

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

Minutes

**Meeting of Thursday 25 March 2010
Board Room, Statistics House, Islington, London**

Present

UK Statistics Authority

Sir Michael Scholar (Chair)

Professor Sir Roger Jowell (Deputy Chair, Official Statistics)

Lord Rowe-Beddoe (Deputy Chair, ONS)

Mr Richard Alldritt

Dr Colette Bowe

Mr Partha Dasgupta

Ms Moira Gibb

Ms Jil Matheson

Professor Steve Nickell

Mr Stephen Penneck (to item 10)

Professor David Rhind (to item 4.4)

Sir Jon Shortridge

Secretariat

Mr Robert Bumpstead

Mr Mervyn Stevens

Other Attendees

Mr Glen Watson and Ms Helen Bray (Office for National Statistics) for items 6 and 7

Mr Guy Goodwin (Office for National Statistics) for item 7

Mr Richard Laux (Monitoring and Assessment) for items 9 to 11

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1. Apologies

1.1 There were no apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes and Matters arising from the Previous Meeting

3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 February 2010 were accepted as a true and fair account.

3.2 The Chair reported that since the last meeting there had been a further exchange of correspondence with Chris Grayling MP regarding violent crime statistics. The Chair had also replied to a letter from the Home Secretary, Rt. Hon. Alan Johnson MP on related issues. All of this correspondence had been published on the Authority's website.

3.3 Ms Matheson reported that she had replied to a letter from Ms Philippa Stroud, Executive Director of The Centre for Social Justice which also concerned violent crime statistics. This correspondence would be published on the Authority's website.

3.4 Mr Alldritt reported that Monitoring Report 6: *Review of Pre-Release Access* had been published on 18 March 2010 and the Report had been sent to the Minister for the Cabinet Office and the Public Administration Selection Committee (PASC).

4. Reports from Authority Committee Chairs

Audit Committee

4.1 Professor Rhind reported on the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 12 March 2010. A new Head of Internal Audit would take up post on 17 May 2010 who would recruit a small in-house Internal Audit team to replace the internal audit services currently provided by Companies House under a shared-services agreement which would end on 30 June 2010.

4.2 The meeting had considered several Internal Audit reports and a draft Statement on Internal Control. The Annual Report of the Audit Committee for 2009/10 had subsequently been drafted.

4.3 The Committee had received a National Audit Office (NAO) report and draft action plan following the Audit Committee self-assessment workshop on 1 February 2010 which confirmed that there were many areas where the Audit Committee was already effective. Some of the recommendations in the Report had already been reflected in revised Terms of Reference for the Committee which the Committee had endorsed and the Authority was now asked to approve.

4.4 The Authority approved the revised Terms of Reference for the Audit Committee.

Committee for Official Statistics

4.5 Professor Sir Roger Jowell reported on the meeting of the Committee for Official Statistics held on 9 March 2010. The Committee had endorsed revised Terms of Reference and proposed, subject to the agreement of the Authority, that three new external members be appointed to the Committee.

4.6 The Authority approved the revised Terms of Reference for the Committee and agreed that the proposed external members should be appointed to the Committee.

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Assessment Committee

- 4.7 Professor Sir Roger Jowell reported on the meeting of the Assessment Committee held on 9 March 2010. Eight draft Assessment Reports had been discussed and four of these would be considered by the Authority later in the meeting. The Committee would be considering further the issues regarding the presentation of school performance statistics.

Office for National Statistics Board

- 4.8 Lord Rowe-Beddoe reported on the meeting of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Board held on 12 March 2010. The Board had considered a revised vision and draft strategy for ONS for the next five years. The meeting had also considered Information Technology (IT) issues and progress with the development programme for the ONS website.

5. Reports from Chairs of Other Committees

Report from the Consumer Prices Advisory Committee (CPAC)

- 5.1 Ms Matheson reported that the Consumer Prices Advisory Committee (CPAC), a National Statistician's committee advising the Authority, had met on 19 March 2010. The change in the interest rate used in the calculation of Mortgage Interest Payments (MIPs) series in the Retail Prices Index (RPI), which the Authority had approved at its meeting on 22 January 2010, had been announced and would be implemented for the February 2010 RPI to be published in March 2010.
- 5.2 CPAC had considered the issue of housing costs included in the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) and would be making recommendations to the Authority after its next meeting in July 2010.
- 5.3 CPAC had also considered plans by ONS to consult users on changes to the monthly statistical release.

6. Census 2011

- 6.1 Mr Watson gave a presentation which reported on the outcomes of the Census rehearsal and explained strategies for engagement with the general public and particular communities and dealing with low response rates. The Census Regulations had been signed by the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 27 February 2010 and laid before both Houses of Parliament on 4 March 2010.
- 6.2 The Authority noted progress and agreed that it would return to this issue soon.

7. Beyond the 2011 Census [SA(10)16]

- 7.1 Mr Goodwin presented a paper which set out the next stage of planning for what might be required to provide demographic statistics beyond the Census 2011. The Authority were invited to give a strategic steer on the future direction of the programme.
- 7.2 The meeting agreed that this important work should be given high priority within the constraint of the available budget in order that the Authority would be in a position as soon as possible to determine whether a census should be carried out in 2021 or before or whether it should be replaced by new methods of producing demographic statistics. It was also agreed that the ONS Board should consider the 2010/11 funding implications for this programme at their next meeting.

8. UK Statistics Authority Budget [SA(10)17]

- 8.1 Ms Matheson introduced the Authority's high-level budget for 2010/11. In 2007 the Authority had been granted a five-year funding settlement to March 2012, partly in recognition of the Authority's independence and also to give certainty of funding for the Census 2011. HM Treasury were now seeking the Authority's views on whether the next funding settlement should similarly be for a further five-year period or alternatively brought into line with the Spending Review periods of government departments.
- 8.2 The Authority noted the high-level budget for 2010/11 and that the ONS Board would be considering detailed budget allocations for ONS at their next meeting. The Authority confirmed that it would wish to see a funding settlement for a further five-year period beyond 2011/12 and that it would also be seeking End-Year Flexibility (EYF) in the management of its budget from year to year.

9. Monitoring Report 7: *Strengthening the User Voice* - Draft Interim Report [SA(10)18]

- 9.1 Mr Alldritt presented a final draft of interim Monitoring Report 7: *Strengthening the User Voice*. The review had been overseen by a Project Board chaired by Professor Sir Roger Jowell and included experts and representatives from the ONS, the Royal Statistical Society (RSS) and the Statistics User Forum (SUF). Following publication of the interim Report a public meeting would be held in June 2010 and it was intended that the final Report should be published at the end of June 2010.
- 9.2 The Authority welcomed this interim Report and agreed that it should be published on the Authority's website as soon as possible.

10. Communicating the Measurement of Inflation - Further Proposals [SA(10)19]

- 10.1 Mr Laux presented recommendations for a planned review of how inflation measures are communicated to the general public. The Authority had already indicated publicly its intention to carry out an independent review and had considered initial proposals at its meeting on 11 December 2009. The formal Assessment of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Retail Price Index (RPI) was scheduled to start in April 2010 and it was proposed that the Assessment team should investigate the way in which measures of inflation are communicated as part of that work.
- 10.2 The meeting agreed the proposal.

11. Draft Assessment Reports 31, 32, 33 and 34 [SA(10)20, 21, 22, 23]

- 11.1 Mr Laux presented the following four draft Assessment Reports which had all been considered at the meeting of the Assessment Committee on 9 March 2010:
- Assessment Report 31: Emissions Statistics;
 - Assessment Report 32: Council Tax Levels set by Local Authorities;
 - Assessment Report 33: Wales Labour Market Statistics, and;
 - Assessment Report 34: UK Labour Market Statistics.

- 11.2 All four Assessment Reports were approved for publication.

12. Any other business

- 12.1 It was agreed that, following the Chair's letters of 29 January 2010 to the leaders of the major UK political parties on the statistical policy priorities that the Authority would wish to see, a statement should be published as soon as possible on the Authority's website on how these priorities might be implemented.
- 12.2 Ms Matheson confirmed that guidance to government statisticians on procedures to be

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followed during the General Election period would be issued when the Election had been announced.

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

Agenda

Thursday, 25 March, 2010

Board Room, Statistics House, London, 11:15 - 15:00

Chair: Sir Michael Scholar

Apologies:

1	Minutes and matters arising Declarations of interest	Meeting of 260210
2	Reports from Committee Chairs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Committee for Official Statistics● Assessment Committee● Audit Committee● ONS Board	Professor Sir Roger Jowell Professor Sir Roger Jowell Professor Rhind Lord Rowe-Beddoe
3	Census 2011	Presentation Mr Glen Watson Ms Helen Bray
4	Beyond the 2011 Census	SA(10)16 Mr Guy Goodwin
5	UK Statistics Authority Budget 2010/11	SA(10)17 Mr Stephen Penneck
6	Monitoring Report 7: <i>Strengthening the User Voice</i> - Draft Interim Report	SA(10)18 Mr Richard Alldritt
7	Communicating the Measurement of Inflation - Further Proposals	SA(10)19 Mr Richard Alldritt
.	Draft Assessment Reports (AR)	Mr Richard Alldritt Mr Richard Laux
8	AR31: Emissions Statistics	SA(10)20
9	AR32: Council Tax Levels set by Local Authorities in England	SA(10)21
10	AR33: Wales Labour Market Statistics	SA(10)22
11	AR34: UK Labour Market Statistics	SA(10)23
12	Any other business	

Next Meeting: Friday, 23 April, 2010
Statistics House, Newport, 11:15 - 15:00

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(10)16

Beyond the 2011 Census

Purpose

1. This paper provides a summary of the main issues in relation to the planning for the Beyond 2011 programme of work, including the need for a submission to Her Majesty's Treasury (HMT) providing a Strategic Outline Business Case.

Timing

2. Urgent. HMT have asked to see the Strategic Outline Business Case by 31 March 2010.

Recommendations

3. Authority members are invited to:
 - i. note a recent Office for Government Commerce (OGC) recommendation to give a higher priority to the Beyond 2011 work within the current Office for National Statistics (ONS) work programme. This would demonstrate to HMT that the UK Statistics Authority is fully committed to exploring alternative options to the traditional Census;
 - ii. note the additional funding requirements, both from within the current ONS settlement (especially for 2011/12) and from any future Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) settlement (see **Annex C**). The consequences short term will be that ONS will need to re-prioritise to accommodate this requirement for 2011/12, and;
 - iii. endorse the broad approach and timelines for the Beyond 2011 work as set out in the business case for HMT and as summarised in **Annex B**.

Discussion

4. Last year, an update on the Beyond 2011 work was presented to the Authority Board [SA(09)07]. Since then the Project Team has continued to work on the development of the strategic business case for the Beyond 2011 work, and has started work on the planning and implementation of the initial project stages. More information about the aims and objectives of the Beyond 2011 project can be found in **Annex A**.
5. Both the Beyond 2011 Steering Group, which brings together the devolved administrations and the relevant government departments, and the ONS Executive Committee have endorsed the broad approach to develop the Beyond 2011 work over the next four years. The outcomes from this work in this initial feasibility stage are expected to feed into decisions about the appropriate approach to the future production of population statistics and associated core socio-demographic outputs. Annex B gives further information on the work planning and timelines.
6. A recent Starting Gate Review for the Beyond 2011 work recommended higher priority should be given to Beyond 2011 within ONS to demonstrate that alternatives to the traditional Census were going to be actively explored before a decision date on a 2021 Census in 2014. Specifically the Review recommended the development of a strong strategy for cross-departmental, ministerial and parliamentary engagement, driven by senior ONS leadership and the Authority Board.
7. The ONS Executive Committee has recently considered these recommendations. When we put forward the Strategic Outline Business Case to HMT their expectation will be that we will find any additional resources in 2010/11 and 2011/12 from within our existing settlement while needing to bid for additional money for 2012/13 onwards. In order to prioritise our statistical work programme, we need a steer from Authority members on whether they do see this work as high priority. In the light of these views, ONS will consider how best additional resources can be released to strengthen this work from within the current resource constraints.

SA(10)16 - Beyond the 2011 Census

8. The ONS Executive Committee also discussed whether we should develop and put forward a business case to the Treasury for a 2016 Census. It is recognised that, although some customers would like to see a five-yearly Census, the likelihood of a successful bid is low in the current financial climate. It would also detract valuable resources from the 2011 Census exercise. Unless the Authority steers otherwise, no further resource will be dedicated to a 2016 business case and our efforts will concentrate on the 2011 Census and Beyond 2011.

Roeland Beerten, Population Health and Regional Directorate, ONS, March 2010

List of Annexes

Annex A Overview of the Beyond 2011 Project

Annex B Overview of the Beyond 2011 Strategic Outline Case and Work Programme

Annex C Overview of Resource Requirements

Annex A Overview of the Beyond 2011 Project

1. Office for National Statistics (ONS) has started a programme of work, 'Beyond 2011', which develops options for an integrated system to deliver population and other socio-demographic statistics following the 2011 Census. The proposed integration programme will assess the feasibility of bringing together a number of data sources. The data sources under consideration are a combination of administrative data, registers, household survey data and / or a modified census design.
2. Some of the existing key sources for socio-demographic statistics – in particular the decennial census – provide adequate measures of the population and its characteristics, often at high levels of accuracy at detailed levels of geography. However users increasingly want outputs to be available more frequently to have a more accurate picture of population change – how do people and households change over time, where do they move to and from, and which characteristics do they have?
3. Mid year population estimates are produced each year, based on the last census. They are then rebased following the next census. In recent years substantial cross-governmental efforts have led to improvements in inter-censal estimates of the population and its characteristics (especially with respect to migration statistics). Nevertheless it is clear these initiatives need a coherent framework of sources to ensure cost-effective, coherent and sustained improvements in the long term.
4. This is not an easy task. Apart from the census there is no (near) complete record of the whole population and the UK does not have a permanent comprehensive population register of the kind which exists, for example, in Scandinavian countries.
5. The two high-level aims of the Beyond 2011 work programme are:
 - i. to investigate the feasibility of improving population statistics in the UK by making use of integrated data sources to replace or complement existing approaches, and;
 - ii. to investigate whether alternative data sources can provide the priority statistics on the characteristics of small populations

The central focus of the work will be to consider, with the UK Statistics Authority and the relevant Government Departments, how to develop population data of the required coverage and quality as efficiently and effectively as possible. The project will need to establish which data are needed to support the policy, business and administration needs of the many key users, not least public sector users. Given the known budgetary pressures and public concerns, there will need to be a clear emphasis on how best to collect the minimum necessary data about the population at the minimum cost whilst meeting public concerns about security, privacy and intrusiveness.

Annex B Overview of the Beyond 2011 Strategic Outline Case and Work Programme

1. Business Case Recommendations

The key recommendations from the Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) are:

- i. Work should start on the development of a number of options, based on a combination of administrative data, surveys, and alternative census designs. Initially a number of prototype models should be developed and tested, largely based on data currently available. It is recommended the outcome of this early work feeds into further development work based on the integration of survey and administrative datasets. The outputs from this work would then be used for comparison and quality assurance purposes with the actual outputs from the 2011 Census. If this work shows that a new system is feasible, then a further business case would be prepared to cover the subsequent pilot work needed to produce actual outputs from the system.
- ii. Given the complexities and the number of critical risks and dependencies, the programme adopts a phased approach to incrementally develop a solution. A number of risks and dependencies in the service delivery highlight the need for strong strategic cross-governmental partnerships, which should be reflected in the governance arrangements for this work.
- iii. The SOBC also recommends that, in order to ensure the outcomes of this work are relevant to users, extensive user engagement on needs takes place, in accordance with Principle 1 of the *UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice*.
- iv. Furthermore the business case recommends progress should be made on the establishment of a number of enablers, and the removal of a number of barriers which will be critical to this work. Although it is not within the remit of the planned programme of work, the SOBC concludes the development of a national address register would be a critical enabler for certain possible solutions to the Beyond 2011 work.
- v. Finally, given the wide scope, the cross-governmental nature and overall complexity of this work this document recommends strong and sound project and programme planning arrangements are in place to manage the development work.

2. Work Planning and Milestones

The Beyond 2011 Project will further develop options (both the technical development and cost/benefit scoping, in parallel with the work on user requirements) throughout a 'Proof of Concept' stage. The key milestones for this work are outlined in the table below.

Date	Milestone
Spring 2010	First version of the Strategic Outline Business Case presented to HM Treasury
Summer 2010 to Spring 2011	Further options development, cost / benefit and user requirement analysis
Spring 2011	Final version of the SOBC presented to HM Treasury
Autumn 2011	Public Consultation on early proposals and options
Autumn 2010 to Spring 2012	Preparatory work for Census comparisons
2012/13	Comparison of outputs from 2011 Census with those from the Beyond 2011 options left in consideration;
2013/14	Final options assessment feeding into decisions on a way forward.

Annex C Overview of Resource Requirements

1. Resource Profiles for Options Beyond 2011

At this first iteration of the Strategic Outline Business Case it is too early to provide detailed cost figures for potential future options.

The purpose of the work programme over the next four years is to develop a range of options, which need to be comprehensively assessed and tested. In conjunction with the technical development work detailed cost/benefit analysis of the various options will be developed; this process will then lead to a short list of options which will set out relative costs, benefits, and fit with user requirements, based on properly researched evidence and with agreement of key stakeholders.

Given the likely budgetary constraints in public finance over the next decade or so the aim will be to develop options which demonstrate value for money and as far as possible deliver savings compared with the status quo. Initially we will work within a cost envelope of the status quo – i.e. the expected cost of a traditional Census in 2021 – plus or minus 25 per cent. The cost of the status quo is currently estimated to be in the region of £1 billion accumulated over a period of 10 years. More radical cost options are not ruled out at this stage of the options development.

At this early stage of the business case cycle it is clear that options that exceed the cost of the status quo will require exceptional justification from users. It is equally clear that different options will result in different spend profiles. In particular, to develop options which deliver cost savings in the long term some investment up front may be needed in comparison to the incremental spending profile for a traditional Census. This up front investment may also be needed for any dual running option to compare cost-saving options with the status quo. At this stage it can not be assumed that it will be possible to produce the outputs which Departments and other users need without some form of census count in 2021.

In order to scope and optimise the detailed options and associated cost profiles the first version of the Strategic Outline Business Case will be developed through further iterations in 2010. In these future iterations of the business case Office for National Statistics (ONS) and Other Government Department (OGD) costs will be assessed in detail for all options. This is particularly important in relation to the use of administrative data bases where some of the cost structures for IT infrastructure requirements are very complex.

For the work on administrative data a key part in the work programme will be to negotiate, with a number of OGDs, a number of 'data cuts' of administrative data bases at around the time of the 2011 Census. The technical information on the process of acquiring these data cuts will provide critical information for the more detailed programme planning (and costings) about which administrative data systems (and in what order) IT connections should be built to capture the necessary data on a regular basis.

Again this work will be part of the work programme for the options development where the aim will be to test if each option can deliver the demographic information needed by the users to sustain sound evidence based policy making, resource allocation and direction of operational budgets to ensure value for money. This information will then feed into decisions in 2014 on a way forward for the future.

2. Resource Profiles for the Development Work 2010-2014

For the cost profiles in the years up until and including 2013/14 the costs for 2010/11 and 2011/12 are relatively straightforward to estimate; these costs will need to be met from within current ONS budgets. In these two years the outcomes of the feasibility work will, through time, provide more detailed information on the exact work that needs to take place during

Annex C - SA(10)16 - Beyond the 2011 Census

2012/13 and 2013/14 and thus how much resource would be required in these years.

Irrespective of option, the project starts with a 'Proof of Concept' stage that covers the four year period of financial years 2010/11 to 2013/14. On current plans the final year in this period could, or could not, start with a step up in the development work with an pre-pilot stage for option(s) which have passed the technical feasibility and cost/benefit tests. The cost estimate for this year should therefore be considered as a preliminary estimate which will need to be refined as the feasibility work progresses.

The following table provides estimates of the ONS resources required for work on all possible options during this period.

Resource (£m)	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Beyond 2011 Project	1.6	2.4	3.6	5.4

This funding covers staffing and other costs for the project. Key deliverables/areas of expenditure include:

- i. a range of communications and user engagement activities including a formal public consultation in 2011/12;
- ii. assessing potential administrative data sources and carrying out matching and linking work. This includes an allowance for a clerical matching team;
- iii. methodological resource to (e.g.) investigate the range of alternative approaches including an assessment the approaches of other countries;
- iv. IT related expenditure such as designing and building systems and covering the costs of other government departments providing ONS with 'cuts' of their administrative data sources;
- v. development of a framework to evaluate the quality of the different options under consideration, and;
- vi. specialist external resource to help further develop the costs and benefits of the different options in the business case.

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(10)17

UK Statistics Authority Budget 2010/11

Purpose

1. This paper asks the Authority to approve the 2010-11 budget.

Timing

2. Routine.

Recommendations

3. The Authority are asked to approve the 2010-11 high level budget. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) Board will be asked to approve the detailed element of the ONS section of the budget. The Authority are also invited to advise on a response to the Treasury on the period for the next settlement from the Treasury.

Discussion

4. The budget for 2010-11 based on the Treasury settlement letter and subsequent transfers is as follows.

Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit (RDEL)	£319.5 million
Annually Managed Expenditure (AME)	- 3.0 million
Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit (CDEL)	£ 15.0 million

5. The Authority element of the Resource budget after transfers is £5.7 million, offset by £0.3 million income with no planned expenditure on AME or CDEL.
6. A detailed profiled budget has been prepared and the ONS Board will be considering their element at their April meeting. Overall the budget is balanced.
7. Although the government have not announced plans for the next Spending Review, we expect that any administration will be looking to conduct a review shortly after the general election, given that most government departments do not have a settlement past March 2011. The Authority was granted a settlement to March 2012, partly to recognise its independence, and partly to allow certainty for the Census. In preparation for the review the spending team at the Treasury has asked me to seek the Authority's views on what period they would wish a future settlement should cover and whether the Authority would prefer the settlement period to be the same as the rest of government.
8. It is expected that any future settlement will be extremely tight and a recent ONS Executive Committee workshop agreed to look at potential savings options that assume a substantial reduction in budget in the three years from April 2012. We expect that there will be little scope for increased investment. Any redundancies as a result of staff cuts would probably have to be funded from reduced departmental budgets, and not from central Treasury funds, and this restricts our ability to make major savings.

Steve Newman, Chief Finance Officer, March, 2010

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(10)18

**Monitoring Report 7: *Strengthening the User Voice*
Draft Interim Report**

Purpose

1. To agree the text of the draft interim Report on *Strengthening the User Voice*, and to agree arrangements for publication and consultation on the contents.

Timing

2. The interim Report is due to be published on the website before the end of March. An open meeting to discuss the Report will be held in early June.

Recommendations

3. Members of the Authority are invited to:
 - i. discuss the substance of the draft interim Report (**Annex A**);
 - ii. subject to any further editing as described in paragraph 6 below, agree to the publication of the Report on the Authority's website;
 - iii. agree to hold an open meeting, and;
 - iv. agree the plans for handling the release at paragraph 8 below.

Discussion

4. The Review has been overseen by a Project Board chaired by Professor Sir Roger Jowell. Other members include academic experts and representatives from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), the Royal Statistical Society (RSS), the Statistics User Forum (SUF) and the House of Commons Library. The draft interim Report draws on evidence gathered from:
 - research carried out by the National Centre for Social Research on Public Confidence in Official Statistics (Annex A of the Report);
 - research carried out by Ipsos Mori on perceptions of opinion-formers of Official Statistics (Annex C of the Report);
 - a questionnaire on user engagement sent to a range of National Statistical Institutes, and;
 - discussions with users, producers and opinion-formers.
5. The Report draws some early conclusions regarding user engagement and makes initial recommendations as to how the user voice might be strengthened. Several of these recommendations have implications for the Government Statistical Service and the National Statistician.
6. The Report was discussed by the Committee for Official Statistics at its meeting on 9 March. The Report will be edited to reflect the Authority's views as articulated at the current meeting and to incorporate any factual corrections or updates.
7. The proposed next steps are to publish the interim Report on the Authority's website and to hold an open meeting to discuss the Report and its recommendations with users and producers. This open discussion will inform the final Report which is scheduled for publication in June 2010, following approval by the Authority Board at its June meeting.

SA(10)18 - Monitoring Report 7: Strengthening the User Voice - Draft Interim Report

8. Proposals for handling the release of the interim Report include the following:
 - i. invitations for the open meeting will be sent as soon as possible to users, producers and the Project Board. SUF will also be asked to send this invitation to its members;
 - ii. there will be an announcement on the Authority's website when the Report is published;
 - iii. those who register for the open meeting will be sent a link to the Report when available;
 - iv. written comments will be invited via the Authority's consultations electronic mailbox, with a deadline for the end of May;
 - v. a question and answer brief will be prepared in case of media enquiries, and;
 - vi. media handling will be co-ordinated through the Authority's press office.

Monitoring and Assessment Team, March 2009

List of Annexes

Annex A Monitoring Report 7: *Strengthening the User Voice* Draft Interim Report

SA(10)18 - Monitoring Report 7: Strengthening the User Voice - Draft Interim Report

Annex A Monitoring Report 7: Strengthening the User Voice Draft Interim Report

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

To see this document go to:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/reports/strengthening-user-engagement.pdf>

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(10)19

***Communicating the Measurement of Inflation
Further Proposals***

Purpose

1. This paper presents recommendations for taking forward the planned review of how inflation measures are communicated to the general public. (The Head of Assessment will provide an oral update on progress with current Monitoring Reviews at the meeting.)

Timing

2. Routine. The formal Assessment of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Retail Price Index (RPI) has been scheduled to start in April 2010.

Recommendation

3. The Authority is invited to:
 - i. agree that the Assessment Team should produce a draft Monitoring and Assessment Note on communicating inflation as part of the scheduled assessment of the CPI and RPI, and;
 - ii. agree that a Note is published on the Authority website to explain that the Authority will await the findings from the Assessment Report on CPI and RPI before deciding how to take forward the planned review of communicating inflation.

Discussion

4. The Authority has indicated publicly from June 2008 its intention to carry out an independent review of the way in which measures of inflation are communicated to the general public. At its meeting on 11 December 2009 the Board considered proposals for taking this review forward as a standard Monitoring Report. The Board raised a number of issues about the recommended proposals. This paper brings forward further advice on how this work should now be taken forward, taking account of these issues and of various discussions that have taken place since then.
5. An assessment of the CPI and RPI has been scheduled to start in April 2010. As part of this assessment, we recommend that the Assessment Team investigates the way in which measures of inflation have been communicated to the general public. The findings would be summarised in a draft Monitoring and Assessment Note which would also take account of comments provided by the producers. The draft Note would be presented to the Authority Board along with a draft Assessment Report at its meeting in September 2010. The Board could then decide what further work, if any, is needed, taking account of the findings in the draft Note. The main options are likely to include:
 - i. to publish the Monitoring and Assessment Note along with the Assessment Report, thus addressing the Authority's commitment to investigate 'communicating inflation measures';
 - ii. to invite the Consumer Prices Advisory Committee (CPAC) to comment on the draft Note, on its implications for the Office for National Statistics improvement programme for the CPI and RPI and on whether there is a need for further research on communicating inflation, and;
 - iii. to commission further work on 'communicating inflation', building on the draft Monitoring and Assessment Note.

Monitoring and Assessment Team, March 2010

Annex A Assessment Report: Emissions Statistics

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

To see the document go to:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-31---emissions-statistics.pdf>

SA(10)21 - Assessment Report 32: Council Tax Levels set by Local
Authorities in England

**Annex A Assessment Report: Council Tax Levels set by Local Authorities in
England**

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

To see the document go to:

[http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-32
---council-tax-levels-in-england.pdf](http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-32---council-tax-levels-in-england.pdf)

Annex A Assessment Report: Wales Labour Market Statistics

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

To see the document go to:

[http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-33
---welsh-labour-market-statistics.pdf](http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-33---welsh-labour-market-statistics.pdf)

Annex A Assessment Report: UK Labour Market Statistics

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To see the document go to:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-34---labour-market-statistics.pdf>

