

# UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

## Minutes

Thursday, 6 June 2013  
Boardroom, Titchfield

### **Present**

#### **UK Statistics Authority**

Sir Andrew Dilnot (Chair)  
Professor David Rhind  
Professor Sir Adrian Smith  
Mr Richard Alldritt  
Mr Partha Dasgupta  
Ms Carolyn Fairbairn  
Dame Moira Gibb  
Professor David Hand  
Dr David Levy  
Ms Jil Matheson  
Mr Glen Watson

### **Secretariat**

Mr Robert Bumpstead  
Mr Joe Cuddeford

### **Apologies**

Dr Colette Bowe

### **Other attendees**

Mr Peter Benton, Mr Alistair Calder and Mr Ian Cope (for item 7)

**1. Apologies**

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Dr Bowe.

**2. Declarations of interest**

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

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

- 3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 May 2013 were agreed as a true and fair account.
- 3.2 It was confirmed that a paper from ONS about migration statistics would be considered at the July Authority Board meeting.

**4. Authority Chair's Report**

- 4.1 The Chair had recently attended a meeting of the Cabinet's Ministerial Committee on Home Affairs to discuss the future provision of population statistics for England and Wales.
- 4.2 The Chair would be meeting with the Work and Pensions Select Committee on 10 June to discuss official statistics in the Department for Work and Pensions.
- 4.3 The Chair had written to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Iain Duncan Smith MP, regarding statistics about the benefit cap, and the Chairman of the Conservative Party, Grant Shapps MP, regarding statistics about the Employment and Support Allowance.

**5. Reports from Authority Committee Chairs**

Assessment Committee

- 5.1 Professor Rhind reported on the meeting of the Assessment Committee held on 16 May. The meeting had reviewed progress with monitoring and assessment work, and had considered six draft Assessment Reports. The Committee had considered the forward work programme for Assessment, and had welcomed steps that the Assessment team had begun to take to attempt to better capture user views as part of assessments.

Committee for Official Statistics

- 5.2 Professor Rhind also reported on the meeting of the Committee for Official Statistics held on 16 May. The Committee had considered the response from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to the Authority's Statistical Expenditure Report about the discontinuation of regional statistics previously published by DCLG, and had asked the Head of Assessment to consider possible further action.
- 5.3 Representatives from the Royal Statistical Society (RSS), including the RSS President, Mr John Pullinger, had attended the meeting to discuss the recent strategy reviews carried out by the RSS and Authority respectively, horizon scanning, and engagement with Parliament.
- 5.4 The meeting had also received a report from the Government Statistical Service (GSS) group on UK Comparability. Mr Stephan Shakespeare, Chair of the Government's Data Strategy Board, had earlier spoken at the meeting to discuss his review of public sector information.

Office for National Statistics (ONS) Board

- 5.5 Professor Sir Adrian Smith reported on the meeting of the ONS Board held on 21 May. The ONS Board had agreed to hold a workshop on migration statistics in September and the Home Office Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor Bernard Silverman, would be invited to join this workshop. The meeting had considered a report about problems the ONS had experienced with obtaining data from the Department for Work and Pensions in respect of the pilot areas for Universal Credit. The ONS Board had also considered a proposed framework which would support the ONS Strategy, current National Accounts projects, and a value engineering analysis which had been carried out on ONS statistical outputs.

Audit Committee

- 5.6 Mr Dasgupta reported on the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 30 May. The Committee had considered the final draft of its annual report for 2012/13, and had agreed that the report should be submitted to the Authority Board. Assurance maps had been considered for ONS, the Monitoring and Assessment team and the National Statistician's Office respectively.

Remuneration Committee

- 5.7 The Authority Chair reported on the meeting of the Remuneration Committee held earlier that day. The meeting received and endorsed the outcomes of performance moderating meetings for Directors and Deputy Directors in ONS and the Authority. The Committee had also considered the performance of the three Director Generals for the period to March 2013.

**6. Budget 2013/14 and 2014/15**

- 6.1 Mr Watson provided an update on the Authority's budget for 2013/14 and 2014/15. A letter had been received from HM Treasury setting out some of the key features of the proposed settlement for the next two years. There were ongoing discussions regarding further detail. It was understood that the Chief Secretary to the Treasury would be writing to the Authority Chair in due course to confirm the settlement.

**7. Beyond 2011**

- 7.1 Mr Benton introduced a paper which set out progress with the Beyond 2011 Programme. The meeting considered the approach the ONS proposed to take for a public consultation on different options. ONS intended to run this consultation from September to November 2013. The Board welcomed the work done to date, considered the current plans, and further discussed how they could best be developed.

**8. Draft Report of the Asset Purchase Facility Review [SA(13)28]**

- 8.1 The Chair introduced the draft report of the Authority's review of the treatment in public sector finance statistics of changes to the cash management arrangements between the Bank of England Asset Purchase Facility Fund and HM Treasury. The review panel had been chaired by Mr Dasgupta and had included the Authority's Head of Assessment and an independent expert, Professor Sir Tony Atkinson.
- 8.2 Following discussion the meeting confirmed that the report would be published on 12 June, alongside an accompanying statement indicating that the Authority endorsed the report and had asked ONS to implement its findings.

**9. Pre-Release Access (PRA) to Official Statistics [SA(13)29 and SA(13)30]**

9.1 The Board noted an analysis of the extent of Pre-Release Access (PRA) to official statistics from 2011 to 2012, which indicated that the number of releases to which PRA was granted had increased as had the number of individuals to which PRA was granted. It was agreed that this analysis should be published.

9.2 Mr Watson outlined progress with plans to reduce PRA to ONS publications. Criteria for assessing requests for PRA had been developed which ONS intended to implement in June and July. It was agreed that the Authority Board would receive a report on the outcome of this exercise at its October meeting.

**10. Draft Monitoring Review: Release of ONS Statistics at 09:30am [SA(13)31]**

10.1 Mr Alldritt introduced a draft Monitoring Review about the publication by ONS of statistics at 9.30am. It was agreed that the Monitoring and Assessment team would amend the report in light of discussion, and in light of comments from ONS when these were received, and submit the report to the next meeting of the Assessment Committee. The Monitoring Review may then come back to the Authority Board if the Assessment Committee wished.

10.2 The Board agreed that resolution of the practical problems was an operational matter for ONS, and the ONS Board would wish to look again at the issues in the round.

**11. GSS Compliance with EU Regulations [SA(13)32]**

11.1 Consideration of this item was deferred until the next meeting.

**12. Annual Report of the Audit Committee 2012/13 to the Accounting Officers and Authority Board [SA(13)33]**

12.1 Mr Dasgupta introduced the report of the Audit Committee to the Accounting Officers and the Authority Board for 2012/13. The opinion of the Audit Committee Chair was that the Accounting Officer could take a good degree of assurance that the governance structure of the organisation was sound. The Authority Board welcomed this opinion.

12.2 Mr Dasgupta reported that the Terms of Reference for the Audit Committee had been updated to reflect changes suggested at the Audit Committee's effectiveness review workshop on 14 March. The revised Terms of Reference were in accordance with the model provided in HM Treasury's Audit and Risk Assurance Committee Handbook. The Authority Board endorsed the revised Terms of Reference and agreed that the Audit Committee's name should be changed to the 'Audit and Risk Assurance Committee' in accordance with recent Treasury guidance.

**13. Any other business**

13.1 There was no other business.

## UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

### *Agenda*

**Thursday, 6 June, 2013**

**Room 1103-1105, Titchfield, 12:00 - 16:00**

**Chair: Mr Andrew Dilnot**

**Apologies: Dr Colette Bowe**

1	Minutes and matters arising from previous meetings Declarations of interest	Meeting of 090513
2	Authority Chair's Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment of the Head of Assessment</li> <li>• The Authority and Parliament</li> <li>• Reviews of Price Indices</li> </ul>	Oral report Mr Andrew Dilnot
3	Reports from Authority Committee Chairs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COS and Assessment Committee</li> <li>• ONS Board</li> <li>• Audit Committee</li> <li>• Remuneration Committee</li> </ul>	Oral reports Professor David Rhind Professor Sir Adrian Smith Mr Partha Dasgupta Mr Andrew Dilnot
4	Budget 2013/14 and 2014/15	Oral update Mr Glen Watson
5	Beyond 2011	SA(13)32 Mr Ian Cope and Mr Pete Benton
6	Asset Purchase Facility (APF) Review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report of the APF Review and draft Authority statement</li> <li>• ONS response</li> </ul>	SA(13)28a and b Mr Partha Dasgupta SA(13)28c Mr Glen Watson
7	Pre-Release Access (PRA) to Official Statistics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PRA in 2011 and 2012</li> <li>• Reducing PRA to ONS statistics</li> </ul>	SA(13)29 Secretariat SA(13)30 Mr Glen Watson
8	Draft Monitoring Review: Release of ONS Statistics at 09:30 a.m.	SA(13)31 Mr Richard Alldritt
9	GSS Compliance with EU Regulations	SA(13)33 Mr Richard Alldritt and Ms Jil Matheson
10	Annual Report of the Audit Committee 2012/13 to the Accounting Officers and Authority Board	SA(13)34 Mr Partha Dasgupta
11	Any other business	

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, 30 July 2013, Drummond Gate, London, 12:00 – 16:00**



**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(13)32

***Beyond 2011***

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

To see this document go to:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/about-ons/who-ons-are/programmes-and-projects/beyond-2011/reports-and-publications/beyond-2011--narrowing-down-the-options--o3-.pdf>



SA(13)28 – Asset Purchase Facility Review

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(13)28

***Asset Purchase Facility Review***

A report has been published on the UK Statistics Authority website.

To see this report go to:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/reports/asset-purchase-facility-fund.pdf>



SA(13)29 and SA(13)30 – Pre-Release Access to Official Statistics

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(13)29 and SA(13)30

***Pre-Release Access to Official Statistics***

An analysis of the extent of Pre-Release Access to official statistics will be published on the UK Statistics Authority website in due course.

The report will be available at:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/uk-statistical-system/legislation/pre-release-access/index.html>



SA(13)31 – Draft Monitoring Review: Release of ONS Statistics at 9:30 a.m.

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(13)31

***Monitoring Review: Release of ONS Statistics at 9:30 a.m.***

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

To see the document go to:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/monitoring/monitoring-reviews/monitoring-review-7-2013---issuing-ons-market-sensitive-statistics-at-09-30.pdf>



SA(13)33 – GSS Compliance with EU Regulations

**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(13)33

***GSS Compliance with EU Regulations***

This paper has been deferred to a future meeting of the UK Statistics Authority Committee.



**UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

SA(13)34

***Report of the Audit Committee to the Accounting Officers and the  
Authority Board 2012/13***

The UK Statistics Authority Annual Report and Accounts has been published on the UK Statistics Authority website.

To see this document go to:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/what-we-do/corporate-information/annual-report-and-resource-accounts/uk-statistics-authority-s-annual-report-and-accounts-2012-13.pdf>