



Office for  
Statistics Regulation

**Office for Statistics Regulation**

**Regulatory Work**

**Programme 2017/18**

## Introduction

This document sets out our priorities for the 2017/18 regulatory work programme, and can be read together with our **business plan** which sets out our broader strategy. This work programme focuses only on our regulatory activity -see figure 1 for types of activity. Other key projects in 2017/18 - for example, delivering the refreshed *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*, are set out in the business plan.

This work programme has been finalized following consideration of all responses to our **consultation on priorities in March 2017**. Thank you very much to everyone who took time to contact us. As communicated at the time of the consultation, we have not fully committed our resources for 2017/18 from the start of the year. We have allowed scope to take on new work in-year to respond to emerging issues. Intelligence gathered from the consultation exercise, and from ongoing engagement, will continue to inform our planning.

### Figure 1: Types of regulatory activity:

**Assessments:** assessing sets of statistics against the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*, and if they comply in full with the Code, designate them as National Statistics.

**Compliance Checks:** A flexible tool to check for compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, often with a focus on specific Principles. Compliance checks that highlight concerns about trustworthiness, quality and value may lead to a full assessment or to the removal of the National Statistics designation

**Systemic Reviews:** Reviewing issues and opportunities at a system-wide level. These may be specific to a theme or cut across themes. Within themes these reviews often involve examining the landscape of statistics to look at the extent to which they collectively maximise public value. A systemic review may lead to direct engagement activity to try and help address issues identified

**Engagement Activities:** Including utilising the Office for Statistics Regulation's powers to convene to bring together statistics producers and users to support improvement in about trustworthiness, quality and value – from small expert round tables to larger summits

**Watching Briefs:** Through engagement and horizon scanning, maintain a close and active watch on an important topic with a view to initiating action as issues and opportunities arise

The work programme is organized by Theme and sets out the broad schedule for our activities.

Some of the potential assessments listed have been discussed with officials from the relevant departments, but remain subject to ministerial approval.

Theme	Project commences:	Project	Geographical Coverage	Type
Agriculture and Environment	First half of 2017/18	Public value of environmental statistics	England	Systemic Review
	Second half of 2017/18	Agriculture and environment statistics: Compliance checks	UK	Compliance checks
Business, Industry, Trade and Energy	Continues from 2016/17	UK Trade Statistics: De-designated as National Statistics. ONS is working towards re-designation at earliest opportunity	UK	Follow up of assessment
	Continues from 2016/17	UK Construction Output and Construction Prices Statistics: De-designated as National Statistics. ONS is working towards re-designation at earliest opportunity	UK	Follow up of assessment
	First half of 2017/18	Compliance checks: i) UK Trade in Goods statistics (HMRC) and International Trade in Services (ONS) statistics: key inputs to the UK Trade estimates ii) Business Investment statistics (ONS) iii) Energy and Climate Change statistics – follow up to AR283 (BEIS)	UK	Compliance Checks
Children, Education and Skills	First half of 2017/18	Compliance checks: Scottish Funding Council – College Performance Indicators	Scotland	Compliance Check
	First half of 2017/18	Public value of education statistics	To be determined	Systemic Review
Crime and Justice	Continues from 2016/17	Exploring the potential for developing next generation crime statistics in the UK through sharing data to increase value and achieving the most from scarce resources. Round Table meetings in London and Edinburgh	UK	Engagement activity linked to 2016/17 Systemic Review
	Continues from 2016/17	Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SG): Assessment is underway	Scotland	Assessment
	Continues from 2016/17	Police Recorded Crime statistics: de-designated as National Statistics and working towards re-designation at earliest opportunity	England and Wales	Follow up of assessment
	First half of 2017/18	Northern Ireland Crime Survey (DoJNI): Compliance check	Northern Ireland	Compliance Check
	First half of 2017/18	Extending our knowledge of statistics on the criminal justice system to increase our awareness of relevant data issues and statistical provision	UK	Watching brief

Theme	Project commences:	Project	Geographical Coverage	Type
<b>Culture and Identity</b>	First half of 2017/18	Compliance check of Race Disparity Unit statistics (CO)	UK	Compliance Check
	Second half of 2017/18	Community Life Survey (DCMS)	England	Assessment
<b>Economy</b>	Continues from 2016/17	Measurement of prices - CPIH: Consumer Price Inflation (including a measure of owner occupiers' housing costs): de-designated as National Statistics and ONS working towards re-designation at earliest opportunity	UK	Follow up of Assessment
	Continues from 2016/17	Measurement of the National Accounts - Purchases Survey and Supply-Use/Input Output Tables: complete a quick review with ONS on readiness to meet Requirements from previous assessment of the Supply Use Tables and Input Output Tables	UK	Follow up of Assessment
	Continues from 2016/17	Regional GVA statistics (ONS) and Measurement of the Modern economy-the digital revolution	UK	Assessments
	First half of 2017/18	Measurement of devolved, regional and local statistics – Compliance Checks on Export Statistics Scotland, Scottish Quarterly Index of Manufactured Exports, Northern Ireland Manufacturing Sales and Exports Survey, HMRC Export statistics, Welsh exports statistics (SG,NISRA,HMRC,WG)	UK	Compliance Checks
	Second half of 2017/18	Understanding the Productivity Puzzle: Review progress by ONS against 2015 roadmap to address measurement issues	UK	Systemic Review follow up
	Second half of 2017/18	Economic estimates of the GVA from the creative industries (DCMS)	UK	Assessment
	Second half of 2017/18	Exploitation, interrogation and understanding of administrative data and other large datasets HMRC statistics- a series of checks to ensure continued compliance with the Code would be appropriate, especially in light of increasing intensity of use of HMRC's administrative data across the statistical system.	UK	Compliance checks
	Second half of 2017/18	Measurement of prices: Follow up on systemic reviews on Deflators and City regions: revisit the findings from our systemic reviews and survey key users about progress and latest thinking	UK	Systemic Review follow up
<b>Health and Social</b>	Continues from 2016/17	Health and Social Care Statistics Systemic Review: This is a continuation of the Review that started in 2015. There will be further events in 2017 to	England and UK	Systemic Review

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Care		drive improvements in health and social care statistics, with statistics producers increasingly taking on leadership and the Office for Statistics Regulation stepping back as we see that happen.		
	Second half of 2017/18	Health and Social Care statistics – it is likely the continuing Health and Social Care Systemic Review will identify priorities for sets of statistics that require Compliance Checks in 2017/18	UK	Compliance checks
Housing, Planning and Local Services	Continues from 2016/17	Housing statistics systemic review: this review of the public value of housing statistics in the UK is underway with strong engagement with users across the devolved governments.	UK	Systemic Review
	Continues from 2016/17	UK Index Phase 2 Assessment (Land Registry and partners): This is phase 2 of the assessment of the new UK House Price Index (phase 1 reported on the development phase). The Northern Ireland statistics are being assessed at the same time, at the request of the producer body.	UK, Northern Ireland	Assessments
	Continues from 2016/17	Homelessness and Rough Sleeping and Traveller Caravan statistics (DCLG): Follow up of the assessment of homelessness and rough sleeping statistics and also the Traveller Caravan statistics. At the heart of this work is the need for a coherent measure of 'homelessness'.	England	Follow up of Assessment
	First half of 2017/18	Northern Ireland Housing Statistics –workshop with data suppliers on the quality of their administrative sources.	Northern Ireland	Engagement - Workshop
	First half of 2017/18	Statistics from the Northern Ireland House Condition Survey (Northern Ireland Housing Executive):	Northern Ireland	Follow up of Assessment
	First half of 2017/18	DCLG Housing Statistics: priorities for compliance checks emerging from the Housing Systemic Review	England	Compliance Checks
	Second half of 2017/18	Compliance checks: i) Private sector rents statistics – Scotland (SG): input into ONS Index of private housing rental prices. ii) Private sector rents statistics – Wales (WG): input into ONS Index of private housing rental prices iii) Household Projections in England (ONS) following ONS taking over responsibility for their production from DCLG	Scotland Wales England	Compliance Checks
	Second half of 2017/18	Private Rental Market statistics for England (Valuation Office Agency)	England	Assessment

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	Second half of 2017/18	Northern Ireland Planning Statistics (Department for industry NI): Put forward by the producer body	Northern Ireland	Assessment
	Second half of 2017/18	Welsh House Condition Survey (WG)	Wales	Assessment
<b>Labour Market and Welfare</b>	Continues from 2016/17	Statistics on National Insurance Number Allocations to Adult Overseas Nationals (DWP): NINOs are a key data source for estimating migration (and so are also important to the Population theme). The National Statistics status has been temporarily suspended while DWP meets the Requirements of assessment.	UK	Follow up of assessment
	Continues from 2016/17	Income and Earnings Review: Follow-up on recommendations from the Income and Earnings systemic review. In particular, ensuring that ONS provides sufficient responses in regard to obtaining better data on income from self employment, and more progress on the web-based hub for income and earnings data.	UK	Follow up of Systemic Review
	First half of 2017/18	Benefits Cap statistic (DWP)	GB	Assessment
	First half of 2017/18	Benefit sanctions statistics (DWP): In 2015 <u>we made 5 recommendations to DWP</u> on its reporting of Benefit Sanctions. NAO have published a report on benefit sanctions at the end of 2016, which recommended that DWP implement our guidance in full.	GB	Follow up of previous correspondence
	First half of 2017/18	Gender Pay Gap and Income Inequalities: There have been a number of reports recently about the gender pay gap and growing income inequality (particularly amongst men), with some confusion over whether it's growing or declining. This would be a small study of the coherence of presentation and interpretation of the statistics.	UK	Watching Brief
	First half of 2017/18	Compliance checks: i) Labour Market statistics (ONS): Identified by the Income and Earnings Systemic Review ii) Fraud and error in the benefits system statistics (DWP)	UK  GB	Compliance checks
	First half of 2017/18	HMRC experimental statistics - real time numbers of employees and wages and salaries	UK	Watching Brief

Theme	Project commences:	Project	Geographical Coverage	Type
Population	First half of 2017/18	Migration: Systemic review to support the drive for a more comprehensive production of international migration statistics, with orderly release, that in turn will increase the public value and trustworthiness of the statistics	UK	Systemic Review
	Second half of 2017/18	2021 Census (ONS,NRS,NISRA): likely to be a bespoke arrangement for assessing the next Census	UK	Assessment/Watching Brief
	Second half of 2017/18	Home Office Immigration Statistics: This is the last part of the migration suite of data sources to be revisited to confirm compliance with the <i>Code</i>	UK	Compliance Check
Security, Defence and International Relations	First half of 2017/18	Defence statistics (Ministry of Defence)	UK	Compliance Checks
Travel , Transport and Tourism	First half of 2017/18	Compliance checks: i) Rail statistics (ORR and DfT): statistics with potential to realise considerable public value in relation to rail performance, value for money and safety ii) National Travel Survey (DfT): compliance check with a focus on whether optimizing public value	GB GB	Compliance checks
		Second half of 2017/18	Search and Rescue Helicopter statistics (DfT/ Maritime and Coastguard Agency)	UK
	Second half of 2017/18	Compliance checks: i) Port and Rail freight statistics: Freight statistics are a key indicator of trade and overall economic performance (DfT/ORR). ii) Overseas Travel and Tourism (ONS): increasing potential public value	UK/GB UK	Compliance checks
Cross-cutting	First half of 2017/18	Exploring issues of data access and linkage to address policy questions and enable person centred statistics; to be approached through case studies highlighting potential, constraints and lessons	UK	Systemic Review
	First half of 2017/18	The use of facts in political discourse: small piece of comparative research on the prevalence of 'facts' in political discourse: is it a new phenomenon?	UK	Systemic Review
	Second half of	Data Portals: innovations and lessons	UK	Systemic Review

<u>Theme</u>	<b>Project commences:</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Geographical Coverage</b>	<b>Type</b>
	2017/18			
	Second half of 2017/18	Comparative Statistics in a Devolved UK: addressing demand for comparable statistics as policy and data collection/ analysis are increasingly devolved	UK	Systemic Review
	Second half of 2017/18	Statistics system in the context of Brexit	UK	Watching Brief