

Ed Humpherson
Office for Statistics Regulation
1 Drummond Gate
London
SW1V 2QQ

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Dear Ed

Travel and Tourism Statistics

I'm writing in response to your recent correspondence with Guy Goodwin about Travel and Tourism statistics to set out clearly where we are at with these statistics.

We have had a recent issue with keeping our release calendar fully up to date in relation to Travel and Tourism Statistics; we had indicated provisional publication dates but had not updated these with firm dates. Whilst we had kept some key users up to date, we had not made sufficient information available to all users via our website – an issue which has now been corrected.

The International Passenger Survey (IPS) data has moved from paper to tablet-based collection as set out ([here](#)). For statistics about the amount of money overseas visitors are spending here and that UK citizens are spending overseas, we are balancing improvements in data quality from this collection with the value to users of the time-series. We are working with experts at Southampton University on our methodology and are on track to produce our next release in July. There is no evidence of other mode effects from the move to tablets on the IPS – on either migration or travel and tourism - but we will continue to assess this.

The forward publication timetable for Travel and Tourism Statistics is as follows:

20 th July 2018:	2017 annual travel trends
2 nd August 2018:	Monthly travel and tourism data for January to March 2018 Full Q1 2018 statistical bulletin
16 th August 2018:	Monthly travel and tourism data for April 2018

Alongside this letter we have also issued a statement so that the widest range of users are aware of our publication timetable. We will from now on be providing regular updates on our work in this area. Guy's correspondence also highlights the issue of consistency across a range of GSS Outputs on travel and tourism. I plan to consider with our fellow statistics producers how we can bring more coherence to this work.

Yours sincerely



Iain Bell
Deputy National Statistician and Director General, Population and Public Policy
Office for National Statistics