

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

Minutes

Meeting of Friday 26 February 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

Ms Colette Bowe

Mr Partha Dasgupta

Ms Moira Gibb

Mr Stephen Penneck (to item 8)

Professor David Rhind

Sir Jon Shortridge

Secretariat

Mr Robert Bumpstead

Mr Mervyn Stevens

Apologies

Ms Jil Matheson

Professor Steve Nickell

Other Attendees

Mr Neil Martinson (Central Office of Information) for item 5

Mr Ross Young (Secretariat, UK Statistics Authority) for item 5

Mr Paul Auckbarally, Mr Joe Grice and Mr Alan Smith (Office for National Statistics) for item 6

Mr Richard Laux (Monitoring and Assessment) for items 7 to 9

Minutes of the UK Statistics Authority Meeting 26 February 2010

1. Apologies and Chair's Opening Remarks

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Ms Matheson and Professor Nickell.
- 1.2 The Chair welcomed Dr. Colette Bowe and Sir Jon Shortridge to their first meeting following their recent appointment as Non-Executive members of the UK Statistics Authority. The Chair also welcomed the recent reappointment of Lord Rowe-Beddoe and Professor Rhind as Non-Executive members of the Authority.
- 1.3 The Chair reported that Ms. Bowe would be appointed to the Committee for Official Statistics (COS) and the Assessment Committee and Sir Jon Shortridge would be appointed to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Board and the Authority's Audit Committee. Professor Nickell would cease to be a member of the Authority's Audit Committee but would continue to be a member of the Consumer Prices Advisory Committee.

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 22 January 2010 were accepted as a true and fair account.
- 3.2 Mr. Alldritt reported that the printer's proof of Monitoring Report 6: *Review of Pre-Release Access* had been received and this was being checked. It was agreed that the Report be published as soon as possible.
- 3.3 The Chair reported that he had written to Chris Grayling MP on 4 February 2010 concerning the misuse of statistics on violent crime. The correspondence had been published on the Authority's website.
- 3.4 Mr. Dasgupta reported on the Royal Statistical Society (RSS) open meeting on 22 February 2010 entitled 'Party Policies for Improving Trust in Official Statistics'. The meeting, which was addressed by representatives from the three major UK political parties, had been attended by more than 300 people.

4. Reports from Committee Chairs

Audit Committee

- 4.1 Professor Rhind reported on the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 1 February 2010. The meeting had been preceded by a self-assessment workshop, facilitated by the National Audit Office (NAO), to assess the current effectiveness of the Audit Committee in accordance with recommended best practice. A report from the NAO on the outcomes of this event would be considered at the next meeting of the Committee on 12 March 2010.
- 4.2 The Committee had received updates on the recruitment of a new Head of Internal Audit and Information Technology issues. The meeting had also considered a preliminary draft of the Statement on Internal Control (SIC) and had agreed an Authority response to the consultation on the Government's Internal Audit Strategic Improvement Plan.

Assessment Committee

- 4.2 Sir Michael Scholar reported on the meeting of the Assessment Committee held on 9 February 2010. Three draft Assessment Reports had been discussed and these would

Draft Minutes of the UK Statistics Authority Meeting 26 February 2010

be considered by the Authority later in the meeting.

Office for National Statistics Board

4.4 Lord Rowe-Beddoe reported on the meeting of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Board held on 12 February 2010. The Board had considered business priorities and objectives for ONS. The meeting had also considered Information Technology and Estate Management issues.

5. COI News and PR: Communications Services to the UK Statistics Authority [SA(10)09]

5.1 Mr Martinson gave a report on the media relations and communications consultancy that had been provided by COI News and PR to the Authority since March 2008. COI News and PR had supported the Authority's launch in April 2008 and had subsequently provided support on media relations on a retained basis, including facilitating press briefings hosted by the National Statistician on crime and migration statistics.

5.2 The Authority welcomed the report and noted developments. It was agreed that it was an appropriate time to review its communication activities over the next few months.

6. Statistical Websites: Output Strategy [SA(10)10]

6.1 Mr Auckbarally and Mr Smith gave a presentation on the development programme for the ONS website. The proposed new website, which would be launched in 2011, had been the subject of consultation with a wide range of users. The functionality of the new website would include improved navigation and search facilities and enhanced graphical representation of statistics.

6.2 The Authority noted progress with the ONS web development programme. However it also decided that fuller consideration of a strategy for web dissemination of Official Statistics was needed and that the Committee for Official Statistics should consider a further paper from the National Statistician on plans for such a strategy.

7. Monitoring Report 5: Overcoming Barriers to Trust in Crime Statistics - Arrangements for the Final Report [SA(10)11]

7.1 Mr Dasgupta, in his capacity as Chair of the Monitoring Report Project Board, introduced a paper which set out the proposed arrangements for finalising and publishing Monitoring Report 5: *Barriers to Trust in Crime Statistics*. The Interim Report had been published on the 17 December 2009 and an open meeting had been held at the Royal Statistical Society (RSS) on 18 January 2010. The final meeting of the Project Board had been held on 24 February when the responses to the Interim Report had been considered.

7.2 The meeting agreed the recommendations and approved the Report for publication in due course. [Subsequently agreed May 2010].

8. Findings from the Assessment 2009 Programme [SA(10)12]

8.1 Mr Alldritt presented a draft Monitoring and Assessment Note which summarised the findings from the 27 Assessments carried out during 2009. The Note, which had been discussed at a meeting of Assessors and Producers on 29 January 2010 and had subsequently been agreed by the Assessment Committee at their meeting on 9 February 2010, was intended to inform the Authority, the National Statistician and producers of Official Statistics of emergent areas of good practice and areas for improvement.

8.2 The meeting agreed that this Monitoring and Assessment Note should be sent to

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Heads of Profession and published on the Authority's website and updated periodically as necessary.

9. Draft Assessment Reports 28, 29 and 30 [SA(10)13,14,15]

9.1 Mr Laux presented the following three draft Assessment Reports which had all been considered at the meeting of the Assessment Committee on 9 February 2010:

- Assessment Report 28: Census Special Assessment;
- Assessment Report 29: Northern Ireland Labour Market Statistics, and;
- Assessment Report 30: Child and Working Tax Credit Statistics.

9.2 All three Assessment Reports were approved for publication.

10. Any Other Business

10.1 The meeting agreed that the Chair should write to the National Statistician requesting that the Authority be kept informed of major statistical developments in government departments and the devolved administrations.

10.2 There was no other business.

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

Agenda

Friday, 26 February, 2010
Board Room, Statistics House, London, 11:15 - 15:00

Chair: Sir Michael Scholar
Apologies: Ms Jil Matheson, Prof Steve Nickell

1	Minutes and Matters arising from Previous Meeting Declarations of Interest	Meeting of 220110
2	Reports from Committee Chairs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Audit Committee● Assessment Committee● ONS Board	Professor Rhind Sir Michael Scholar Lord Rowe-Beddoe
3	COI News and PR: Communications Services to the Statistics Authority	SA(10)09 Mr Neil Martinson
4	Statistical Websites: Output Strategy	SA(10)10 Mr Paul Auckbarally Mr Alan Smith
5	Monitoring Report 5: <i>Barriers to Trust in Crime Statistics</i> - Arrangements for Final Report	SA(10)11 Mr Richard Alldritt
6	Findings from the 2009 Assessment Programme	SA(10)12 Mr Mark Pont
	Draft Assessment Reports (AR)	Mr Richard Alldritt Mr Richard Laux
7	AR28: Census Special Assessment	SA(10)13
8	AR29: Northern Ireland Labour Market Statistics	SA(10)14
9	AR30: Child and Working Tax Credit Statistics	SA(10)15
10	Any other business	

Next Meeting: Thursday, 25 March, 2010
Statistics House, London, 11:15 - 15:00

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(10)09

***COI News and PR:
Communications services to the UK Statistics Authority***

Purpose

1. This paper briefly summarises the media relations and communications consultancy services provided, on contract, to the UK Statistics Authority by the Central Office of Information (COI News and PR) since March 2008.

Timing

2. This paper accompanies a presentation by Neil Martinson, Director, COI News and PR to the Authority meeting on 26 February 2010.

Recommendations

3. This paper is for information only.

Discussion

4. COI provides communications services to various government and public sector organisations as a 'not-for-profit' government trading fund. All COI's communications services offer value for money to clients and the taxpayer. COI's work also adheres to the *Civil Service Code*, representing policy impartially and following strict propriety conventions when communicating with the public.
5. COI has extensive experience of providing specialist services to independent and arm's-length public bodies such as the Authority, who require a separate identity and their own communications team. Recent independent organisations and projects using these services include the Chief Inspector of the UK Borders Agency, Residential Property Tribunal Service, Buncefield Major Incident Investigation, Jean Charles De Menezes Inquest, Sutherland Education Inquiry, Walker Water Review and the Baha Mousa Public Inquiry.
6. Since March 2008 the Authority has engaged the COI to provide press office support and senior-level communications consultancy on a retained basis in support of the Authority Board operating in its scrutiny and independent reporting mode. The operational relationship with COI is managed from within the Secretariat by the Head of Communications and Parliamentary Relations, Ross Young, reporting to the Authority Chair and Head of Secretariat.
7. COI supports the Authority operating in its scrutiny and independent reporting mode in respect of:
 - i. proactive and reactive media relations;
 - ii. communications intelligence gathering and media monitoring;
 - iii. communications consultancy and related advice, and;
 - iv. events planning and co-ordination.
8. COI has worked with the Authority to meet the objectives in the original brief, and in particular:
 - i. Launch of the Statistics Authority in national print and broadcast media
 - Working closely with the Authority Chair and Secretariat a successful launch was achieved, establishing clear key messages from the outset. This was delivered by personalising the launch to key journalists and setting-up one-on-one interviews with the Chair.

SA(10)09 - COI News and PR: Communications services

- This strategy created contacts in the media, with whom COI have continued to build and maintain relations. The launch also attracted an interview bid from BBC Radio 4 *Today Programme*.
- ii. Increase awareness of the Statistics Authority's remit and powers
 - To encourage journalists to write stories about the role of statistics that can be obscure and difficult to understand, informing discussion on the UK's statistical system, and the Authority's statutory powers and work.
 - In co-operation with the Authority, COI's ongoing strategy has been to develop relationships with key journalists. These relationships have been nurtured directly through COI, but more importantly by arranging interviews and briefings with the Chairman. This strategy has ensured excellent returns, in communicating with the public.
 - iii. Statistics Authority issues management where these involve, or may involve, the media. COI is always on hand to provide advice on communicating effectively to the public and wider media on the role and work of the Authority. COI has supported important Authority interventions or activities, such as:
 - Early release of data on hospital episodes as part of a Government campaign on knife crime (December 2008) and subsequent oral evidence to the House of Commons Public Administration Select Committee (February 2009);
 - Criticism of the National Statistician and Office for National Statistics migration and population statistics by the Minister of State for Borders and Immigration (February 2009) and subsequent oral evidence to the Public Administration Select Committee (March 2009);
 - Letter from the Authority Chair to the Minister of State for Women and Equality regarding gender pay gap statistics (June 2009);
 - Publication of the Authority's Assessment Report on Road Casualty Statistics (July 2009) and subsequent oral evidence to the House of Commons Transport Select Committee (November 2009);
 - Letter from the Authority Chair to leaders of major UK political parties regarding the policy priorities of the Statistics Authority (January 2010), and;
 - Letter from the Authority Chair to the Shadow Secretary of State for Home Affairs regarding violent crime statistics (February 2010).
9. The principal advantage of the existing retained-basis contract is that media relations and consultancy support can be provided when it is required. The nature of the Authority's work, thus far, is that there are occasional periods of intense media activity, often following significant interventions, followed by periods where there are regular, albeit lower-volume, routine enquiries for comment or reaction, or interview bids.
10. The COI team, working with Ross Young, respond to reactive media enquiries about the work of the Authority, including requests for interviews and comment. This service is provided during, and out of, office hours on a rota basis. Regular account and press office review meetings are held.
11. The Secretariat co-ordinates a daily press cuttings service, and draws on COI resources to obtain transcripts and recordings of radio or television interviews, or other summaries of relevant media coverage, as required, often to inform urgent decisions as to whether or not an Authority intervention is needed.
12. The contract with COI includes provision for retained-basis senior-level communications consultancy and advice, on request. Recently, this has included advice on the content of News Releases, Statements and correspondence; implications of Cabinet Office guidance in respect of communications activities during a General Election period; periodic reviews of the Authority's core script and main messages; communications

strategy; media stakeholder mapping; proactive media engagement, and; direct advice to the Authority Chair following significant Authority interventions.

13. COI also provides logistical and operational support for Authority events, particularly where these involve, or may involve, the media. These have included the Authority launch event in London on 31 March 2008 and the Scotland launch event at the Scottish Parliament on 18 June 2008. COI have also co-ordinated several press briefing events in support of major National Statistics releases:

- i. Home Office, Crime in England and Wales 2007/08 (July 2008);
- ii. Office for National Statistics, Home Office, and Department for Work and Pensions cross-departmental release of population and migration statistics (August 2008);
- iii. Home Office, Crime in England and Wales 2008/09 (July 2009), and;
- iv. Office for National Statistics, Home Office, and Department for Work and Pensions cross-departmental release of population and migration statistics (August 2009).

14. These National Statistics press briefing events have been held to support the Authority's agenda of encouraging the release of important statistical outputs separate from ministerial or departmental policy commentary. All events have been well attended by key journalists and correspondents, receiving balanced coverage.

**Neil Martinson, COI News and PR, and Ross Young, UK Statistics Authority
February 2010**

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(10)10

Statistical Websites: Output Strategy

Purpose

1. This paper presents information about the Office for National Statistics (ONS) web development programme and considers issues around a wider web output strategy for Official Statistics.

Timing

2. Input is requested now in order to produce the output strategy which will inform plans for 2011/12 and tactical decision making this year.

Recommendations

3. Members of the UK Statistics Authority are invited to:
 - i. note progress of the web development programme, as currently scoped, and;
 - ii. provide a steer on the directions and priorities for a wider joined up web output strategy for Official Statistics.

Discussion

4. The poor state of the current ONS website is a constant theme of user feedback; they report it hard to find key information and complain that the organisation of the site is often illogical. This is important because, for many people, the website is their primary contact with the Office and it moulds their impression of us overall. At the same time, the internal procedures for feeding and maintaining the website are complicated and resource intensive, and need to be addressed.
5. Equally, action on the ONS site needs to be set within a wider strategy to make it easier for users to find, understand and download statistics – both National and Official – across government. The publication hub gives us a good foundation for progressing this but much remains to be done.
6. Overall, we are therefore following a parallel approach:
 - pressing on with implementation of the ONS web development process, and;
 - designing and then implementing the wider framework but ensuring that the ONS website design will help rather than hamper a joined up approach.

ONS Website Development.

7. For the reasons noted above, providing a high quality ONS website is a priority. The objective of the web development programme is to deliver a new, fit for purpose, ONS web site and the associated business and system changes. The benefits the new web site will deliver are:
 - i. improved search and navigation allowing users to find the information they are looking for;
 - ii. access to the underlying data and a standardised approach to published content including functionality for data visualisation;
 - iii. improved web site design and compliance with accessibility standards, and;
 - iv. improved timely release of outputs by 09:30am precisely, based on the removal of manual processes.
8. It is important that the project is not regarded as principally about Information Technology (IT). Rather, it is about business change to deliver business objectives, partly enabled by IT. The engagement of the statistical businesses to drive the project is

SA(10)10 - Statistical Websites: Output Strategy

therefore crucial to success. In practice, the migration process will be resource intensive and require careful management in the light of other demands for skilled attention from Effective National Accounts and Blue Book to measure the Economy (ENABLE) and other corporate priorities. The programme and the statistical businesses are currently planning how to manage the migration activities and exactly how much content will be migrated across.

9. Work is proceeding well and we are on track to deliver a website of which we can be proud by May 2011. In particular, we expect to have an architectural solution to support a data driven approach to populating our web sites from the central repository. This is the approach most modern 'data-orientated' web sites are now adopting e.g. Amazon, eBay and Google. It is also the most promising architecture to underpin any wider joined up system across government. **Annex A** sets out the timetable in more detail.
10. Specifically:
 - i. the programme recently completed the high level solution analysis and design stage, which had been problematic. The key outputs from this stage include documentation that describes the business requirements, web site designs, architectural solution and delivery plan;
 - ii. the development of the new web pages has been completed and user demonstrations are ongoing;
 - iii. the architectural solution has been agreed and independently assured by IBM, and;
 - iv. the key next milestone is functional release 1 to prove the architecture which is on schedule for delivery in April 2010.
11. At the same time, the chosen approach will allow us to tackle other ONS dissemination issues. These include:
 - i. dissemination of 2011 Census outputs;
 - ii. the Neighbourhood Statistics (NESS) web service and contract extension;
 - iii. the Labour Market (NOMIS) web service, and;
 - iv. the other ONS web services e.g. Stats4Schools, English Housing Survey.
12. The web development programme, successfully delivered, will give us a good basis for making progress. For example, it will give us the option to integrate the NESS, NOMIS and other ONS web services so that they are underpinned by the central repository, as opposed to stand-alone databases as they are now.
13. There are, however, issues with respect to dissemination of the Census on which the Authority's view would be helpful. The approach to dissemination is set-out in the published 2011 Census Outputs Strategy. In essence, this recognises the web as the primary dissemination route, meeting the common needs of users, incorporating the flexibility for users to create their own products. In addition data explorer functionality is provided jointly with external partners to ensure the requirements of the more sophisticated users are met in a timely and cost effective manner. This raises the questions:
 - how much functionality and bespoke development should ONS carry out?
 - how much functionality and bespoke development should be left for our partners to carry out using data on licence from ONS?

The Wider Strategy.

14. The Publication Hub has given us a good start in progressing to a joined up production and dissemination system across government as a whole, by which data from the statistical producers can be joined up and shared to meet the ever increasing and sophisticated demands from our users. But we now need a clearer strategy for further

SA(10)10 - Statistical Websites: Output Strategy

progression. To date, ONS has worked closely with the Government Statistical Service (GSS) Presentation and Dissemination Committee. However, that group has a heavy business load and the National Statistician intends to set up a new GSS group to concentrate specifically on the dissemination strategy.

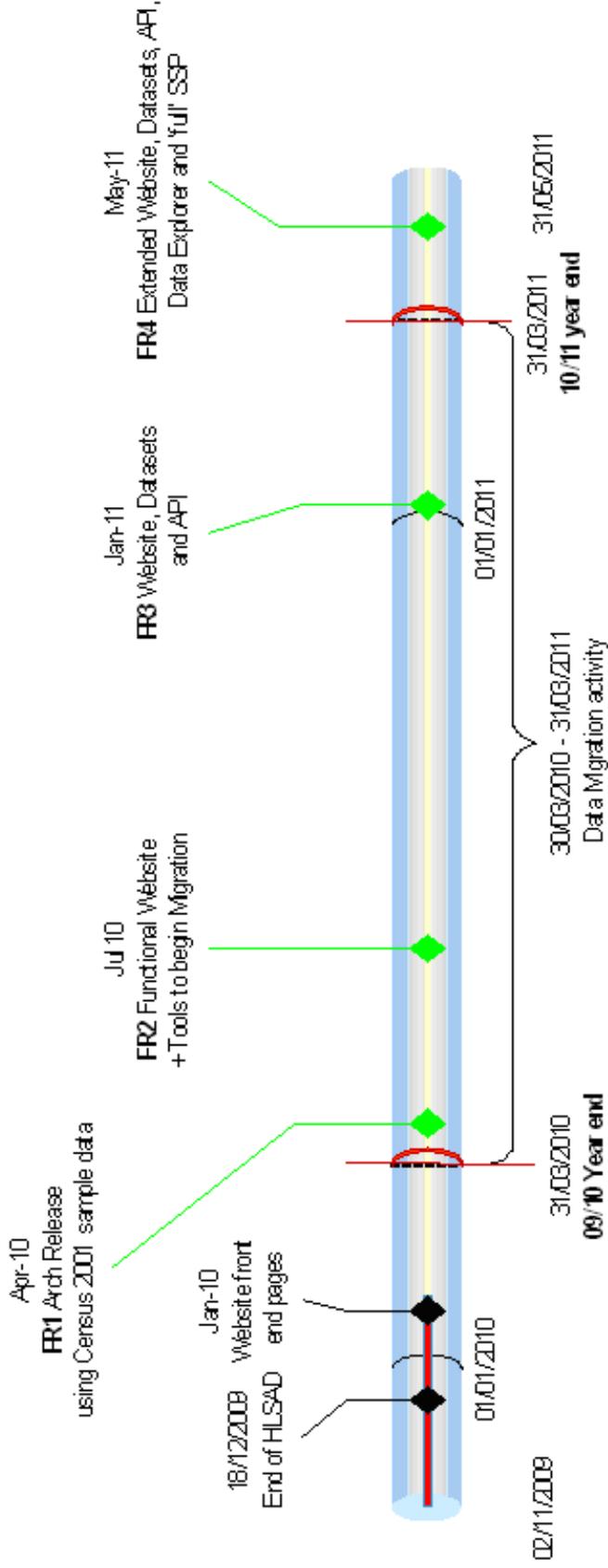
15. One consideration to bear in mind is the Central Office for Information (COI) policy for reducing the number of government web sites. (See **Annex B** for an inventory of current UK Statistics Authority and ONS web sites.) COI have requested that we rationalise the number of .gov web sites that we have.
16. A further issue is the Government's recent launch of the public beta data.gov web site with the purpose of opening up data for other people to re-use. The data is about only non-personal, non-sensitive data and ONS has already contributed a number of datasets to the project. Further, the web development programme is itself in line with the policy aim of making public data widely accessible, to maximise the use and value. In particular, it will define and create datasets and make these available both on the ONS web site and via the Application Programming Interface (API) for third party access.
17. We have therefore been able to obtain agreement that, given the independent status of ONS statistics, we should publish data separately, to reinforce their unique status as National Statistics accredited by the National Statistics Authority. However, it would be open to us to change this stance if the Authority felt this to be appropriate.
18. With this context, the Authority's views on the following issues would be helpful to guide the strategy:
 - should the Publication Hub remain as a separate system or should we accede to its amalgamation with the public beta data.gov website?
 - is the Publication Hub to be the "Gateway to National Statistics", as currently described, or should we be aiming for a gateway to Official Statistics more widely?
 - should we be aiming to provide bespoke services (at a fee?) to more expert users - for example, third party live data feeds as we currently provide in respect of economic data to the Treasury and Bank of England, and to a handful of commercial organisations?
 - how will costs of developing the Hub be dealt with? Would the Authority see itself making recommendations/ coordinating contributions across government?

Joe Grice, Senior Responsible Owner, Web Development Programme
Paul Auckbarally, Programme Director, Web Development Programme
February 2010

List of Annexes

Annex A Web Development Programme Roadmap
Annex B Current UK Statistics Authority and ONS Web Sites

Annex A Web Development Programme Roadmap



- Web site front-end pages based on the new designs but not connected to any back office functionality
- FR1 Architectural Solution with limited functionality to prove data set creation, content management, repository and beta API
- FR2 Functional web site, simple data explorer and migration tools to begin business data migration activity
- FR3 Operational web site with populated content, dataset access and production API
- FR4 Enhanced web site with full data explorer, full content authoring and web site maintenance

Annex B Current UK Statistics Authority and ONS Web

UKSA websites

Publication
Hub

About UKSA

ONS websites

NS Online

About ONS

NOMIS

NeSS

Stats4Schools

English
Households
Condition Survey

Census
Rehearsal

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(10)11

***Monitoring Report 5:
Overcoming Barriers to Trust in Crime Statistics
Arrangements for Final Report***

Purpose

1. To agree arrangements for finalising and publishing *Monitoring Report 5: Overcoming Barriers to Trust in Crime Statistics: England and Wales*.

Timing

2. The final Report could be published on the website, with printed copies to follow. [Subsequently agreed May 2010].

Recommendations

3. Members of the Authority are invited to:
 - i. agree the final recommendations from the review (current version at **Annex A**);
 - ii. agree to publish the Report according to the timetable outlined below (paragraph 7), and;
 - iii. authorise the Head of Assessment to sign off the final text of the Report.

Discussion

4. The Board considered a revised interim Report at its meeting on 11 December and this was subsequently published on the Authority website:
<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/monitoring-reports/index.html>
5. Following publication:
 - an open meeting was held on 18 January at the Royal Statistical Society (note at **Annex B**);
 - written comments have been received on the interim Report (reproduced at **Annex C**). The response submitted on behalf of the Crime and Justice Statistics Network follows a process of internal consultation within the network and is therefore a consolidated view from expert users of the statistics, and;
 - staff from the Monitoring and Assessment Team have met with HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary and with staff from the National Policing Improvement Agency. They have also had telephone discussions with a couple of international experts in criminology.
6. At the time of writing, it is not anticipated that there will be major changes to the Report or the recommendations. However, the final meeting of the project board for the review is due to take place on 24 February. The views expressed there will be reported back verbally and, if revised, an updated set of recommendations will be tabled at the Authority meeting on 26 February. The recommendations from the interim Report will be reproduced in an annex to the final Report for comparison purposes. Recommendation 6 in Annex A is new - the interim Report flagged up that we would be looking at arrangements for quality assuring police records. The other recommendations have been restructured and in some cases made more specific.

SA(10)11 - Monitoring Report 5: Overcoming Barriers to Trust in Crime Statistics

7. Subject to the Board's views on the recommendations, the Report will be finalised and circulated to producer departments on 1 March, for comment on points of accuracy. It will also be sent at this time to any members of the Authority or the project board who would like to make any final comments. It will go to the typesetter on 9 March, with a view to possible publication on 17 March. The Report will be printed and an electronic version published on the Authority website, accompanied by an Authority announcement to alert interested parties to its publication. Reactive media enquiries will be handled in the usual way through the Authority's press officers.
8. The Board will be aware of recent correspondence between Sir Michael Scholar and the shadow Home Secretary about the use of crime statistics:
<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/correspondence/index.html>
9. The final Report will make a brief reference to this episode, in the context of a discussion (paragraph 101 in the interim report) about how to prevent misuse of statistics in the course of political and media debate.

Monitoring and Assessment Team, February 2010

List of Annexes

- Annex A Draft Final Recommendations**
- Annex B Note of Open Meeting**
- Annex C Written Responses to the Interim Report**

SA(10)11 Monitoring Report 5: Overcoming Barriers to Trust in Crime
Statistics

**Annexes A,B, C Monitoring Report 5: Overcoming Barriers to Trust in Crime
Statistics: England and Wales**

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

**Draft Monitoring and Assessment Note:
Findings of the 2009 Assessment Programme**

Purpose

1. This paper covers a draft Monitoring and Assessment Note summarising the findings from Assessments carried out during 2009. We intend to publish this on the website and update it periodically, possibly every six months. The first update (covering the 2009-10 financial year) could be in time to cross-refer to it in the Annual Report.

Recommendations

2. Members of the Authority Board are invited to agree the draft Note attached at **Annex A** for publication, commenting on it as appropriate.

Discussion

3. The draft Note summarises the findings from the 27 Assessment Reports which were published in 2009. The purpose of the Note is to summarise the main areas of good practice and areas for improvement which were identified during assessment, to inform the Board, the National Statistician and producers of Official Statistics.
4. An earlier draft of this Note was considered briefly at a recent meeting between the Authority's Monitoring and Assessment Team and producers. Experiences and emerging findings from the assessment process were discussed. Comments provided by the Assessment Committee at its 9 February meeting have also been incorporated in this revised draft Note.
5. The Note is presented to the Authority Board for approval and publication on the Authority's website. We intend to produce an update every six months, identifying emerging findings - and any changes in findings - as the process of assessment becomes more embedded.
6. We propose to draw upon this Note for use in the Authority's Annual Report.

Monitoring and Assessment Team, UK Statistics Authority, February 2010

List of Annexes

Annex A Draft Monitoring and Assessment Note: Findings of the 2009 Assessment Programme

Annex A Draft Monitoring and Assessment Note: Findings of the 2009 Assessment Programme

This document has been published at:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/monitoring-and-assessment-notes/published-notes.html>

Annex A Assessment Report: Special Assessment of the 2011 Censuses in the UK: Phase 1

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-28---census-phase-1--8-march-2010.pdf>

Annex A Assessment Report: Labour Market Statistics for Northern Ireland

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-29
---assessment-of-labour-market-statistics-for-northern-ireland.pdf](http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-29---assessment-of-labour-market-statistics-for-northern-ireland.pdf)

Annex A Assessment Report: Child and Working Tax Credits 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-30---assessment-of-child-and-working-tax-credit-statistics.pdf>

