

# Assessment of compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics

## Statistics on School and Pupil Characteristics, and Absence and Exclusions in England

*(produced by the Department for Children,  
Schools and Families)*

© Crown Copyright 2010

The text in this document may be reproduced free of charge in any format or medium providing it is reproduced accurately and not used in a misleading context. The material must be acknowledged as Crown copyright and the title of the document specified.

Where we have identified any third party copyright material you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

For any other use of this material please write to Office of Public Sector Information, Information Policy Team, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU or email: [licensing@opsi.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@opsi.gov.uk)

### **About the UK Statistics Authority**

The UK Statistics Authority is an independent body operating at arm's length from government as a non-ministerial department, directly accountable to Parliament. It was established on 1 April 2008 by the *Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007*.

The Authority's overall objective is to promote and safeguard the production and publication of official statistics that serve the public good. It is also required to promote and safeguard the quality and comprehensiveness of official statistics, and good practice in relation to official statistics.

The Statistics Authority has two main functions:

1. oversight of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) – the executive office of the Authority;
2. independent scrutiny (monitoring and assessment) of all official statistics produced in the UK.

### **Contact us**

Tel: 0845 604 1857

Email: [authority.enquiries@statistics.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:authority.enquiries@statistics.gsi.gov.uk)

Website: [www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk](http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk)

UK Statistics Authority  
Statistics House  
Myddelton Street  
London EC1R 1UW

# **Assessment of compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics**

## **Statistics on School and Pupil Characteristics, and Absence and Exclusions, in England**

*(produced by the Department for Children, Schools and  
Families)*

## **ASSESSMENT AND DESIGNATION**

Under the provisions of the *Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007*, the UK Statistics Authority has a statutory function to assess sets of statistics against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, with a view to determining whether it is appropriate for the statistics to be designated, or to retain their designation, as National Statistics.

Designation as National Statistics means that the statistics are deemed to be compliant with the Code of Practice. Whilst the Code is wide-ranging, designation may be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics meet identified user needs; are produced, managed and disseminated to high standards; and are well explained.

Designation also signifies that, subject to any caveats in this report, the Statistics Authority judges that the statistics are readily accessible, produced according to sound methods and managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Assessment reports will not normally comment further, for example on the validity of the statistics as a social or economic measure; though reports may point to such questions if the Authority believes that further research would be desirable.

Designation as National Statistics will sometimes be granted in cases where some changes still need to be made to meet fully the requirements of the Code, on condition that steps are taken by the producer body, within a stated timeframe, to address the weaknesses. This is to avoid public confusion and does not reduce the obligation to comply with the Code.

Designation is granted on the basis of the information provided to the Statistics Authority, primarily by the organisation that produces the statistics. The information includes a range of factual evidence and also assurances by the producer organisation. The views of users are also sought. Should further information come to light subsequently which changes the Authority's analysis, the Assessment report may be withdrawn and revised as necessary.

Once designated as National Statistics, it is a statutory requirement on the producer organisation to ensure that the set of statistics continues to be produced, managed and disseminated in compliance with the Code of Practice.

# Contents

Section 1: Summary of findings

Section 2: Subject of the assessment

Section 3: Assessment findings

Annex 1: Suggestions for improvement

Annex 2: Summary of the assessment process and user views

# 1 Summary of findings

## 1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This is one of a series of reports prepared under the provisions of the *Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007*<sup>1</sup>. The report covers the sets of statistics presented in the following National Statistics, released by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF):

- Pupil Absence in Schools in England: Autumn term and Spring term<sup>2</sup>;
- Pupil Absence in Schools in England, including Pupil Characteristics<sup>3</sup>;
- Announcement of the release of small area Pupil Absence by Pupil Characteristics in England<sup>4</sup>;
- Permanent and Fixed Exclusions from Schools and Exclusion Appeals in England<sup>5</sup>;
- Admission Appeals for Maintained Primary and Secondary schools in England<sup>6</sup>;
- Special Educational Needs in England<sup>7</sup>;
- Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics<sup>8</sup>; and
- School Destinations of Secondary School Pupils Resident in London Boroughs<sup>9</sup>;

1.1.2 The following publications produced by DCSF, which are not currently designated as National Statistics, are also covered by this assessment at the request of DCSF:

- Pupil Absence in schools in England: Autumn term<sup>10</sup>; and
- Pupil Absence in schools in England: Spring term<sup>11</sup>.

1.1.3 This report was prepared by the Authority's Assessment team, and approved by the Board of the Statistics Authority on the advice of the Head of Assessment.

## 1.2 Decision concerning designation as National Statistics

1.2.1 The Statistics Authority confirms that the statistics detailed in para 1.1.1 above are redesignated as National Statistics, and has determined that the statistics detailed in para 1.1.2 above are designated as National Statistics, subject to

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.opsi.gov.uk/Acts/acts2007/pdf/ukpga\\_20070018\\_en.pdf](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/Acts/acts2007/pdf/ukpga_20070018_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000882/index.shtml>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000918/index.shtml>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000857/index.shtml>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000860/index.shtml>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000884/index.shtml>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000852/index.shtml>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000843/index.shtml>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000868/index.shtml>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000853/index.shtml>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000871/index.shtml>

DCSF implementing the enhancements listed in section 1.5 and reporting them to the Authority by September 2010.

### **1.3 Summary of strengths and weaknesses**

- 1.3.1 The statistics are well presented and are accompanied by helpful commentary. Introductory paragraphs include information about the context of the statistics and any changes to the presentation since the last release. The main points are highlighted and additional methodological information is provided where necessary. The published outputs are available free-of-charge on DCSF's website.
- 1.3.2 The statistics are widely used and have a broad user base. A range of user fora exist for DCSF to engage with users, particularly those in local authorities (LAs). Responses to the user consultation carried out as part of this Assessment indicate that users are generally content with the way in which DCSF consults with users.
- 1.3.3 The statistical products in this Assessment provide a rich source of information about schools and pupils in England. A complete picture would be obtained by collecting information about children who are educated at home. A Bill currently before Parliament would, if enacted, require the registration of all home educated pupils. This would then enable DCSF to consider options for the collection of data on registered pupils. DCSF is, in addition, carrying out a feasibility study into the production of statistics about the numbers of home educated pupils.
- 1.3.4 The assortment of publications available on the website on individual topics, such as absence and special educational needs (SEN) can make it difficult to identify and access relevant and up-to-date information, especially for casual users.

### **1.4 Detailed recommendations**

- 1.4.1 The Assessment team identified some areas where it felt that DCSF could strengthen its compliance with the Code. Those which the Assessment team considers essential to enable designation as National Statistics are listed in section 1.5. Other suggestions, which would improve the statistics and the service provided to users but which are not formally required for their designation, are listed at annex 1.

## **1.5 Requirements for designation as National Statistics**

**Requirement 1** Investigate and document responses from users which inform the decision on whether to reduce the number of publications about pupil absence (para 3.3).

**Requirement 2** Review the way in which these statistics are presented on the website, to ensure that users can easily identify and access the information relevant to their needs (para 3.22).

**Requirement 3** Ensure that the name and contact details for the responsible statistician or statistical Head of Profession are included on all statistical releases and bulletins (para 3.26).



## 2 Subject of the assessment

- 2.1 The main source of the data used to produce the statistics being assessed is the School Census for England<sup>12</sup> which takes place in January, May and October each year. This is an administrative system used to collect pupil-level information about admissions, absence, exclusions and individual pupil characteristics from nursery, primary, secondary and special schools. Prior to this, information was collected via the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) which began in January 2002. Termly collection of School Census information was started in secondary schools in 2006 and extended to include primary schools from 2007. The data are transferred electronically from schools to Las and DCSF. Independent schools, general hospital schools and pupil referral units each submit an annual, aggregated, school-level return direct to DCSF.
- 2.2 Data about absence and exclusions for all state funded mainstream school types prior to 2005/06 was collected via the Absence in Schools returns by a DCSF contractor. Absence data is only collected for the first five half terms in the academic year due to the impact of exams, study leave and the end of compulsory education in the second half of the summer term. Annual figures on absence are published in February for the previous academic year and small area tables are published on the Neighbourhood Statistics website in April. Pupil absence figures for the Autumn and Spring terms combined are published in October of the following academic year. Separate releases for the Autumn and Spring terms are published in June and August respectively.
- 2.3 Admission authorities (LAs and governing bodies) are required to constitute an independent appeal panel to hear appeals by parents and guardians against the non-admission of their child to a school for which they have expressed a preference. The School Census is the source of data about admission appeals for Voluntary Aided and Foundation schools. LAs provide appeals data for their Community and Voluntary Controlled schools via the Survey of Admission Appeals. Figures relating to admissions are calculated from the School Census for all schools.
- 2.4 Special Educational Needs (SEN) statistics are derived from the School Census and the SEN2 Survey. The SEN2 survey has, since 1984, collected information on statements<sup>13</sup> issued by individual LAs on children educated other than in school. Information about pupils with SEN is collected from the January School Census.
- 2.5 Information about schools, pupils and their characteristics is also derived from both the School Census and the SEN2 Survey. Provisional figures are published in May each year with final figures and LA tables published in July.

---

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/ims/datacollections/schoolcensus/>

<sup>13</sup> Arrangement for identifying and providing children with SEN statements are set out in Part IV of the 1996 Education Act. A SEN Code of Practice was issued in 1994 and revised in 2002. All LAs and schools must have regard to it.

- 2.6 The statistics are used to monitor a range of government policies, including *The Children's Plan*<sup>14</sup>, one aim of which is to reduce the level of persistent absence from secondary schools. The statistics are also used in a range of National Indicators which are used to set and monitor performance for local government. Information about SEN relates directly to the government strategy *Removing Barriers to Achievement*<sup>15</sup>, which aims to encourage greater collaboration between special and mainstream schools. Information about the number of pupils and their characteristics is used for allocating funding and targeting resources for various organisations at both national and regional level.
- 2.7 The percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals is widely used as a measure of deprivation. School destinations information is used by LAs for pupil places planning. General school information provided from the School Census is published on the online resource *EduBase*<sup>16</sup> for parents.

---

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/childrensplan/>

<sup>15</sup> <http://nationalstrategies.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/node/84379>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.edubase.gov.uk/>

### 3 Assessment findings

#### Principle 1: Meeting user needs

**The production, management and dissemination of official statistics should meet the requirements of informed decision-making by government, public services, business, researchers and the public.**

3.1 In March 2010 DCSF published a policy statement on meeting user needs through engagement with users<sup>17</sup>. This includes plans to produce a quarterly newsletter for users of all DCSF statistical publications containing information about developments to the statistics, new consultations, updates to the publication schedule and changes to policies and procedures.

3.2 Some fora exist for DCSF to engage specifically with users of these statistics:

- The Star Chamber Scrutiny Board (SCSB) assesses new data collection proposals. It consists of LA representatives and head teachers;
- LA representatives are also invited to attend annual School Census workshops. Written feedback is requested from participants and responses given.
- The Information about Children, Education and Schools (ICES) group is a forum for the exchange of information about school and pupil data. It meets three times a year. Representatives from other organisations interested in school and pupil information attend, as well as LA and DCSF staff.

The SCSB work programme and ICES agendas and presentations are available on the *Teachernet*<sup>18</sup> website. Responses to the user consultation indicate generally positive views around the engagement between DCSF and users and specifically mention the ICES user forum.

3.3 DCSF is currently seeking users views on the *Pupil Absence in Schools in England, including Pupil Characteristics* release, and the *School Destinations of Secondary School Pupils Resident in London boroughs* publications. DCSF indicated that as part of the consultation on absence statistics, users' views on reducing the number of absence publications were being sought. As part of the re-designation as National Statistics, DCSF should investigate and document responses from users which inform the decision about whether to reduce the number of publications about pupil absence<sup>19</sup> (Requirement 1).

---

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/nat-stats.shtml>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/ims/newsinfo/>

<sup>19</sup> In relation to Principle 1 Practice 2 of the Code of Practice

## **Principle 2: Impartiality and objectivity**

**Official statistics, and information about statistical processes, should be managed impartially and objectively.**

- 3.4 All publications are available on DCSF's website without charge. Additional tables are provided on request, again without charge.
- 3.5 A revisions policy for DCSF was published in March 2010<sup>20</sup>. DCSF has stated that this will be reviewed every six months.

---

<sup>20</sup> [http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/ns\\_revisions.pdf](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/ns_revisions.pdf)

### **Principle 3: Integrity**

**At all stages in the production, management and dissemination of official statistics, the public interest should prevail over organisational, political or personal interests.**

- 3.6 No incidents of political pressure, abuse of trust or complaints relating to professional integrity, quality or standards were reported to, or identified by, the Assessment Team.
- 3.7 DCSF assured the Assessment team that statements made by policy colleagues around the time of the publication of the statistics are cleared with the statistical production team prior to being issued.

## Principle 4: Sound methods and assured quality

**Statistical methods should be consistent with scientific principles and internationally recognised best practices, and be fully documented. Quality should be monitored and assured taking account of internationally agreed practices.**

- 3.8 Data from the School Census are extracted from schools' Management Information Systems and loaded into COLLECT, the system DCSF uses to collect data from schools. All data submitted via COLLECT are validated by DCSF to ensure that the data have been submitted in the correct format and are consistent with data from previous years. Queries flagged by validation checks are referred back to the school to be resolved.
- 3.9 A quality report produced after every School Census data collection summarises any data quality issues and actions taken. This is sent to the National Pupil Database team who use it as part of their quality assurance processes.
- 3.10 Independent schools, general hospital schools and pupil referral units submit information for the School Census on a paper form which is keyed in by contractors. We were told that it is subject to minimal error: contractors work to defined quality standards. DCSF has identified this as an area for improvement and in 2011 these schools will be able to submit data electronically if they wish.
- 3.11 The number of permanent exclusions is known to be under-reported in School Census returns for some schools. Once all exclusions data for an academic year are collected, DCSF carries out a quality assurance check to compare the aggregate number reported by schools with the aggregate numbers reported by LAs (to which schools are required to notify exclusions), to confirm the total number of permanent exclusions by type of school. This means that whereas the analysis of exclusions by type of school is based on LA returns, the information about the characteristics of pupils who are excluded is estimated for those cases for which the school did not provide complete data. The number of excluded pupils whose characteristics are estimated from the underlying distribution in the School Census is reported in the Notes to Editors in the release. We suggest that DCSF should investigate ways in which the number of pupils omitted from the analysis as a result of this can be reduced and report any improvements to users.
- 3.12 The most recurrent negative comment from users regarding these statistics concerned the timeliness of the absence and exclusions releases. Users specifically commented on the annual exclusions release which is published 12 months after the end of the academic year to which it relates. DCSF has told us that this is to allow for the appeals process for exclusions to be concluded. DCSF statisticians are currently seeking to provide policy colleagues with termly data for operational use. The Assessment team suggests that DCSF explore: a) the possibility of making termly exclusions data more widely available to users; and b) the feasibility of releasing more timely data before all exclusion appeals have been finalised; and publish its findings.

- 3.13 DCSF has published a policy statement on Statistical Quality: Policy and Procedures<sup>21</sup> which sets out quality guidelines.
- 3.14 DCSF statisticians informed the Assessment team that they were not aware of a demand for comparable UK-wide figures. The Assessment team suggests that DCSF investigate the options for producing comparable statistics for the UK.

---

<sup>21</sup> [http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/ns\\_quality.pdf](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/ns_quality.pdf)

## **Principle 5: Confidentiality**

**Private information about individual persons (including bodies corporate) compiled in the production of official statistics is confidential, and should be used for statistical purposes only.**

- 3.15 Data are transferred between DCSF and schools or LAs, and between DCSF and external contractors using a secure transfer system.
- 3.16 All DCSF staff involved in producing these statistics are checked by the Criminal Records Bureau and work on the data in a secure area with restricted access.
- 3.17 Adequate suppression and rounding methods are in place to ensure the protection of individual pupil information. Details of the methods used are included in the footnotes to each table.



## **Principle 6: Proportionate burden**

**The cost burden on data suppliers should not be excessive and should be assessed relative to the benefits arising from the use of the statistics.**

- 3.18 The overall cost of compliance with all data requests by DCSF has been published<sup>22</sup> by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). We suggest that DCSF publish the estimated costs of responding to each data collection on its website.
- 3.19 All requests for the collection of additional or changed data are submitted to the SCSB, a group which comprises head teachers, local authority representatives and DCSF. We were told that each request is critically appraised, and that part of this includes the burden on suppliers.

---

<sup>22</sup> [http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme\\_other/GSS-Report-Final.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_other/GSS-Report-Final.pdf)

## **Principle 7: Resources**

**The resources made available for statistical activities should be sufficient to meet the requirements of this Code and should be used efficiently and effectively.**

- 3.20 Relevant competency frameworks and recruitment processes are used throughout DCSF. DCSF has a published learning and development policy.

## Principle 8: Frankness and accessibility

**Official statistics, accompanied by full and frank commentary, should be readily accessible to all users.**

- 3.21 Many of the requirements under Principle 8 of the Code are met in relation to *School and pupil characteristics, and absence and exclusions statistics in England*. These include: detailed commentary about the source of the statistics, any changes in the presentation which have occurred; and main points from the current release. Useful charts are also included in releases where appropriate.
- 3.22 The range of outputs published may cause some confusion as it can be difficult to identify and access relevant information, especially for casual users. For example, provisional statistics on pupils with statements of SEN are included in the *Schools, pupils and their characteristics* release published in May. Final figures on SEN and related information about special schools are published in the *Special educational needs in England* release in June the same year. Similarly, three releases containing information about absence are published before the final annual publication. As part of the re-designation as National Statistics, DCSF should review the way in which these statistics are presented on the website, to ensure that users can easily identify and access the information relevant to their needs<sup>23</sup> (Requirement 2). For example, this could be achieved by designing a separate landing page for groups of similar outputs, or by providing more guidance to users about where relevant information can be found.
- 3.23 The *Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics* release is published in provisional and final forms. The presentation of the provisional and final statistics has changed since 2007. In 2007, provisional and final statistics were published as separate releases, whereas in 2008 and 2009 final tables were added to the existing web page. In 2009, table numbers changed between provisional and final releases which means the notes section in the document which contains additional information is not useable for the final tables. We suggest that DCSF should make plans to ensure that in future, clarity of presentation is considered in the schools and pupils release.

---

<sup>23</sup> In relation to Principle 8 Practice 4 of the Code of Practice

## **Protocol 1: User engagement**

**Effective user engagement is fundamental both to trust in statistics and securing maximum public value. This Protocol draws together the relevant practices set out elsewhere in the Code and expands on the requirements in relation to consultation.**

3.24 The requirements for this Protocol are covered elsewhere in this report.

## Protocol 2: Release practices

**Statistical reports should be released into the public domain in an orderly manner that promotes public confidence and gives equal access to all, subject to relevant legislation.**

- 3.25 A timetable which lists the publication dates for statistical publications for the next six months is available on DCSF's website. This timetable includes a provisional programme for the following 12 months.
- 3.26 All statistical releases are accessible from the National Statistics Publication Hub as well as from DCSF's website. The name of the responsible statistician and a generic phone number to contact are included on the front page of all statistical releases with the exception of the *School destinations of secondary school pupils resident in London Boroughs* bulletin. As part of the re-designation as National Statistics, DCSF should ensure that the name and contact details for the responsible statistician or statistical Head of Profession are included on all statistical releases and bulletins<sup>24</sup> (Requirement 3).
- 3.27 Policy colleagues are allowed controlled access to pre-release data for operational purposes. Only those named as part of the statistical production team have access to statistics in their final form prior to publication.
- 3.28 Pre-release access lists for the statistics are available as a link from each publication page on DCSF's website.
- 3.29 The *Admissions Appeals for Maintained Primary and Secondary schools in England 2007/08* release was originally scheduled for publication in June 2009. During the production of the release, issues were identified with the way that admission numbers were calculated, resulting in undercounting. The release was subsequently delayed while a new methodology was developed. The release, including details of the reasons for the delay and revised data for all years, was published in October.

---

<sup>24</sup> In relation to Protocol 2 Practice 6 of the Code of Practice

### **Protocol 3: The use of administrative sources for statistical purposes**

**Administrative sources should be fully exploited for statistical purposes, subject to adherence to appropriate safeguards.**

- 3.30 The main source of these statistics is the School Census which draws together data from schools' management information systems. The SCSB manages the content of the Census and is committed to collecting the data once and using it many times to reduce the burden on schools.
- 3.31 DCSF is reviewing with ONS how National Pupil Database information could be used to improve ONS' population and migration estimates. DCSF is currently exploring the feasibility of further data matching projects. In addition, the statisticians in DCSF are contributing to the departmental Simplification Plan, which seeks to reduce bureaucracy and may lead to a reduction in data requirements
- 3.32 DCSF has published an interim Statement of Administrative Sources on its website.

## Annex 1: Suggestions for improvement

A1.1 This annex includes some suggestions for improvement to DCSF's statistical products, in the interest of the public good. These are not formally required for designation, but the Assessment team considers that their implementation will improve public confidence in the production, management and dissemination of official statistics.

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Suggestion 1</b> | Investigate ways in which the under-reporting of exclusions can be reduced and report any improvements to users (para 3.11).  |
| <b>Suggestion 2</b> | Explore: a) the possibility of making termly exclusions data more widely available to users; and b) the feasibility of releasing more timely data before all exclusion appeals have been finalised; and publish its findings (para 3.12). |
| <b>Suggestion 3</b> | Investigate the options for producing comparable statistics for the UK (para 3.14).   |
| <b>Suggestion 4</b> | Publish the estimated costs of responding to each data collection (para 3.18)   |
| <b>Suggestion 5</b> | Ensure that the clarity of presentation is improved in the schools and pupils release (para 3.23)   |

## **Annex 2: Summary of assessment process and users' views**

A2.1 This assessment was conducted from October 2009 to March 2010.

A2.2 The Assessment team – Catherine Barham, Ed Swires-Hennessy and Joe Cuddeford - agreed the scope of and timetable for this assessment with representatives of DCSF in October 2009. The Written Evidence for Assessment documents were provided on 8 December 2009 and 11 January 2010. The Assessment team subsequently met with DCSF during March 2010 to review compliance with the Code, taking account of the written evidence provided and other relevant sources of evidence.

### **Summary of users contacted, and issues raised**

A2.3 Part of the assessment process involves our consideration of the views of users. We approach some known and potential users of the set of statistics, and we invite comments via an open note on the Authority's website. This process is not a statistical survey, but it enables us to gain some insights about the extent to which the statistics meet users' needs and the extent to which users feel that the producers of those statistics engage with them. We are aware that responses from users may not be representative of wider views, and we take account of this in the way that we prepare assessment reports.

A2.4 The Assessment team received 14 responses from the user consultation. The respondents were grouped as follows:

DCSF	6
Central government	1
Local government	3
Non-government organisation	1
Non-departmental body	1
Academic	1
Private	1

A2.5 On the whole, respondents gave positive statements when asked whether the statistics met their needs. All respondents gave a positive response to the questions about their experience of contacting DCSF for additional requests. Some users gave negative responses when asked about the timeliness of the data and some also raised concerns over the accuracy of the data collected from schools.

### **Key documents/links provided**

Written Evidence for Assessment document



## List of assessment reports published to date<sup>25</sup>

1. Statistics from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System  
*National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse*
2. Recorded Crime in Scotland  
*Scottish Government*
3. Statistics on Enrolments at Schools and in Funded Pre-School Education in Northern Ireland  
*Department of Education, Northern Ireland*
4. Road Casualty Statistics  
*Department for Transport*
5. UK Energy Sector Indicators  
*Department of Energy and Climate Change*
6. Statistics on Road Freight  
*Department for Transport*
7. Prison Population Projections  
*Ministry of Justice*
8. Migration Statistics  
*Office for National Statistics*
9. Statistics on International Development and the ODA:GNI Ratio  
*Department for International Development*
10. The Scottish Health Survey  
*Scottish Government*
11. Scottish House Condition Survey  
*Scottish Government*
12. Scottish Crime and Justice Survey  
*Scottish Government*
13. Statistics on Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England  
*Department for Children, Schools and Families*
14. Statistics on Children Looked After by Local Authorities in Scotland  
*Scottish Government*
15. Statistics on Children Looked After by Local Authorities in Wales  
*Welsh Assembly Government*
16. Statistics on Children Looked After by Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland  
*Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Northern Ireland*
17. Wealth in Great Britain  
*Office for National Statistics*
18. Statistics on the National Child Measurement Programme  
*NHS Information Centre*
19. Average Weekly Earnings  
*Office for National Statistics*
20. Energy Statistics  
*Department of Energy and Climate Change*
21. 18 Weeks Referral to Treatment Statistics  
*Department of Health*
22. Agriculture in the UK and selected crop and livestock statistics  
*Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs*

---

<sup>25</sup> Published reports are available at: <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/index.html>

23. Child Benefit Statistics  
*Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs*
24. Producer Price Indices  
*Office for National Statistics*
25. Services Producer Price Indices  
*Office for National Statistics*
26. Scottish Household Survey outputs  
*Scottish Government*
27. Scottish Labour Market Statistics  
*Scottish Government*
28. Special Assessment of the 2011 Censuses in the UK: Phase 1  
*Office for National Statistics, the General Register Office for Scotland and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency*
29. Labour Market Statistics for Northern Ireland  
*Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Northern Ireland*
30. Child and Working Tax Credit Statistics  
*Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs*
31. Emissions Statistics  
*Department of Energy and Climate Change*
32. Council Tax Levels set by Local Authorities  
*Department for Communities and Local Government*
33. Welsh Labour Market Statistics  
*Welsh Assembly Government*
34. UK Labour Market Statistics  
*Office for National Statistics*
35. Statistics on Freedom of Information  
*Ministry of Justice*
36. Statistics on Court Activity  
*Ministry of Justice*
37. Statistics on Cancer in Scotland  
*NHSScotland*
38. Statistics on Cancer Screening in Scotland  
*NHSScotland*
39. Statistics on NHSScotland Workforce  
*NHSScotland*
40. Statistics on Road Conditions in England  
*Department for Transport*
41. Statistics on School and Pupil Characteristics, and Absence and Exclusions, in England  
*Department for Children, Schools and Families*

