

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

Minutes

**Thursday, 7 November 2013
Boardroom, Newport**

Present

UK Statistics Authority

Sir Andrew Dilnot (Chair)
Professor David Rhind
Professor Sir Adrian Smith
Dr Colette Bowe (until item 9)
Mr Partha Dasgupta
Ms Carolyn Fairbairn (until item 8)
Professor David Hand
Dr David Levy (until item 7)
Ms Jil Matheson
Mr Glen Watson

Secretariat

Mr Robert Bumpstead
Mr Joe Cuddeford

Apologies

Dame Moira Gibb

Other Attendees

Mr Simon Crine (for item 6)
Mr Mike Hughes (for item 7)
Mr Mark Pont (for item 11)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Dame Moira Gibb.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no new declarations of interest.

3. Minutes, matters arising from previous meetings

3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 October 2013 were agreed. The meeting reviewed progress with actions.

3.2 Mr Watson reported that, following discussion at the October Authority Board meeting, his office had reviewed the process and criteria for making reductions to pre-release access to ONS statistics. Government departments would be informed of the outcome of this work in the week beginning 11 November.

3.3 Mr Watson provided an update on the problems that the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) was experiencing with providing data to ONS about jobseekers who were part of the Universal Credit programme. The Authority Board expressed concern about the potential impact on ONS labour market statistics. It was agreed that ONS would continue to discuss these issues with DWP with a view to finding a solution but, in the meantime, ONS would inform users.

4. Authority Chair's Report

4.1 The Chair reported that since the last meeting, among other activities, he had met with the Shadow Minister for the Cabinet Office regarding the Beyond 2011 project, and spoken with Greg McClymont MP about the status of a DWP research report about pension transfers.

4.2 The Chair noted that improving the communication of statistics remained a top priority for the Statistics Authority and while there had been good progress in some areas, further improvement was needed. Other high priority areas included the Beyond 2011 project; provisions for data sharing; and the establishment of the Administrative Data Research Network.

5. Reports from Authority Committee Chairs

Office for National Statistics (ONS) Board

5.1 Professor Smith reported on the meeting of the ONS Board held on 22 October. The ONS Board had considered:

- i. the way in which National Accounts classifications decisions were made;
- ii. the Beyond 2011 consultation and ways in which ONS Board members could best be informed of progress with this;
- iii. progress with the ONS public consultation on cuts to outputs; and
- iv. benefits realisation, and the difficulties inherent in quantifying monetary benefits to statistical outputs.

5.2 The ONS Board had also held a workshop about migration statistics. The November ONS Board would include a workshop about the Target Operating Model, which would include a discussion of disruptive influences.

6. Review of Authority Public Affairs [SA(13)50]

- 6.1 Mr Crine provided a summary of the findings and recommendations from his review of communications and public affairs for the UK Statistics Authority.
- 6.2 The Board welcomed the review and agreed that the recommendations should be progressed without delay.

7. Review of the Governance of Price Statistics [SA(13)51]

- 7.1 Mr Hughes provided an update on the Authority's review of the governance of prices statistics, and set out the review's draft recommendations for comment.
- 7.2 The meeting discussed the draft recommendations. It was agreed that Mr Hughes would further develop the recommendations and would provide a full report by the end of November.

8. The Authority's response to PASC's Migration Inquiry [SA(13)56]

- 8.1 The Board considered a summary of the Public Administration Select Committee's (PASC's) study on migration statistics, and a draft response to the Committee's report prepared by ONS.
- 8.2 Following discussion of the substance and tone of the draft response, it was agreed that the Secretariat would take forward drafting and circulate a revised version in due course.

9. Financial Reporting Update [SA(13)52]

Mr Watson introduced a paper which provided the Board with a mid-year update on the forecast outturn for 2013/14 and also provided an update on key financial issues for the organisation. The meeting noted the update.

10. Beyond 2011

- 10.1 Ms Matheson provided an update on the Beyond 2011 programme. A three month public consultation on the future provision of population statistics in England and Wales was launched on 23 September. The Board asked to be kept informed of progress.

11. Draft Monitoring Review: The Geography of Economic Statistics [SA(13)53]

- 11.1 Mr Pont introduced a draft Monitoring Review about the geography of economic statistics. This followed consideration of the report at the Assessment Committee on 18 September.
- 11.2 The meeting endorsed the findings of the report, but recognised that there would be resource issues associated with implementation. The Board agreed that the report should be published on the Authority website as an 'interim report', and should be drawn to the attention of selected experts for comment.

12. The Authority's Annual Report 2013/14 [SA(13)54]

- 12.1 Mr Bumpstead introduced a paper which presented further proposals for the production of the Authority's Annual Report and Accounts 2013/14.
- 12.2 The Board endorsed the proposals in the paper. It was further agreed that Section 2 of the report should be short, perhaps two pages per strategic priority. Further information, such as ONS's Key Performance Indicators, could be published separately.

13. The Authority's risk policy and high-level risks [SA(13)55]

Mr Bumpstead introduced a paper which presented the Authority's risk policy and its high-level risks for review by the Authority Board. Following discussion, the Board approved the risk register without amendment. The risk policy was also endorsed, without amendment.

14. Any other business

There was no other business. The Authority Board would meet next on 5 December 2013 at 12:00 in London.

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

Agenda

Thursday, 7 November 2013
Board Room, Newport, 12:00 - 16:00

Chair: Sir Andrew Dilnot

Apologies: Dame Moira Gibb

1	Minutes and matters arising from previous meetings Declarations of interest	Meeting of 031013
2	Authority Chair's Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beyond 2011 • Improving communication • Data sharing 	Oral report Sir Andrew Dilnot
3	Reports from Authority Committee Chairs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ONS Board 	Oral reports Professor Sir Adrian Smith
4	Review of Authority Public Affairs	SA(13)50 Sir Andrew Dilnot Mr Simon Crine
5	Review of the Governance of Price Statistics	SA(13)51 Professor Sir Adrian Smith Mr Mike Hughes
6	Financial Reporting Update	SA(13)52 Mr Glen Watson
7	Beyond 2011	Oral update Ms Jil Matheson
8	The Authority's Response to PASC's Migration Report	SA(13)56 Sir Andrew Dilnot
9	Draft Monitoring Review: The Geography of Economic Statistics	SA(13)53 Mr Mark Pont
10	The Authority's Annual Report 2013/14	SA(13)54 Mr Robert Bumpstead
11	The Authority's risk policy and high-level risks	SA(13)55 Mr Robert Bumpstead
12	Any other business	

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(13)51

Review of Governance of Prices Statistics

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

The document will be available at:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/>

SA(13)52 – Financial Reporting Update

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(13)52

Financial Reporting Update

The UK Statistics Authority Annual Reports and Accounts are published on the UK Statistics Authority website.

To see these documents go to:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/what-we-do/corporate-information/annual-report-and-resource-accounts/index.html>

SA(13)56 – The Authority's Response to PASC's Migration Report

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(13)56

The Authority's response to PASC's Migration 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/correspondence/letter-from-sir-andrew-dilnot-to-bernard-jenkin-mp-uksa-response-hc-523-06122013.pdf>

SA(13)53 – Draft Monitoring Review: The Geography of Economic Statistics

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(13)53

Draft Monitoring Review: The Geography of Economic Statistics

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

The document will be available at:

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

SA(13)54 – The Authority's Annual Report 2013/14

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SA(13)54

The Authority's Annual Report 2013/14

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UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

SA(13)55

The Authority's High-Level Risks and Risk Policy

Purpose

1. This paper presents the Authority's risk policy and its high-level risks for review by the Authority Board.

Recommendations

2. Members of the Authority are invited to
 - i. review the Authority's high-level risks and scoring; and
 - ii. review the Authority's risk policy and indicate if content to continue.

Discussion

3. The Authority Board endorsed a risk policy at its meeting in May 2012 [SA(12)18]. In response to recommendations made by Internal Audit this was revised in October 2012, and is now due for its annual review by the Authority Board.
4. A draft high-level risk register was presented to the Authority Board at its meetings in September and October 2012. The risk register was last reviewed by the Authority Board at the meeting in March and is now due for its six-monthly review.
5. ONS has been developing a new set of strategic risks which align to its business plan and strategy. Drafts of these strategic risks have been considered by the ONS Board and are due to be considered by the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee on 15 November.
6. At its meeting on 15 November the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee will also review the Authority's high-level risk register alongside the ONS strategic risks.

Authority Secretariat, 30 October 2013