	71	25	80	39	36
I believe that managers where I work will take action on the results from this survey	71	45	80	48	47
Where I work, I think effective action has been taken on the results of the last survey	43	15	60	29	30
UK Statistics Authority/ONS questions	M&A	NSO	Secretariat	Civil Service	ONS
I believe that the Authority/NSO/ONS is a better place to work than 12 months ago	43	30	50		11
The Authority/NSO/ONS is committed to valuing diversity in the workplace	93	60	90		81
The Authority/NSO/ONS's policies and strategies promote diversity in the workplace	50	50	100		75
I am unable to take sufficient breaks	93	60	70		70
I have unrealistic time pressures	43	45	70		63
I have a say in my own work speed	64	55	80		70
I have some say over the way I work	93	85	100		80