

# **UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

## **Minutes**

**Meeting of Friday 27 January 2012  
Board Room, Drummond Gate, London**

### **Present**

#### **UK Statistics Authority**

Lord Rowe-Beddoe (Chair)

Mr Richard Alldritt

Dr Colette Bowe

Mr Partha Dasgupta

Dame Moira Gibb

Ms Jil Matheson

Mr Stephen Penneck (not for item 12 and 13)

Professor David Rhind

Sir Jon Shortridge

#### **Secretariat**

Mr Robert Bumpstead

Mr Mervyn Stevens

#### **Other Attendees**

Mr Derek Bird (ONS for items 6 to 8)

Mr Richard Laux (Monitoring and Assessment for items 6 to 12)

Mr Ross Young (Secretariat for item 11)

#### **Apologies**

Sir Michael Scholar

## Minutes of the UK Statistics Authority Meeting 270112

### 1. Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Sir Michael Scholar.
- 1.2 The meeting observed a minute of silent reflection to mark the death since the last meeting of the Authority's Deputy Chair with responsibility for official statistics, Professor Sir Roger Jowell.

### 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 16 December were accepted as a true and fair account.
- 3.2 The meeting discussed matters arising including the Authority's statement on management information, and, current finance issues.

### 4. Reports from Authority Committee Chairs

#### Audit Committee

- 4.1 Professor Rhind reported on the Audit Committee's workshop held on 5 December which had carried out a review of the Committee's effectiveness. The Committee had reviewed its: terms of reference; priorities for 2012; information requirements; personnel attending meetings; and, its skills and training requirements.
- 4.2 Professor Rhind also reported on the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 19 December. The meeting had received a report from the Head of Internal Audit on progress with the internal audit work programme for 2011/12, and had considered seven internal audit reports. Update reports from ONS on the budgetary position, information security and information technology risks had also been considered.
- 4.3 The Committee had approved a plan submitted by the National Audit Office (NAO) for the external audit of the Authority for 2011/12, and had endorsed proposals for the publication of the Authority's Annual Report and Accounts 2011/12.

#### Assessment Committee

- 4.4 Professor Rhind reported that the Assessment Committee had considered 10 draft Assessment Reports via correspondence and the Committee had recommended that these be published.
- 4.5 In considering draft Assessment Report 170: Statistics on Output and New Orders in the Construction Industry (ONS), the Assessment Committee had considered how corrections to statistical releases should be made. The Authority Board further considered the issues and agreed that:
  - i. errors should be corrected as swiftly and transparently as possible;
  - ii. the corrected version should be clearly marked as updates, with reference to the changes made;
  - iii. there should be a clear, public audit trail to the incorrect version, which should be publicly available; and
  - iv. this should be implemented in such a way to minimise public confusion about the correct version to be used.
- 4.6 It was agreed that Mr Penneck and Mr Alldritt would meet to discuss how this policy might best be implemented, with a view to Mr Penneck presenting proposals to the Authority Board in advance of the next meeting.

## Minutes of the UK Statistics Authority Meeting 270112

4.7 In noting that the Assessment Committee would not be meeting in person over the next few months but would be considering draft Assessment Reports via correspondence, the Authority confirmed that it was content that these arrangements provided an efficient and effective process for the review of draft Assessment Reports. It was agreed that the Committee would probably need to meet in due course to consider further the evolution of the assessment process as the first programme of Assessments came to an end.

4.8 Ms Matheson informed the meeting that she had agreed that the National Statistician's Office would take a risk-based approach to the consideration of draft Assessment Reports and would only provide comments for the Assessment Committee where there were new or contentious issues, or where there were unresolved disagreements between the producers of the statistics and the Monitoring and Assessment team.

### Office for National Statistics Board (ONS)

4.9 Lord Rowe-Beddoe reported on the meeting of the ONS Board on 13 January. The meeting had considered a report from the Director General of ONS and had reviewed risks and progress with major programmes and projects. The meeting had received a report on the progress of the ONS 2012 programme.

4.10 The Board had also received an update on the transfer of responsibility for crime statistics from the Home Office to ONS, had endorsed a skills strategy for ONS for 2011 to 2015, and had considered the headline results from the People Survey 2011.

## **5. ONS 2012**

5.1 Ms Matheson reported on a programme of work to deliver the ONS vision and improvements in ONS outputs and services. A mid-programme report had been provided to the meeting of the ONS Board on 13 January which indicated that the programme was on track to deliver its objectives by 31 March 2012.

5.2 Four of the six new Executive Director posts had been filled internally and a recruitment exercise for the two remaining posts had commenced. Further structural changes at Senior Civil Service level would be implemented with the aim of providing improved governance arrangements and greater clarity of roles and accountabilities.

5.3 In noting these developments it was agreed that Ms Matheson would provide further briefing before the next meeting of the Authority on the structural changes to ONS and the new Director roles to Dr Bowe and Professor Rhind.

## **6. Retail and Consumer Price Indices [SA(12)00]**

6.1 The meeting noted that Kate Barker CBE had written to the Chair on 6 January regarding issues around the use of the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) as the key measure of inflation. The letter from Ms Barker had been copied to the National Statistician and the Director General of ONS, and the Chair had made an interim reply on 11 January. The meeting considered a reply that Mr Penneck had made to Ms Barker on 26 January and noted that the Chair would be making his own substantive reply in due course.

## **7. Update on the Consumer Prices Advisory Committee (CPAC) Work Programme [SA(12)01]**

7.1 Mr Bird provided an update on progress made by ONS on Consumer Prices Advisory Committee (CPAC) work programme. The work on incorporating owner occupiers' housing (OOH) costs in the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) was progressing and remained on schedule for implementation in early 2013.

## Minutes of the UK Statistics Authority Meeting 270112

7.2 ONS had received no responses to the public consultation on the proposed changes to the measurement of new car prices in the RPI and CPI. The Bank of England had determined that these changes did not constitute a fundamental change to the RPI. ONS had announced on 17 January that these changes would be included in the February 2012 indices, which would be published in March 2012. The February 2012 CPI would also include television licence payments, which were already incorporated in the RPI.

7.3 It was agreed that ONS would provide further updates on progress for the Authority Board following each meeting of the Consumer Prices Advisory Committee.

### **8. Progress in Meeting Assessment and Monitoring Report Recommendations [SA(12)02]**

8.1 Mr Laux reported on progress that ONS had made to address the requirements and suggestions for improvement in the Assessment Report 79 on the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) and the Monitoring Brief on 'Communicating Inflation'. The Assessment team considered that ONS had satisfactorily fulfilled all of the five requirements from the Assessment Report 79 and were recommending that these statistics be designated as National Statistics.

8.2 The meeting noted progress and confirmed that the statistics covered in Assessment Report 79 should be designated as National Statistics, and commended ONS good practice in progressing suggestions as well as requirements. It was also agreed that the progress report on the ONS implementation of the recommendations in the Monitoring Brief on 'Communicating Inflation' should be published.

### **9. UK Statistics Authority Annual Report and Accounts 2011/12 [SA(12)03]**

9.1 Mr Bumpstead presented proposals for the publication of the Authority's Annual Report and Accounts 2011/12. It was proposed that the Annual Report and Accounts be published in one volume and laid before Parliament and the devolved legislatures before the parliamentary summer recess.

9.2 The meeting approved these proposals.

### **10. Draft Monitoring Brief: Creating Official Statistics from Administrative Data [SA(12)04]**

10.1 Mr Laux introduced a draft Monitoring Brief on creating official statistics from administrative data. An earlier draft had been considered by the Committee for Official Statistics at its meeting in November 2011 and the revised draft included comments from statisticians in the Scottish Government and Ministry of Justice.

10.2 The meeting approved the Monitoring Brief for publication on the Authority's website, subject to agreed amendments and it being approved by the Authority Chair. The meeting agreed the importance of the issues raised for the future of official statistics. Once agreed, the Brief should also be sent to the Minister for the Cabinet Office, Rt. Hon. Francis Maude MP and the Minister of State for Universities and Science, Rt. Hon. David Willetts MP.

### **11. Draft Monitoring Brief: Statistics for Parliamentary Constituencies [SA(12)05]**

11.1 Mr Young introduced a draft Monitoring Brief on statistics for parliamentary constituencies. The Authority Board had considered an earlier draft via correspondence in October and had agreed at the meeting on 28 October 2011 that a further draft should be considered at a future meeting.

## Minutes of the UK Statistics Authority Meeting 270112

11.2 The meeting agreed that a further draft, which reflected the differing degrees of complexity in implementation for various statistics, should be considered in due course.

### **12. Assessment Reports for Approval [SA(12)06]**

12.1 The Head of Assessment reported that he and the Assessment Committee had recommended that the following 10 Assessment Reports be published:

- i. AR 170 Statistics on Output and New Orders in the Construction Industry (Office for National Statistics)
- ii. AR 171 Statistics on Child Support in Great Britain (Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission)
- iii. AR 172 Statistics on Indirect Taxes in the UK (HM Revenue & Customs)
- iv. AR 173 Statistics on Sustainability and the Environment in England and the UK (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)
- v. AR 174 Statistics on School Workforce in England (Department for Education)
- vi. AR 175 Statistics on Fraud and Error in the Benefit System in Great Britain (Department for Work and Pensions)
- vii. AR 176 Statistics on Abortion (Department of Health)
- viii. AR 177 Statistics on Immigration (Home Office)
- ix. AR 178 Statistics on Health Inequalities in England and Wales (Office for National Statistics)
- x. AR 179 Statistics on Defence Inflation (Ministry of Defence)

*(In total 10 Assessment reports, covering 40 outputs)*

12.2 The meeting approved these Assessment Reports for publication.

### **13. Any other business**

13.1 The Authority discussed the ONS release on 25 January of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) figures for the fourth quarter of 2011

13.2 There was no other business.

# UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

## *Agenda*

**Friday, 27 January, 2012**

**Board Room, Drummond Gate, London, 11:15 - 15:00**

**Chair: Lord Rowe-Beddoe**

**Apologies: Sir Michael Scholar**

1	Minutes and matters arising from previous meeting Declarations of interest	Meeting of 161211
2	Reports from Authority Committee Chairs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Audit Committee</li><li>● Assessment Committee</li><li>● ONS Board</li></ul>	Oral Reports Professor David Rhind Professor David Rhind Lord Rowe-Beddoe
3	ONS 2012	Oral Report  Ms Jil Matheson
4	Retail and Consumer Price Indices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Update on ONS Work on the Consumer Prices Advisory Committee (CPAC) Work Programme</li><li>● Progress in Meeting Assessment and Monitoring Report Recommendations</li></ul>	SA(12)01  SA(12)02  Mr Derek Bird Mr Neil Jackson
5	UK Statistics Authority's Annual Report and Accounts 2011/12	SA(12)03  Mr Robert Bumpstead
6	Draft Monitoring Briefs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Creating Official Statistics from Administrative Data</li><li>● Statistics for Parliamentary Constituencies</li></ul>	SA(12)04  SA(12)05  Mr Richard Alldritt Mr Ross Young
7	Assessment Reports for Approval	SA(12)06  Mr Richard Laux
8	Any other business	

**Next Meeting: Friday, 24 February, 2012**  
**Drummond Gate, London, 11:15 - 15:00**

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(12)01

***Update on ONS Work on the Consumer Prices Advisory Committee  
(CPAC) Work Programme***

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

To see this document go to:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/development-programmes/other-development-work/consumer-prices-advisory-committee/cpac-papers/index.html>

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(12)02

***Progress in Meeting Monitoring and Assessment  
Recommendations on Consumer Price Indices***

**Purpose**

1. This paper reports on the steps that ONS has taken to address the requirements and suggestions for improvement in the Assessment Report on Consumer Price Indices and the Monitoring Brief on Communicating Inflation. It provides an update to a previous progress report to the Board in September 2011.

**Recommendations**

2. Members of the Authority Board are invited to:
  - i. note the progress that ONS has made in addressing the requirements and suggestions for improvement in the Assessment Report and Monitoring Brief (paragraphs 3 to 6 and **Annex A**);
  - ii. confirm the designation as National Statistics of the statistics covered in Assessment Report 79 on Consumer Price Indices (paragraph 4); and
  - iii. agree that the progress update shown in **Annex B** should be published on the Authority's website, alongside the Monitoring Brief on Communicating Inflation (paragraph 7).

**Discussion**

3. Assessment Report 79 on Consumer Price Indices identified five requirements and seven suggestions for improvement. The Monitoring Brief on Communicating Inflation invited ONS and the Consumer Prices Advisory Committee (CPAC) to consider eight suggestions for improvement. **Annex A** provides a summary of the steps that ONS has taken to address each of these requirements and suggestions, along with the Assessment team's views about whether the requirements and suggestions have been fully addressed.
4. At its meeting in September, the Authority concluded that ONS had satisfactorily addressed all the requirements in the Assessment Report with the exception of requirement 4, which concerns the need to improve the accessibility of information about consumer price indices. ONS has since made a number of significant improvements to the accessibility of information about these statistics on its website. In particular, the ONS website now includes a 'CPI homepage' that provides users with access to a range of information about consumer price indices. Annex A identifies some ways in which ONS might further improve the accessibility of this information, and ONS has agreed to consider these further. But on the basis of the steps that ONS has already taken, we consider that ONS has fully met this one outstanding requirement from Assessment Report 79. On that basis, we recommend that the Authority confirms the designation of these statistics as National Statistics.
5. The progress report to the Authority in September 2011 noted the Assessment team's view that suggestions 3, 5, 6 and 7 in the Assessment Report had yet to be met. In the light of the further actions that ONS has taken, we now consider suggestion 3 to have been fully met; and we expect suggestion 7 to be addressed in February, when ONS publishes a summary of changes that it has made to its pre-release access lists for these statistics. ONS plans to take further actions during the course of 2012 that will address suggestions 5 and 6.
6. The progress report in September also noted the Assessment team's view that suggestions 1(b), 2(c), 3, 6 and 8 in the Monitoring Brief had yet to be met. We now



consider suggestions 2(c), and 6 to have been fully met; we expect suggestion 8 will be fully met in February, when ONS publishes a paper about perceptions of inflation; and suggestions 1(b) and 3 should be fully met during the course of 2012, once ONS has consulted users about its strategy for consumer prices.

7. At its meeting in December 2011, the Authority agreed to the publication of progress reports in implementing recommendations made in Monitoring Reports and Briefs. The Board asked to consider a progress report on the Monitoring Brief Communicating Inflation at its meeting in January, in the context of an update from ONS on its work on inflation indices. A draft progress report is attached at Annex B, based on the material presented in Annex A. We have invited ONS comments on the accuracy of this report. The Authority is invited to agree that this progress report be published on the Authority's website, alongside the Monitoring Brief on Communicating Inflation, suitably amended for any comments on accuracy provided by ONS.

**Neil Jackson, Monitoring and Assessment, January 2012**

#### **List of Annexes**

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>Annex A</b> | <b>Review of actions taken to address Requirements and suggestions for improvement in the Assessment Report and Monitoring Brief on consumer price indices</b> |
| <b>Annex B</b> | <b>Draft Summary of Progress in implementing Authority Recommendations in the Monitoring Brief on Communicating Inflation</b>                                  |

**Annex A: Review of actions taken to address Requirements and suggestions for improvement in the Assessment Report and Monitoring Brief on consumer price indices**

Requirement	Summary of Producer response	Assessment Team view on the extent to which this requirement has been met
<p><b>Requirement 1</b> Take steps to develop a greater understanding of the use made of the statistics; publish the relevant information and assumptions and use them to better support the use of the statistics (para 3.4).</p>	<p>ONS published a note <i>How ONS Consumer Price Statistics are used</i> on the ONS website in August 2011 at the same time as the RPI/CPI publication on the 16th August.</p> <p><a href="http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/user-guidance/prices/cpi-and-rpi/cpi-statistics-usage.html">http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/user-guidance/prices/cpi-and-rpi/cpi-statistics-usage.html</a></p>	<p><b>Met</b></p> <p>The note provides a good and thorough summary of uses and users of these statistics. It cross-refers to ONS's overall user engagement strategy and lists specific groups of users. It provides a link to the Assessment Report. The note also provides detailed information on the range of uses of CPI, including the use of the index within government and by the public and the media.</p> <p>ONS has set up a new RPI/CPI User Group under the auspices of the Statistics User Forum of the Royal Statistical Society. The first meeting of the group was held in November at which ONS sought the views of the group on a range of developments. ONS plans to consult the group on a range of further developments in 2012, including on its draft strategy for consumer prices.</p>
<p><b>Requirement 2</b> Publish information about the timeliness of these statistics, and how it might be improved (para 3.7).</p>	<p>ONS published a short note on <i>Improving the Timeliness of CPI and RPI Publications</i> alongside the RPI/CPI publication on the 12 July 2011.</p> <p><a href="http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/user-guidance/prices/cpi-and-rpi/improving-the-timeliness-of-the-cpi-and-rpi-publication.pdf">http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/user-guidance/prices/cpi-and-rpi/improving-the-timeliness-of-the-cpi-and-rpi-publication.pdf</a></p>	<p><b>Met</b></p> <p>This brief note describes new systems that ONS is developing to improve the collection and production process which should allow earlier publication of CPI and RPI data. The note states that these new systems will be fully in place towards the end of 2012. Nearer that time, ONS will publish information about the scope to speed up the publication of the CPI and RPI.</p>
<p><b>Requirement 3</b> Publish information about the history and the reasons for the differences in scope and methods between the CPI and RPI; and explain the</p>	<p>ONS has produced two articles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>History of and differences between the Consumer Prices Index and Retail Prices Index</i> published alongside the July 2011 RPI/CPI publication.</li> <li>2. <i>Implications of the differences between</i></li> </ol>	<p><b>Met</b></p> <p>The history article (1) outlines the history behind the development of the RPI and CPI, describes the similarities and differences between the indices. The article includes a section entitled 'Differences between CPI and RPI and the resulting implications' but this mainly contains further</p>

Annex A - SA(12)02 - Progress in Meeting Assessment and Monitoring Report Recommendations on CPI

<p>implications that these differences have for the uses to which these statistics are put (para 3.21).</p> <p>Links to Suggestion 1 from Monitoring Brief</p>	<p><i>the Consumer Price Index and Retail Price Index</i> published alongside the August RPI/CPI publication.</p> <p><a href="http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/user-guidance/prices/cpi-and-rpi/index.html">http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/user-guidance/prices/cpi-and-rpi/index.html</a></p>	<p>detail on the methodological differences between the indices.</p> <p>The implications article (2) briefly summarises the implications of the differences between the RPI and CPI for their use. The article also contains a number of annexes, one of which covers the history of the development of the indices which replicates much of the information in article 1. Annexes 6 and 7 assess the implications of the differences between the CPI and RPI for their uses, respectively, as macroeconomic measures of inflation and for compensation purposes</p>
<p><b>Requirement 4</b> Ensure that the planned improvements to ONS's website will improve the accessibility of information on the full range of documents and datasets relating to these statistics (para 3.38).</p>	<p>The new ONS website was launched on August 28th 2011, and ONS has made a number of further improvements to the accessibility of information about these statistics since then. These include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ONS now publishes an extensive set of micro data covering price quotes, individual item indices and complete weighting frameworks for the CPI back to 1996.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/cpi/consumer-price-indices/cpi-and-rpi-item-indices-and-price-quotes/index.html">http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/cpi/consumer-price-indices/cpi-and-rpi-item-indices-and-price-quotes/index.html</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Excel file is published that provides extensive data that underlie the latest statistical release; ONS has also improved the ease with which users can download individual data series.</li> <li>• In response to feedback from the Assessment team, ONS now directs users to the following 'CPI homepage', from where a wide range of information about these statistics can be accessed:</li> </ul>	<p><b>Met</b></p> <p>ONS has made a number of significant improvements to the accessibility of information about these statistics on its website. The development of a 'CPI homepage' addresses Requirement 4 directly. The statistical release itself helpfully provides a link to this homepage. There is still scope to improve accessibility of information from this homepage, through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 'CPI homepage' is not labelled as such, and looks more like the front page for the latest statistical release. It would be helpful if ONS could communicate to users that this page is intended to provide the most suitable starting point for finding other, more detailed information about these statistics;</li> <li>• The CPI homepage could provide clearer signposting to recent developments that concern these statistics. For example, it does not provide any signposting to the extensive data that ONS now publishes on price quotes and on individual price indices; nor does it provide a link to where information can be found about the work of the Consumer Prices Advisory Committee (CPAC).</li> <li>• The 'CPI homepage' could provide access to a wider set of relevant articles that ONS has published about consumer price indices.</li> </ul> <p>ONS has told us that it will consider these matters further.</p> <p>The extensive data that ONS now publishes on price quotes and on</p>

Annex A - SA(12)02 - Progress in Meeting Assessment and Monitoring Report Recommendations on CPI

	<p><a href="http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/cpi/consumer-price-indices/december-2011/index.html">http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/cpi/consumer-price-indices/december-2011/index.html</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ONS has responded to feedback from the Assessment team and addressed concerns about tables having been detached from the statistical release and ensured all links in the bulletin work properly.</li> </ul>	<p>individual price indices is a very welcome development, providing a rich source of information that would support more detailed investigation of different aspects of the price indices.</p>
<p><b>Requirement 5</b> Ensure that all releases are issued at 9.30am on the day of release (para 3.44).</p>	<p>ONS told us that recent CPI/RPI statistical bulletins have been issued at 09:30am.</p>	<p><b>Met</b></p> <p>ONS reviewed the matter of 9.30am releases as part of its web development programme, and has informed the Statistics Authority that its website is now able to issue National Statistics releases at 9.30am.</p>
<p><b>Suggestion 1</b> Establish an up-to-date official position on relative regional consumer price levels and regional price indices (para 3.9).</p>	<p>ONS published a report on the <i>UK relative Regional Consumer Price levels for Goods and Services for 2010</i> alongside the July 2011 RPI/CPI publication.</p>	<p><b>Met</b></p> <p>The 2010 results compare price relatives for London, England (excluding London), Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The release notes that the next update is likely to be in 2017 when a full update of RRCPLs will be published for the 2016 reference year, in order to meet Eurostat obligations.</p> <p>The report notes that ONS is investigating ways to produce more regular regional price data. If the investigations are successful, ONS aims to publish 2011 regional data by mid-2012.</p> <p>As a minor point, this article does not appear to be readily accessible from the new 'CPI homepage'. ONS has agreed to investigate this further.</p>

Annex A - SA(12)02 - Progress in Meeting Assessment and Monitoring Report Recommendations on CPI

<p><b>Suggestion 2</b> Describe ONS's overall approach to improving the way in which the RPI is constructed, taking account of the constraints imposed by legislation (para 3.14)</p>	<p>Details have been published in the article <i>History of and Differences between the Consumer Prices Index and retail Prices Index</i> (pages 2-4) referred to under Requirement 3 above.</p>	<p><b>Met</b></p> <p>The article includes a good outline of the changes to the RPI since the 1950s. The article also references appendix 1 of the CPI technical manual for further information and a series of articles on the NS website.</p>
<p><b>Suggestion 3</b> Publish the results of pilot work to collect prices data over a longer period each month once it is complete (para 3.20).</p>	<p>An update on the results of pilot work to collect prices data over a longer period each month was published on the CPAC webpage in the July 2011 meeting paper pack. ONS has noted the Authority's comments regarding the accessibility of the papers and will consider how accessibility can be improved.</p>	<p><b>Met</b></p> <p>ONS has published information about the findings from this pilot work and has published a timetable for further work that is now planned, and which will build on the pilot findings.</p>
<p><b>Suggestion 4</b> Consider reinstating some international comparisons in <i>Consumer Price Indices Statistical Bulletin</i> (para 3.34).</p>	<p>ONS now publishes a detailed set of tables in spreadsheet format, alongside the statistical release. These include two tables that compare inflation statistics for each of the different Member States of the European Union:</p> <p><a href="http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/cpi/consumer-price-indices/december-2011/cpi-and-rpi-detailed-reference-tables.xls">http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/cpi/consumer-price-indices/december-2011/cpi-and-rpi-detailed-reference-tables.xls</a></p>	<p><b>Met</b></p> <p>ONS now publishes a detailed set of tables in spreadsheet format, alongside the statistical release. These include two tables that compare inflation statistics for each of the different Member States of the European Union.</p>
<p><b>Suggestion 5</b> Provide further information in <i>Focus on Consumer Prices</i> about the uses and potential uses of the pensioner price indices and about the methods used to compile them (para 3.36).</p>	<p><i>Focus on Consumer Prices</i> was discontinued with the introduction of the one-stop shop for all CPI and RPI data. Chapter 10.8 of the CPI Technical Manual provides details of the methods used to produce the pensioner indices. No further information has yet been published on the uses of these indices. ONS plans to update the statement <i>'How ONS consumer price statistics are used'</i> during the course of 2012, to include information about the use that is made of pensioner price</p>	<p><b>Due to be met during the course of 2012</b></p> <p>ONS has published information about the methods used to produce the pensioner indices and plans to publish information about the uses and potential uses of these indices during the course of 2012.</p>

Annex A - SA(12)02 - Progress in Meeting Assessment and Monitoring Report Recommendations on CPI

	indices.	
<b>Suggestion 6</b> Consult users about the need for separate price indices for a range of different household types, as part of implementing Requirement 1 (para 3.36).	<p>ONS plans to pick up the issue of a range of price indices for different user groups as part of a new strategy for consumer price statistics. The draft strategy has been published as part of the papers that were discussed by CPAC at its meeting in November 2012.</p> <p>A new RPI/CPI User Group has been set up under the auspices of the Statistics User Forum of the Royal Statistical Society. The first meeting of the group was held in November at which provisional views were sought on a range of developments. The issue of separate price indices for a range of different household types was raised in that meeting but received negligible support from the 45 plus group.</p>	<p><b>Due to be met during the course of 2012</b></p> <p>ONS has taken some soundings from users about the need for a range of different indices for different household types, but found negligible support.</p> <p>ONS plans to return to this issue when it consults users about its new strategy for consumer prices, which includes the idea of a 'family' of indices that could include series based on different population bases and coverage etc, reflecting the range of different user needs.</p>
<b>Suggestion 7</b> Publish a summary of the changes made to the pre-release access lists (para 3.43).	<p>ONS agreed to publish a summary of changes made to the pre-release access list for the CPI in July 2011.</p> <p>ONS previously drafted an information note in response to this suggestion (see attached draft file) though it appears there was some uncertainty about whether this suggestion might require an ONS global response. The Authority's latest communication suggests it would like a response specific for CPI/RPI. Prices Division will update the original draft such that it is available for publication with the release of January 2012 indices on 14 February 2012.</p>	<p><b>Due to be met by February 2012</b></p> <p>ONS plans to publish information in February 2012 that will meet this suggestion.</p>
<b>MONITORING BRIEF</b>		
<b>Implement the matters raised in the Assessment</b>		

Annex A - SA(12)02 - Progress in Meeting Assessment and Monitoring Report Recommendations on CPI

<b>report</b>		
<p>1. Take forward the matters raised in the Assessment Report, including:</p> <p>a) establish an up-to-date official position on regional indicators; and</p> <p>b) consult on the demand for indices for different household types (paragraph 2.4).</p>	<p>The ONS response to matters raised in the Assessment Report is set out in the main part of this report.</p>	<p><b>1(a) has been met; 1(b) is due to be met during the course of 2012</b></p> <p>See under suggestions 1 and 6 above (for the Assessment Report)</p>
<p><b>Improve the understanding of the appropriate uses of inflation statistics</b></p>		
<p>2. (a) Carry out more analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the CPI and RPI as macroeconomic measures of inflation and as compensation indices;</p> <p>(b) As part of the analysis at (a), examine the benefits and disadvantages of using the preferred macroeconomic measure of UK inflation as a compensation index, and the practicality of using different measures for these distinct uses; and</p> <p>(c) Use the analysis at (a) and (b) to guide future development of the indices (paragraph 4.10).</p>	<p><b>ONS's response to suggestions 2 and 3:</b></p> <p>ONS has published 2 articles listed under Requirement 3 of the AR which include information on the strengths and weaknesses of the CPI and RPI.</p> <p>These issues have been discussed with users as part of the action to meet recommendation 1 of the main Assessment report. ONS also invited users' views about the issues raised in these articles following their publication, but received minimal feedback.</p> <p>ONS told us that the findings from these articles have been taken into account in developing a draft strategy for consumer prices, and that it plans to consult users about this strategy during the course of 2012.</p>	<p><b>Met</b></p> <p>ONS has published 2 articles that present its analysis of the issues covered in this suggestion,. The findings from these articles have been taken into account in ONS's draft strategy for consumer prices, which sets out its plans for the future development of the indices.</p>

Annex A - SA(12)02 - Progress in Meeting Assessment and Monitoring Report Recommendations on CPI

<p>3. In the context of this analysis, consult users on whether the current proposals for improving the CPI while maintaining the RPI represent a suitable approach to developing improved measures of inflation, while continuing to meet users' needs for existing measures (paragraph 4.14).</p>	<p>The future relative priority for the development of the RPI and CPI will be covered as part of the new strategy for consumer price statistics. ONS plans to consult users about this strategy during the course of 2012.</p>	<p><b>Due to be met during the course of 2012</b></p> <p>We expect this suggestion to have been fully addressed once ONS has consulted users about its new strategy for consumer prices, which it plans to take forward during the course of 2012.</p>
<p>4. Include in the <i>Consumer Price Indices</i> statistical bulletin a fuller discussion of the uses and potential uses of the different statistics on inflation, and provide some signposting to further guidance on the suitability of the different indices for particular uses. Review the continuing user requirement for RPIX and for two separate measures that exclude indirect taxation, CPIY and RPIY, and the way these measures are described and presented in <i>Consumer Price Indices</i> (paragraph 5.10).</p>	<p>The Consumer Prices Statistical Bulletin was redesigned in 2010. Users were consulted in late 2010 on what further changes were wanted, including requirements for particular indices. The Statistical Bulletin was further revised late in 2010 to reflect the user requirements. Following the redesign of the Consumer Price Indices Statistical Bulletin, ONS provided commentary on the CPIY, RPIY and CPI-CT indices when the rate of VAT increased in January 2011. Information published in the Background Notes of the release is consistent with the points made in paragraphs A5.20 and A5.21 of the Monitoring Brief.</p> <p>In further response to this suggestion, ONS invited feedback from users about their continuing requirements of the RPIX, CPIY and RPIY and how these indices may be better communicated.</p>	<p><b>Met</b></p> <p>The statistical release for these statistics includes some discussion about the uses that are made of the different price indices. ONS told us that it plans to include within the release a link to the document <i>How the Consumer Price Statistics are used</i>, which provides more information about the uses that are made of these statistics.</p> <p>ONS has reviewed the continuing user requirement for RPIX, CPIY and RPIY.</p>
<p><b>Improve the presentation of and commentary about the</b></p>		



Annex A - SA(12)02 - Progress in Meeting Assessment and Monitoring Report Recommendations on CPI

statistics		
<p>5. Review the need for three separate monthly publications to release these statistics, and consider whether other arrangements would allow these statistics to be communicated more clearly (paragraph 5.3).</p>	<p>ONS is changing the publication arrangements along the lines suggested in the Monitoring Brief, as part of the move to the new website:</p> <p>(a) ONS now publishes a complete set of data tables within one 'file' at the time of the CPI and RPI publication. Before, many data tables were published almost a week later within Focus on Consumer Prices. This means that these data are now available to users earlier than currently and in a much more user friendly mode. Focus on Consumer Price Indices is no longer published. The guidance and advice that accompanied the tables in that publication are already mostly available elsewhere and where not, have been added to appropriate existing documentation; and</p> <p>(b) ONS now publishes a short summary of the data headlines and accompany this with a more detailed briefing note. This is consistent with the suggested approach in paragraph A1.4 of the Monitoring Brief.</p>	<p><b>Met</b></p> <p>The <i>Focus on Consumer Prices</i> publication has been replaced by detailed tables that are published in excel format at the same time as the main CPI/RPI statistical bulletin, a week earlier than previously</p>
<p>6. Build on the recent improvements in the <i>Consumer Price Indices</i> statistical bulletin by (a) including additional commentary on specific external developments that have an impact on the indices; (b) drawing attention to any particular significance of the latest figures and (c) including a clear explanation whenever the difference between the</p>	<p>ONS list a range of actions that they have taken to address this requirement.</p>	<p><b>Met</b></p> <p>ONS has taken a number of steps to improve the way in which it communicates information about these statistics in the statistical release.</p>

Annex A - SA(12)02 - Progress in Meeting Assessment and Monitoring Report Recommendations on CPI

<p>CPI and RPI headline measures of inflation is significant (paragraph 5.5).</p>		
<p><b>Better support the news media</b></p>		
<p>7. Support the news media in relation to the communication of the statistics by (a) producing additional published material for users and journalists on the differences between a consumer price index and a cost of living index; and (b) considering ways of bringing to a wider audience the important messages about inflation statistics that are published in <i>Economic and Labour Market Review</i> (paragraphs 5.13 and 5.15).</p>	<p>(a) This is covered by our response on Requirement 3 above.</p> <p>(b) This is covered by our response on Requirement 1 of the Assessment Report 79: Consumer Price Indices (see above).</p>	<p><b>Met</b></p> <p>ONS has produced additional material for users and journalists on the differences between a consumer price index and a cost of living index in the two articles published in response to Requirement 3 of the Assessment Report.</p> <p>ONS has discontinued publication of <i>Economic and Labour Market Review</i>. It now publishes information about consumer price indices in stand-alone articles that are disseminated through the 'CPI Homepage'.</p>
<p><b>Address perceptions of inflation</b></p>		
<p>8. Evaluate how effective the 'personal inflation calculator' has been in addressing perceptions of inflation. Also, consider, with users, whether there are any lessons for the UK from the German index of perceptions of inflation that might supplement the work that ONS has already carried out on the way in which inflation is perceived (paragraphs 5.17 and 5.18).</p>	<p>ONS is currently drafting an article on understanding and measuring perceptions of inflation. The article covers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a consideration of the effectiveness and the use of the personal inflation calculator;</li> <li>• a review of existing measures of UK perceptions of inflation;</li> <li>• a review of international methods for measuring perceptions of inflation, with a focus on the German Index of Perceived Inflation, and consideration of whether there are any lessons for the UK</li> </ul>	<p><b>Due to be met by February 2012</b></p> <p>The article that ONS plans to publish in February 2012 should address this suggestion.</p>

Annex A - SA(12)02 - Progress in Meeting Assessment and Monitoring Report Recommendations on CPI

	The article is due to be published in February 2012.	
--	--	--

**Annex B Draft Summary of Progress in implementing Authority  
Recommendations in the Monitoring Brief on Communicating  
Inflation**

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-1-2012---monitoring-update---january-2012.pdf>

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(12)03

***UK Statistics Authority's Annual Report and Accounts 2011/12***

This document will be published on the UK Statistics Authority website in due course.

The document will be available at:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/what-we-do/corporate-information/annual-report-and-resource-accounts/index.html>

SA(12)04 – Draft Monitoring Brief: Creating Official Statistics from  
Administrative Data

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(12)04

***Draft Monitoring Brief: Creating Official Statistics from  
Administrative Data***

This document will be published on the UK Statistics Authority website in due course.

The document will be available at:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/monitoring/monitoring-briefs/index.html>

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(12)05

***Draft Monitoring Brief: Statistics for Parliamentary Constituencies***

This document will be published on the UK Statistics Authority website in due course.

The document will be available at:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/monitoring/monitoring-briefs/index.html>

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(12)06

***Assessment Reports for Approval***

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

To see these documents go to:

Assessment Report 170: Statistics on Output and New Orders in the Construction Industry (Office for National Statistics)

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/report-170---statistics-on-output-and-new-orders-in-the-construction-industry.pdf>

Assessment Report 171: Statistics on Child Support in Great Britain (Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission)

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/report-171---statistics-on-child-support-in-great-britain.pdf>

Assessment Report 172: Statistics in Indirect Taxes in the UK (HM Revenue & Customs)

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/report-172---statistics-on-indirect-taxes.pdf>

Assessment Report 173: Statistics on Sustainability and the Environment in England and the UK (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/report-173---statistics-on-sustainability-and-the-environment-in-england-and-the-uk.pdf>

Assessment Report 174: Statistics on School Workforce in England (Department for Education)

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/report-174---statistics-on-the-school-workforce-in-england.pdf>

Assessment Report 175: Statistics on Fraud and Error in the Benefit System in Great Britain (Department for Work and Pensions)

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/report-175---statistics-on-fraud-and-error-in-the-benefits-system-in-great-britain.pdf>

Assessment Report 176: Statistics on Abortion (Department of Health)

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/report-176---statistics-on-abortion.pdf>

Assessment Report 177: Statistics on Immigration (Home Office)

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/report-177---statistics-on-immigration.pdf>



## SA(12)06 – Assessment Reports for Approval

Assessment Report 178: Statistics on Health Inequalities in England and Wales  
(Office for National Statistics)

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/report-178---statistics-on-health-inequalities.pdf>

Assessment Report 179: Statistics on Defence Inflation (Ministry of Defence)

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/report-179---statistics-on-defence-inflation.pdf>