

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

Minutes

Thursday 1 November 2018
Boardroom, Titchfield

Present

UK Statistics Authority

Sir David Norgrove (Chair)

Professor Sir Adrian Smith (Deputy Chair)

Mr Iain Bell

Professor Sir Ian Diamond

Professor David Hand

Professor Jonathan Haskel

Mr Ed Humpherson

Dr David Levy

Ms Nora Nanayakkara

Mr John Pullinger

Also in attendance

Mr Jonathan Athow

Mr Robert Bumpstead

Ms Vanessa Holden

Mr Will Laffan (for item 6)

Mr Dominik Rozkrut (for item 7)

Ms Heather Savory

Mr Simon Taylor (for item 7)

Mr David Watts (for item 5)

Mr Ross Young (for item 7)

Apologies

Ms Sian Jones

Professor Anne Trefethen

1. Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Ms Sian Jones and Professor Anne Trefethen.

2. Declarations of interest

- 2.1 No new declarations of interest were received. Members noted existing declared interests relating to the Retail Prices Index (RPI).

3. Minutes and matters arising from previous meetings

- 3.1 Minutes were agreed. Members heard that actions were in hand.
- 3.2 Sir Adrian sought an update on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) review of student loan classifications. Mr Athow confirmed that ONS intended to publish its report in December.

4. Report from the Authority Chair

- 4.1 Sir David provided an update on his activity over October, in doing so highlighting:
- i. references made in the 2018 Budget to measures of inflation, including the government's objective that CPIH would become its headline measure over time, and that it would reduce the use of RPI when and where practicable;
 - ii. a recent meeting with the Chair of the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee, and the Authority's subsequent written update to the Committee;
 - iii. correspondence with the Secretary of State for Education, after a series of issues relating to the presentation and use of statistics by the Department for Education; and
 - iv. a meeting with the Minister for the Constitution, at which the two had discussed the 2021 Census for England and Wales, among other things.

5. Report from the Chief Executive

- 5.1 Mr Pullinger reported on activity over the last month, noting:
- i. the current status of data acquisition under the Digital Economy Act 2017;
 - ii. work underway on data ethics, within the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, at the UK Statistics Authority, and within other bodies; and
 - iii. a recent fall in response rates to social surveys.
- 5.2 Members of the Board asked the National Statistician about concerns he had reported on recruitment to economic statistics roles. Mr Pullinger and Mr Athow confirmed that recruiting and retaining analytical staff would continue to be a challenge for ONS. Pay was one factor, which the office hoped to address, in part, via its ongoing pay case; but the types of work and training ONS could offer employees were also factors to consider.

6. Report from the Director General for Regulation

- 6.1 Mr Humpherson reported on Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) activity over October.
- 6.2 Following Sir David's letter to the Secretary of State for Education, Mr Humpherson and Mr Brace had met officials within the Department, to discuss how best to improve practice. Mr Humpherson was reassured officials were taking the issue seriously, and ensuring analysts within the Department were given a stronger voice.
- 6.3 Mr Humpherson also noted the growing uptake of the *Code of Practice for Statistics* on a voluntary basis, and reported that the OSR would shortly publish a report on Accident and Emergency statistics.

7. Census and Data Collection Transformation Programme Update

- 7.1 Mr Bell provided the Board with an update on the 2021 Census for England and Wales.
- 7.2 When the Board had considered a draft White Paper in June, members agreed that the research conducted by ONS had been done appropriately and effectively, and that the research supported the recommendations on Census content within the draft White Paper. The Board had agreed the draft White Paper, subject to changes reflecting Board comments and discussion. The Board had also agreed that final sign-offs would be provided by the Chair on its behalf.
- 7.3 On 31 October, Sir David had approved a final White Paper, which reflected the Board's earlier discussions.
- 7.4 Mr Bell reported that – ahead of finalising the White Paper, ONS had received and considered further information relating to ethnicity. In considering a final White Paper, the Chair had confirmed that – on the basis of advice from the National Statistician – this information had been considered appropriately, and supported the recommendations on Census content within the White Paper.
- 7.5 Board members discussed Parliamentary interest and recent media coverage of the 2021 Census.
- 7.6 Finally, Mr Watts reported on work being undertaken in ONS to test systems ahead of the 2019 Census test. The team was satisfied that the interface between systems had functioned well during use on social surveys, and would now focus on ensuring the scalability of these interfaces.

8. EU Exit – Statutory Instrument

- 8.1 Mr Bumpstead summarised the Authority's preparations for EU exit, confirming that plans were in place for both 'deal' and 'no-deal' scenarios. Board members were briefed on a statutory instrument which had been developed, and which would be laid in Parliament to address a 'no-deal' scenario. Mr Bumpstead also reported that the office would communicate in further detail over the coming months about its plans.
- 8.2 Board members welcomed the update on preparations for EU exit.

9. Strategy: Beyond Better Statistics, Better Decisions

- 9.1 Ms Savory presented to the Board on possibilities for Data Capability over the period 2020-2025.
- 9.2 Board members welcomed the presentation, and discussed issues including the role of ONS as a data 'hub', the office's capacity to respond to (and prioritise) growing demands for data linkage, and partnerships with other bodies.

10. Any other business

- 10.1 There was no other business. The Authority Board would next meet on Thursday, 29 November in Newport.

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY
Agenda
1 November 2018, 10:00 to 14:00
Boardroom, Titchfield

Chair: Sir David Norgrove

Apologies: Sian Jones, Anne Trefethen

Attendees: Mr David Watts (for item 5), Mr Will Laffan (for item 6), Mr Ross Young (for item 7), Mr Simon Taylor (for item 7), Mr Dominik Rozkrut (Statistics Poland)

10:00 – 10:30: Non-Executive Session

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 10:30 – 10:35 5 mins | Minutes and matters arising from previous meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declarations of interest | Meeting of 27 September 2018 |
| 2 10:35-10:45 10 mins | Report from the Authority Chair | Oral report Sir David Norgrove |
| 3 10:45-11:00 15 mins | Report from the Chief Executive | SA(18)48 Mr John Pullinger |
| 4 11:00-11:15 15 mins | Report from the Director General for Regulation | SA(18)49 Mr Ed Humpherson |
| 5 11:15 – 11:30 15 mins | Census Programme Update | SA(18)50 Mr Iain Bell |
| 6 11:30-11:45 15 mins | EU Exit – Statutory Instrument | SA(18)51 Mr Rob Bumpstead |
| 7 11:45 – 12:25 40 mins | Beyond BSBD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Capability | Oral update Ms Heather Savory |
| 8 12:25 – 12:30 5 mins | Any other business | |

Next meeting: 29 November 2018, Newport, 10:30 to 16:00

Chief Executive's Report, October 2018

Purpose

1. This report provides the Board with an overview of activity and issues for October.

Summary

2. 2018 marks 50 years since the creation of the Government Statistical Service (GSS) which held its annual conference in Manchester this month. Over 400 attendees met to share their work, celebrate all that we have achieved and look forward to future opportunities to mobilise data to help make better decisions. The many examples of outstanding work by colleagues across the GSS was really inspiring and bodes well for the future.
3. We are now in the middle of the tenth annual People Survey. The results of this survey will give us very rich information to guide us in building the ONS community and the wider analytical community across government.

Review of recent activities

4. Important statistical developments in recent weeks include the following:
 - i. Mr Athow has been leading work with analytical colleagues and others across government on the evidence base around EU exit;
 - ii. Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, Ben Broadbent, appeared before the Lords Economic Affairs Committee and spoke about the Retail Prices Index. As reported last month, interest in future inflation statistics from this committee continues;
 - iii. Plans for next year's "Blue Book", which will represent a major milestone for economic statistics, have been announced. Feedback has been supportive;
 - iv. The People Analytics team within ONS won the CIPD People Management award in the Best Digital Initiative in HR/L&D category. This recognises the innovation and delivery of the team in adopting a more analytical and business focussed approach to support and drive workforce information for better decisions; and
 - v. We have made a further significant improvement in trade statistics, providing more detailed trade in services statistics and initial estimates of trade in goods by industry. This builds on the work on trade in goods that was presented to the Board earlier in the year. We have also updated earlier estimates of service exports abroad from different parts of the UK.
5. Progress with the Census and Data Collection Transformation Programme has been positive this month:
 - i. The content of the White Paper is nearly finalised and we are on track for publication;
 - ii. Major contracts have been awarded and we are working with suppliers in order to be ready for the Census rehearsal next year; and
 - iii. Significant milestones have been reached on business data collection and social survey transformation. We are seeing renewed challenges on survey response rates as the team cope with maintaining business as usual alongside getting to grips with new working methods. We are monitoring the situation carefully.
6. Other activities and risks being managed during this period include:

- i. The half year close provides us with good information for managing costs over the remainder of the financial year. This will include efforts to bring forward activities, to smooth our budget profile for 2019-20, the final year of the 2015 Spending Review;
- ii. There has been a spike in the number of minor errors in ONS outputs. All of these have been spotted and resolved internally and we have no evidence that there has been an adverse effect on users. Our investigations suggest that these errors are unrelated. The Executive Committee had a detailed discussion of quality at its October meeting and has commissioned a series of follow up actions. An advisory report is also being prepared by Internal Audit. The Audit and Risk Committee is due to examine quality issues at its January meeting; and
- iii. Economic statistics is reporting capability concerns that risk impacting on delivery. The main current issue is recruitment of suitable new staff to fill vacancies but there are also signs of existing staff leaving for higher pay in other government departments. Professions affected are analysts, technology/digital and project management.

Future look

10. In November, we have our 10 Year Anniversary Event for the UK Statistics Authority. This will bring together key stakeholders and partners to celebrate the work of the Authority since its inception in 2008. And we will also be hosting the Commonwealth Heads of Statistics Conference, bringing together representatives from the 53 Commonwealth nations to share practice and tackle common statistical issues, based around the five principles of the 2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting: leadership, ocean statistics, big data, education and working together in the future.

John Pullinger, 18 October 2018

Report from the Director General for Regulation

Purpose

1. This paper provides an update on regulation activity since the last Board meeting.

Recommendations

2. Members of the Board are invited to note the activities and proposed actions.

Discussion

3. Key activities since the last Board meeting include:
 - i. Department for Education (DfE): On 8 October, the Chair wrote to the Secretary of State for Education and I wrote to the Department's Permanent Secretary about the Department's use of statistics. This intervention was triggered by a range of concerns, including claims made by the Department about improvements in school performance (which were overstated) and about school funding (which were misleading). It represents one of our strongest interventions. The Department has responded well. The Permanent Secretary has, with the support of the Secretary of State, used it as the basis for a reconsideration of the relationship between the Department's analysis and communications functions. We will monitor progress. We are also seeing an increase in issues brought to our attention triggered by the publicity this intervention gained;
 - ii. Housing/Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG): I met the Department's Permanent Secretary and I was encouraged by their focus on improving the coherence of their statistical and analytical outputs. There is still a lot to improve, but this is an encouraging signal. She was particularly interested in developing stronger statistics on "place" - integrating datasets about small geographical areas. This is a very welcome development, given the relative neglect of regional statistics over recent years;
 - iii. Voluntary adoption of the Code: MHCLG has also become a much more open-minded statistical producer, as shown by its increasing willingness to adopt the Code on a voluntary basis for some of its management information outputs. More generally, we are seeing a steady increase in uptake of the Code on a voluntary basis by a range of producers both within and outside Government. I would encourage ONS to be open to voluntary adoption for innovative and non-traditional outputs;
 - iv. Data linkage: Our report continues to achieve our aims to i) provide a strong case for the benefits of linkage, aligning with and complementing the ONS's own work in this area; and ii) raise our profile as an authoritative voice in the field. We have received a range of invitations to speak and participate in data events and forums. We have also published supplementary material, including guidance on how to apply the Code to the creation and stewardship of linked data sets;
 - v. International Passenger Survey: We published a review of how changes in the data collection approach for the International Passenger Survey had been communicated. The changes involved switching from paper to tablet collection of responses, and ONS experienced some initial problems which impacted on migration statistics and tourism statistics (which are drawn from the survey). Our review welcomed the innovation seen in making the move but also made recommendations for improvements in ONS's communication of the changes and the impact of changes to users. This work will be followed up with a review of best practice when implementing changes in methods later this year;

- vi. Health statistics: In November, we aim to publish our summary of issues with A and E statistics that we have seen over the last two years. The summary will highlight the importance of policy-makers and operational managers paying attention to the advice of analysts on data quality issues. The summary should be timely as the NHS enters the winter months, which typically see intense focus on A and E performance measures. In addition, we note an increase in interest in life expectancy and mortality statistics. Last week we responded to a complaint about the ONS's presentation of mortality figures. We did not agree with the complaint and defended the ONS's presentation, but the complaint may indicate that this issue is becoming more prominent in public debate; and
- vii. Hetan Shah article: Hetan Shah, Director of the Royal Statistical Society, published an article in the Financial Times expressing concern about the pressures on official statistics in some parts of the world. He extolled the virtues of the UK's model of independent regulation of statistics (based on trustworthiness, quality and value). This article, and the upcoming 10th anniversary, should encourage the Authority to continue to explain and advocate the UK's regulatory model in international discussions.

4. The main challenges are:

- i. Strategy: We are developing a strategic vision for OSR over the next three to five years, based on an analysis of the changing environment for statistics. The challenge will be to distil the range of developments - AI, big data, data ethics, rise of social media, growth in real time analytics, political and economic change, new institutions like the Centre for Data Ethics, etc - into a compelling strategic narrative aligned with the Authority's overarching ambition; and
- ii. Proactivity: the OSR team is increasingly proactive - as shown by the DfE case and the work on A and E statistics. This proactivity does take a toll on a small team, however: we have suspended some planned work (we have not yet initiated a range of projects in our business plan) and some staff members are seeing significantly increased workloads. Our most recent recruitment round looks like it has been more successful than those earlier in the year, and this may alleviate some of these pressures towards the end of the year

5. The dashboard summary of regulatory activities is at **Annex A**.

Ed Humpherson, Director General for Regulation, 25 October 2018

List of Annexes

Annex A Regulatory Activities

Regulatory Activities October 2018

| Economy | Business, industry, energy and trade | Health and social care | Labour Market and welfare |
|---|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment: Spoke to HMT on Country and Regional Analysis. Meeting with HMT on 30 Oct. Preparing update for Reg Comm. UKSA/OSR met ONS to discuss assessment of Experimental Labour Productivity stats. Moving from assessment to CC. • Public Finances Systemic Review: Update Reg Comm on first stage review. Second stage starts after feedback. Speaking on findings with Devolved Administrations. • Casework: Complaint from Lord Lilley about the Govt's claims of post-Brexit usage for repayment Mechanism in tariffs. • Compliance Check: Met ONS on CC of FDI stats. Alerted ONS change from assessment to CC of experimental labour productivity stats. Met HMRC on CC Measuring Tax Gaps stats. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction Output and Prices: ONS presented analysis on "gap" of new orders and output series at September Construction Steering Group, resulting in suggestions to refine the analysis. New article examining coverage of new orders and output to publish at end of October. New analytical package launch to address the relationship between two series in Nov. • UK Trade: ONS to present paper to Reg Comm for re-designation, focusing on work to resolve asymmetries. OSR concerned production errors re-emerging, coverage of ONS's recent article on asymmetries by the FT was mixed, and stakeholders concerned over quality of data. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessments: Updates for the assessments of cancer survival statistics (ONS and PHE) & avoidable mortality statistics (ONS and NRS) provided in Committee papers. • Systemic review: Highlight findings from the stakeholder engagement phase of the systemic review of Adult Social Care provided in Committee papers. • Casework: Published letter concerning health related statistics involving misleading tweet by PHE and role of supporting organisations in producing ONS's quarterly mortality report. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systemic reviews: Attended meeting on 24/8 to discuss ONS/DWP/HMRC work plan to improve accessibility and coherence of income and earnings stats, following which ONS published a cross-GSS timetable. Expecting letter from ONS outlining plans. • Compliance checks: Continuing CC on ONS's Effects of Taxes and Benefits on Household Income release, met with Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Meeting ONS producer team to discuss findings. • Domain activities: Attended launch of the Social Metric Commission's new poverty measure. Investigating casework relating to DWP's press office not stating sources of stats referenced in tweets. |
| Crime and Justice | Housing, planning and local services | Children, education and skills | Agriculture and Environment |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systemic Reviews: Policing statistics review: The value of statistics on policing to the public debate – set up phase underway. • Casework: Investigated Jeremy Corbyn tweet on hate crime – informal action taken. • Compliance checks: Published positive response from Siobhan Carey, CEO, NISRA to our letter on CC of Northern Ireland Safe Communities Survey. Letter published on findings of our CC of prison population projections. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessments: Welsh Housing Conditions Survey ongoing with AR being considered by Reg Comm, publication scheduled Oct. • Compliance checks: Drafting CC of ONS's Household Projections for England; following talks with ONS on findings and plans for Stage 2. Projections published in Dec. • Systemic reviews: Spoke to ONS on GSS work to improve housing stats, and joint plans to develop User Engagement Strategy. Expecting update on progress late November. • Assessment: Letter sent to HM Land Registry, ONS, Registers of Scotland and LPS confirming designations of HPI. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Casework: Exchanged letters between OSR, DfE and SofS for Education regarding number of issues in Oct resulting in high press coverage and lead up to influx of new casework. • Skills Systemic Review: Emerging findings report presented to last Reg Comm. Currently sharing findings with official producer bodies, senior officials and ministers. Ongoing engagement with users. • Compliance checks: Ongoing CC of YR12/14 exam performance at post-primary schools in Northern Ireland, Phonics and KS1 assessments in England and HESA. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance checks: Finalising CC of Scottish Sea Fisheries Stats and meeting with producers for UK Sea Fisheries Stats CC (Marine Management Organisation) in Nov. Started CC of results of the June Agricultural Census, Final results of the June Agricultural Census (DAERA, NI) and Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture (Welsh Govt). • Assessment: Deciding on strategy and timetable for double assessment of Defra's Air Quality Statistics in the UK and Emissions of Air Pollutants in the UK. |
| Security, defence and intl relations | Travel, transport and tourism | Population | Culture and Identity |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No significant activity. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment: Agreed Assessment of National Rail Passenger Survey with Transport Focus to start in Feb 2019. • Compliance Checks: Published CC of communication and transparency of International Passenger Survey method changes. Beginning CC check of GB Road Safety statistics. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systemic review: Spoke with producers from migration roundtable, OSR published update recognising progress. Will continue to monitor producers against cross GSS development plan. • Compliance checks: HO immigration stats CC has been published; some areas of potential improvement were identified however findings were largely positive. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No significant activity |

Census and Data Collection Transformation Programme Update

Purpose

1. This paper provides an update on the progress of the Census and Data Collection Transformation (CDCT) Programme, with detail on the Census White Paper and on the Census communications and marketing strategy.

Recommendations

2. Members of the Authority Board are invited to:
 - i. note the progress made in the continued delivery of the CDCT Programme;
 - ii. note the progress on the White Paper; and
 - iii. note the handling plans for the White Paper.

Overview

3. October is a major month in terms of progressing the Programme:
 - i. We will begin to welcome our major suppliers onto the programme, with awards for Questionnaire Management, Print and Post Out, Supplier Integration and Postal Questionnaire Return Service also due this month. The Field Force and People Services award is on track for early November.
 - ii. The Labour Market Pilot went live on 24 October, with two separate tests. An operational test of 3,500 households is testing the integration from electronic questionnaire through Response Management, Fieldwork Management and Data Access Platform systems. This provides the first end-to-end test of the inhouse systems which will be used in Rehearsal. A statistical test run by IPSOS-Mori will assess whether online responses are in anyway biased to inform the future transformation of our social surveys.
 - iii. The clearance process for the White Paper is nearing completion.
 - iv. The ONS communications teams will commence Census awareness and engagement communications testing and delivery (with the public) at the end of 2018.

Discussion

The CDCT Programme

4. Work continues to effect cultural changes required to deliver the transformation. A Programme Roadmap has been produced and disseminated through the summer. Building on this an internal communications plan is now in place which includes a feedback mechanism to engage further with staff. This will continue to be updated as the programme continues to evolve.
5. We have delivered a number of key milestones, including the deployment of the Field Work Management Tool (FWMT) to field interviewers. Building on lessons learned from the roll out of International Passenger Survey (IPS) tablets to field staff, careful monitoring is taking place around how effectively the FWMT is being deployed. There is some follow up work to be undertaken to support the roll out, particularly around business change and ensuring effective product management and support once in live.
11. The risk landscape is shifting as we make progress with the White Paper and contract awards. Securing appropriately skilled resourcing in a number of teams remains a challenge with a number of initiatives underway to address gaps.

White Paper and Handling

12. Since the Board last considered the White Paper, the wording on gender identity and sexual orientation have been finalised as follows:

“As with the question on religious affiliation introduced in the 2001 Census, we believe these new questions (on sexual orientation and gender identity) should be voluntary and no individual should be forced to answer these questions who does not want to. The Government and the UK Statistics Authority will now consider the appropriate mechanism to ensure this is the case.”

13. Some other minor wording changes have also been agreed which are not material.

14. We have received further information from the Sikh community. We have a process in place for assessing new information and evidence. In line with the agreement of 28 June 2019, the impact of new material and wording have been put to the Chair for consideration.

15. We are planning for publication in late 2018, to enable the programme to continue to plan. We are aiming for a low-key but active approach to position the 2021 Census as an opportunity for every-one to have their say in the first digital by default Census, helping to shape public services. The Board may like to note that there will be no publication nor media / stakeholder activity until the White Paper is laid in Parliament.

Census Communications and Marketing

16. The overarching strategy for Census communications and marketing is to assure the delivery of the response and quality of data to not only deliver the census outcomes and insight, but also to support the Census transformation. This strategy has two key strands:

- Removal of barriers to survey completion; and
- Activating Census survey response – for 2019 rehearsal and the 2021 Census.

17. During 2018/19 activity will be focussed on the first of these strands and on developing a more accurate view of the responsiveness of specific channels with key audiences in order to support operational design. Additionally, professional stakeholder engagement will continue as we progress through the final consultations on the Census design.

18. Implementation in 2018/19 will focus on four key elements:

- i. Delivery of a content-led brand communications plan, predominantly through owned channels and earned activity, supported with limited paid activity, targeted toward key segments within the population;
- ii. Commence Census 2021 campaign and 2019 Census rehearsal campaign development and testing; including establishment of key owned digital channels such as Census.gov.uk website and social media channels;
- iii. Developing optimal response journeys (and experience) – to maximise response whilst minimising unit cost per response, based on audience insight; and
- iv. Successful completion of the Census design consultation programme with all stakeholder groups, culminating in the publication of the Census White Paper.

19. Plans are in place for 2019 to 2022 which focus on continuation of awareness communications, census rehearsal activation campaign and development of activation campaign strategy and plans for 2021 Census. In addition, awareness communications, Census 2021 activation campaigns, communication around outputs and full evaluation activities are also planned.

Iain Bell, Deputy National Statistician for Population and Public Policy and Frankie Kay, Director of Transformation, Population and Public Policy, 18 October 2018

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

UK(SA)51

Update on EU Exit Statutory Instrument and Introduction to Communications Strategy

Purpose

1. This paper updates the Board on progress with the Authority's EU Exit statutory instrument (SI) and invites discussion on communications.

Recommendations

2. Members of the Authority Board are invited to:
 - i. note the progress with the SI and its planned submission to the Parliamentary Business and Legislation (PBL) Committee; and
 - ii. comment on plans to communicate externally the impact of EU Exit on the UK statistical system.

Background

3. At its July meeting, the Board discussed and agreed upon the approach to statistical legislation: the preparation of an SI that will be triggered in the event of a "no deal" exit. The SI repeals approximately 400 regulations retained from EU law that would no longer be appropriate, and would be inconsistent with the statutory model of professional independence for statistics set out in the *Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007* (SRSA). Explicitly, the regulations impose obligations on the UK to provide data to Eurostat, and would require Parliament to pass legislation whenever statistical standards needed to be updated.
4. The SI is necessary now to prepare the statistical system for "no deal". If an exit deal is agreed, the SI need not be triggered by 29 March 2019 – it could be triggered at the end of a transitional period and a new UK-EU statistical relationship defined within a bi-lateral treaty.
5. Since the Board last discussed this issue, the Authority has been working with the Cabinet Office (CO) and the Department for Exiting the EU (DExEU) to prepare the SI. Preparation is now in its final stages and the SI will be submitted to the PBL committee, where a date to lay before Parliament will be given. A draft SI is at **Annex A**.

Discussion

6. To date, given uncertainty on the UK withdrawal agreement, it has not been possible to provide firm advice regarding the statistical system's future relationship with Eurostat. However, as we approach both the publication of our EU Exit SI and the deadline for any agreement to be made, the time has come to communicate.
7. The Board is asked to note the progress with the SI, and to advise on communications plans.

Robert Bumpstead, Chief of Staff, 24 October 2018

Annex A: Statutory Instrument / Explanatory Memorandum

Annex A

The Statutory Instrument is available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5c4b07c740f0b61720ae8327/EU_Exit_18.01.19_1_.pdf

The Explanatory Memorandum is available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5c4b07ebe5274a6e55ec0740/Statistics_EU_Exit_-_Explanatory_Memorandum.pdf