

# UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

## Minutes

Thursday, 9 May 2013  
Boardroom, London

### **Present**

#### **UK Statistics Authority**

Mr Andrew Dilnot (Chair)  
Professor David Rhind  
Professor Sir Adrian Smith  
Mr Richard Aldritt  
Dr Colette Bowe  
Mr Partha Dasgupta  
Ms Carolyn Fairbairn  
Dame Moira Gibb  
Professor David Hand  
Dr David Levy  
Ms Jil Matheson  
Mr Glen Watson

### **Secretariat**

Mr Robert Bumpstead  
Mr Mervyn Stevens

### **Apologies**

None

**1. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

**2. Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Minutes, matters arising from the previous meetings**

3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 March 2013 were agreed as a true and fair account.

3.2 At the next meeting there would be a further discussion about pre-release access to official statistics and a progress report on the ONS Beyond 2011 programme.

3.3 Following the discussion at the last meeting, the Authority had made a response on 2 May to the report of the Public Administration Select Committee (PASC) '*Public Trust in Government Statistics: A review of the operation of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007*'.

**4. Authority Chair's Report**

4.1 The Chair welcomed Ms Fairbairn and Professor Hand to their first meeting as members of the Authority Board.

4.2 Mr Alldritt had informed the Chair of his decision to retire on 31 October. Recruitment for a successor to Mr Alldritt as the Authority's Head of Assessment would commence soon. The position would be open to applicants from outside the Civil Service. The selection panel would include the Authority Chair, Professor Rhind and Dr Bowe.

4.3 The Chair would be attending a meeting of the Cabinet's Ministerial Committee on Home Affairs on 14 May to discuss the future provision of population statistics for England and Wales.

4.4 The Authority would be announcing shortly its two reviews into:

- the range of consumer price statistics produced for the UK to best meet current and future user needs; and
- the governance arrangements and structures supporting the production of consumer price statistics by the ONS.

4.5 The Chair reported on his recent activities which included meetings with: the President of the Royal Statistical Society, John Pullinger; the Comptroller and Auditor General, Amyas Morse; the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, Margaret Hodge; the Chief Secretary to HM Treasury, Danny Alexander; the Permanent Secretary at the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Robert Devereux; and the Chair of PASC, Bernard Jenkin.

4.6 The Chair informed the meeting that, in response to a complaint from the Trades Union Congress, he would be sending a letter that day to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Iain Duncan Smith regarding statistics about the benefits cap which had been published recently by the Department for Work and Pensions.

## 5. Reports from Authority Committee Chairs

### Audit Committee

- 5.1 Mr Dasgupta reported on the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 14 March. The meeting had considered reports from Internal Audit and had been pleased to note a continuing improvement for the year as a whole in the timely implementation of audit recommendations. The Committee had endorsed an internal audit strategy for the three years to 2016, and had approved a programme of internal audit work for 2013/14. The meeting had been pleased to note that accreditation against level 1 of the government's Information Assurance Maturity Model had been achieved.
- 5.2 The Committee had received the ONS management response to a National Audit Office (NAO) report on information technology governance, and had received an update from the external auditors on the interim audit for 2012/13.
- 5.3 In accordance with its terms of reference, the Committee had held a workshop to review its effectiveness. The Committee had considered its information requirements and had agreed how it might best focus its work during 2013/14.

### Office for National Statistics (ONS) Board

- 5.4 Professor Sir Adrian Smith reported on the meeting of the ONS Board held on 21 March 2013. The Board had reviewed feedback from key stakeholders on the performance of ONS in 2012, and had considered response rates to household surveys. The meeting had received a report from the Chief Finance Officer on the financial position and had considered workforce planning. A report on the further development and production of National Accounts had also been considered.
- 5.5 Professor Smith also reported on the meeting of the ONS Board held on 23 April. The meeting had considered the ONS management response to four Internal Audit reports. The Board had also reviewed progress with delivering further improvements to the ONS website, the dissemination of ONS outputs and progress with Monitoring National Well-being.

### Committee for Official Statistics

- 5.6 Professor Rhind reported on the meeting of the Committee for Official Statistics held on 21 March. The Committee had considered a report on the recruitment, competences and career development of statisticians in the GSS. The meeting had also received reports on the work of the Health and Social Care Information Centre and the GSS Inter-Administration Committee.

### Assessment Committee

- 5.7 Professor Rhind also reported on the meeting of the Assessment Committee held on 21 March. The meeting had reviewed progress with monitoring and assessment work, and had considered three draft Assessment Reports. The Committee had considered two draft Monitoring Reviews regarding the publication of ONS statistical bulletins at 09:30 a.m, and the robustness of the ONS International Passenger Survey.

Remuneration Committee

- 5.8 The Authority Chair reported on the meeting of the Remuneration Committee held earlier that day. The meeting had approved a process for the awarding of bonuses for the Senior Civil Service (SCS) for performance in 2012/13. The Committee had also endorsed enhancements to basic pay, following the end of the three-year pay freeze for the SCS.
- 6. Draft Report of the Asset Purchase Facility Review [SA(13)21]**
- 6.1 Mr Dasgupta introduced the draft report of the Authority's review of the treatment in public sector finance statistics of changes to the cash management arrangements between the Bank of England Asset Purchase Facility Fund and HM Treasury. The review panel had been chaired by Mr Dasgupta and had included the Authority's Head of Assessment and an independent expert, Professor Sir Tony Atkinson. A response to the draft report had been received from ONS.
- 6.2 Following discussion the meeting agreed that the report should be published in due course, subject to the Chair's authorisation.
- 7. Finance Update [SA(13)22]**
- 7.1 Mr Watson introduced a report on the Authority's financial outturn position for the year ended 31 March 2013. There had been small under spends on both the resource and capital budgets, subject to audit. The year end external audit would start on 13 May.
- 7.2 The meeting noted that discussions were on-going with HM Treasury regarding the Authority's budget for 2013/14 and 2014/15.
- 8. Draft Annual Report 2012/13 [SA(13)23]**
- 8.1 The meeting considered a draft of the Authority's Annual Report for 2012/13. The Annual Report and Accounts for 2012/13 would be published with the financial statements, and laid before Parliament and the devolved legislatures in early July. While these chapters reflected the distinct areas of the Authority's operations, it was agreed that for future years the Authority's annual reports should be structured in line with its statement of strategy.
- 8.2 The Audit Committee would consider the Authority's post-audit financial statements at a meeting on 27 June.
- 9. Committee for Official Statistics Seminars [SA(13)24]**
- 9.1 Professor Rhind introduced a paper which provided an update on the planned programme of seminars and guest speakers for the Committee for Official Statistics. It was intended that these seminars would be used to debate significant statistical topics. The inaugural session had been held on 21 March which had focussed on how the UK Statistics Authority and the Government Statistical Service (GSS) might help the media to enhance coverage and understanding of statistical issues. Ms Matheson reported that the suggestions made during the seminar were being taken forward by ONS.
- 9.2 The meeting welcomed this initiative and it agreed that members of the Authority Board would provide suggestions for the further development of this programme of discussions.

**10. UK Statistics Authority Business [SA(13)25]**

- 10.1 Mr Bumpstead introduced analyses of the Authority's business during 2012/13 as conducted through meetings of the Authority's boards and committees, and of Authority interventions on statistical issues over the past year.
- 10.2 The meeting noted that the Authority boards and committees had considered and dealt with a wide range of often complex, pressing and high-profile issues. It was agreed that the work of the Authority's boards and committees during 2013/14 would be aligned as far as possible to the delivery of the Authority's new strategy. In particular, time for the Authority Board to consider strategic issues should be maximised.

**11. Delivering the Authority's Strategy [SA(13)26]**

- 11.1 Mr Bumpstead introduced a paper which set out proposals for how the Authority should coordinate the delivery of its strategic priorities in the year ahead. In welcoming and approving these proposals it was agreed that the Chair, Ms Matheson and Mr Alldritt would have further discussions on the forward work programme.
- 11.2 The meeting also considered the risks to the delivery of its strategic priorities and agreed changes to the Authority's risk register.

**12. Monitoring Update [SA(13)27]**

- 12.1 Mr Alldritt reported on progress with Monitoring Reviews and related work, and presented proposals for forthcoming Monitoring Reviews. Several Monitoring Reviews were currently in progress and it was anticipated that the reports of five reviews would be published shortly.
- 12.2 In noting progress, the meeting agreed that the Head of Assessment in consultation with the Deputy Chair for Official Statistics should further prioritise existing monitoring work aligned to the Authority's statement of strategy. It was agreed that members of the Authority would provide further suggestions to the Head of Assessment for future monitoring reviews.
- 12.3 The meeting also considered draft outlines for proposed Monitoring Reviews on Patient Outcome Statistics, and on Devolution and Official Statistics. It was agreed that these two reviews should be concluded as a priority and the reports published as soon as possible.

**13. Any other business**

- 13.1 There was no other business.



## UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

### *Agenda*

**Thursday, 9 May 2013**  
**Board Room, Drummond Gate, London, 12:00 - 16:00**  
**[Non-Executives' Session from 12:00 – 12:45]**

**Chair: Mr Andrew Dilnot**  
**Apologies: None**

1	Minutes and matters arising from previous meetings Declarations of interest	Meeting of 050313
2	Authority Chair's Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retirement of the Head of Assessment</li> <li>• Public Administration Select Committee</li> <li>• Beyond 2011</li> <li>• Prices and Communications Reviews</li> </ul>	Oral report  Mr Andrew Dilnot
3	Reports from Authority Committee Chairs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit Committee</li> <li>• ONS Board</li> <li>• Committee for Official Statistics and Assessment Committee</li> <li>• Remuneration Committee</li> </ul>	Oral reports Mr Partha Dasgupta Professor Sir Adrian Smith Professor David Rhind  Mr Andrew Dilnot
4	Draft Report of the Asset Purchase Facility Review	SA(13)21  Mr Partha Dasgupta
5	Finance update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outturn 2012/13</li> <li>• Budget 2013/14 and 2014/15</li> </ul>	SA(13)22 Oral update  Mr Glen Watson
6	Draft Annual Report 2012/13	SA(13)23  Secretariat
7	Committee for Official Statistics Seminars	SA(13)24  Professor David Rhind
8	Annual Review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2012/13 Authority Business</li> </ul> Looking Ahead - 2013/14: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivering the Authority's Strategy</li> </ul>	SA(13)25  SA(13)26 Secretariat
9	Monitoring Update	SA(13)27  Mr Richard Alldritt
10	Any other business	

**Next Meeting: Thursday, 6 June 2013, Titchfield, 12:00 – 16:00**



SA(13)21 – Draft Report of the Asset Purchase Facility Review

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(13)21

***Draft Report of the Asset Purchase Facility Review***

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

To see the document go to:

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



SA(13)23 – Draft Annual Report 2012/13

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(13)23

***Draft Annual Report 2012/13***

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>



**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(13)24

***Committee for Official Statistics Seminars*****Purpose**

1. This paper provides an update for the Authority of the current programme of seminars for the Committee for Official Statistics (COS) and seeks suggestions on how that programme might be developed further.

**Recommendations**

2. Members of the Authority are invited to:
  - note the current programme of COS seminars; and
  - make suggestions for its further development in the light of the Authority's strategic priorities.

**Discussion**

3. In his email of 29 January Professor Rhind informed Authority Board colleagues of his intention to use COS as a vehicle for identifying and debating some big issues. To this end a programme of seminars would be arranged with guest speakers. All members of the Authority Board are invited to attend these seminars. It is hoped that experts in certain fields will also attend, together with ONS and Government Statistical Service (GSS) staff as appropriate.
4. The first seminar was held on 21 March. The National Statistician has been invited to respond to the suggestions made during the seminar.
5. The programme of seminars for the rest of the calendar year is provisionally as follows.
  - 16 May - Stephan Shakespeare, Chair of the Government's Data Strategy Board will give a short talk about issues across his field.
  - 17 July – EU statistical issues (to be confirmed)
  - 18 September – to be confirmed.
  - 12 November – Andy Haldane, Executive Director for Financial Stability, Bank of England.

**Secretariat, UK Statistics Authority, May 2013**



SA(13)25 – UK Statistics Authority's Business 2012/13

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(13)25

***UK Statistics Authority's Business 2012/13***

4.1

A summary of the business of the Authority's board and committees can be found on the UK Statistics Authority website at:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/board-and-committees-documentation/index.html>

To view the log of issues raised with the Authority go to:

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



SA(13)26 – Delivering the Authority's Strategy

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(13)26

4.2

***Delivering the Authority's Strategy***

The Authority's Strategy is published on the UK Statistics Authority website.

To see this document go to:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/news/index.html>



SA(13)27 – Monitoring Update

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(13)27

***Monitoring Update***

Monitoring Reports and Briefs are published on the UK Statistics Authority website at:

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