

OFFICE FOR STATISTICS REGULATION

2018/19 Regulatory Work Programme

Update: April 2019



Office for
Statistics Regulation

Introduction

This document provides a final update to our 2018/19 Regulatory Work Programme. Any projects still live or postponed have been carried over to our [2019/20 Regulatory Work Programme](#) which is published alongside our [2019/20 Business Plan](#).

The status of projects is classified as follows:

- **Completed** – these projects have been delivered – a link is provided to the published outputs
- **Live** – the project is underway and will continue into 2019/20
- **Postponed to 2019/20 (or later)** – in some instances we have paused projects - this usually reflects that producer bodies need time to take actions to improve the statistics and the onus is on them to take that action – we maintain a watching brief and where the timing of resuming the project is already confirmed as 2019/20, the project is listed in the first published release of the 2019/20 Regulatory Work Programme. Otherwise, the project will be added in-year as we agree timings.
- **Cancelled** –this may be for various reasons, and primarily reflects a change in priorities during 18/19. The priority of all projects in this category have been considered as part of the 2019/20 planning round.
- **(added in-year)** – identifies projects that have been added to our work programme since April 2018 to reflect emerging priorities

This work programme does not reflect all aspects of the work that we undertake. It focuses on our regulatory activity. For context you might find it helpful to refer to our:

[2018/19 Business Plan](#)

[2018/19 Regulatory Work Programme](#) (as first published in April 2018)

[Regulatory activity: our decision making and toolkit explained](#)

The work programme is presented organised by statistical domain.

Domain	Project status (25 April 2019):	Project	Geographical Coverage	Type	
Agriculture and Environment	Our main priority for 2018/19 is to better understand the baseline of agriculture and environment statistics in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. This baseline review is essential as the UK prepares to leave the European Union , which will permit a rethink of the statistics society needs in this area. We will also look at the quality and public value of statistics on natural capital .				
	Improve the value provided by statistics				
	Cancelled	A systemic review of statistics on natural capital. This project would examine the quality and value of statistics on measuring the value of physical natural resources to the economy. It would focus on the range of data sources and methods used to produce the estimates, the key questions that users want answers to in this area, and whether existing statistics allow them to address those questions.		UK	Systemic Review
	Enhance compliance with the highest standards of Trustworthiness, Quality and Value				
	<u>Completed</u>	Final Results of June Agricultural Census (Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs)		NI	Compliance Check
	<u>Completed</u>	Results of the December Agricultural Survey (Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs)		NI	Compliance Check
Cancelled	Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture (Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs)		NI	Compliance Check	

	<u>Completed</u>	Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture (Welsh Government)	Wales	Compliance Check
	Cancelled	Welsh Agricultural Statistics annual report (Welsh Government)	Wales	Compliance Check
	LIVE	Air Quality Statistics in the UK and Emissions of Air Pollutants in the UK statistics (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)	UK	Assessment
	<u>Completed</u>	UK Sea Fisheries statistics (Marine Management Organisation)	UK	Compliance Check
	<u>Completed</u>	Scottish Sea Fisheries statistics (Scottish Government)	Scotland	Compliance Check
	<u>Completed</u>	Results from the June Agricultural Census (Scottish Government)	Scotland	Compliance Check
	<u>Completed</u>	Results from the December Agricultural Survey (Scottish Government)	Scotland	Compliance Check
	Cancelled	Agriculture Facts and Figures (Scottish Government)	Scotland	Compliance Check
Business, Industry,	<p>Through the last two years much of our work has been driven by the assessments of Office for National Statistics' de-designated construction and trade National Statistics. As these assessments are now moving closer to completion, it allows us the opportunity to focus on other aspects of industrial performance, in line with the industrial strategy. This includes innovation, and we will be examining the coherence of Gross Domestic Expenditure on Research and Development and related tax credits. We will also be maintaining a watching brief on how statisticians are responding to the UK's departure from the European Union. Our evaluation of Department for Business,</p>			

Trade and Energy	Energy and Industrial Strategy' statistics covering the supply and consumption of energy and the associated emissions measurements is already underway.			
	Enhance compliance with the highest standards of Trustworthiness, Quality and Value			
	<u>Completed</u>	Construction Output, New Orders and Prices (Office for National Statistics)	GB	Assessment
	LIVE: Phase 2	UK Trade (Office for National Statistics)	UK	Assessment
	<u>Completed</u>	Digest of UK Energy Statistics (DUKES) (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy)	UK	Compliance Check
	LIVE: Phase 1	Annual Purchases Survey (Office for National Statistics)	UK	Assessment
	LIVE	International Trade in Services (Office for National Statistics)	UK	Compliance Check
	Postponed to 2019/20 (or later)	Business Investment (Office for National Statistics): carried forward from 2017/18 programme	UK	Compliance Check
	LIVE	Capital Stocks (Office for National Statistics)	UK	Compliance Check
	LIVE	UK Gross Domestic Expenditure on Research and Development (Office for National Statistics)	UK	Compliance Check
This year we are committing to better understand the statistics landscape in Wales and Northern Ireland , to expand our stakeholder network and to understand the differing policy context. We are also committing to better understanding post 16 learning , which is a crucial part of the industrial strategy . These priorities are reflected in our work programme.				

Children, Education and Skills	Improve the value provided by statistics			
	<u>Completed</u>	Innovation in Children, Education, and Skills Statistics	UK	Systemic Review
	LIVE: Phase 2 (Phase 1 <u>Completed</u>)	Public value of statistics on post-school education and skills in England: This project will explore the provision and suitability of data and statistics to support the development and evaluation of current and future policies, in further education, apprenticeships and life-long learning in England	England	Systemic Review
	Enhance compliance with the highest standards of Trustworthiness, Quality and Value			
	Cancelled	Permanent and Fixed-Period Exclusions statistics (using Reproducible Analytical Pipeline) (Department for Education)	England	Compliance Check
	LIVE	Further Education and Skills statistics (Department for Education)	England	Compliance Check
	<u>Completed</u>	Children in Need statistics (Department for Education)	England	Compliance Check
	Cancelled	Statistics on Vocational and Other Qualifications (quarterly statistics) (Ofqual)	UK	Compliance Check
	<u>Completed</u>	Higher Education statistics (Higher Education Statistics Agency)	UK	Compliance Check
<u>Completed</u>	Statistics on Year 12 and 14 examination performance at post-primary schools in Northern Ireland (Department of Education)	NI	Compliance Check	

	<u>Completed</u>	School's Examination Results statistics (Welsh Government)	Wales	Compliance Check
	<u>Completed</u> (added in-year)	Phonics Screening Check and Key Stage 1 Assessments (Department for Education)	England	Compliance Check
Crime and Justice	A lot of our previous work in this area has centred on crime , reflecting its high public interest. Last year we widened our interest, with a review of the public value of statistics on justice . We will continue to expand our engagement as we take forward some of the issues highlighted in that review. We will also start a review of the public value of policing statistics across the UK. We will also review some specific statistics on justice and on crime.			
	Improve the value provided by statistics			
	Completed	Public Value of Justice Statistics in the UK: Phase 2 – Follow-up activity arising out of the first phase of our justice review (due to report findings around April 2018) which is covering statistics on civil and family justice, offender management and outcomes, and public attitudes to the justice systems.	UK	Systemic Review
	LIVE: Phase 1 (<u>latest report</u>)	The public value of policing statistics: This project will review statistics and data about police and policing across the UK. This review completes our system wide look at statistics on crime and justice and is one that stakeholders have said they are keen for us to cover.	UK	Systemic Review
	Enhance compliance with the highest standards of Trustworthiness, Quality and Value			
	Postponed: Phase 2	Police Recorded Crime statistics (Office for National Statistics)	England and Wales	Assessment

LIVE (first CC)	Northern Ireland Safe Communities Survey (Department of Justice): series of Compliance Checks carried forward from 2017/18 programme	NI	Assessment
<u>Completed</u>	Civil Justice statistics quarterly (Ministry of Justice)	England and Wales	Compliance Check
<u>Completed</u>	Criminal Court statistics (quarterly) (Ministry of Justice)	England and Wales	Compliance Check
<u>Completed</u>	Family Court statistics (quarterly) (Ministry of Justice)	England and Wales	Compliance Check
<u>Completed</u>	Prison Population projections (Ministry of Justice)	England and Wales	Compliance Check
Cancelled	Violence at work: findings from Crime Survey for England and Wales (Health and Safety Executive)	England and Wales	Compliance Check
Cancelled	Criminal Justice System statistics (quarterly) (Ministry of Justice)	England and Wales	Compliance Check
Cancelled	Northern Ireland Prosecutions and Convictions Statistics (Department of Justice)	Northern Ireland	Compliance Check
Cancelled	Criminal Proceedings in Scotland (Scottish Government)	Scotland	Compliance Check
Culture and Identity	Our priorities for 2018/19 will be to assess some of the key statistical publications, including the Community Life Survey . We will also be keeping closely in touch with the developments of the new cultural strategy in Scotland.		

	Enhance compliance with the highest standards of Trustworthiness, Quality and Value			
	<u>Completed</u>	Community Life Survey (Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport)	England	Assessment
	Postponed to 2019/20 (or later)	Well-being of Wales (Welsh Government)	Wales	Assessment
	Cancelled	Internet Access - Households and Individuals (Office for National Statistics)	GB	Compliance Check
Economy	<p>In 2018/19 we will focus on public finance statistics. We also want to look at the most appropriate public finance statistics that go beyond income and expenditure of the regions into the investments that nations and regions make. Many fear the impact of Brexit on the contribution of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to economic growth. We will review the quality and public value of the existing FDI statistics from the Office for National Statistics and the Department for International Trade. We also intend to assess HMRC's Tax Gaps statistics.</p>			
	Improve the value provided by statistics			
	LIVE: Phase 2	Public value of statistics on public finances in a devolved UK: this will explore issues related to the new fiscal frameworks including Barnett consequentials, and related to investment including the asset and debt position - across all the devolved nations.	UK, Scotland and UK regions	Systemic Review
	Enhance compliance with the highest standards of Trustworthiness, Quality and Value			
	<u>Completed</u>	UK and Northern Ireland House Price Indices: Phase 2 (HM Land Registry and partners)	UK	Assessment
	LIVE: Phase 2	Department for Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport Economic Estimates	UK	Assessment
	<u>Completed</u>	Regional Gross Value Added (Office for National Statistics)	UK	Assessment

Postponed to 2019/20 (or later): Phase 2	Measurement of the National Accounts: Supply-Use Tables (Office for National Statistics)	UK	Assessment
LIVE: Phase 1	Country and Regional Analysis: Statistical estimates for the allocation of identifiable expenditure between the UK countries and 9 English regions (HM Treasury)	UK countries and regions	Assessment
LIVE	Measuring Tax Gaps (HM Revenue and Customs)	UK	Compliance Check (previously planned as Assessment)
LIVE	UK National Accounts Blue Book revisions (Office for National Statistics)	UK	Compliance Check
<u>Completed</u>	Foreign Direct Investment (Office for National Statistics)	UK	Compliance Check
Cancelled	Productivity estimates (Office for National Statistics) - scope widened from Public Sector Productivity estimates	UK	Compliance Check
LIVE (added in-year)	Labour Productivity (Office for National Statistics)	UK	Compliance Check
We have intensively engaged with statistics producers over the past two years with the aim of improving the coherence and accessibility of health and social care statistics in England. We will continue to monitor progress, but we will stand back convening relevant stakeholders to			

Health and Social Care	allow statistics producers to take the lead. Our main priority this year is to ensure social care, mental health, and health service workforce statistics across the UK are meeting the standards of the Code of Practice. We will identify any improvements to be made or areas of strengths to be learnt from via a series of compliance checks, and a systemic review on social care. We will also take a keen interest in how the increasing use of record level data can improve statistical production and narrative.			
Improve the value provided by statistics				
<u>Completed</u>	Health and Social Care statistics: Phase 2 - OSR will move to a 'review and report' phase focused on monitoring the progress made by statisticians to improve the coherence and accessibility of health and social care statistics in England. This is likely to last for two years. We will monitor action by the English Health and Social Care Statistics Steering Group (EHSSG), set up to tackle the issues across the statistical system that are making health and social care statistics hard to use. We will intervene further if progress is not sufficient or if we identify a clear way for producers to add value to the official statistics system. Phase 1 of this project ran for two years, with intensive convening and leadership activities including three Round Table meetings and two conferences.	England	Systemic Review	
LIVE: Phase 1 <u>(latest report)</u>	Public value of Social Care statistics in the UK: Our previous work with users of English health and social care statistics has indicated that adult social care statistics tend to be less developed than health statistics; we would like now to explore the position UK-wide, recognising policy variations across the devolved administrations have led to differences in how statistics are produced. We intend to explore users' needs and discover and share best practice in statistics' compilation, harmonisation, data linking, publication and statistical commentary about social care.	UK	Systemic Review	

Postponed to 2019/20	Mental Health: We plan to explore mental health statistics across the UK. In particular, statistics on mental health outcomes and mental health workforce using a variety of approaches including stakeholder engagement and compliance checks.	UK	Systemic Review
Enhance compliance with the highest standards of Trustworthiness, Quality and Value			
LIVE: Phase 2 (<u>Assessment Report</u>)	Cancer Survival (Office for National Statistics)	England	Assessment
<u>Completed</u>	Avoidable Mortality (Office for National Statistics)	England and Wales	Assessment
<u>Completed</u>	Patient Safety Incidents (NHS Improvement)	England	Assessment
4 checks are <u>completed</u> and remainder cancelled	Health and Care statistics: a small programme of (approximately 9) compliance checks – key priorities for the programme will be determined based on intelligence from the Health and Care Systemic Review and engagement with users; suggestions at present include health and social care workforce statistics	UK	Compliance Checks
Completed (<u>UK</u> and <u>Scotland</u>) (added in-year)	Health Life Expectancy (Office for National Statistics and National Records of Scotland)	UK and Scotland	Compliance Checks
During 2018/19, we will build on our <u>Systemic Review on the public value of Statistics on Housing and Planning in the UK</u> and continue to focus on housing and report publicly on related developments. We will also continue efforts to support improvements to individual sets of statistics, including a programme of at least ten compliance checks across the four countries of the UK focused on 'Quality' (including			

Housing, Planning and Local Services	quality assurance), given the reliance of many housing and planning statistics on local level administrative data collections. The aim is to start to build momentum to influence wider-reaching improvements across the statistical landscape for this domain.			
	Improve the value provided by statistics			
	LIVE: Phase 2	Public value of Statistics on Housing and Planning in the UK: Phase 2: Following our report in 2017/18, we will continue engagement with statistics producers and stakeholders across the UK to support improvements to these statistics; and report publicly on related developments.	UK	Systemic Review
	Enhance compliance with the highest standards of Trustworthiness, Quality and Value			
	<u>Completed</u>	Northern Ireland Housing Conditions Survey (Housing Executive)	NI	Assessment
	<u>Completed</u>	Welsh Housing Conditions Survey (Welsh Government)	Wales	Assessment
	<u>Completed</u>	Homelessness and Rough Sleeping in England (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government)	England	Assessment
	<u>Completed</u>	Household Projections in England (Office for National Statistics)	England	Compliance Check
	<u>Completed</u>	Housing statistics: a programme of compliance checks with a focus on the Quality pillar: key priorities will be determined based on intelligence from the Public Value of Statistics on Housing and Planning Systemic Review	England, Scotland, Wales, NI	Compliance Checks
	Cancelled	Index of Private Housing Rental Prices (IPHRP) in Great Britain (Office for National Statistics)	GB	Assessment
Our priorities for 2018/19 include continuing to monitor the progress of the UK statistics system in improving the coherence and accessibility of statistics on Income and Earnings . We will also be conducting a series of compliance checks on statistics produced by the				

Labour Market and Welfare	Department for Work and Pensions and the Office for National Statistics including Universal Credit, Benefit Cap and the Effects of Taxes and Benefits on UK Household Income . Our focus is not just on UK-level statistics, with an assessment of Northern Ireland Civil Service Sickness Absence statistics also in the pipeline for this year. We are also committed to broadening our understanding of this topic by strengthening our stakeholder network.			
Improve the value provided by statistics				
LIVE: Phase 2	The coherence and accessibility of statistics on Income and Earnings: Phase 2 - we will continue to track progress of the statistics system in addressing the recommendations set out in our 2015 report.	UK	Systemic Review	
Enhance compliance with the highest standards of Trustworthiness, Quality and Value				
LIVE	Northern Ireland Civil Service Sickness Absence statistics (Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency)	NI	Assessment	
<u>Completed</u>	Effects of Taxes and Benefits on UK Household Income (Office for National Statistics)	UK	Compliance Check	
LIVE	Universal Credit (Department for Work and Pensions)	GB	Compliance Check	
LIVE	Benefit Cap statistics (Department for Work and Pensions): carried forward from 2017/18 programme	GB	Compliance Check	
Population	Phase 2 of our review on improving the public value of the UK's international migration statistics will continue in 2018/19, with follow up activity on international migration relating to 'employment and business' and 'service delivery' and the extent to which they meet society's needs. We will also be building towards the assessment of the 2021 Census and looking at the Office for National Statistics' population projections.			

Improve the value provided by statistics				
Completed (please see 2019/20 Work Programme for details of further work in this area)	Improving the public value of the UK's international migration statistics: Phase 2 - Follow-up activity arising out of two Round Table meetings we held in phase 1 considering statistics on international migration relating to 'employment and business' and 'service delivery' and the extent to which they meet society's needs. Findings of Phase 1 should be published early in 2018.	UK		Systemic Review
Enhance compliance with the highest standards of Trustworthiness, Quality and Value				
LIVE: Phase 1	2021 Census (including administrative data sources) (Office for National Statistics, National Records of Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency)	UK		Assessment
<u>Completed</u>	Immigration statistics (Home Office)	UK		Compliance Check
Cancelled	Statistics within the Population domain: compliance check focused on the Quality Assurance of Administrative Data (QAAD) and its application across statistics producers	UK		Compliance Check
<u>Completed</u>	Population Projections (Office for National Statistics and partners in Devolved Administrations)	UK		Compliance Check
Security, Defence and	In 2017/18 we built networks with the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development statisticians and conducted compliance checks on several Defence National Statistics. Building on that success, in addition to carrying out more compliance checks, this year we will strengthen our networks with the users of SDIR statistics.			

International Relations	Enhance compliance with the highest standards of Trustworthiness, Quality and Value			
	Postponed to 2019/20 (scope of project may change)	Provisional UK official development assistance as a proportion of gross national income (Department for International Development)	UK	Compliance Check
	<u>Completed</u>	Defence Health and Safety statistics (Ministry of Defence)	UK	Compliance Check
Travel, Transport and Tourism	This year our focus will be enhancing our links with users and producers of the TTT statistics, including in Devolved Administrations and producers outside of Government that may have an interest in applying the Code on a voluntary basis. We also want to engage with producers and users involved in innovative work within this domain, for example, the production of new statistics using big data or through data linkage. Our regulatory activities for this year include an assessment of the statistics derived from the large and unique National Rail Passenger Survey and a series of compliance checks.			
	Enhance compliance with the highest standards of Trustworthiness, Quality and Value			
	Postponed to 2019/20	Rail statistics (Office of Rail and Road)	GB	Compliance Check
	<u>Completed</u>	National Travel Survey (Department for Transport)	GB	Compliance Check
	LIVE	Road Accidents and Safety statistics (Department for Transport)	GB	Compliance Check

	<u>Completed</u>	Search and Rescue Helicopter statistics (Department for Transport)	UK	Compliance Check
	<u>Completed</u>	Port Freight statistics (Department for Transport)	UK	Compliance Check
	<u>Completed</u> (added in-year)	International Passenger Survey (Office for National Statistics)	UK	Compliance Check
	Postponed to 2018/19	Overseas Travel and Tourism (Office for National Statistics): Carried forward from 2017/18 programme	UK	Compliance Check
	LIVE	National Rail Passenger Survey (Transport Focus)	GB	Assessment
Cross-Cutting	Improve the value provided by statistics			
	<u>Completed</u>	Data Access and Linkage: Phase 2 - Follow-up activity arising out of the first phase of our data linkage review which is investigating the UK statistical system's ability to provide greater insight via linked data.	UK	Systemic Review
	Cancelled	Public value of statistics to understand inequalities: We will consult stakeholders and take account of ONS's 'audit of inequalities data' and the work undertaken by the Race Disparity Unit during the first half of the year with a view to clearly defining a project to begin in the second half of the year. We will be seeking to identify and address any areas where statistics poorly serve people in certain groups and will consider looking beyond the protected characteristics of the Equalities Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership and pregnancy and maternity) as we are also aware of considerable interest in factors such as income inequality and socio-economic class.	UK	Systemic Review

<p>LIVE: Phase 1 (Project on older people cancelled)</p>	<p>Public value of statistics on children and younger people</p> <p>Public value of statistics on older people</p> <p>We will work with stakeholders with a view to scoping two projects, the first focused on children and younger people and the second focused on older people, looking at the availability of statistics to understand their experiences.</p> <p>Scoping of Public value of statistics on children and younger people began in the first half of 2018/19 and Public value of statistics on older people will follow in 2019/20.</p>	<p>UK</p>	<p>Systemic Review</p>
<p>Completed</p>	<p>National Accounts Classification processes, decisions and communications: We will examine the processes and governance of classification decision-making around what is inside and outside of the public sector for the purposes of public sector finances. We will focus on the value classifications advice from ONS adds to decision-making about funding public projects, the roles of the various committees, how classification work plans are decided and who they're decided by. We will also examine the robustness of the governance structures in place that facilitate the smooth implementation of new and innovative funding models.</p>	<p>UK</p>	<p>Systemic Review</p>