

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

Minutes

**Meeting of Friday 20 November 2009
Board Room, Statistics House, London**

Present

UK Statistics Authority

Sir Michael Scholar (Chair)
Lord Rowe-Beddoe (Deputy Chair, ONS)
Mr Richard Alldritt
Mr Partha Dasgupta
Ms Jil Matheson
Ms Moira Gibb
Professor Steve Nickell
Mr Stephen Penneck (to item 10)
Professor David Rhind

Secretariat

Mr Robert Bumpstead

Apologies

Professor Sir Roger Jowell (Deputy Chair, Official Statistics)

Other Attendees

Mr Glen Watson and Mr Ian Cope (Census Directorate) for item 5
Mr Steve Newman (Finance Director) for item 7
Mr Richard Laux (Monitoring and Assessment) for items 8 to 11
Mr Mark Pont (Monitoring and Assessment) for items 9 and 10

1. Apologies and Membership

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Professor Sir Roger Jowell.
- 1.2 The Chair reported that the non-executive members of the Authority had appointed Mr Stephen Penneck, the new Director General of the Office for National Statistics (ONS), as an executive member of the Authority Board in the place of Mr Steve Newman with immediate effect.
- 1.3 The Chair welcomed Mr Penneck to the meeting and placed on the record his thanks to Mr Newman for his work as an Authority member.

2. Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes and Matters arising from the Previous Meeting

- 3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 October 2009 were accepted as a true and fair account.

4. Reports from Committee Chairs

Assessment Committee

- 4.1 Sir Michael Scholar reported on the meeting of the Assessment Committee held on 16 October 2009.
- 4.2 Four Assessment Reports had been agreed for the Authority Board to approve (see item 11 below).

Office for National Statistics Board

- 4.3 Lord Rowe-Beddoe reported on the meeting of the ONS Board held on 6 November, 2009.
- 4.4 Subjects considered by the Board included risk management and the ONS Simplification Plan.

5. Census 2011

- 5.1 Ms Matheson reported on recent events concerning the Census, including her and Mr Watson's attendance at an evidence session of the Public Administration Select Committee held on Thursday, 19 November. The inclusion of questions designed to best establish the size of the population had been discussed, together with the exclusion of questions about income and sexual identity.
- 5.2 Mr Watson and Mr Cope provided the Board with an update on the Census Programme. This included a review of the Programme's status and milestones.
- 5.3 The Board heard that a Privacy Impact Assessment had been published that day in accordance with commitments made in the Census White Paper. The Parliamentary focus now was on the progress of the Census Order through both Houses. Dates for debating the Order have yet to be confirmed, but would be passed to Board members as soon as available.
- 5.4 The meeting also considered the Census Dress Rehearsal and Coverage Survey; plans for printing the Census questionnaires; strategies to maximise the return of completed questionnaires; the development of the first internet completion option for the Census, and; the importance of the Census in civic life.

6. Protecting Confidentiality under the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007

- 6.1 Mr Penneck introduced a discussion about how confidentiality of statistical information was protected under the terms of the Statistics Act.
- 6.2 The meeting understood that there had been some recent debate about the relative merits of different countries' statistical legislation in this respect, and the practical application of such legislation.
- 6.3 The Authority re-affirmed its commitment to protecting confidentiality under all circumstances. Members would be happy to provide further public assurance in whatever form might be useful, if so required.

7. UK Statistics Authority Mid-Year Finance Report [SA(09)60]

- 7.1 Mr Newman presented the Authority's mid-year Finance Report. Members of the Board heard that spending was in line with the profiled allocation.

8. Monitoring Report 6: *Barriers to Trust in Relation to Crime Statistics* - Interim Report [SA(09)61]

- 8.1 In his capacity as Chair of the Barriers to Trust in Crime Statistics Project Board Mr Dasgupta introduced a draft interim Monitoring Report.
- 8.2 The Authority welcomed the Report, reviewed its structure and considered various suggested textual amendments. It was agreed that a revised Report reflecting the meeting's discussion be circulated to Authority members.
- 8.3 It was also agreed to hold a public meeting to discuss the interim Report at the Royal Statistical Society's offices in January.

9. Progress with the Assessment Programme [SA(09)62]

- 9.1 Mr Pont gave an update on progress with current Assessments and presented a revised Work Programme to assess all remaining National Statistics by 2012. The programme provided for an assessment of the annual and quarterly National Accounts to be made in Autumn 2010.
- 9.2 The Board approved the Work Programme and agreed its publication on the Authority's web-site.
- 9.3 The meeting further discussed assessment of the various indices of local deprivation including a suggestion that a single Assessment Report covering all these indices be produced. This was for further consideration by the Monitoring and Assessment Team.

10. Implementation of Requirements from Assessment Reports [SA(09)63]

- 10.1 Mr Laux introduced a paper which described progress made by statistical producers in implementing the requirements set out in published Assessment Reports.
- 10.2 The Board considered the respective roles of the National Statistician and the Monitoring and Assessment Team in this process. The National Statistician would work with the Government Statistical Service to analyse requirements and seek to address them systematically.
- 10.3 The meeting also confirmed that judgements about whether recommendations had been fulfilled were a matter on which the Head of Assessment would advise the Board.
- 10.4 Issues around some Scottish Government Assessments, as set out in the paper,

could be dealt with according to this framework.

11. Draft Assessment Reports 17, 18, 19 and 20 [SA(09)64,65,66,67]

11.1 Mr Laux presented four draft Assessment Reports concerning statistics about wealth, child measurement, earnings, and, energy. The Reports had previously been considered by the Assessment Committee.

11.2 All four Reports were approved for publication.

12. Any Other Business

12.1 The Chair reported that the non-executive director recruitment process was still on-going. Interviews had concluded on 27 October but the Cabinet Office had yet to complete the necessary paperwork to progress the issue. As a result the appointment continued to be subject to delay.

12.2 The next meeting of the Authority Board would be held on Friday 11 December in Newport at 11:15am.

12.3 There was no other business.

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

Agenda

Friday, 20 November, 2009

London, 11:15 - 15:00

Chair: Sir Michael Scholar
Apologies: Professor Sir Roger Jowell

1	Minutes and matters arising from previous meeting Declarations of interest	Meeting of 161009
2	Reports from Committee Chairs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Assessment Committee● ONS Board	Sir Michael Scholar Lord Rowe-Beddoe
3	Census 2011	Presentation Mr Glen Watson and Mr Ian Cope
4	Protecting Confidentiality under the <i>Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007</i>	Oral report Ms Jil Matheson
5	UK Statistics Authority Mid-Year Finance Report 2009/10	SA(09)60 Mr Steve Newman
6	Monitoring Report 6: <i>Barriers to Trust in Crime Statistics</i> - Interim Report	SA(09)61 Mr Richard Alldritt
7	Progress with the Assessment Programme	SA(09)62 Mr Mark Pont
8	Implementation of Requirements from Assessment Reports	SA(09)63 Mr Richard Laux
	Draft Assessment Reports (AR)	Mr Richard Alldritt and Mr Richard Laux
9	AR 17: <i>Wealth in Great Britain</i>	SA(09)64
10	AR 18: <i>Statistics on the National Child Measurement Programme</i>	SA(09)65
11	AR 19: <i>Average Weekly Earnings</i>	SA(09)66
12	AR 20: <i>Energy Statistics</i>	SA(09)67
13	Any other business	

Next Meeting: Friday, 11 December 2009
Statistics House, Newport, 11:15 - 15:00

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(09)60

UK Statistics Authority Mid-Year Finance Report 2009/10

Purpose

1. This paper gives the financial situation for the Authority for the first six months of the year.

Recommendation

2. The Authority are invited to note the financial situation.

Discussion

3. At the start of this financial year budgets were agreed and delegated to budget holders. These plans have proved robust and stable. In July a review of Directorate forecasts was carried out by the Financial Controller that gave the Office for National Statistics Finance and Planning Committee in August the confidence to commit a large proportion of the contingency.
4. At the six month stage our spending was broadly in line with the profiled allocation, with the exception of total non cash costs. These are accounting provisions (e.g. for future redundancy costs) and capital charges (depreciation and interest on capital) which due to profiling reasons are underspent. By the year end this will have corrected itself.
5. The Treasury has a number of control totals that we report against and for both the first six months and full year forecast we do not expect to breach any of them. We are holding a £1.5 million contingency against unforeseen audit issues, but otherwise we expect to spend the full £192.9 million allocation for total cash costs. Of that £192.9 million the UK Statistics Authority element is £3.2 million which will be fully spent. To date £1.1 million out of £1.6 million has actually been spent.
6. The second control total is total operating costs where our out turn against the allocation of £212.9 million depends upon what extra accounting provisions we will have to make at the year end and the final capital charges position. We are confident that we will not exceed the control total, and because of the way Treasury budgeting treats consumption against provisions, we may show an underspend against this control total.
7. The final control total is total capital costs and since preparing the September statements it would seem that there is a possibility that we will not spend the entire budget. Capital spending tends to occur later in the year, and given that we have only spent £2.3 million of the £15 million budget to date, and some is not fully committed, a small underspend appears likely.

Steve Newman, Chief Finance Officer, UK Statistics Authority, November, 2009

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(09)61

***Monitoring Report 6:
Overcoming Barriers to Trust in Crime Statistics - Interim Report***

Purpose

1. To agree the text (currently in draft form) of the interim Report on Overcoming Barriers to Trust in Crime Statistics, and to agree arrangements for publication and consultation on the contents.

Timing

2. A provisional booking for an open meeting has been made for 14 December at the Royal Statistical Society. The interim Report would need to be published on the website in advance of this date.

Recommendations

3. Members of the Authority are invited to:
 - i. discuss the substance of the draft interim Report (**Annex A**);
 - ii. subject to any further editing as described in paragraph 6 below, agree to publish the Report on the Authority's website;
 - iii. agree to hold an open meeting, and;
 - iv. agree the plans for handling the release at paragraph 8 below.

Discussion

4. The Review is being overseen by a Project Board chaired by Partha Dasgupta. Other members include academic experts and representatives from local government, Office for National Statistics (ONS), Home Office, Ministry of Justice and the Welsh Assembly Government. The draft interim Report draws on evidence gathered from:
 - desk research using publicly available material, including earlier reviews of crime statistics, and;
 - interviews with government statisticians, senior policy and communications staff, police representatives, academics and journalists.
5. The Report draws some early conclusions regarding the barriers to trust in crime statistics and makes initial recommendations as to how these might be overcome (page 15 of the Report). Several of these recommendations have implications for the National Statistician and ONS. There is further discussion of these issues in paragraphs 55 to 62 and section 9 of the Report.
6. The Report will be edited so as to reflect the Authority's views and to incorporate any factual corrections or updates. It may also be re-structured around the issues covered in the recommendations, once these have been agreed.
7. The proposed next steps are to publish the interim Report on the Authority's website and hold an open meeting to discuss the Report and its recommendations with users and producers of crime statistics. This open discussion will inform the final Report which is scheduled for publication in March 2010, following approval by the Authority Board at its February meeting.

SA(09)61 - Crime Statistics Interim Monitoring Report

8. Proposals for handling the release of the Report include the following:
 - i. producers will be given a near-final version for final quality assurance (unless we stipulate otherwise, this will be used to prepare briefing);
 - ii. invitations for the open meeting will be sent as soon as possible to users, producers, interviewees (who include two journalists) and the Project Board. Contact details for the user group (the crime and justice statistics network) are held at the Home Office, so an email will be sent through them;
 - iii. there will be an announcement on the Authority's website when the Report is published;
 - iv. those who register for the open meeting will be sent a link to the Report when available;
 - v. written comments will be invited via the Authority's consultations electronic mailbox, with a deadline for the end of December;
 - vi. a question and answer brief will be prepared in case of media enquiries, and;
 - vii. media handling will be co-ordinated through the Authority's press office.

Monitoring and Assessment Team, November 2009

List of Annexes

Annex A Overcoming Barriers to Trust in Crime Statistics - Draft Interim Report

Annex A - Overcoming Barriers to Trust in Crime Statistics

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/overcoming-barriers-to-trust-in-crime-statistics--england-and-wales---interim-report.pdf>

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(09)62

Progress with the Assessment Programme

Purpose

1. This paper updates the Authority Board with progress on Assessment.

Timing

2. For consideration by the Authority Board at its November 2009 meeting.

Recommendations

3. Members of the Authority Board are invited to:
 - i. note the proposed timetable for the discussion of draft Assessment Reports for the next few months and note progress with current Assessments generally (paragraphs 4 to 7 and **Annexes A and B**), and;
 - ii. confirm the revised timetable for reassessments, and agree to publish the detailed timetable for the next 12 months (paragraph 8 and **Annex C**).

Discussion

4. The four Assessment Reports relating to Children Looked After statistics were published on 22 October 2009.
5. Four draft Reports [SA(09)64 to 67] are presented to this meeting of the Board for comment and approval, following discussion at the October meeting of the Assessment Committee. These are as follows:
 - i. Average Weekly Earnings;
 - ii. Wealth in Great Britain;
 - iii. National Child Measurement Programme, and;
 - iv. Energy Statistics.
6. Annex A shows how we plan to clear the remaining ongoing Assessments by the Assessment Committee and the Authority Board.
7. Annex B details progress for the current Assessments.
8. Following discussion at the October meeting of the Authority Board, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Board subsequently agreed that Annual and Quarterly National Accounts outputs should be assessed in the Autumn of 2010, following publication of the Blue Book for 2010. This change has been incorporated into the Assessment timetable, along with various other small changes that we have made in response to suggestions from producers. The revised timetable is at Annex C. Now that the Assessment for National Accounts is timetabled, we propose to publish the detailed timetable for the year ahead.

Monitoring and Assessment Team, November 2009

List of Annexes

- Annex A Proposed Timetable for Approving the Remaining Ongoing Assessments**
Annex B Progress with Current Assessments
Annex C Revised Assessment Work Programme 2010 to 2012

Annex A Proposed Timetable for Approving the Remaining Ongoing Assessments

The timetable presented below is based on our best current estimate of the availability of draft Assessment Reports for discussion by the Assessment Committee.

Assessment Committee 1 December/Authority Board 11 December

- i. Producer Price Indices (Office for National Statistics)
- ii. Service Producer Price Indices (Office for National Statistics)
- iii. Referral to Treatment Waiting Times (Department of Health)
- iv. Agriculture UK and associated agricultural commodity surveys (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)
- v. Scottish Household Survey (Scottish Government)
- vi. Scottish Labour Market Statistics (Scottish Government)
- vii. Child Benefit Statistics (Department for Work and Pensions)

(seven Assessment Reports, covering around 30 outputs)

Assessment Committee 9 February 2010/Authority Board 26 February 2010

- i. Child and Working Tax Credit Statistics (Department for Work and Pensions)
- ii. 2011 Census Special Assessment, phase 1 (various producers)
- iii. School Absence and Exclusions Statistics (Department for Children, Schools and Families)
- iv. Welsh School Statistics (Welsh Assembly Government)
- v. Emissions Statistics (Department of Energy and Climate Change)
- vi. Northern Irish Labour Market Statistics (Department for Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Northern Ireland)

(six Assessment Reports, covering around 70 outputs)

Assessment Committee 9 March 2010/Authority Board 25 March 2010

- i. English Labour Market Statistics (Office for National Statistics)
- ii. Welsh Labour Market Statistics (Welsh Assembly Government)
- iii. School and Pupil Characteristics (Department for Children, Schools and Families)
- iv. School and College Achievement and Attainment Statistics (Department for Children, Schools and Families)
- v. Northern Irish School Statistics (Department of Education, Northern Ireland)

(five Assessment Reports, covering around 45 outputs)

Annex B: Progress with current Assessments as at 12 November 2009

Assessment	Initial meeting	Written Evidence for Assessment back	Comments returned from users and others	Follow up meeting	Draft Report	Draft Report to Producer & National Statistician	Report to Assessment Committee.	Report to Authority Board
Children looked after by local authorities (E)	14/4/09	22/5/09	11/5/09	2/7/09	28/8/09		14/9/09	16/10/09
Children looked after by local authorities (NI)	1/4/09	10/7/09	11/5/09	30/7/09	28/8/09		14/9/09	16/10/09
Children looked after by local authorities (S)	27/3/09	1/5/09	11/5/09	24/6/09	28/8/09		14/9/09	16/10/09
Children looked after by local authorities (W)	24/4/09	28/5/09	11/5/09	25/6/09	28/8/09		14/9/09	16/10/09
Wealth in Great Britain	14/5/09	16/7/09	13/7/09	2/9/09	21/9/09		16/10/09	20/11/09
National Child Measurement Programme	16/7/09	4/9/09	24/8/09	21/9/09	28/9/09		16/10/09	20/11/09
DECC Energy and Regional Statistics	6/8/09	27/8/09	1/9/09	11/9/09	23/9/09		16/10/09	20/11/09
Average Weekly Earnings	25/8/09	27/8/09	15/9/09	15/9/09	21/9/09		16/10/09	20/11/09
Referral to Treatment Waiting Times	16/7/09	11/9/09	4/9/09	28/9/09	13/10/09		1/12/09	11/12/09
Defra Agriculture Statistics	16/7/09	4/9/09	11/9/09	2/10/09	14/10/09		1/12/09	11/12/09
Producer Price & Services Producer Price Indices	14/7/09	21/9/09	10/9/09	29/9/09	16/10/09		1/12/09	11/12/09
Scottish Household Survey	24/6/09	9/9/09	18/9/09	30/9/09	4/11/09	5/11/09	1/12/09	11/12/09
Child Benefit Statistics	21/7/09	4/9/09	25/9/09	15/10/09	23/10/09	6/11/09	1/12/09	11/12/09
Labour Market (S)	25/9/09	28/9/09	15/10/09	1/10/09	16/10/09	23/10/09	1/12/09	11/12/09
Tax Credit Statistics	21/7/09	23/10/09	25/9/09	Early Dec	7/1/10	14/1/10	9/2/10	26/2/10
English - absence and exclusions statistics	1/10/09	27/11/09	2/12/09	11/12/09	14/12/09	4/1/10	9/2/10	26/2/10
School Statistics (S)	30/10/09	4/12/09	10/12/09	14/12/09	5/1/10	11/1/10	9/2/10	26/2/10
Labour Market (NI)	22/9/09	27/11/09	27/11/09	7/12/09	5/1/10	11/1/10	9/2/10	26/2/10
Emissions statistics (Department of Energy and Climate Change)	27/10/09	27/11/09	20/11/09	9/12/09	14/12/09	5/1/10	9/2/10	26/2/10
Census 2011 Special Assessment (phase 1)	25/9/09	31/10/09	27/11/09	4/12/09	4/12/09	w/c 3/1/10	9/2/10	26/2/10
School Statistics (W)	25/9/09	11/12/09	4/12/09	12/1/10	19/1/10	27/1/10	9/3/10	25/3/10
English school and pupil characteristics	1/10/09	11/12/09	2/12/09	7/1/10	22/1/10	1/2/10	9/3/10	25/3/10
School Statistics (NI)	29/9/09	27/11/09	27/11/09	7/12/09	12/1/10	18/1/10	9/3/10	25/3/10
Labour Market (E)	18/9/09	20/11/09	20/11/09	10/1/10	22/1/10	10/2/10	9/3/10	25/3/10
Labour Market (W)	25/9/09	20/11/09	20/11/09	10/1/10	22/1/10	10/2/10	9/3/10	25/3/10
English achievement and attainments statistics	1/10/09	15/1/10	2/12/09	4/2/10	12/2/10	22/3/10	16/4/10	23/4/10
Statistics on the Criminal Justice System	12/8/09	12/10/09	25/9/09				ON HOLD	

(shading indicates actual dates)

Annex C - Revised Assessment Work Programme 2010 to 2012

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

To see the document go to:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/programme-of-assessment/index.html>

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(09)63

***Progress on Implementation of Requirements
from Published Assessment Reports***

Purpose

1. This paper updates the Authority Board with progress on the implementation of requirements set out in published Assessment Reports.

Recommendations

2. Members of the Authority Board are invited to note progress in the implementation of requirements by producer bodies and are asked to:
 - i. confirm the National Statistics designation for those Assessments where the Assessment Team feel the requirements have been fully met, and;
 - ii. consider the appropriate course of action where the views of the Assessment Team and producer body diverge over the whether the requirements have been fully met.

Discussion

3. Sixteen Assessment Reports have been published to date. Each Report conferred National Statistics designation on a conditional basis, subject to specified requirements (which would enhance compliance with the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*). A deadline for implementing these requirements is given. The table at **Annex A** sets out the respective deadlines for implementing requirements from each published Assessment Report, along with a view from the Assessment Team on whether requirements have been fully, partially or not met for those Assessments whose deadline has passed.
4. Where the Assessment Team is of the view that a producer body has fully implemented the requirements by the due date, the Board is asked to confirm the National Statistics designation and upon doing so the Head of Assessment will write formally to the responsible Head of Profession (HoP) in the National Treatment Agency (Report 1) and Ministry of Justice (Report 7), confirming the designation.
5. However, there are occasions where the expectations of the Assessment Team for a particular requirement have not been met. This is the case for a number of requirements for the Statistics on International Development and the ODA : GNI Ratio Assessment and for one requirement for the Recorded Crime in Scotland Assessment. The Assessment Team has written to the producers of these statistics to describe the Team's concerns with the way in which these requirements have been addressed. The HoP in the Department for International Development is currently on sick leave and we plan to report to the Authority on these requirements at its meeting in December 2009.
6. The Scottish Government's response to requirement 3 of the Recorded Crime in Scotland Assessment, and the views of the Assessment Team, are summarised at **Annex B**. This Annex was shared with Scottish Government for comment and in response Scottish Government stated that it had not appreciated that the Authority had expected the police force commentary to be removed from the statistical release.
7. Scottish Government maintain that the commentary provided is justified under Principle 8.2 of the *Code*, 'to prepare and disseminate commentary and analysis that aid interpretation, and provide factual information about the policy or operational context of the Official Statistics'. However, for future releases, Scottish Government stated that it would be willing to remove the title 'Force Commentary' and to ensure that commentary provided is restricted to the terms of Principle 8.2 and does not include a policy comment by, or "views" from, police forces.

SA(09)63 - Implementation of Assessment Requirements

8. In effect, Scottish Government are proposing the following approach for future releases.
 - i. Scottish Government will be the sole authors of the commentary in the release;
 - ii. the commentary will be based on the published statistics, but will additionally make use of material provided by police forces to aid interpretation, and to provide factual information about the operational context of the Official Statistics, in accordance with Principle 8.2 of the *Code*;
 - iii. Scottish Government will ensure that the commentary does not present policy comment by, or "views" from, police forces, and;
 - iv. Scottish Government will ensure the commentary is objective and impartial.
9. If Scottish Government are able to implement this approach, then this would comply with the two practices in the *Code* that are of concern, Principle 2.2 on objectivity and impartiality, and Principle 3.1 on the need to issue statistical reports separately from any other statement or comment about the figures. However, these practices in the *Code* are likely to place considerable restrictions on the way in which the commentary can make use of material provided by police forces. In practice, it may be of more value to users if Scottish Government were to publish a police force commentary separate from the statistical release.
10. We recommend that the Authority Board accepts this commitment as complying with the *Code of Practice*. The Authority Board is asked to confirm the National Statistics designation and upon doing so the Head of Assessment will write formally to the responsible HoP, confirming the designation, subject to Scottish Government confirming that they agree to adopt the approach summarised in paragraph 7 above, in accordance with Principles 2.2, 3.1 and 8.2 of the *Code*, and making clear the restrictions that these practices place on the uses that can be made of police force material in the statistical release.

Monitoring the Implementation of Requirements in Future

11. We intend to report each month to the Board on progress in meeting requirements, but only anticipate discussion when there are substantive issues around perceived non-compliance.
12. The Assessment Team resource required to keep track of progress towards meeting requirements is likely to grow exponentially as more Assessments are completed. Moreover, given the recurring themes across the requirements specified to date (for example around meeting user needs and the quality of the presentation of statistics) and given the National Statistician's responsibility for professional standards across the Government Statistical Service, there may be scope for joint-working in this area.

Monitoring and Assessment Team, November 2009

List of Annexes

- Annex A Progress Implementing Requirements from Published Assessment Reports**
- Annex B Requirements from Report 2 (Recorded Crime in Scotland) for Discussion**

SA(09)63 - Implementation of Assessment Requirements

Annex A Progress Implementing Requirements from Published Assessment Reports

No.	Report title	Deadline for implementation of requirements	Assessment team views on level of implementation of requirements	Action required from the Board
1	Statistics from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System	Oct-09	Full	Confirm designation
2	Recorded Crime in Scotland	Oct-09	Partial	Discuss appropriate action
3	Statistics on Enrolments at Schools and in Pre-School Education in Northern Ireland	Dec-09	-	-
4	Road Casualty Statistics	Nov-09	-	-
5	UK Energy Sector Indicators	-	Partial	None as yet - working level discussion on-going
6	Statistics on Road Freight	Sep-09 extended to Dec '09	Partial	None as yet - working level discussion on-going
7	Prison Population Projections	Nov-09	Full	Confirm designation
8	Migration Statistics	Nov-09	-	-
9	Statistics on International Development and the ODA : GNI Ratio	Oct-09	Partial	Discuss appropriate action
10	The Scottish Health Survey	Jan-10	-	-
11	Scottish House Condition Survey	Jan-10	-	-
12	Scottish Crime and Justice Survey	Jan-10	-	-
13	Statistics on Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England	Feb-10	-	-
14	Statistics on Children Looked After by Local Authorities in Scotland	Feb-10	-	-
15	Statistics on Children Looked After by Local Authorities in Wales	Feb-10	-	-
16	Statistics on Children Looked After by Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland	April-10	-	-

Annex B Requirements from Report 2 (Recorded Crime in Scotland) for Discussion

Report 2 - Recorded Crime in Scotland		
Requirement	Scottish Government Response	Assessment Team view on the extent to which this requirement has been met
(3) The authors of the statistical release should prepare their own impartial and objective commentary on the statistics rather than rely on commentary provided by police forces	<p>The release for 2008-09 was published in September 2009. For this release, the authors prepared their own commentary but supplemented it with edited versions of the commentaries provided by police forces. This was to provide valuable context, to help users understand year-on-year changes and to build trust in the statistics.</p> <p>The release shows clearly the commentary which has been provided by police forces. The police forces do not prepare their own commentary in isolation. Instead the authors ask each force to provide commentary based on a number of specific topics which are determined by the magnitude and direction of change in the number of crimes/offences recorded within particular crime codes for the current year compared to the previous year(s). The authors of the release retain editorial control over the material which is provided by forces.</p>	<p>We expected to see the police commentary removed from the release, and have concerns over the Scottish Government's decision to retain it. While the release now makes clear that the text is provided by police forces, there remains a risk to impartiality and objectivity by using the statistical release as a platform for comments by police forces.</p> <p>Although this requirement was in relation to Principle 2 Practice 2 of the <i>Code</i>, it also appears not to comply with Principle 3 Practice 1, to 'Issue statistical reports separately from any other statement or comment about the figures...' While providing the views of the police force on these statistics may well be of value to users, we believe that Scottish Government should agree not to include this commentary in the statistical bulletin that releases these statistics.</p>

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(09)64

Assessment Report – Wealth in Great Britain

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

To see the document go to:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-17---wealth-in-great-britain.pdf>

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(09)65

***Assessment Report – Statistics on the National
Child Measurement Programme***

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

To see the document go to:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-18---national-child-measurement-programme.pdf>

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(09)66

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