

# **UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

## **Minutes**

**Meeting of Friday 22 June 2012  
Board Room, Drummond Gate, London**

### **Present**

#### **UK Statistics Authority**

Mr Andrew Dilnot (Chair)  
Mr Richard Alldritt  
Dr Colette Bowe  
Mr Partha Dasgupta  
Mr Stephen Penneck (not for item 11)  
Professor David Rhind  
Sir Jon Shortridge (to item 7)

#### **Secretariat**

Mr Robert Bumpstead  
Mr Mervyn Stevens

#### **Other Attendees**

Ms Roma Chappell, Mr Callum Foster, Ms Penny Hallett and Mr Glen Watson (ONS for item 6)  
Mr Peter Benton and Mr Guy Goodwin (ONS for item 7)  
Mr Richard Laux (Monitoring and Assessment for items 8 to 11)

#### **Apologies**

Lord Rowe-Beddoe  
Dame Moira Gibb  
Ms Jil Matheson

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Lord Rowe-Beddoe, Dame Moira Gibb and Ms Matheson.

**2. Declarations of interest**

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

2.2 The meeting noted that Dame Moira Gibb had been appointed as a Non-Executive Director of the NHS Commissioning Board.

**3. Minutes, matters arising from the previous meeting**

3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 May were accepted as a true and fair account.

3.2 Progress with actions was reviewed and it was agreed that the following would be provided for future meetings:

- i. an analysis from ONS of responses to ad hoc statistical enquiries;
- ii. a report by the Monitoring and Assessment team on the work done by ONS to fulfil the requirements of the Assessment of construction statistics;
- iii. Authority branding and identity matters; and
- iv. ONS media engagement.

**4. Authority Chair's Report**

4.1 The Chair reported that he had meet with the Minister for the Cabinet Office, Rt. Hon. Francis Maude MP on 8 May. Issues discussed at the meeting included: open data; data sharing; pre-release access to official statistics; and the Authority's role in promoting and safeguarding official statistics.

4.2 ONS had been represented at a meeting at the Cabinet Office on 20 June at which the potential benefits for population statistics in the reforms of the Electoral Registration Act had been discussed.

4.3 The Chair had replied to a letter from Fiona Weir, Chief Executive of the Gingerbread group for single parents in response to her complaint that Department of Work and Pensions ministers had used misleading figures for the costs of Child Support Agency (CSA) cases. The exchange of correspondence with Ms Weir had been published on the Authority's website.

4.4 A successful workshop had been held on 11 June at which members of the Assessment Committee and the National Statistician had discussed with the producers of three key ONS releases how the presentation of these statistics might be improved.

4.5 Two meetings of the ONS website task force had taken place since the last meeting. The Chair reaffirmed that delivering improvements in the accessibility and functionality of the ONS website was a critical area of priority work, and resources would be identified to take this forward. A paper on the strategic way forward would be presented to the next meeting of the Authority Board.

4.6 The Chair reported that the recruitment of two deputy Chairs of the Authority and a non-Executive Director had concluded, and that the Cabinet Office would announce these appointments shortly.

- 4.7 The Chair reported that he had attended: the Government Statistician's conference, a meeting of the Governments Heads of Analysis; a meeting of Government Statistical Service Heads of Profession; and had met with officials at the Bank of England.
- 4.8 The memorial service for the late Deputy Chair of the Authority, Professor Sir Roger Jowell on 14 June had been attended by members of the Authority Board and staff.
- 4.9 The meeting noted that the Chair of the Public Administration Select Committee (PASC), Bernard Jenkin MP had written to the Authority Chair informing him that PASC had launched a programme of 10 short studies into the use of statistics in government. PASC would be seeking evidence from the Authority as part of their programme of work.
- 4.10 The meeting noted that the changes requested by the Authority at the last meeting in the way that financial information is presented had been considered by the ONS Board. An update on the financial position, which would identify the budgets allocated to directorates and programmes, would be submitted to the next meeting of the Authority.

## **5. Reports from Authority Committee Chairs**

### Assessment Committee

- 5.1 The Chair reported on the meeting of the Assessment Committee held on 11 June. The meeting had recommended that 13 draft Assessment Reports be published, and these would be considered later in the meeting.

### Committee for Official Statistics

- 5.2 The Chair reported on the meeting of the Committee for Official Statistics held on 11 June. The Committee had received an update from the National Statistician on the work of the Government Statistical service (GSS) Inter-Administration Committee regarding its role in relation to the comparability of statistics across the four administrations. The meeting had also received update reports from the National Statistician's Office on cuts to official statistics and the activities of the GSS.
- 5.3 The meeting had been pleased to welcome representatives from the Royal Statistical Society (RSS) to discuss areas of common interest and concern, in particular with regard to greater user engagement. The meeting noted that the RSS would be writing to the Authority about how this might be taken forward.

### Office for National Statistics Board (ONS)

- 5.4 In Lord Rowe-Beddoe's absence, Sir Jon Shortridge reported on the meetings of the ONS Board held on 18 May and 15 June. The meeting on 18 May had considered a strategy for the delivery of improvements to the ONS website, received an update on plans for the publication of the National Accounts Blue Book 2012, and received a report on ONS working within the wider GSS. The meeting had also discussed finance and human resource issues.
- 5.5 At the meeting on 15 June the ONS Board had considered initial proposals for dissemination and analysis strategies. The meeting had received update reports on ONS portfolio management, the National Well-Being and Web Data Access programmes.

- 5.6 The Authority Board agreed that a paper would be submitted to the Authority in September on the ONS strategies for analysis and dissemination.

Audit Committee

- 5.7 Professor Rhind reported on the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 22 May. The meeting had considered five internal audit reports and a draft of the annual report of the Head of Internal Audit for 2011/12. The Committee had received an update report on the development of a system of corporate governance assurance reporting.
- 5.8 The Committee had received a draft of the Authority's Annual Report and Accounts for 2011/12, together with an oral report from the external auditors on progress with the year end audit 2011/12. The Committee had approved its annual assurance report for 2011/12, and had reviewed a draft of the Authority's Accounting Officer's governance statement for 2011/12.
- 5.9 The Authority Board agreed that it would be useful to further consider what assurance might be gained in respect of methodologies across the GSS from the Authority's Assessment process.

Remuneration Committee

- 5.10 In Lord Rowe-Beddoe's absence, the Chair reported on the meetings of the Remuneration Committee held on 4 May and 15 June. At the meeting on 4 May the Committee had endorsed plans for the moderation of performance markings and for the payment of related bonuses to the Senior Civil Service (SCS) which were within the restrictions imposed by the Cabinet Office.
- 5.11 At the meeting on 15 June the Committee had reviewed the outcomes of the pay moderating meetings for Directors and Deputy Directors and had approved the payment of proposed bonuses to the SCS whose performance during 2011/12 was ranked as being in the top 25 per cent. The Committee had also agreed the performance markings for the Director General of ONS and the Authority's Head of Assessment.

**6. Census 2011 [SA(12)27]**

- 6.1 Mr Watson reported on progress with the 2011 England and Wales Census, and in particular on plans for publishing the results from the Census over the next year. The quality assurance process was nearing completion, and dissemination of Census outputs would begin with the release of population estimates at both national and local authority levels. The information would be laid before Parliament on Monday 16 July and published on the ONS website that morning.
- 6.2 The final report of the Independent Information Assurance Review had been published on the ONS website. This had concluded that the public could be assured that the information they had provided had been well protected.
- 6.3 The Board considered the arrangements for the release of Census outputs and sought further assurance about the resilience of the ONS website. The meeting agreed that Census results should be communicated in a style that was professional, reliable, trustworthy and serious.

6.4 Mr Foster gave a demonstration to the meeting on how Application Programming Interface (API) would be used for the dissemination of later outputs from the 2011 Census, later in the year.

**7. Beyond 2011: Programme Update [SA(12)28]**

7.1 Mr Goodwin and Mr Benton provided an update on progress of the Beyond 2011 programme in its research into options for the future provision of population and socio-demographic statistics.

7.2 The meeting considered the following:

- i. who might make recommendations on options for the future provision of these statistics: ONS, the National Statistician or the Authority;
- ii. who might carry out a public consultation: ONS or the National Statistician; and
- iii. who might initiate the process: the Authority, the National Statistician or the Cabinet Office.

7.3 The meeting agreed that a non-weighted set of criteria needed to be established as an initial step, and that recommendations needed to be made by the autumn of 2013. A further update would be provided to the Authority Board in September.

**8. Draft Monitoring Brief: Public Availability of Official Statistics - Three ONS Datasets [SA(12)29]**

The meeting noted that ONS had not been consulted on the paper prior to its circulation, and although comments had since been provided there had been insufficient time to reflect these in the draft. It was therefore agreed to defer substantive consideration of the draft brief until the July meeting of the Authority Board.

**9. Assessment from September 2012 [SA(12)30]**

9.1 Mr Alldritt presented proposals for a new programme of Assessment from September 2012.

9.2 The meeting welcomed the paper and agreed to receive more detailed proposals at the next meeting. The approach outlined was more flexible and varied than the first phase of Assessment. The meeting agreed it would be important to establish appropriate reporting mechanisms that provided the Authority Board with sufficient assurance on progress with the work and also a means to evaluate its success. The role of the Assessment Committee in determining the future strategy for Assessment was considered. A further paper with specific proposals for Assessment, including the resource implications and roles of Authority committees, would be submitted to the next meeting.

9.3 It was also agreed that the role of the Authority Board, Committee for Official Statistics and Assessment Committee in determining the future programme for monitoring could helpfully be reviewed. It was re-confirmed that a paper on the future of monitoring would also be submitted to the next meeting, and would include consideration of these issues.

**10. Draft Monitoring Report: The Assessment of UK Official Statistics 2009 to 2012 [SA(12)31]**

10.1 The Head of Assessment introduced a draft Monitoring Report on the assessment which covered the first cycle of the Assessment programme, from 2009 to 2012. The meeting

welcomed the report which was comprehensive and informative. Detailed drafting comments were discussed and further written comments received via correspondence would be sent on to the paper authors by the secretariat.

10.2 The meeting agreed that a further draft should be submitted to the meeting of the Assessment Committee on 20 July, together with proposals for consultation with stakeholders including the RSS and the GSS.

## **11. Assessment Reports for Approval [SA(12)32]**

11.1 The Head of Assessment reported that he and the Assessment Committee had recommended that the following 13 Assessment Reports covering 72 outputs be published:

- i. AR 217: Police Statistics in England and Wales (Home Office);
- ii. AR 218: Statistics on Research and Development (Office for National Statistics);
- iii. AR 219: Welsh Compendium Publications (Welsh Government);
- iv. AR 220: Statistics on Community Care for Adults in Northern Ireland (Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Northern Ireland);
- v. AR 221: Maritime, Road Traffic, Bus, Taxi, Light Rail and Disabled Parking Badge Statistics (Department for Transport);
- vi. AR 222: Statistics on Hospitals in Northern Ireland (Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Northern Ireland);
- vii. AR 223: Statistics on Health and Personal Social Services in Wales (Welsh Government);
- viii. AR 224: Statistics on Financial Investment (Office for National Statistics);
- ix. AR 225: Statistics on Local Government Finance and Council Tax Collection in Scotland (Scottish Government);
- x. AR 226: Statistics on Health Service Costs in Scotland (Information Services Division of NHS National Services Scotland);
- xi. AR 227: Statistics on Trade and Business in Northern Ireland (Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency);
- xii. AR 228: Statistics on NHS Hospital Activity (Department of Health); and
- xiii. AR 229: Statistics on Secure Care Accommodation for Children in Scotland (Scottish Government).

11.2 The meeting approved these Assessment Reports for publication.

11.3 The meeting noted that a new programme of Assessments of statistics produced mainly by Arm's Length Bodies and the devolved administrations would be carried out over the next six months under the existing Assessment process. All these statistics were currently official statistics but not National Statistics. This programme of work would need approximately one third of the Assessment team's resources.

## **12. Any other business**

There was no other business.

# UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

## Agenda

**Friday, 22 June, 2012**

**Board Room, Drummond Gate, 11:15 - 15:00**

**Chair:** Andrew Dilnot  
**Apologies:** Lord Rowe-Beddoe  
Ms Jil Matheson  
Dame Moira Gibb

1	Minutes and matters arising from previous meeting Declarations of interest	Meeting of 040512 Via correspondence 280512
2	Authority Chair's Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Appointments to the Board</li><li>● Communications and ONS Website</li><li>● Budget</li></ul>	Oral Report
3	Reports from Authority Committee Chairs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Assessment Committee and Committee for Official Statistics</li><li>● ONS Board</li><li>● Audit Committee</li><li>● Remuneration Committee</li></ul>	Oral Reports Mr Andrew Dilnot  Sir Jon Shortridge Professor David Rhind Mr Andrew Dilnot
4	Census 2011	SA(12)27  Mr Glen Watson Ms Claire Stretch
5	Beyond 2011: Programme Update	SA(12)28  Mr Guy Goodwin
6	Draft Monitoring Brief: Public Availability of Official Statistics - Three ONS Datasets	SA(12)29  Mr Richard Laux
7	Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Assessment from September 2012</li><li>● Draft Monitoring Report: The Assessment of UK Official Statistics 2009 to 2012</li><li>● Assessment Reports for Approval</li></ul>	SA(12)30 SA(12)31  SA(12)32  Mr Richard Alldritt Mr Richard Laux
8	Any other business	

**Next Meeting:** **Friday, 20 July, 2012**  
**Drummond Gate, London, 11:15 - 15:00**

SA(12)27 – Census 2011

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(12)27

***Census 2011***

Results of the 2011 Census are published on the Office for National Statistics website.

To see this information go to:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/index.html>



**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(12)28

***Beyond 2011: Programme Update***

The information on the Beyond 2011 project is provided on the Office for National Statistics website at:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/about-ons/what-we-do/programmes---projects/beyond-2011/index.html>

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(12)29

***Draft Monitoring Brief: Public Availability of Official Statistics  
– Three ONS Datasets***

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-briefs/index.html>

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(12)30

***Assessment from September 2012***

The Authority's Assessment programme is published on the UK Statistics Authority website at:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/programme-of-assessment/index.html>

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(12)31

***Draft Monitoring Report:  
The Assessment of UK Official Statistics 2009 to 2012***

This document is due to 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(12)32

***Assessment Reports for Approval***

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

To see these documents go to:

Assessment Report 217: Police Statistics in England and Wales

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-217---police-statistics-in-england-and-wales.pdf>

Assessment Report 218: Statistics on Research and Development

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-218---statistics-on-research-and-development.pdf>

Assessment Report 219: Welsh Compendium Publications

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-219---welsh-compendium-publications.pdf>

Assessment Report 220: Statistics on Community Care for Adults in Northern Ireland

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-220---statistics-on-community-care-for-adults-in-northern-ireland.pdf>

Assessment Report 221: Maritime, Road Traffic, Bus, Taxi, Light Rail and Disabled Parking Badge Statistics

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-221---maritime--road-traffic--bus--taxi--light-rail-and-disabled-parking-badge-statistics.pdf>

Assessment Report 222: Statistics on Hospitals in Northern Ireland

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-222---statistics-on-hospitals-in-northern-ireland.pdf>

Assessment Report 223: Statistics on Health and Personal Social Services in Wales

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-223---statistics-on-health-and-personal-social-services-in-wales.pdf>

Assessment Report 224: Statistics on Financial Investment

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-224---statistics-on-financial-investment.pdf>

Assessment Report 225: Statistics on Local Government Finance and Council Tax Collection in Scotland

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-225---statistics-on-local-government-finance-and-council-tax-collection-in-scotland.pdf>

## SA(12)32 – Assessment Reports for Approval

Assessment Report 226: Statistics on Health Service Costs in Scotland

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-226---statistics-on-health-service-costs-in-scotland.pdf>

Assessment Report 227: Statistics on Trade and Business in Northern Ireland

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-227---statistics-on-trade-and-business-in-northern-ireland.pdf>

Assessment Report 228: Statistics on NHS Hospital Activity

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-228---statistics-on-nhs-hospital-activity.pdf>

Assessment Report 229: Statistics on Secure Care Accommodation for Children in Scotland

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-229---statistics-on-secure-care-accommodation-for-children-in-scotland.pdf>