

# **UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

## **Minutes**

**Meeting of Friday 21 May 2010  
Board Room, Statistics House, Islington, London**

### **Present**

#### **UK Statistics Authority**

Sir Michael Scholar (Chair)

Professor Sir Roger Jowell (Deputy Chair, Official Statistics)

Lord Rowe-Beddoe (Deputy Chair, ONS)

Mr Richard Alldritt

Dr Colette Bowe

Mr Partha Dasgupta

Ms Moira Gibb

Ms Jil Matheson

Professor Steve Nickell

Mr Stephen Penneck (not for item 6)

Professor David Rhind

Sir Jon Shortridge

#### **Secretariat**

Mr Robert Bumpstead

Mr Mervyn Stevens

#### **Other Attendees**

Mr Richard Laux (Monitoring and Assessment) for item 6



## Minutes of the UK Statistics Authority Meeting 21 May 2010

### **1. Apologies**

1.1 There were no apologies.

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

### **3. Note regarding the cancelled meeting of 23 April 2010 and matters arising.**

3.1 The note regarding the cancelled meeting of 23 April 2010 was agreed.

3.2 There were no matters arising.

### **4. Reports from Authority Committee Chairs**

#### Assessment Committee

4.1 Professor Sir Roger Jowell reported on the meeting of the Assessment Committee held on 6 May 2010. Six draft Assessment Reports had been discussed and these would be considered by the Authority later in the meeting.

#### Committee for Official Statistics

4.2 Professor Sir Roger Jowell reported on the meeting of the Committee for Official Statistics held on 6 May 2010. The Committee had welcomed three new external members: Professor Angela Dale, Professor David Hand and Mr Duncan MacNiven. The meeting received reports from the National Statistician and the Head of Assessment.

4.3 The Committee had considered progress against the 26 priorities for Official Statistics detailed in a letter from the President of the Royal Statistical Society (RSS) to the Chair of the Authority in January 2009 and agreed that a formal response should be sent to the RSS and made available for comment on the Authority's website. The meeting also considered a Government Statistical Service (GSS) web dissemination strategy.

4.4 There would be a World Statistics Day on 20 October 2010 under the auspices of the United Nations.

#### Audit Committee

4.5 Professor Rhind reported on the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 11 May 2010. The Committee had received updates from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on data security and business continuity planning.

4.6 The Committee had considered the Annual Report 2009/10 of the Head of Internal Audit, a draft of the Audit Committee's Annual Report 2009/10 and a report from the National Audit Office (NAO) on the 2009/10 interim audit of the Authority.

#### Remuneration Committee

4.7 Lord Rowe-Beddoe reported on the meeting of the Remuneration Committee held on 6 May 2010. The Committee approved a strategy for the remuneration of the Senior Civil Service (SCS) employed by the Authority. The Minister for the Civil Service had confirmed that there would not be an increase in base pay for the SCS in 2010/11 but there remained a provision to award unconsolidated bonus payments in recognition of performance for the year ended 31 March 2010.

4.8 The Authority noted the recent statement by the Prime Minister that for 2010/11 bonuses would only be paid to the top performing 25 per cent of the SCS.

# Minutes of the UK Statistics Authority Meeting 21 May 2010

## Office for National Statistics (ONS) Board

- 4.9 Lord Rowe-Beddoe reported on the meeting of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Board held on 13 May 2010. The Board had considered an update on the development of a data collection strategy for business and household surveys and a progress report on the National Accounts improvement programme.
- 4.10 The meeting had received a report from the Director General of ONS and had considered budget and Information Technology (IT) issues. The meeting noted the results of the recent ONS People Survey.

## **5. Current Budgetary Issues**

- 5.1 Ms Matheson reported that the Government would be announcing cuts in spending of £6 billion in 2010/11 on 24 May 2010. It was not yet clear what the budgetary position for the Authority in 2010/11 and beyond would be. The Authority considered in general terms the possible implications of cuts to its budget.

## **6. Draft Assessment Reports 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 and 47 [SA(10)30,31,32,33,34,35]**

- 6.1 Mr Alldritt presented the following six draft Assessment Reports which had all been considered at the meeting of the Assessment Committee on 6 May 2010:
- i. Assessment Report 42: Statistics on Health and Safety at Work;
  - ii. Assessment Report 43: Statistics on Cancer Waiting Times;
  - iii. Assessment Report 44: Insolvency Statistics;
  - iv. Assessment Report 45: Balance of Payments Statistics;
  - v. Assessment Report 46: Statistics on Collection Rates for Council Tax, and;
  - vi. Assessment Report 47: Statistics on Overseas Travel and Tourism.

- 6.2 All six Assessment Reports were approved for publication.

- 6.3 The meeting approved a note for publication on the Authority's website explaining the criteria for deciding upon the format of an Assessment Report and when a short form Assessment Report might be appropriate.

## **7. Any Other Business**

- 7.1 The meeting of the Authority continued with a strategy workshop. The Authority considered its progress in 2009/10 and its aims, objectives and priorities for the year ahead.
- 7.2 There was no other business.

# UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

## *Agenda*

**Friday, 21 May, 2010**

**Board Room, Statistics House, London, 11:15 - 12:00**

**Chair: Sir Michael Scholar**

**Apologies:**

|     |  |   |
|-----|--|---|
| 1   | Note regarding the previous meeting and matters arising<br>Declarations of interest  | Meeting of 230410   |
| 2   | Reports from Authority Committee Chairs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Assessment Committee</li><li>● Committee for Official Statistics</li><li>● Audit Committee</li><li>● Remuneration Committee</li><li>● ONS Board</li></ul> | Oral Reports<br>Professor Sir Roger Jowell<br>Professor Sir Roger Jowell<br>Professor David Rhind<br>Lord Rowe-Beddoe<br>Lord Rowe-Beddoe |
| 2.1 | Current Budgetary Issues   | Mr Stephen Penneck<br><br>Oral Report   |
|     | Draft Assessment Reports (AR)  | Mr Richard Alldritt   |
| 3   | AR42: Statistics on Health and Safety at Work  | SA(10)30  |
| 4   | AR43: Statistics on Cancer Waiting Times   | SA(10)31  |
| 5   | AR44: Insolvency Statistics  | SA(10)32  |
| 6   | AR45: Balance of Payments Statistics   | SA(10)33  |
| 7   | AR46: Statistics on Collection Rates for Council Tax   | SA(10)34  |
| 8   | AR47: Statistics on Overseas Travel and Tourism  | SA(10)35  |
| 9   | Any other business   |   |

**Next Meeting: Friday, 25 June, 2010**  
**Statistics House, London, 11:15 - 15:00**



**Annex A Assessment Report 42: Statistics on Health and Safety at Work**

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-42---statistics-on-health-and-safety-at-work.pdf>



**Annex A Assessment Report 43: Statistics on Cancer Waiting Times**

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-43---cancer-waiting-times-statistics-for-england.pdf>



**Annex A Assessment Report 44: Insolvency Statistics**

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-44---insolvency-statistics.pdf>



**Annex A Assessment Report 45: Balance of Payments Statistics**

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-45---balance-of-payments-statistics.pdf>



SA(10)34 - Assessment Report 46: Statistics on Collection Rates for Council  
Tax

**Annex A Assessment Report 46: Statistics on Collection Rates for Council  
Tax**

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-46---statistics-on-collection-rates-for-council-tax-and-non-domestic-rates-in-england.pdf>



## SA(10)35 - Assessment Report 47: Statistics on Overseas Travel and Tourism

### **Annex A Assessment Report 47: Statistics on Overseas Travel and Tourism**

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-47---overseas-travel-and-tourism-statistics.pdf>