

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

Minutes

**Meeting of Friday 15 April 2011
Telephone Conference**

Present

UK Statistics Authority

Sir Michael Scholar (Chair)

Lord Rowe-Beddoe (Deputy Chair, ONS)

Professor Sir Roger Jowell (Deputy Chair, Official Statistics)

Mr Richard Alldritt

Dr Colette Bowe

Ms Moira Gibb

Ms Jil Matheson

Mr Stephen Penneck

Professor David Rhind

Sir Jon Shortridge

Secretariat

Mr Robert Bumpstead

Mr Mervyn Stevens

Apologies

Mr Partha Dasgupta

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Dasgupta.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes and matters arising from the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 March 2011 were accepted as a true and fair account. There were no matters arising.

4. Reports from Authority Committee Chairs

Audit Committee

- 4.1 Sir Jon Shortridge reported on the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 29 March 2011, which he had chaired in Professor Rhind's absence. Five substantive Internal Audit reports had been considered. The Committee had also reviewed progress in implementing recommendations from some previous Internal Audit reports and had received a report from the National Audit Office (NAO) on the findings of their interim audit for 2010/11.

Assessment Committee

- 4.2 Professor Jowell reported on the meeting of the Assessment Committee held on 6 April 2011. 13 draft Assessment Reports had been considered and the Committee had recommended that four of these should be further considered by the Authority Board. In future the programme of Assessment work would be structured so that the Assessment Committee would usually not consider more than 10 Assessment Reports at a single meeting.
- 4.3 These Assessments had highlighted again that the need to improve commentary and presentation in some statistical releases remained a priority. The Committee had agreed that the Head of Assessment should present proposals to the Authority for a Monitoring review of statistical releases and publications. The eventual Monitoring Report could include an agreed Authority standard for achieving compliance with the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics* in these areas. It had been subsequently agreed that Dr Bowe would chair the project board for this review and consideration would be given to who else might join the project board.

Committee for Official Statistics

- 4.4 Professor Jowell reported on the meeting of the Committee held on 6 April 2011. The meeting had noted that the Chair had written to the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson on 16 March 2011 regarding Transport for London crime statistics and that related letters had been sent to the Home Secretary, Rt. Hon Theresa May MP and the Minister for the Cabinet Office, Rt. Hon. Francis Maude MP.
- 4.5 The Head of Assessment had reported on action taken by the Authority in response to proposed changes to official statistics and on progress with Statistical Expenditure Reports (SERs). The meeting had noted that the Authority Chair had written to the Secretary of State for Health, Rt. Hon. Andrew Lansley MP on 23 March regarding proposals by the NHS Information Centre to withdraw funding of £300,000 for health statistics in the Office for National Statistics (ONS) General Lifestyle Survey.
- 4.6 The Committee had received an update on progress with the National Statistician's review of housing market statistics and had considered a draft of an overarching strategy for the future direction of the Government Statistical Service (GSS). The Committee had been pleased to learn of progress in the development of a National

Address Register Gazetteer.

Office for National Statistics Board

- 4.7 Lord Rowe-Beddoe reported on the meeting of the ONS Board held on 8 April 2011. The meeting had considered a report from the Director General of ONS and had reviewed management and financial information. The Board had received an overview of progress with the main Information Technology programmes and projects and had considered two Internal Audit reports on ONS matters.
- 4.8 It had been announced by the Director General of ONS on 7 April that the launch of the new ONS website had been postponed to 28 August. The Director General, the Director of Information Management, and the Programme's Senior Responsible Owner had reported on the reasons that had led to this delay of the launch.

5. Census 2011

- 5.1 Ms Matheson reported on progress with the Census since the last meeting. 29,000 census collectors had started their house-to house work on 6 April contacting householders who had not returned their completed census forms. On the same date ONS had announced that nearly three-quarters of households had already completed and returned their questionnaires, but that the picture varied across the regions of England and Wales.
- 5.2 The meeting noted developments.

6. Update on ONS Web Development Programme

Mr Penneck advised the meeting that he had announced on 7 April that the launch of the new ONS website had been postponed to 28 August because of technical difficulties. The meeting was disappointed to learn of these developments and agreed that the ONS Board should consider what lessons might be learned.

7. National Statistician's Review of Crime Statistics: Governance Arrangements [SA(11)27]

- 7.1 Ms Matheson reported on progress since the last meeting with her review of crime statistics and on current thinking on the future governance of those statistics, given the Home Secretary's decision to move publication of crime statistics from the Home Office. An open meeting would be held on 9 May before recommendations would be made to the Home Secretary. The report would be published in June.
- 7.2 In noting these developments, the Authority recommended to the National Statistician that, as one of the recommendations in her report, she should include that an independent and transparent advisory committee be established to advise her on the future direction for the measurement and reporting of crime statistics.

8. ONS Policy on Statistical Bulletins and News Releases [SA(11)28]

It was agreed that consideration of this paper would be deferred to the next Authority meeting.

9. UK Statistics Authority Annual Report [SA(11)29], Draft Monitoring Brief: Implementation and Impact of Authority recommendations [SA(11)30] and Proposed Review of UK Statistical releases and Publications [SA(11)31]

- 9.1 The meeting noted the following papers:
- i. UK Statistics Authority Annual Report [SA(11)29];
 - ii. Draft Monitoring Brief: Implementation of Authority Recommendations [SA(11)30];
- and,

Minutes of the UK Statistics Authority Meeting - 15 April 2011

iii. Proposed Review of UK Statistical Releases and Publications [SA(11)31].

9.2 It was agreed that comments would be made through correspondence by 18 April.

10. Assessment Reports for Approval [SA(11)32]

10.1 The meeting noted that the Head of Assessment, Mr Alldritt and the Assessment Committee had recommended that the following nine Assessment Reports be published:

- i. Assessment Report 103: Statistics on Court Activity in Northern Ireland (Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service);
- ii. Assessment Report 104: Statistics on Civil Partnerships (Office for National Statistics);
- iii. Assessment Report 105: Statistics on Life Expectancy by Local Areas (Office for National Statistics);
- iv. Assessment Report 106: Statistics on Household Projections in England (Department for Communities and Local Government);
- v. Assessment Report 107: Statistics on Deaths Reported to Coroners (Ministry of Justice);
- vi. Assessment Report 110: Statistics on Maternities and Births in Scotland (Information Services Division of NHS National Services Scotland);
- vii. Assessment Report 112: Statistics on Household Estimates and Projections in Scotland (National Records of Scotland);
- viii. Assessment Report 113: Statistics on Population and Demography in Scotland (National Records of Scotland); and,
- ix. Assessment Report 114: Statistics on Further Education and Cross-Cutting Education in Wales (Welsh Assembly Government).

10.2 The meeting agreed that these Assessment Reports should be published.

11. Draft Assessment Report 102, 108, 109 and 111 [SA(11)33, 34, 35 and 36]

11.1 The meeting noted that the following draft Assessment Reports had been considered at the meeting of the Assessment Committee on 6 April, when it had been agreed that these reports should be considered further by the Authority Board:

- i. Assessment Report 102: Crime Statistics (Home Office);
- ii. Assessment Report 108: Living Costs and Food Survey (Office for National Statistics);
- iii. Assessment Report 109: Statistics on Cancer in England (Office for National Statistics); and,
- iv. Assessment Report 111: Population Estimates and Projections (Office for National Statistics).

11.2 Members of the Assessment Committee were now content with changes made to the draft Assessment Reports since the meeting of the Committee on 6 April. The Authority agreed that these Assessment Reports should be published.

12. Any other business

12.1 The meeting noted the replies from the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson and the Home Secretary, Rt. Hon. Theresa May MP to the Chair's letters to them of 16 March. These replies had been published on the Authority's website. A reply was awaited from the Minister for the Cabinet Office, Rt. Hon. Francis Maude MP to the related letter to him of the same date.

12.2 There was no other business.

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

Agenda

Friday, 15 April, 2011
Meeting via audio, 11:15 - 15:00 (tbc)

Chair: Sir Michael Scholar
Apologies: Ms Moira Gibb, Mr Partha Dasgupta

1	Minutes and matters arising from previous meeting Declarations of interest	Meeting of 250311
2	Reports from Authority Committee Chairs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Audit Committee● Assessment Committee● Committee for Official Statistics● ONS Board	Oral Reports Sir Jon Shortridge Professor Sir Roger Jowell Professor Sir Roger Jowell Lord Rowe-Beddoe
3	Census 2011	Oral Report Ms Jil Matheson
4	Update on ONS Web Development Programme	Oral Report Mr Stephen Penneck
5	National Statistician's Review of Crime Statistics - Governance Arrangements	SA(11)27 Ms Jil Matheson
6	ONS Policy on Statistical Bulletins and News Releases	SA(11)28 Mr Stephen Penneck
7	UK Statistics Authority Annual Report 2010/11	SA(11)29 Secretariat
8	Draft Monitoring Briefs: Implementation and Impact of Authority Recommendations	SA(11)30 Mr Richard Aldritt
9	Proposed Review of UK Statistical Releases and Publications	SA(11)31 Mr Richard Aldritt
10	Assessment Reports for Approval	SA(11)32 Mr Richard Laux

Next Meeting: Friday, 20 May, 2011
Titchfield, 11:15 - 15:00

Agenda

	Draft Assessment Reports (AR)	Mr Richard Alldritt Mr Richard Laux
11	AR 102: Crime Statistics	SA(11)33
12	AR 108: Living Costs and Food Survey	SA(11)34
13	AR 109: Statistics on Cancer in England	SA(11)35
14	AR 111: Population Estimates and Projections	SA(11)36
15	Any other business	

SA(11)27 – National Statistician’s Review of Crime Statistics – Governance Arrangements

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(11)27

National Statistician’s Review of Crime Statistics – Governance Arrangements

This document will be published on the UK Statistics Authority website in June 2011.

The document will be available at:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/national-statistician/ns-reports--reviews-and-guidance/national-statistician-s-reports/index.html>

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(11)28

ONS Policy on Statistical Bulletins and News Releases.

Consideration of this paper was deferred to the May meeting.

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(11)29

UK Statistics Authority Annual Report 2010/11

This document will be published on the UK Statistics Authority website in July.

The document will be available at:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/what-we-do/corporate-information/annual-report-and-resource-accounts/index.html>

SA(11)30 – Draft Monitoring Briefs: Implementation and Impact of Authority
Recommendations

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(11)30

***Draft Monitoring Briefs: Implementation and Impact of Authority
Recommendations***

These Monitoring Briefs will be published on the UK Statistics Authority website in due course.

The documents will be available at:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/monitoring/monitoring-briefs/index.html>

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(11)31

Proposed Review of UK Statistical Releases and Publications

This document will be published on the UK Statistics Authority website in due course.

The document will be available at:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/monitoring/monitoring-reports/index.html>

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(11)32

Assessment Reports for Approval

Purpose

1. This paper provides a summary of current and planned Assessment activity.

Recommendation

2. Members of the Board are invited to:
 - i. consider and comment on the summary below;
 - ii. agree that the Assessment Reports listed at paragraph 4 should be published; and
 - iii. confirm designation of the statistics at paragraph 7.

Summary

3. Four Assessment Reports (ARs) are included on the agenda of this meeting for fuller discussion.
 - i. AR 102: Crime Statistics [SA(11)33]
 - ii. AR 108: Living Costs and Food Survey [SA(11)34]
 - iii. AR 109: Statistics on Cancer in England [SA(11)35]
 - iv. AR 111: Population Estimates and Projections [SA(11)36]
(In total 4 Assessment Reports, covering 24 outputs)
4. The following nine Reports do not raise any matters of substance that the Head of Assessment and the Assessment Committee wish to raise with the Authority Board. They have been circulated to Board members electronically.
 - i. AR 103: Statistics on Court Activity in Northern Ireland (Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service)
 - ii. AR 104: Statistics on Civil Partnerships (Office for National Statistics)
 - iii. AR 105: Statistics on Life Expectancy by Local Areas (Office for National Statistics)
 - iv. AR 106: Statistics on Household Projections in England (Department for Communities and Local Government)
 - v. AR 107: Statistics on Deaths Reported to Coroners (Ministry of Justice)
 - vi. AR 110: Statistics on Maternities and Births in Scotland (Information Services Division of NHS National Services Scotland)
 - vii. AR 112: Statistics on Household Estimates and Projections in Scotland (National Records of Scotland)
 - viii. AR 113: Statistics on Population and Demography in Scotland (National Records of Scotland)
 - ix. AR 114: Statistics on Further Education and Cross-Cutting Education in Wales (Welsh Assembly Government)
(In total 9 Assessment Reports, covering 41 outputs)
5. Reports related to statistics for Scotland and Wales will be published after the elections in these administrations are complete. Amendments will be made to Reports covering ONS releases to reflect that the ONS web development programme has been delayed until August.
6. Overall, 101 Assessment Reports have been published to date (June 2009 to April 2011), covering 489 sets of statistics. There was no Assessment Committee in March, so no Reports have been published since the last Authority Board meeting.

7. Overall, the National Statistics designation of 159 statistical outputs assessed in 47 Assessment Reports has been confirmed to date (June 2009 to April 2011). Confirmation of designation is recommended for three further sets of statistics:
- i. AR48: Achievement and Attainment for Schools in England (Department for Education)
 - ii. AR49: Schools for Wales (Welsh Assembly Government)
 - iii. AR64: Lifestyles Statistics Compendium Publications (NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care)
(In total 3 Assessment Reports, covering 38 outputs)

Secretariat, UK Statistics Authority, April 2011

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(11)32

Assessment Reports for Approval

These documents have been published on the UK Statistics Authority website.

To see the documents go to:

Assessment Report 103 now published as Assessment Report 111: Statistics on Court Activity in Northern Ireland

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-111---statistics-on-court-activity-in-northern-ireland.pdf>

Assessment Report 104: Statistics on Civil Partnerships

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-104---statistics-on-civil-partnerships.pdf>

Assessment Report 105: Statistics on Life Expectancy by Local Areas

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-105---statistics-on-life-expectancy-by-local-areas.pdf>

Assessment Report 106: Statistics on Household Projections in England

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-106---statistics-on-household-projections-in-england.pdf>

Assessment Report 107: Statistics on Deaths Reported to Coroners

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-107---statistics-on-the-activity-of-coroners.pdf>

Assessment Report 110: Statistics on Maternities and Births in Scotland

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-110---statistics-on-maternities-and-births-in-scotland.pdf>

Assessment Report 112: Statistics on Household Estimates and Projections in Scotland

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-112---statistics-on-household-estimates-and-projections-in-scotland.pdf>

Assessment Report 113: Statistics on Population and Demography in Scotland

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-113---statistics-on-population-and-demography-in-scotland.pdf>

Assessment Report 114: Statistics on Further Education and Cross-Cutting Education in Wales

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-114---statistics-on-further-education-and-cross-cutting-education-in-wales.pdf>

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(10)33

Assessment Report –Crime Statistics

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

To see this document go to:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-102---crime-statistics-in-england-and-wales.pdf>

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(11)34

Assessment Report – Living Costs and Food Survey

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

To see this document go to:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-108---statistics-from-the-living-costs-and-food-survey.pdf>

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(11)35

Assessment Report – Statistics on Cancer in England

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

To see this document go to:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-109---statistics-on-cancer-in-england.pdf>

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(11)36

Assessment Report – Population Estimates and Projections

This document has been published as Assessment Report 103 on the UK Statistics Authority website.

To see this document go to:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-103---population-estimates-and-projections.pdf>