

UK Statistics Authority Regulation Committee

Terms of Reference

Introduction

1. On 1 April 2008, the UK Statistics Authority formally assumed its powers under the Statistics and Registration Service Act (2007). The Authority was given the statutory objective of “promoting and safeguarding the production and publication of official statistics that serve the public good”.
2. In 2009 the Authority agreed to constitute a sub-committee which would meet with the specific purpose of considering draft Assessment reports. It would be known as the Assessment Committee. At its meeting of 5 March 2013 [SA(13)13] the Authority Board agreed to further formalise the Assessment Committee’s role, including that it may initiate and approve Assessment Reports. At its meeting of 2 October 2014, the Authority Board agreed that the Assessment Committee would be renamed ‘Regulation Committee’ to best reflect its functions.

Roles and responsibilities

3. The role of the Regulation Committee is to help shape the regulation strategy and to oversee the programme of Assessment of sets of official statistics against the Code of Practice plus other work related to Assessment and regulation, thereby contributing to achievement of the Authority’s strategic objectives.
4. Specific responsibilities of the Committee include to:
 - i. oversee the Assessment of whether sets of official statistics are compliant with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics;
 - ii. determine whether sets of official statistics may be designated National Statistics or not and approve Assessment Reports for publication, subject to the agreement of the Chair of the Authority acting on behalf of the Authority Board;
 - iii. monitor progress by producers in meeting the requirements for designation as National Statistics and in responding to suggestions for improvement, taking appropriate action where necessary;
 - iv. initiate individual Assessment Reports and make recommendations to the Board of the Authority on the overall programme of which official statistics should be assessed and re-assessed;
 - v. keep the Code of Practice for Official Statistics under review and make proposals to the Board of the Authority in respect of any revisions;
 - vi. oversee the regulatory function’s Monitoring programme, initiate individual Monitoring Reviews, and make recommendations to the Board of the Authority on the overall programme of Monitoring and on appropriate actions from individual Reviews; and
 - vii. review other work produced by the Director General for Regulation, as determined appropriate by the Deputy Chair for Official Statistics, and to make recommendations to the Authority Chair on these matters.

Meetings

5. The Regulation Committee will meet at least quarterly. The Chair of the Regulation Committee may convene additional meetings as are deemed necessary.

Reporting

6. The Committee will ensure its work does not duplicate work elsewhere in the Authority and will be guided by the priorities of the Authority Board. The Committee will provide the following to the Authority Board:

- reports following each meeting of the Committee;
- other reports and proposals, as agreed with the Authority Chair; and
- an annual report on the committee's activities and the contribution made toward meeting the Authority's strategic objectives.

7. The Committee will receive:

- progress reports from the Director General for Regulation for each committee meeting; and
- other briefing from the Director General for Regulation on ad hoc or emerging issues with official statistics such as the committee requires.

Membership

8. This Committee will meet in the absence of statistical producers, consistent with the statutory requirement for the separation of statistical production and assessment.

9. The members of the Regulation Committee as agreed by the Authority Board are:

- the Deputy Chair of the UK Statistics Authority with responsibility for official statistics (Chair);
- three or more other Non-Executive members of the Statistics Authority; and
- the Director General for Regulation.

10. Senior staff leading Assessment or Monitoring programmes will be in attendance.

11. Secretariat will be provided by the staff of the UK Statistics Authority.

Quorum and voting

12. Committee meetings will be considered quorate when three members are present including the Chair of the Regulation Committee or their delegated nominee.

13. Substitutes will not be permitted to attend Committee meetings unless with express invitation from the Chair of the Regulation Committee.

14. In the event of a vote the Chair of the Regulation Committee or their delegated nominee will:

- reserve the right to consult all non-executive members before such a vote is held; and
- where a vote is tied, exercise a casting vote.

Review of effectiveness

15. In order to ensure that it continues to add value and follow best practice, the Committee will carry out a review of its effectiveness each year and will also review its terms of reference annually.

Robert Bumpstead, Secretariat, January 2015

Agreed by the Board of the UK Statistics Authority, January 2015