

Description

April 2013

2 April	Reporting of the mortality rate associated with a paediatric cardiac surgery in Leeds
9 April	Statements made in the Sunday Telegraph on 30 March 2013 that 878,300 people who were receiving Incapacity Benefit decided to end their claim to the payments rather than undergo an official assessment for Employment and Support Allowance
12 April	The communication by the Department of Work and Pensions of statistical analyses about the benefits cap, and whether ministerial statements are supported by the available official statistics

May 2013

10 May	The size of the uncertainty surrounding the official estimate of net migration and the suitability of the official estimate for measuring progress against the Government's net migration target
20 May	Presentation of statistics on child maintenance in a Department for Work and Pensions press release, published on 20 May, which said that 4 in 5 parents were meeting their financial responsibilities
30 May	The accuracy of statements by Government Ministers that national debt has reduced "by a third" since 2009-10
30 May	The accuracy of statements made by members of the Shadow Cabinet that "two thirds of the drop in net migration is actually British citizens" and whether the fall in net migration into the UK since June 2010 is a result primarily of a fall in immigration to the UK

June 2013

5 June	Accuracy of statements by the Prime Minister during Prime Ministers Questions on 5 June and 12 June that the Government was "putting £12.7 billion extra into the NHS"
7 June	Accuracy of comments made by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions about the level of public spending on welfare
10 June	The representation of statistical data in a Ministry of Justice consultation paper about changes to the legal aid system
11 June	The presentation of age weighted means on Public Health England's Longer Lives website
21 June	Accuracy of statements about trends in usage of the rail network made by the Minister of State for Transport to the House of Commons
27 June	The treatment of depreciation on capital expenditure in ONS statistics on Public Sector Net Borrowing (PSNB), and whether these statistics should be used by politicians as a measure of the "budget deficit"
28 June	The interpretation of commentary in the ONS Quarterly National Accounts

July 2013

9 July	Differences in published official estimates of net migration based on the International Passenger Survey and the 2011 Census, the presentation of these two estimates by ONS, and the handling of revisions to the Long Term International Migration time series
15 July	Statistics on the number of 'excess deaths' reported in the press on Sunday 14 July, ahead of the publication of Sir Bruce Keogh's report about the quality of care and treatment provided by 14 hospital trusts in England
16 July	The robustness of surveys of housing need carried out by Local Authorities according to guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government
16 July	The presentation of statistics published by the Department for Work and Pensions on the number of people who moved into work after being told about the benefits cap, and subsequent media reporting
17 July	Reporting of statistics on deaths of people who have left the armed services – in particular, claims that the number of veteran deaths by suicide was higher than the number of deaths of serving members of the armed forces in combat
17 July	Interpretation of figures based on research by Ipsos Mori about the effect of the Benefits Cap, published by the Department for Work and Pensions, and the robustness of this research
31 July	Trends in the incidence rate for bovine tuberculosis and whether statements by the Minister of State for Agriculture and Food are supported by published official statistics

August 2013

1 August	Publication and presentation of statistics produced by Atos Healthcare on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions in relation to the audio recording of Work Capability Assessments
9 August	Inconsistencies in the reporting of published estimates of the level of Government spending going to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the accuracy of ministerial statements on this topic
15 August	Statistical basis of claims made in the Department for International Development (DfID) Annual Report about the benefits of international aid
19 August	The accuracy of ONS estimates of the number of people in the UK labour market employed under the terms of 'zero-hours contracts', as calculated from data collected from the Labour Force Survey
19 August	The interpretation and presentation in a departmental press release of official statistics published by the Department for Work and Pensions about the percentage people living in relative and absolute low income

September 2013

2 September	The statistical basis for statements made by the Minister for Welfare Reform about the cost of benefit fraud
26 September	The statistical evidence used by the Department for Work and Pensions to support a policy of a ban on pension transfers to the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST)
30 September	Concerns about the production of the UK National Accounts, in particular potential errors in the Supply and Use tables

October 2013

3 October	The selection of statistical data presented in a Scottish Government paper "Pensions in an Independent Scotland"
4 October	Statistical basis for comments made by Members of Parliament about the level of household income
23 October	Accuracy of statements made by the Prime Minister at Prime Minister's Questions that employment was up by 1 million since the coalition took office
30 October	Statistical evidence for a Department for Work and Pensions tweet that "31,400 disabled people got work or stayed in their jobs last year thanks to Access to Work"
31 October	Accuracy of a tweet by a Member of Parliament, which suggested that crime was rising in the West Midlands

November 2013

6 November	The validity of claims made by the Department for International Development in its 2012/13 annual report about the effectiveness of the UK Government's international aid programme
6 November	Timeliness of release of Department for Work and Pensions statistics about the number of people declared 'fit for work' that have successfully appealed
8 November	Basis for ministerial statements that the incoming Government "faced a £38 billion black hole in the Ministry of Defence budget"
11 November	Accuracy of a Department for Education statement that GCSE results in sponsored secondary academies are improving faster than in other secondary schools
21 November	Accuracy of statements made by the Prime Minister about the level of public sector net debt and borrowing, and the level of spending on the NHS
21 November	The use of official statistics in planning documents and policies published by Haringey Council
22 November	Concern about some of the suggestions made in the UK Statistics Authority's Monitoring Review about issuing ONS market sensitive statistics at 09:30am

December 2013

9 December	The use by a Member of Parliament of statistics on Council Tax and Non Domestic Taxes
11 December	Status, methods and presentation of figures published in the National Infrastructure Plan about annual infrastructure investment between 2005 and 2010
16 December	Accuracy of statements by the Minister of State for Employment that "Employment is up by 1 million since the election and unemployment is down by 400,000"
20 December	Accuracy of statements made by the Prime Minister about the 'spending power' of Wolverhampton Council for the financial year 2013/14
23 December	The presentation of statistics on the number of people declared 'fit for work' in Table 1a of the Department for Work and Pensions statistical release on outcomes of Work Capability Assessments

January 2014

6 January	Presentation of a Ministry of Justice ad hoc statistical release about legal aid
17 January	ONS figures on regional growth, their divergence from the equivalent Scottish Government figures, and the way they were communicated
24 January	Statistics on government spending on flood defences in England
27 January	Accuracy of news reporting of Department for Work and Pensions figures on the number of applicants for Employment and Support Allowance that were found fit for work
27 January	Subjectivity of the 'Common Standards Monitoring' method used by nature conservation bodies to assess the condition of features of designated sites, and the presentation of this in official statistics
27 January	Statements made by the Director of Work Services to the Work and Pensions Select Committee, based on unpublished Management Information on the number of people who have completed the Work Programme since June 2013

February 2014

3 February	The basis for statements about "official Treasury numbers" on the impact of the Labour Party's plans for public spending
4 February	Suspected breach of pre-release access rules in relation to GDP figures
24 February	Statements by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions about the number of benefits claimants potentially affected by the benefits cap who have moved into work
24 February	Use of official statistics in two recent pieces of Department of Work and Pensions press releases related to the benefits cap and the Personal Independent Payment
24 February	Statements based on official statistics in an article in the London Evening Standard about the impact of the removal of the spare room subsidy
27 February	The reliability of data from the Department of Work and Pensions Universal Jobmatch website

March 2014

3 March	Statistical basis for statements made by ministers that "unprecedented amounts" were spent on benefits under the previous government
7 March	Use of Management Information on accident and emergency consultants, ahead of the publication of related official statistics, in a Department for Health written statement
26 March	Use of ONS experimental statistics by the First Minister for Wales.