

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

Minutes

**Thursday, 5 December 2013
Boardroom, London**

Present

UK Statistics Authority

Sir Andrew Dilnot (Chair)
Professor David Rhind
Professor Sir Adrian Smith
Dr Colette Bowe
Mr Partha Dasgupta
Ms Carolyn Fairbairn
Dame Moira Gibb
Professor David Hand
Dr David Levy
Ms Jil Matheson
Mr Glen Watson

Secretariat

Mr Robert Bumpstead
Mr Joe Cuddeford

Apologies

None

Other Attendees

Mr Guy Goodwin (for item 6)

1. Apologies

There were no apologies received.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes, matters arising from previous meetings

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 November 2013 were agreed. The meeting reviewed progress with actions.

4. Authority Chair's Report

The Chair reported that since the last meeting, among other activities, he had chaired the first meeting of the Statistical Infrastructure Project Working Group, met with the Minister for the Cabinet Office and met with the Governor of the Bank of England. He had also met with Kate Barker and Art Ridgeway regarding the National Statistics Quality Review of the UK National Accounts.

5. Reports from Authority Committee Chairs

Committee for Official Statistics

- 5.1 Professor Rhind reported on the meeting of the Committee for Official Statistics held on 12 November. Andy Haldane, Executive Director for Financial Stability at the Bank of England, had attended the meeting to discuss a wide range of points related to central banking and official statistics. The Committee had also considered an overview of the Statistical Infrastructure Project, increasing the impact of statisticians in departments, capability and patient outcome statistics.

Assessment Committee

- 5.2 Professor Rhind reported on the meeting of the Assessment Committee held on 12 November. The Committee had considered and approved a ladder of sanctions for non-compliance with Requirements in assessment reports. The meeting had also considered draft assessment reports and priorities for monitoring reviews in 2014.

Action: Monitoring and Assessment team to communicate the ladder of sanctions, once finalised, to the Government Statistical Service.

Audit and Risk Assurance Committee

- 5.3 Mr Dasgupta reported on the meeting of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee held on 15 November. The Committee had considered the accounting policies, estimates and judgements that would be used in the compilation of the financial statements for 2013/14, an update report from the Departmental Fraud Offer on fraud matters and external audit plans for the 2013/14 financial statement.

Office for National Statistics (ONS) Board

- 5.4 Professor Smith reported on the meeting of the ONS Board held on 19 November. The items that the ONS Board had considered included:
- i. the way by which classification decisions were made in National Accounts;
 - ii. the disaggregation of IT services in ONS;
 - iii. communications and public affairs;
 - iv. a review into errors within Business Investment and GDP time series outputs published on 27 June and 25 July respectively and planned improvements in this area;
 - v. the budget for 2014/15; and

- vi. progress with the Electronic Data Collection Programme.

6. Analysis and Dissemination: The Wider Picture [SA(13)56]

- 6.1 Mr Goodwin provided an overview of recent work in the Analysis and Dissemination directorate of ONS, to fulfil an action from the July 2013 meeting of the Authority Board.
- 6.2 The Board considered progress with improving the ONS website. There had been some incremental improvements: the search functionality had improved, landing pages had been rolled out, a new taxonomy would be launched within the week, and further improvements were planned for 2014. It was agreed that it was crucial that the incremental improvements continued at pace, and that the changes were accelerated.
- 6.3 As well as incremental improvements, it was important to also continue to consider more fundamental changes for the longer term. It was suggested that the website was an area where radical change would be needed every decade or so. Appropriate decision points were necessary for such changes.

7. Data Sharing Legislation [SA(13)57]

- 7.1 Ms Matheson provided the Board with an update on the latest developments with data sharing legislation.
- 7.2 The Board discussed the issues and risks in this area. The Authority would continue to support increased data sharing across government for statistical purposes, as set out in its published Statement of Strategy.

8. Authority Strategy [SA(13)58]

- 8.1 The Board considered recent developments with the delivery of the Authority's strategic objectives, and ways in which the strategy might be developed for 2014/15.
- 8.2 The meeting discussed the importance of receiving full and frank information to identify the areas of most concern. Capability and resources generally were a concern. The statistical system's competitive advantages were considered in the context of the rapidly evolving environment. Communicating the value of what was produced, and deciding what to stop doing, was important.
- 8.3 It was suggested that quality assurance of administrative data should be a priority for scrutiny work.
- 8.4 It was agreed that consideration of the issues of capability, resources, coverage and quality would be better informed by comparative data on the resources and performance of national statistics systems in other countries.

9. Any other business

There was no other business. The Authority Board would meet next on 6 February 2014 at 12:00 in London.

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

Agenda

**Thursday, 5 December 2013
Board Room, Drummond Gate, 12:00 - 16:00**

Chair: Sir Andrew Dilnot

Apologies:

1	Minutes and matters arising from previous meetings Declarations of interest	Meeting of 071113
2	Authority Chair's Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beyond 2011 • Improving communication • Data sharing 	Oral report Sir Andrew Dilnot
3	Reports from Authority Committee Chairs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee for Official Statistics and Assessment Committee • Audit and Risk Assurance Committee • ONS Board 	Oral reports Professor David Rhind Mr Partha Dasgupta Professor Sir Adrian Smith
4	Analysis and Dissemination: The Wider Picture	Presentation Mr Guy Goodwin
5	Data Sharing Legislation	Discussion Mr Ian Cope
6	Authority Strategy	SA(13)58 Mr Robert Bumpstead
7	Any other business	

Next Meeting: Thursday, 6 February 2014, London, 12:00 – 16:00

SA(13)58 – Authority Strategy

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SA(13)58

Authority Strategy

This document has been published on the UK Statistics Authority website.

To see this document go to:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/news/statistics-authority-statement-of-strategy.pdf>