

Announcement

1 December 2009

Assessment Work Programme 2010-12

Assessment

Under the provisions of the *Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007*, the UK Statistics Authority has a statutory responsibility to assess whether the Code of Practice has been complied with in relation to any official statistics, subject to a request from an appropriate authority (as defined in the Act). Where the Authority determines that the Code has been complied with it will designate the statistics as "National Statistics", but otherwise not. These arrangements also apply to statistics already designated as National Statistics which will be re-assessed.

In fulfilling its statutory remit, the Authority will use the assessment process to identify steps that could be taken to improve the service to users of the statistics, and will report accordingly. In this way assessment will support the Authority's overall objective, which is to promote and safeguard the production and publication of official statistics that serve the public good.

Assessment Programme

The Authority also has a statutory responsibility to prepare and publish a Programme for the assessment of statistics. The attached Programme relates to outputs already designated as National Statistics. Sets of statistics have been grouped together for assessment based on commonality of users, data sources, methods, and so on, in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the assessment process. In some cases the groups include existing official statistics that have been nominated for first designation as National Statistics. Other nominations for Assessment will be considered for inclusion in the Programme as they arise.

The Programme for the first year full year of assessment (2010) is specified in more detail than for 2011 and beyond. This reflects the constantly changing nature of the range of outputs published by producers of official statistics, and factors that could affect the timing of assessments in future. The Authority will keep the sequence and timing of these assessments under review and, given the inevitability that the Programme will change, will formally publish the revised programme quarterly.

The Assessment team will discuss the detailed scope and timing with producers closer to the time of each individual assessment. Consequently, assessments may not start at exactly the time indicated here, nor have the same composition as currently envisaged. Material changes will be reflected in revisions to the Programme.

The 2010-12 Assessment Programme is available at:

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