

# **UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

## **Minutes**

**Meeting of Friday 28 October 2011  
Board Room, Drummond Gate, London**

### **Present**

#### **UK Statistics Authority**

Sir Michael Scholar (Chair)

Lord Rowe-Beddoe (Deputy Chair, ONS)

Professor Sir Roger Jowell (Deputy Chair, Official Statistics)

Mr Richard Alldritt

Mr Partha Dasgupta

Ms Moira Gibb

Ms Jil Matheson

Mr Stephen Penneck (not for items 12 to 14)

Professor David Rhind

Sir Jon Shortridge

#### **Secretariat**

Mr Robert Bumpstead

Mr Mervyn Stevens

#### **Other Attendees**

Mr Glen Watson (ONS for item 7)

Mr Guy Goodwin and Mr Alistair Calder (ONS for item 8)

Mr Richard Laux (Monitoring and Assessment) for items 11 to 13)

#### **Apologies**

Dr Colette Bowe

## Minutes of the UK Statistics Authority Meeting 281011

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Dr Bowe.

### 2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

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

3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 September were accepted as a true and fair account. There were no matters arising.

### 4. Authority Chair's Report

4.1 The Chair reported that since the last meeting he had written to:

- i. the Minister for Immigration, Damian Green MP on 11 October regarding comments made by Mr Green on migration statistics; and
- ii. the Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee, Rt. Hon. Keith Vaz MP on 21 October regarding comments made by the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson to the Committee about juvenile re-offending at Feltham Young Offender's Institute.

4.2 A reply had been received from Damian Green MP on 17 October. All of this correspondence had been published on the Authority's website.

4.3 The meeting noted that interviews for a successor to Sir Michael Scholar as Chair of the Authority would be held in the first week of November.

### 5. Reports from Authority Committee Chairs

#### Audit Committee

5.1 Professor Rhind reported on the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 30 September. The meeting had received a report from the Head of Internal Audit on progress against the Internal Audit plan for 2011/12, had considered seven Internal Audit reports and noted progress in implementing recommendations from earlier Internal Audit reports.

5.2 The meeting had also received the final report from the National Audit Office (NAO) on the external audit of the Authority for 2010/11, and had considered how the Authority should respond to the requirements for earlier financial reporting and publication of accounts under the Treasury's Clear Line of Sight (CLOS) initiative. The Committee reviewed its forward agenda for the assurance cycle for 2011/1 and would be determining its aims, objectives and direction for 2012 at a special meeting in December.

#### Assessment Committee

5.3 Professor Jowell reported on the meeting of the Assessment Committee held on 7 October. The meeting had discussed ten draft Assessment Reports and had recommended that three of these should be further considered by the Authority Board. These would be discussed later in the meeting. A further seven draft Assessment Reports had subsequently been considered in correspondence, and the Committee was recommending all of these be similarly approved for publication.

5.4 The meeting had agreed that the Monitoring and Assessment team should compile a log of issues of UK comparability of statistics for referral to the Government Statistical Service's Inter-Administration Committee.

5.5 The Committee had also considered a timetable for the completion of the first

## Minutes of the UK Statistics Authority Meeting 281011

programme of Assessments and proposals for the future evolution of Assessment beyond that. These proposals would be considered by the Authority Board later in the meeting.

### Office for National Statistics Board (ONS)

- 5.6 Lord Rowe-Beddoe reported on the meeting of the ONS Board held on 21 October. The meeting had considered a report from the Director General of ONS and had reviewed risks and progress with major programmes and projects, and had noted satisfactory outcomes to recent Office of Government Commerce (OGC) Gateway reviews of the 2011 Census and Web Data Access programmes.
- 5.7 The Board had considered a progress report on a programme to deliver improvements to the ONS website. The meeting had also reviewed the circumstances which led to the recent error in ONS construction statistics and had considered the Authority's report on the issue. The meeting had also discussed human resources and budget issues.
- 6. ONS 2012**
- 6.1 Ms Matheson reported on a programme of work to deliver the ONS vision and improvements in ONS outputs and services. A series of workshops had commenced to determine what changes to the structure and organisation of ONS might be made to best deliver these improvements.
- 6.2 The meeting noted developments and that further progress reports would be made to future meetings of the ONS Board and the Authority Board.
- 7. Census 2011**
- 7.1 Mr Watson reported on progress with processing Census data and on plans for the release of key outputs in 2012. Prosecutions for non-compliance with the statutory requirement to complete the Census had commenced.
- 7.2 The meeting noted these developments and agreed that, in addition to the monthly progress report made to the ONS Board, the Authority would receive further progress reports during 2012.
- 8. Beyond 2011 [SA(11)63]**
- 8.1 Mr Goodwin and Mr Calder gave an overview of strategy for the Beyond 2011 programme. The programme was looking at options for how small area population and demographic data might be provided in the future. Recommendations would be made by September 2014. A stakeholder consultation exercise was in progress.
- 8.2 The meeting noted progress and agreed that the Authority should continue to be consulted and informed of progress as the programme progressed, in addition to the monthly reports to the ONS Board.
- 9. UK Statistics Authority and Open Data [SA(11)64]**
- 9.1 The meeting noted that the Chair had written to the Minister for the Cabinet Office, Rt. Hon. Francis Maude MP on 11 October setting out the Authority's response to the open government consultation on 'Making Open Data Real'. This letter had been published on the Authority's website.
- 9.2 The meeting agreed a draft response to a letter to the Chair from Bernard Jenkin MP, Chair of the Public Administration Select Committee (PASC), regarding a recommendation made by PASC to the Government about transparency in

government data.

**10. Open Data and Charging in ONS [SA(11)65]**

10.1 Mr Penneck reported on progress ONS was making in response to the Government's open data and transparency agenda, and on the ONS position on charging for data and services.

**11. Completing the First Cycle of Assessments [SA(11)66]**

11.1 Mr Alldritt introduced a paper which made proposals for the completion of the first cycle of Assessments by the summer of 2012 and suggestions as to how the Authority's statutory Assessment activity might be approached after that. These proposals had been agreed by the Assessment Committee at a meeting on 7 October.

11.2 Following discussion, the Authority endorsed these proposals and agreed that a Monitoring Brief should be produced after the completion of the first cycle of Assessments to record the lessons learned and improvements to statistics that the programme had delivered.

**12. Assessment Reports for Approval [SA(11)67]**

12.1 The Head of Assessment reported that he and the Assessment Committee had recommended that the following 14 Assessment Reports be published:

- i. AR 144: Statistics on Public Sector Finances (Office for National Statistics);
- ii. AR 145: Statistics on Public Sector Expenditure (HM Treasury);
- iii. AR 147: Statistics on Land Use Change in England (Department for Communities and Local Government);
- iv. AR 148: Statistics on Agriculture in Northern Ireland (Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland);
- v. AR 149: Statistics on Agriculture in Scotland (Scottish Government);
- vi. AR 150: Statistics on Agriculture in the UK and England (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs);
- vii. AR 151: Statistics on Agriculture in Wales (Welsh Government);
- viii. AR 152: Statistics on Marriages and Divorces (Office for National Statistics);
- ix. AR 153: Statistics on Hospital Waiting Times in Northern Ireland (Department for Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Northern Ireland);
- x. AR 154: Statistics from the Farm Business Survey Rotating Modules (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs);
- xi. AR 155: Statistics on Search and Rescue Callouts (Ministry of Defence);
- xii. AR 156: Statistics on Housing and Planning in Scotland (Scottish Government);
- xiii. AR 157: Statistics on Income Tax (HM Revenue and Customs); and
- xiv. AR 158: Statistics on Welsh Businesses, Exports and Earnings (Welsh Government).

12.2 The meeting approved these Assessment Reports for publication.

12.3 It was agreed that the Chair would write to Treasury Ministers, under the provisions of Section 16 of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, and request that statistics produced by HM Revenue and Customs on Income Tax projections should be assessed for possible designation as National Statistics.

**13. Draft Assessment Reports 142, 146 and 143 [SA(11)68, 69 and 70]**

13.1 The meeting noted that the following draft Assessment Reports had been considered at the meeting of the Assessment Committee on 7 October, when it had been agreed that these reports should be considered further by the Authority Board:

## Minutes of the UK Statistics Authority Meeting 281011

- i. AR 142: Statistics on Drug Treatment (National Treatment Agency) [SA(11)68];
- ii. AR 146: Statistics on Public Sector Productivity (Office for National Statistics) [SA(11)69]; and
- iii. AR 143: UK Regional Accounts (Office for National Statistics) [SA(11)70].

13.2 It was agreed that the Chair would write to the Secretary of State for Health, under the provisions of Section 16 of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, regarding statistics produced by the National Treatment Agency.

13.3 The meeting noted that the ONS releases of statistics on public service productivity were not currently in the usual form of a statistical bulletin but were rather a series of analytical articles. It was agreed that these were important statistics, should therefore be assessed as National Statistics, and that ONS should therefore put in hand the work necessary to meet the standards required as National Statistics.

13.4 In considering the draft Assessment Report 143: UK Regional Accounts produced by ONS, the meeting discussed the resourcing of the production of these statistics.

13.5 It was agreed that these Assessment Reports should be published, subject to agreed amendments.

### **14. Any other business**

14.1 The Authority had considered in correspondence a draft Monitoring Brief on statistics for parliamentary constituencies. It was agreed that a further draft should be considered at a future meeting.

14.2 There was no other business.

# UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

## *Agenda*

**Friday, 28 October, 2011**

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

**Chair: Sir Michael Scholar**  
**Apologies: Ms Colette Bowe**

1	Minutes and matters arising from previous meeting Declarations of interest	Meeting of 260911
2	Authority Chair's Report	Oral Report Sir Michael Scholar
3	Reports from Authority Committee Chairs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Audit Committee</li><li>● Assessment Committee</li><li>● ONS Board</li></ul>	Oral Reports Professor David Rhind Professor Roger Jowell Lord Rowe-Beddoe
4	ONS 2012	Oral Report Ms Jil Matheson
5	Census 2011	Oral Report Mr Glen Watson
6	Beyond 2011	SA(11)63 Mr Guy Goodwin Mr Alistair Calder
7	Open Data <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● UK Statistics Authority and Open Data</li><li>● Open Data and Charging in ONS</li></ul>	SA(11)64 Sir Michael Scholar SA(11)65 Mr Stephen Penneck
8	Post-Legislative Scrutiny	Oral Report Mr Robert Bumpstead
9	Completing the First Assessment Programme	SA(11)66 Mr Richard Alldritt
10	Assessment Reports for Approval <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● AR 142: Statistics on Drug Treatment</li><li>● AR 146: Statistics on Public Sector Productivity</li><li>● AR 143: UK Regional Accounts</li></ul>	SA(11)67 SA(11)68 SA(11)69 SA(11)70 Mr Richard Alldritt
11	Any other business	

SA(11)63 – Beyond 2011

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(11)63

***Beyond 2011***

This document has been published on the Office for National Statistics website.

To see the document go to:

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

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(11)64

***UK Statistics Authority And Open Data***

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

To see this Document go to:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/correspondence/letter-from-sir-michael-scholar-to-rt-hon-francis-maude---open-data---11102011.pdf>



**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(11)65

***Open Data and Charging in ONS***

This document is published on the Office for National Statistics website.

To see the document go to:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/about-ons/who-we-are/services/charging-policy/index.html>

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(11)66

***Completing the First Assessment Programme***

The Assessment Programmes are published on the UK Statistics Authority website.

To see the Programme of Assessments go to:

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

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(11)67

***Assessment Reports for Approval***

These Assessment Reports have been published on the UK Statistics Authority website.

To see Assessments Reports published go to:

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

Assessment Report 142: Statistics on Drug Treatment

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-142---statistics-on-drug-treatment.pdf>

Assessment Report 143: UK Regional Accounts

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-143---uk-regional-accounts.pdf>

Assessment Report 146: Statistics on Public Sector Productivity

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-146---statistics-on-public-service-productivity.pdf>