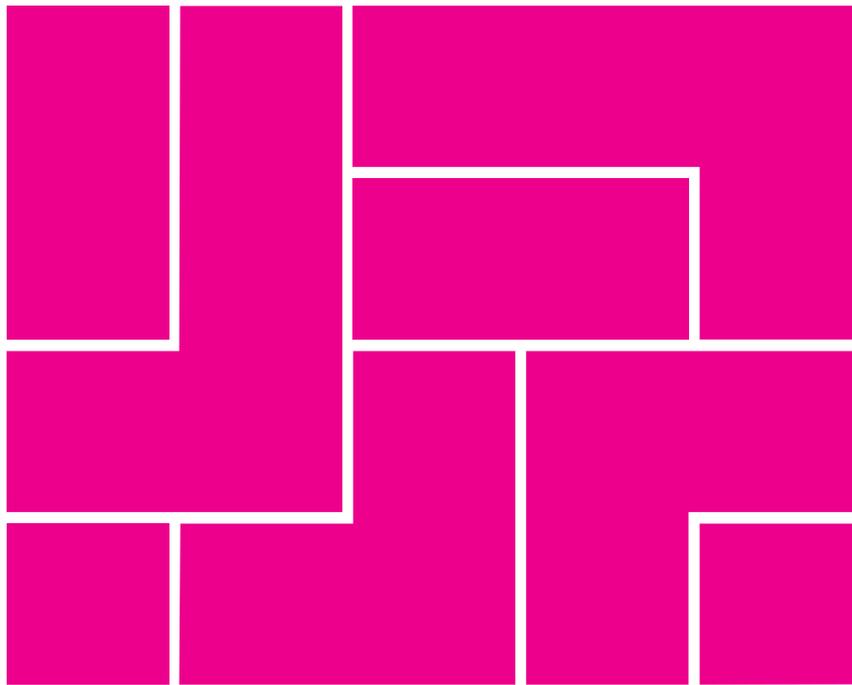


# National Statistics

## Annual Report 2004/05







# **National Statistics**

## Annual Report 2004/05

Presented to Parliament by  
the Financial Secretary to the Treasury  
by Command of Her Majesty, July 2005

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# Foreword by the National Statistician

This is the fifth National Statistics Annual Report. It records the breadth and depth of the work carried out by the statisticians and other analysts in the Government Statistical Service (GSS) and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) who produce National Statistics. Once again, good progress has been made in meeting the plans detailed in the National Statistics Work Programme 2003/04–2005/06.

Official statistics underpin all facets of public life and contribute to the crucial decisions made not only by government but by business, community groups and members of the general public. Statistics provide information about the demography, culture and economy of the UK and provide the information government needs to form and evaluate policy. The explosion of Internet usage means that our statistics reach further than ever before, with the National Statistics website attracting over half a million unique visitors a month.

For the effective functioning of the nation, it is therefore vital that official statistics are trusted. This year, the Office for National Statistics (ONS), in collaboration with the Statistics Commission and the rest of the GSS, carried out research to develop a benchmark level of public trust in statistics and to identify the determinants of trust. The results of this research will shape the way in which official statistics are collected and disseminated in the future.

Statistics cannot stand still; they must constantly evolve to meet the demands of our changing society. In 2004 the GSS and NISRA faced many new and interesting challenges, driven by the environment in which the UK statistical system operates, as a member of the European Union (EU), as the fourth largest economy in the world and with an increasing emphasis placed on evidence-based policy and performance indicators. The GSS is also expected to play its part in meeting the demands placed upon departments by the recommendations from the Gershon Review of Public Sector Efficiency and the Lyons Review of Public Sector Relocation.

To meet these challenges, significant steps were taken to consolidate and improve statistical services. ONS has continued with its Statistical Modernisation Programme. This is on course to provide a re-engineered statistical system, which will continue to meet the increasing demands placed upon it to produce timely, reliable and integrated statistics.



There is increased demand for timely small area statistics and in the past 12 months the GSS has continued to develop the Neighbourhood Statistics Service (NeSS) to meet this need. In addition, ONS has secured funding to implement the recommendations of the Allsopp Review which will vastly improve the quality and availability of regional statistics.

Sir Tony Atkinson has recently completed his review of the measurement of government output and productivity. This work will ensure that the UK remains at the forefront in the measurement of public sector output and I will be considering his conclusions over the coming months.

We have now published all 12 of the National Statistics Protocols which support the Code of Practice. Over the past year, the Heads of Profession in all the organisations that produce National Statistics, along with Chief Statisticians in the devolved administrations, have been working to develop the operational procedures necessary to ensure full compliance with these.

As this is my last foreword, I would like to thank all those involved in National Statistics for making my time as National Statistician such a rewarding experience.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Len Cook". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Len Cook  
National Statistician  
Director of the Office for National Statistics  
Head of the Government Statistical Service

# About this report

This report describes the work carried out during the last financial year on those official statistics that have been designated as 'National Statistics'. In particular, it reports on progress against the plans for National Statistics, which were set out in the preceding National Statistics three-year Work Programme.

Publication of this report also meets one of the key responsibilities assigned to the National Statistician in the *Framework for National Statistics*, namely:

'to prepare an annual report on the performance of National Statistics to the Chancellor, as Minister for National Statistics'.

This year's report describes progress against the Work Programme during 2004/05, across three main areas of work:

- major developments that cut across departmental or Theme boundaries
- work carried out under the aegis of the 12 National Statistics Theme Working Groups
- quality improvements carried out in the context of the National Statistics Quality Review Programme

Throughout this report readers will come across references to a number of inter-related terms and concepts, and these are explained more fully below.

## What are official statistics?

'Official statistics' embrace a range of numerical information and cover all those statistics that fall within the managerial responsibility of any official working for the state. They include the following:

- collected statistics – any statistics gathered by government through formal censuses,

statistical surveys and statistical inquiries, either directly or through sponsorship or contractual/outsourcing arrangements

- administrative or management statistics – any statistics generated as a by-product of any operational, management or administrative system established, for example, to collect taxes, provide benefits, deliver services, and so on
- other statistics – statistics generated to help the work of government, for example, internal operational figures relating to personnel, performance, and so on

Official statistics are either managed or produced by any of the following:

- any civil servant working within central government – made up of government departments, devolved administrations, and their agencies, also known as 'Central Government Statistics'
- any official working in local government and its agencies, also known as 'Local Government Statistics'
- any official working in any one of the many thousands of public bodies – includes quasi-government organisations such as non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), quasi-autonomous non-government organisations (quangos) and any other public body funded by central or local government.

## Framework for National Statistics

The *Framework for National Statistics* was published in June 2000, describing the governance and administration arrangements for National Statistics. It sets out the aims and

objectives of National Statistics, outlining the roles and responsibilities of the major participants – ministers, the Statistics Commission, the National Statistician, and Heads of Profession for Statistics (HoPs). The Framework also describes the equivalent governance arrangements for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

### **Government Statistical Service**

The Government Statistical Service (GSS) is a decentralised body spread across 30-plus government departments, agencies and devolved administrations. The National Statistician, as well as being the Director of the Office for National Statistics (ONS), is also the Head of the GSS. There are more than 7,000 civil servants working in the GSS, whether in ONS, in other government departments and organisations, or the devolved administrations, and their primary function is to collect, analyse and disseminate statistics. The GSS works closely with the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), which is not formally part of the GSS, to ensure as far as possible, the coherence and compatibility of statistical activities. GSS staff operate within an ONS-administered personnel framework that sets standards for recruitment, qualifications, competence and training. They come under the managerial authority of a designated Head of Profession for Statistics. Appendix B of this report shows all those organisations in which members of the GSS work.

For the purposes of this report, where the term GSS is used it also encompasses the activities of NISRA.

### **Statistical Heads of Profession**

Every government department or agency with a significant GSS presence, in terms of either its production or use of GSS statistics, has its own HoP, and each of the three devolved administrations has a Chief Statistician who

performs the same functions. The National Statistician, along with his other roles, is the HoP for ONS but delegates some of his HoP responsibilities, in equal shares, to the Heads of ONS's Statistical Directorates. Appendix B shows those organisations that have a statistical HoP or Chief Statistician.

### **National Statistics Theme Working Groups**

One of the key aims of the *Framework for National Statistics* is to improve the coherence and relevance of the statistics produced by the departments, agencies and administrations from which the GSS is formed. One way of achieving this is through the 12 National Statistics Theme Working Groups (TWGs). Each TWG has responsibility for a specific area of national life – ‘Crime and Justice’, the ‘Economy’, ‘Health and Care’, and so on – bringing together statistical representatives from each of the government departments, agencies and devolved administrations. Their role is to develop and implement coherent work plans for those National Statistics and official statistics that fall within their remit. These are then collated and published in the *National Statistics Work Programme*. TWGs play a key role in generating and monitoring Quality Reviews of key outputs within their remit, which they do under the auspices of the National Statistics Quality Review Programme. Appendix B shows the links between each of the organisations that make up the GSS and each of the TWGs.

### **National Statistics**

The term ‘National Statistics’ covers a designated set of official statistics under the managerial control of statisticians working in the GSS. National Statistics are produced in accordance with the *Framework for National Statistics*, and are expected to meet the high professional standards set out in the *National Statistics Code of Practice* and its supporting Protocols. National

Statistics are also subject to regular quality assurance reviews and are free from any political influence.

To obtain this identity, official statistics must meet National Statistics standards for quality and integrity, and one of the long-term aims behind the launch of the concept in June 2000 was to expand the total set of official statistics that can be called 'National Statistics'.

### **National Statistics Code of Practice – Statement of Principles**

The *National Statistics Code of Practice* sets out the high-level standards, key principles and practices which all producers of National Statistics across government are expected to follow and uphold. The Code is supplemented by 12 separate Protocols providing producers with practical guidance on how to apply the principles of the Code to a range of statistical activities. The National Statistician is the final authority on the interpretation of the Code.

### **Scope of National Statistics**

The *Framework for National Statistics* gives government ministers the responsibility for deciding the scope of National Statistics:

'Ministers will take decisions about the coverage of National Statistics in the light of the costs and benefits involved'

In practice, the decision on whether or not to designate any particular output as a 'National Statistic' is usually arrived at through negotiation. The HoPs in each government department, or the Chief Statisticians in each of the three devolved administrations, can initiate the process and, in so doing, will involve the National Statistician. The latter has to ensure that the statistics are of the right quality and generated in accordance with the *National Statistics Code of Practice*. However, the minister of the relevant department has the final authority, when the standards are met, to determine designation.

The long-term aim is that all GSS statistics will qualify to become 'National Statistics'. Over time, statistics can also have their National Statistics designation withdrawn. This can occur, for instance, because of statisticians' concerns about quality, or where a minister finds the operational constraints of the Code of Practice too restrictive. Appendix D gives details of those statistics which have been included within, or withdrawn from, the scope of National Statistics.

By the launch of National Statistics in June 2000, most government departments categorised at least some of their key GSS statistics as National Statistics. In the case of ONS, all of its outputs were automatically designated National Statistics.

overview

# National Statistics Strategy

## Introduction

The strategic aims and objectives that underpin the production of National Statistics are set out in the *Framework for National Statistics* and can be summarised in one word – trust.

‘Trust’ is necessary for any statistical service to be effective. If users do not trust a statistical service’s figures then they will not use them, which will diminish their contribution to decision-making. But to be fully effective, the statistical service needs to be trusted for more than just accuracy of the figures produced. It needs to be trusted for the integrity of its people and processes, its freedom from political interference, and the ability to keep data that people have entrusted to it confidential.

As a quality, trust is relatively slow to build, and can be lost quickly. Trust in official statistics can be eroded by simple mistakes in outputs, by the suspicion that politicians have interfered with what is measured and how it is measured, or by how the results are presented.

The National Statistics Strategy is based around building trust in official statistics. This means that all aspects of the statistical value chain – deciding work programmes, collecting and analysing data, and the presentation of results – must be conducted in a way that contributes to trust. The following sections describe, in different ways, how the Government Statistical Service (GSS) is working to build trust.

## Becoming world class

The main focus of the National Statistics Strategy is to lay the foundations of trust by encouraging all staff involved in the production of National Statistics to become recognised as world leaders through the integrity of their methods, practices, systems and statistics.

A world-class statistical system is one which:

- provides a vital contribution to the effective and efficient management and development of the Government’s knowledge base
- provides relevant and timely advice to help form evidence-based policy
- produces comprehensive National Statistics accessible to all
- delivers every statistic on time with reliability, coherence and accessibility
- is an exemplar of good statistical practice
- provides leadership through the development of appropriate statistical infrastructure, methodology and practice
- plays a leading role in the international statistics community
- continually seeks to improve its products and processes
- provides a framework for its members to make full use of their talents and gives them opportunities to develop and hone their skills

To achieve this aim, all those involved in the production of National Statistics are expected to base all their statistical activities on the five key principles outlined below:

### Relevance

If statistical data are to meet the needs of government, business and the community, they must be timely, reliable, easily accessible, based on transparent and effective consultation with stakeholders, and fit for purpose.

### Integrity

The cost of accessing and analysing data is significantly reduced when data providers trust the statistical service to handle their personal and

business information fairly, legally and sensitively, and with an absolute guarantee of confidentiality. The benefits of published statistics can be absorbed more rapidly, and their impact and value increased, when users can depend on the integrity of the producers and place their trust in the information that they produce.

### Quality

The desire to improve the quality of official statistics lies at the heart of the National Statistics Strategy. At a practical level, it gives purpose to the National Statistics Quality Review Programme but it also underpins the aims of:

- developing a modern technical infrastructure
- focusing on integrated, documented systems and processes
- developing a human resources programme
- improving communications

The GSS will be judged not only on the more technical quality attributes of its statistical processes, but also on the quality of its people and all that they do, from the development of professional competence to effective management and the fostering of an open, dynamic culture.

### Accessibility

The GSS is committed to fair and open access. It means that those involved in producing National Statistics need to consider how to present information in a way that will ensure its widest use. Privileged access, where it occurs, must be plainly justified, transparent and rigorously controlled.

### Efficiency

Another key objective of the Strategy is to operate efficiently by improving value for money in the production of outputs and by minimising the burden on data providers.

## Measuring achievement

Success in achieving world-class status will be measured across two sets of criteria:

- the extent to which National Statistics products and services are commonly perceived to embody the values set out in the *National Statistics Code of Practice*
- the extent to which decision-makers can engage in a timely and decisive way on a range of political and professional issues – those which have currency now include the following:
  - globalisation
  - enlargement of the European Union
  - devolution and regionalisation
  - modernising government and e-government
  - knowledge economy
  - demographic change
  - neighbourhood renewal
  - sustainable development
  - data protection and freedom of information
  - public services delivery

## Putting the strategy into effect

The key components listed below have been put in place to implement the National Statistics Strategy. A programme of modernisation led from within the Office for National Statistics (ONS) will supplement the four government-wide initiatives detailed below and will have long-term implications for National Statistics as a whole.

- Code of Practice – the *National Statistics Code of Practice* and its 12 supporting Protocols provide the GSS with a detailed, codified framework for action to ensure the quality and credibility of its outputs; for further information see the chapter National Statistics Code of Practice and supporting Protocols.
- Communication – the implementation of a communication strategy designed to make the best use of the mass of statistics and related data generated as National Statistics

- Quality and methodology – an ongoing programme of monitoring and improvement designed to bring GSS products up to world-class standards; for further information see the chapter Methodology and quality
- People – the introduction of a human resources programme capable of attracting and retaining the best people; for further information see the chapter Human resources

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# National Statistics Code of Practice and supporting Protocols

## Introduction

The launch of National Statistics in June 2000 signalled the commitment of the UK Government to improving public trust and confidence in the integrity and quality of official statistics. The new arrangements were set out in the *Framework for National Statistics* and were designed to:

- safeguard the professional independence of official statisticians by introducing the necessary distance between ministers and statistical operations
- encourage greater transparency and accountability in statistical processes
- provide a statistical service that is open and responsive to the public agenda, and to the needs of providers and users
- deliver better and more reliable official statistics which command public confidence

## Improving public confidence

To further these aims, three main strands of work have been taken forward:

- the introduction of more rigorous professional standards for official statistics, and particularly those designated as National Statistics
- implementation of a government-wide quality improvement programme
- investment in better statistical methods and systems to improve operational efficiency and to minimise the burden on respondents

The implementation of a professional Code of Practice for National Statistics has been central to this effort.

As part of this programme of work, in 2004/05 the Office for National Statistics (ONS), in collaboration with the Statistics Commission, carried out a survey to assess the level of public

confidence in a selection of official statistics. More details regarding this work can be found in the chapter: Other developments in 2004/05.

## National Statistics Code of Practice

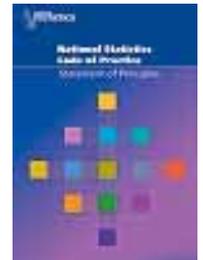
In December 2001 a draft of the new *National Statistics Code of Practice* was published on the About National Statistics website, beginning a three-month period of public consultation. Following this, a 'final' version was issued in September 2002 to all staff in the Government Statistical Service (GSS). The Code was formally launched at the National Statistics Open Day on 11 October 2002 under the title *National Statistics Code of Practice – Statement of Principles*.

## National Statistics Protocols

Two supporting Protocols were published alongside the Code in October 2002, one relating to Release Practices and the other to *Consultation Arrangements between the National Statistician and UK Government Ministers*.

A further 10 Protocols were published over the next two years:

- *Professional Competence* – published January 2004
- *Customer Service and User Consultation* – published January 2004 (involving a merger of two Protocols)
- *Data Presentation, Dissemination and Pricing* – published January 2004
- *Data Management, Documentation and Preservation* – published January 2004
- *Statistical Integration* – published January 2004
- *Managing Respondent Load* – published February 2004
- *Quality Management* – published February 2004
- *Revisions* – published February 2004



- *Data Access and Confidentiality* – published March 2004
- *Data Matching* – published April 2004

By the end of 2004/05 all 12 Protocols were published on the National Statistics website.

### Additional policy formulation – third-tier documentation

Some of the Protocols place an obligation on departments to publish further statements or policies, which provide additional information on the way that the Code and Protocols will be implemented. The full list is as follows:

- Protocol on Release Practices – *Statement on Release Practices*
- Protocol on Revisions – (i) *Statement on Revisions* and (ii) *Errors Policy*
- Protocol on Customer Service – (i) *Customer Service Statement* and (ii) *Complaints Procedure*
- Protocol on Data Presentation, Dissemination and Pricing – *Publication Strategy*
- Protocol on Data Management, Documentation, and Preservation – *Data Management Policy*
- Protocol on Data Access and Confidentiality – *Statement on Confidentiality and Access*

These supporting third-tier documents form the core of the National Statistics Compliance Statements that have been published by each department.

### Communication, engagement and training

Publication of the Code and its supporting Protocols was accompanied by a sustained programme of targeted communication across government, involving both practitioners and policy colleagues. This publicity, combined with formal induction, training and self-learning activities, has helped to embed the Code's principles into the Civil Service culture.

In 2004/05 members of National Statistics and International Division (NSID) of ONS gave a

number of presentations on the Code and Protocols to GSS staff. These presentations provided an opportunity to raise the profile of the Code and Protocols within departments and engage with those people who were most affected by their introduction. Staff from NSID also continued to present a session on the Code and Protocols as part of the induction course for Assistant Statisticians and Statistical Officers.

In addition to these presentations, ONS made available to all GSS staff two documents that were designed to make it easier to get to grips with the Code and Protocols. The first, *An Introduction to the Code and its supporting Protocols*, included in a single volume the full set of principles embodied in the Code and Protocols and demonstrated the connections between each Protocol and the statistical process as a whole. The second, *A Quick Look-up Manual for Practitioners*, provided a summary of each Protocol and outlined the basic operational and reporting arrangements with which statisticians are expected to comply.

### Implementation and compliance

The National Statistics Code replaces the *Official Statistics Code of Practice*, published in April 1995; it introduces many new principles and standards. These require the producers of statistics in government departments to develop and establish a range of new systems and processes. This means that implementation of the Code has been a staged process.

A programme of implementation and compliance was arranged with the help and advice of a small sub-group of Heads of Profession for Statistics (HoPs), known as the National Statistics Policy and Implementation Task Force. Their work on documentation, reporting, training and engagement has helped to achieve consistent implementation and observance of the Code across the whole of the GSS.



## Compliance with, and enforcement of, the Code

Responsibility for complying with the Code lies with HoPs in each of the departments or agencies responsible for producing National Statistics and with each of the Chief Statisticians in the devolved administrations.

Operational compliance with the Code is documented by HoPs and Chief Statisticians in their departmental Compliance Statements. These statements are published on departmental websites. Initially, they detailed compliance with the requirements of the *Protocol on Release Practices*, but over the past year departments have been expanding them to absorb all the requirements and standards embodied in each of the Protocols and in their supporting third-tier documentation.

## Monitoring and reporting

The National Statistician considers any breach of the Code to be a serious matter and requires all HoPs and Chief Statisticians to monitor compliance with the Code in their own department, administration, or agency and to report any instance of non-compliance as and when it happens. These reports detail instances either of 'exceptions' to or 'breaches' of the Code.

- exceptions to the Code or Protocols occur when a decision is made in advance not to adhere to normal practice, for example, when additional early access to a release is granted, or a pre-announced release date is changed at late notice; exceptions must be agreed by HoPs or Chief Statisticians and reported to the National Statistician as they occur
- breaches of the Code or Protocols occur in situations where a non-observance was not approved by the National Statistician or HoP or Chief Statistician in advance of its happening, for example, a 'leak' to the media, whether deliberate or accidental

Each breach report contains full details of the circumstances surrounding the breach and details

any remedial action taken by the department at the time of the breach. It also sets out the steps which will be taken to prevent any recurrence. Once the National Statistician is satisfied with the action that the department has taken, a copy of this report is passed to the Statistics Commission.

## Compliance in 2004/05

With the publication of all 12 of the National Statistics Protocols, the main concern of the HoPs and Chief Statisticians during 2004/05 was to acquaint themselves with the more detailed provisions embodied in each document and to establish the necessary clerical, operational and technical procedures to ensure their organisation achieved full compliance by the end of the reporting year.

During the year some HoPs and Chief Statisticians reported to the National Statistician that they had deliberately permitted a number of 'exceptions' to the principles embodied in the *Protocol on Release Practices*, while others reported a few instances of perceived or actual 'breaches'. On a few occasions, and as a result of normal monitoring of media reports, the National Statistician felt compelled to approach HoPs or Chief Statisticians with his own concerns about perceived breaches.

Notifications of actual or perceived non-compliance tended to focus on the *Protocol on Release Practices* and involved cases which compromised the principles of 'equality of access', 'orderly release', and documented early access, for example:

- third parties accidentally disclosing the figures before their formal release
- 'trailing' statistics to the media before their formal release
- releasing departmental statements about the figures prior to the release of the statistics themselves
- extending pre-release access to undocumented officials

Investigations and enquiries suggested that one of the main causes of such breaches was a lack of

familiarity with the finer points of the Protocol among non-statistical officials and policy advisers. Their early access to statistics, either for briefing purposes or, in the case of management or administrative statistics, their early and close involvement in the analysis of such statistics, places them in a position where they can, often unwittingly, compromise the strict requirements of the Code.

In most cases, HoPs and Chief Statisticians have been able to address the situation by engaging with their department's policy officials, explaining the rationale behind the Code, and seeking greater 'buy-in' to its provisions.

### Application of the Code

Formally, the *Code of Practice* applies only to those statistics designated as National Statistics. However, the National Statistician is working with HoPs and Chief Statisticians to extend the use of the Code as a best practice model for all government statistical work. From the outset, the intention was that all statistics produced by the GSS regardless of their designation should, at the very least, follow the Code's standards covering:

- confidentiality and access
- methodology
- quality assurance
- value for money

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# Quality and methodology

## Introduction

This chapter describes the work undertaken in 2004/05 to improve quality and methodology across UK official statistics. The Theme chapters contain detailed information on the work being undertaken on specific topics within each Theme.

The seven main elements of the quality work are set out below.

## Setting standards for quality, building on the principles in the Code of Practice

The *National Statistics Code of Practice* sets out the principles and standards applicable to all National Statistics and these are underpinned by the National Statistics Protocols, which set out in more detail the practices that need to be adopted to meet the requirements of the Code. In 2004/05 departments have been focused on acquainting themselves with the more detailed provisions embodied in the Protocols and establishing the necessary clerical, operational and technical procedures to ensure they achieved full compliance by the end of the year.

Operational compliance with the Code is documented by Heads of Profession (HoPs) and Chief Statisticians in their departmental Compliance Statements which are published on departmental websites. Over the past year, departments have been expanding these statements to absorb all the requirements and standards embodied in each of the Protocols.

For more information, please see the chapter on the National Statistics Code of Practice and supporting Protocols.

## Building sound methodologies and tools into statistical sources and outputs

The National Statistics Quality and methodology Programme Board (QMPB) provides a cross-departmental steer on issues around quality management. The Board consists of HoPs who are responsible for progressing the quality strategy, sharing best practice and supporting the uptake of good statistical methods across the Government Statistical Service (GSS).

The National Statistics Methodology Advisory Committee is a forum for interested and experienced professional statisticians from outside government to provide peer reviews on methodological issues. The forum also provides an opportunity to build and strengthen links between the GSS and the rest of the statistical profession by openly discussing methods and allowing statisticians outside the GSS to gain a better insight into the range of interesting and challenging problems that government statisticians face. The Advisory Committee met once in the year over two days, and nine papers were discussed, ranging from methodology for the Average Earnings Ratio (AER) to model-based estimates of income.

Members of the GSS also presented papers at the GSS Methodology Conference. The 2004 conference had the theme 'Methods for statistics for UK countries and regions'. A total of 20 papers were presented.

## Developing statistical infrastructure, strong methodology and tools

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) Statistical Modernisation Programme (SMP) provides a platform to develop an improved methodology capability. Last year a number of software tools were chosen which will become the standard methods

within ONS for: coding, editing and imputation, estimation and sampling, time series, index number construction, tabulation, and quality measurement and reporting. Although these tools are not yet in production systems, ONS Methodology Directorate has spent time understanding how they work in more detail, so that during next year they can be implemented in operating systems.

There has been specific training with the Canadian Edit and Imputation tool (CANCEIS) as this is being assessed for use within the 2011 Population Census. There has also been more development work with the ARGUS disclosure control tools and how they work with the SuperCROSS tabulation packages.

In the past year, SMP has developed a prototype for the Central ONS Repository for Data (CORD) and this incorporated the statistical tools for estimation and seasonal adjustment. Additionally, there has been progress made on writing software for the other tools which will link them to the ONS data systems (through CORD) so as to provide a common set of tools for the ONS processing and output systems.

For more information, please see the chapter on the ONS Statistical Modernisation Programme.

### **Effective management: project management, risk management and skills development**

The Centre of Excellence programme initiated by the Office of Government Commerce has continued to make progress. The ONS Strategic Reporting and Delivery Unit has taken the lead in this work for ONS. The Centre has drawn together the key support units from across ONS to better co-ordinate all aspects of programme and project management. The main focus has been on the major development programmes within ONS.

There has also been continued progress with the broad Human resources Modernisation Programme within ONS. Henley Management College has provided a leadership programme, which has been delivered to senior and middle managers. Oracle has been selected as an Enterprise Resource Planning System and this

will be used across several administrative functions. Some human resource functions have already been developed with this software and a start has been made on the implementation of project management systems. The Strategic Reporting and Delivery Unit has reviewed office-wide performance measures and is currently looking at how these reports will fit within the Enterprise Resource Planning System.

ONS, along with other departments, has continued to implement risk management mechanisms, following the lead of the Treasury Risk Support Team. In addition to usual risk reporting, ONS was used as a case study in a review of risk management undertaken by the National Audit Office.

### **Comprehensive and accessible documentation**

The *Protocol on Quality Management* requires producers of National Statistics to provide clear and up-to-date documentation of their surveys, outputs and processes. This will facilitate effective use of the statistics and support continued improvement in the processes.

The Statistics Commission has commented, in recent correspondence, on the need for National Statistics outputs to include information that better informs users of the strengths and limitations of data. ONS has taken forward three elements of this work:

- for time series data, a standard template now accompanies all ONS data, which provides revisions analysis measures
- a model reliability statement has been developed for National Accounts data which will provide users with further information on data quality and fitness for purpose
- work has also started on providing some easy measures of aggregating quality data into quality grades – this follows on from the work already done on the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, which gives coefficients of variation

An integral part of ONS CORD development has been the construction of a metadata repository. This will hold documentation and quality information linked

to statistical outputs, which should provide users with more information about the reliability of the data. The CORD prototype has key elements of the metadata system in place, including the Classifications Repository, which will be a central source of reference for publication and variable definitions, and the Administrative and Survey Data Management System, which will hold key information about all surveys.

For more information, please see the chapter on the ONS Statistical Modernisation Programme.

### Quality measurement

Quality measurement is one of the key principles for National Statistics set out in the *National Statistics Code of Practice*. ONS has developed and published *Guidelines for Measuring Survey Quality*. This provides a set of standards for measuring and reporting on the quality of survey data. For ONS, this work links critically with the SMP, since it is through this programme that the standard measures will be implemented.

A related piece of work has started in ONS, looking at standard quality measures as they relate to administrative data. This will be increasingly important, as departments look to reduce respondent load through the use of administrative sources, and some progress has already been made within the Neighbourhood Statistics Service.

### Quality assurance, monitoring and improving quality

A key requirement of the *Framework for National Statistics* is that official statistics should continue to be relevant. User requirements do not stand still: the methods used to produce statistics continue to be refined and improved, and there is a need to review continuously the fitness for use and methodologies of statistical outputs. The National Statistics Quality Review Programme provides means of doing this.

During the year the programme has been reviewed to assess whether it is still achieving its original aims. The review found that the existing programme did not take sufficient account of the routine review

work that departments undertake on their outputs as part of their business as usual. Consequently, there has been a further modification of the programme to reduce the burden on departments and take greater account of the quality review work carried out by departments as part of their business as usual. This has been done by altering the programme as follows:

- establishing a two-tier system of reviews – strategic reviews which are high-level, cross-cutting reviews of high-profile statistics, and operational reviews which are smaller in scale and will include departmental in-house reviews
- reducing the length of the programme of reviews to a two or three-year period, rather than five years, which should reduce the risk of the timetable becoming out of date
- monitoring progress more frequently, both during and after the review

In addition, the supporting guidance documentation has been rewritten, following consultation with users, and it will be issued when the new programme is launched in July 2005.

By the end of March 2005 a total of 40 National Statistics Quality Reviews had been carried out – see Appendix C for more details. In addition, there have been a number of far-reaching reviews of statistical direction, including: the Allsopp Review of economic statistics, the Atkinson Review of public sector outputs and a review of population statistics. Along with these reviews, there are a number of statistical re-engineering projects, associated with the ONS SMP. These have in many cases negated, or superseded, previously scheduled National Statistics Quality Reviews.

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## International activity

### Introduction

The following chapter sets out how the Government Statistical Service (GSS) has met the objectives set out in the chapter of the *National Statistics Work Programme 2003/04–2005/06* entitled ‘An International Strategy for National Statistics’.

International objectives for the GSS are divided into four main pillars of activity, where the GSS will:

- actively participate in, and influence, international organisations and provide high-quality statistics to facilitate international comparisons
- build bilateral relations with leading National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) to share best practice
- actively participate in international conferences
- promote statistical development through providing technical assistance

Developments during 2004/05 under each of these activities are reported below.

### Active participation with international organisations

The UK is actively engaged with international organisations in the development of standards and classifications, and provides leadership across a wide range of statistical issues.

### European Union

Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union (EU) with the power to initiate legislation that is directly applicable in UK law, has a significant impact on the activity of the GSS. The National Statistician plays an active role in the Eurostat Statistical Programme Committee (SPC), which comprises the Directors General of NSIs and the Eurostat Director General. The SPC agrees statistical policy at a European level and gives its

opinion at an early stage on proposed legislation and related developments. In the past year, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has played a leading role in the preparation of a draft European Statistics Code of Practice to strengthen governance of the European Statistical System.

Following allegations of financial mismanagement at Eurostat in early 2003, there were uncertainties over future funding, cancellation of contracts with external organisations, and changed senior management, all of which presented challenges for Eurostat. Through this period, the National Statistician and Directors General of other EU NSIs have striven to ensure that the integrity of European Statistics is maintained. In 2004 the GSS was widely consulted on the Eurostat work programme which reflected the changed resources and priorities, and Eurostat was lobbied on issues of importance to the GSS.

Preparations have begun for the UK’s tenure of the EU Presidency during the second half of 2005. Consultation with Heads of Profession (HoPs) on statistical priorities for the Presidency has taken place. Visits have also been undertaken to the NSIs of countries which have recently held the Presidency (the Irish Republic, the Netherlands and Italy) to ensure effective systems are in place. Further visits are planned to the NSIs of the countries holding the Presidency either side of the UK (Luxembourg and Austria).

### Beyond the EU

The UK is actively engaged with international organisations in the development of standards and classifications, as well as providing leadership across a wide range of statistical issues. Activities during 2004/05 included the following:

- ONS helped to shape the statistical agenda of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and

Development (OECD). The National Statistician is a member of the OECD Committee on Statistics that agrees statistical policy and also contributes to a range of sub-committees, and has presented papers at the World Forum on Key Indicators.

- The UK values its membership of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) and the opportunity it brings to influence the development of statistics internationally. In 2004 the UK achieved re-election to the UNSC for a further four-year term. It is the only country that has been a continuous member since the UNSC's creation in 1947. As part of a wider initiative to review the effectiveness of UN functional commissions, the UK contributed to a review of the functioning of the UNSC in an attempt to improve its effectiveness.
- Assistance was provided to Statistics South Africa which will be hosting the quinquennial Conference of Commonwealth Statisticians in September 2005. This included a visit by ONS staff to South Africa to share ONS experience in organising large international conferences.
- The UK plays an active role in the majority of UN city groups that provide an informal environment for experts across a number of statistical areas to exchange best practice and develop thinking. ONS continued as a member of the Bureau of the Paris Group, an informal international gathering of labour statisticians from NSIs and international agencies, and ONS expertise was provided in redrafting the International Labour Organisation resolution on working time statistics.
- As a member of the board, the UK contributed to the planning of the International Crime Victims Survey, which was co-ordinated by the UN and partly financed by the European Commission.

Since 1997 the Department for International Development (DFID) has been supporting initiatives to improve the quality and availability of statistics on development. DFID works closely with international organisations, such as the UN, international financial institutions, OECD and regional bodies responsible for compiling and disseminating

international datasets instrumental in measuring progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. DFID works with these international institutions as well as with NSIs to improve statistics worldwide to meet national policy needs and those of the international community. Activities undertaken by the department include:

- continuing financial support for the International Monetary Fund's General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) project, which assists anglophone African countries in drawing up and implementing plans for improving their statistical systems based on the GDDS framework
- continuing financial support to the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) – this is a multilateral initiative to promote evidence-based policymaking and improve support for statistical systems in developing countries
- financial support to the World Bank's Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building, which supports capacity building projects in countries across the world
- financial support to the World Bank's International Price Comparison Programme (ICP), which will provide improved price comparisons between countries – this comparison information is crucial in calculating the proportion of people living on less than \$1 per day, which is an indicator for measuring progress towards achieving the Millennium Development target of halving the proportion of people living in extreme poverty; the National Statistician is a member of the governing board of the project and the UK is supporting the project through technical assistance in Africa
- support for the Marrakech action plan that aims to increase substantially the resources devoted to improving statistical capacity in developing countries and internationally
- support for organisations such as the United Nations Development Programme, World Bank, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Institute of

Statistics and PARIS21 through the secondment of DFID statisticians

### **Building bilateral relations with leading statistical institutions**

Visits to the UK by the Director of the German Federal Statistics Office and by the Director of the United States Census Bureau were organised during 2004. The National Statistician also visited the Czech Central Statistics Office. Such exchanges provide a valuable opportunity to share experiences and best practice. Some of the themes explored included:

- governance and management of statistical operations
- risk management
- planning for the next round of population censuses
- statistical methodology

A large number of ‘working level’ visits were also hosted to exchange knowledge and experiences.

### **Active participation in international conferences**

The UK participated in a wide range of international conferences and seminars, sharing our experiences and learning from others:

- ONS hosted a meeting of the Canberra Group on measurement of non-financial assets – the Group is a UN city group comprising theme experts from across the globe who formulate thinking and best practice in this topic area
- the UK organised a full-day session at the annual Conference of European Statisticians on measurement of prices and volume in the service sector
- the UK organised a UN Economic Commission for Europe work session in London on statistical dissemination and communication

### **Promoting statistical development**

DFID works in partnership with a number of developing and transition country governments to support the development of sustainable statistical systems, and to promote the value and use of

statistics in national policymaking. When providing technical assistance, DFID often works closely with other government departments to draw on the range of statistical knowledge and expertise across the GSS. DFID statisticians provide technical assistance in support of national policies for a number of countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, Middle East and the Americas. A focus of DFID technical assistance is support for nationally owned strategies for poverty reduction, and DFID is actively engaged in supporting monitoring systems in Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya and Pakistan among others.

Among middle-income countries, for example, within Eastern Europe and Central Asia, DFID is working with NSIs to make social statistics more representative, of higher quality, and better able to meet the needs of users.

ONS has continued its partnership with the State Statistics Office of Ukraine, providing assistance in the areas of management development, methodology and social statistics.

As mentioned above, the National Statistician is a member of the Board managing the global ICP, which is overseeing preparations for calculation of Purchasing Power Parities, for the majority of countries in the world. This will permit more robust comparisons of poverty and support monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals. As part of the ICP, ONS has agreed to assist African countries with a programme of technical assistance which is currently being agreed with DFID and the African Development Bank.

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# Human resources

## Introduction

The Government Statistical Service Human Resources Committee (GSS HRC), on behalf of the Heads of Profession (HoP) Committee, takes the lead in developing the GSS Human resources Strategy to attract, recruit, develop and retain sufficient numbers of people to meet current and future staffing needs.

Each year the National Statistician and the HoP Committee agree a programme of work for GSS HRC, and members of GSS HRC volunteer to take the lead for individual projects within the Work Programme. They are supported in this by the Statisticians in Government Team (SiGT). This is the central unit in ONS that manages GSS schemes to recruit professional staff, manages GSS induction training and other continuing professional development activities, and provides career management advice.

SiGT also meets regularly with its support team counterparts (economists and social researchers), to share good practice.

## Work Programme for 2004/05

GSS HRC's Work Programme had five main categories:

- workforce planning
- recruitment
- development
- pay and progression
- breaking down barriers

The Work Programme for 2004/05 was ambitious, but overall progress was good. Not all of the intended projects were completed, mainly due to heavy demands on GSS HRC members from their day jobs and the impact of other government

initiatives. As a result, some projects have been carried forward to next year.

## Work during 2004/05

### Major successes

#### Recruitment

There was a lot of recruitment activity during 2004/05 across both the Statistical Officer (StO) scheme and the fast stream Assistant Statistician (AS) scheme.

A centrally run StO scheme was launched in March 2004 to attract prospective entrants to the Statistician Group, and recruit them for departments through a common process to meet the growing requirement for professional statisticians across government. The scheme has been a great success. Since the launch, 456 applications have been received and 44 StOs have been recruited.

In addition, the process for recruiting ASs through the Fast Stream Assessment Centre (FSAC) was further developed. The changes for 2004 included a new 'online' application process, the use of cognitive tests and the introduction of a new final marking system. Overall, it was a good year for fast stream recruitment. In particular, more applications were received than ever before (586), and there were more successes (43) from fewer FSAC places (120).

Details of both schemes can be viewed at:  
[www.statistics.gov.uk/gssjobs](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/gssjobs)

### Allocation of new AS/StO recruits to departments

In 2004 a faster, more systematic and transparent process for handling AS, StO and Temporary Statistical Officer (TSO) applications, and for allocating successful candidates among the bidding departments, was developed and launched in January 2005. The process has been designed to

meet departmental needs more effectively, while also providing the candidates with a more timely response in receiving their results and arrangements for their first postings.

### Continuing Professional Development

Good progress has been made in developing a policy which will encourage lifelong professional development and increase the professional competence of the GSS.

A set of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) recommendations has been formulated, and was endorsed by HOPs and Chief Statisticians in November 2004. The focus for 2005/06 will be on identifying current good CPD practice across the GSS and developing a suitable framework to drive the implementation stage.

### Other areas of progress

#### GSS Leaders in Statistics Conference

A lot of time was spent preparing for the GSS Leaders in Statistics Conference, which was held in May 2005. It provided a valuable opportunity for over 200 middle and senior members of the GSS to discuss with the National Statistician, counterparts, and other important analytical players, some of the key statistical, HR and organisational challenges facing the GSS in the future. This included paving the way for the National Statistician's successor.

#### Information on GSS pay and progression

An exercise to collect information on GSS pay and progression was carried out in 2004/05. This has resulted in the development of a coherent record which will enable stakeholders to make comparisons across GSS pay ranges.

#### Measuring compliance with the Professional Competence Protocol

GSS HRC has played an active role in the development of a draft 'compliance report' for each HoP and Chief Statistician to send to the National Statistician on an annual basis. This will describe the overall competence profile within their department, agency or administration, and will also

give detail of the progress made on Continuing Professional Development.

#### StatNet

StatNet, an intranet for the GSS, was launched in December 2003. The site holds a staff directory and relevant background information about the GSS, National Statistics policy and international activity. It also contains details about GSS recruitment (including internal job vacancies) and professional development opportunities. A cross-departmental Steering Group is being set up, which will help to highlight developments worth sharing on StatNet and encourage departmental colleagues to consult StatNet on a regular basis. Improvements will also be made to the GSS Directory to enable users to search by statistical subject area. A readership survey is also planned for 2005/06.

#### Development of a broader analytical group competence framework

The purpose of this strand of work was development of a common competence framework across the analytical professions (statisticians/economists/operational researchers/social researchers), and a representative group undertook a mapping exercise of the existing competence frameworks. However, this has currently been overtaken by the much more ambitious task of developing a competence framework for all professionals, as part of the Professional Skills for Government (PSG) initiative. PSG will also feed into the GSS CPD initiative.

#### Guidance on performance/behaviours expected of ASs and StOs

There is a need for a comprehensive set of 'performance management' guidance for new entrant ASs, StOs and their managers across the diverse GSS. A set of central guidance will help to put specific roles and behaviours into perspective; help to share good practice; provide a useful tool for career management; and complement the well-established AS/StO Induction Programme. GSS HRC will continue to develop the ideas, already generated in this area during 2004/05, within its Work Programme for the next year.

## Future work

The focus for 2005/06 will be on supporting the PSG initiative through the continued development of the GSS Human resources Framework and will include the following strands:

### Recruitment

- preparation for changes to FSAC 2006
- AS/StO Job Analysis
- standards for statistician-level selection board interviewing

### Development

- CPD Framework – the next phase
- guidance on behaviour and performance expected of AS/StOs for job holders/line managers/HoPs
- launch of a HoPs Induction Programme

### Breaking down barriers

- review of GSS Vision and Values
- statistical career guidance for numerate generalist staff

### Communication

- continued improvement of StatNet, including monitoring use and strategy for better engaging users
- identifying key GSS HR issues for the new National Statistician

### Emerging issues

- emerging issues linked to the GSS Leaders in Statistics Conference, and post-election issues

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## Improving relationships with stakeholders

The UK statistical service operates within a complex web of contacts encompassing a wide range of individuals and organisations including the Government, media, businesses and the public, each of whom has a 'stake' in the service it provides. Central to the success of National Statistics is the ability to maintain and enhance mutually beneficial relationships with all these stakeholders, so as to develop a clear understanding of their needs, and provide them with a timely and authoritative service which they can trust.

Two of the key requirements imposed on National Statistics by the *Framework for National Statistics* are to:

- make available to the Statistics Commission the information it requires to perform its duties
- maintain a transparent mechanism for taking into account the views of users and providers of data

### Statistics Commission

The Statistics Commission is part of the governance arrangements for National Statistics and as such is one of the key stakeholders in the UK statistical system. The *Framework for National Statistics* states that the Statistics Commission will 'play a key role in advising on the quality, quality assurance and priority setting for National Statistics'. The Commission is therefore in regular contact with members of the Government Statistical Service (GSS).

The Secretariat from National Statistics and International Division (NSID) of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the Secretariat of the Statistics Commission held regular liaison meetings to discuss issues of common interest and to share ideas and information. This year, ONS and the Statistics Commission have also collaborated on two projects. The first assessed a selection of National

Statistics Quality Reviews and is ongoing. The second examined the issues surrounding public confidence in official statistics (for more details, please see the chapter: Other developments in 2004/05).

Throughout the year, the National Statistician met with the Chair of the Statistics Commission on a quarterly basis. In addition, Colin Mowl, an ONS Director, spoke at the Statistics Commission's Revisions Seminar. The last meeting of the National Statistician and the Statistics Commission was on 18 March 2004.

Several GSS departments, agencies and administrations have also met with the Statistics Commission to discuss issues of common concern.

### Users

National Statistics, as well as other official statistics, are used regularly by a number of groups who put the data to a range of uses in a variety of spheres in UK national life. The data are used, for example, to support key decision-making in the public and private sectors, to monitor the performance of government, and for a wide variety of research purposes in academia.

### User consultation

In June 2004 ONS initiated a project to review the existing arrangements for user consultation. This was recognition of the crucial role that users play in shaping the statistical environment, and the wide and growing range of uses to which statistics are put. The project aims to assess the adequacy of the current user consultation mechanisms and, where required, to make recommendations for improvement. It is expected to report in late 2005.

### Statistics Users Forum

On 1 December 2004 the Royal Statistical Society Statistics Users Forum (RSS SUF) was inaugurated.

The RSS SUF is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and its main objectives are to:

- be proactive in identifying the issues of concern to the statistics user community
- share expertise on issues of common interest
- establish and support an appropriate and accessible user group structure
- co-ordinate user community views
- establish and maintain mechanisms to influence policymakers and producers of statistics
- encourage synergy between the user groups

It has taken on many of the responsibilities of the former Statistics Users Council (SUC), and has worked closely with members of the Council to consolidate functions.

### Government users

A key aim for ONS is to build effective working relationships with other government departments. Government users are informed and expert, and their demands are ever more complex. A better understanding of departmental strategies and future business needs will help inform the ways in which ONS shapes itself for the future. This is particularly important now, as ONS undergoes the Statistical Modernisation Programme. A corporate strategy is now in place delivering:

- a series of bilateral relationships based on openness and trust
- regular engagement at senior levels to identify current and future needs
- flexibility of structure, so that ONS is able to identify, understand and respond effectively to new challenges

### Relationship with data providers

The production of official statistics is highly dependent on the continued provision of data from external sources. To ensure continued co-operation from data providers, it is vital that the GSS demonstrates that it:

- appreciates the burdens placed on them by requests for data
- ensures that new surveys are fully justified and provide outputs of adequate quality
- ensures that questionnaires are well designed
- regularly reviews the continuing need for surveys
- maintains the confidentiality pledges it gives survey respondents

The National Statistics *Protocol on Managing Respondent Load* was launched in February 2004. This Protocol strengthens and broadens the role of survey control within the GSS, building on the *Prime Minister's Instructions on the Control of Statistical Surveys* issued in 1999 and reflecting agreed arrangements in devolved administrations. The Protocol sets out how the National Statistician, Heads of Profession and Chief Statisticians and, with their authority, other members of the GSS will carry out their responsibility for minimising the burden on those who supply data. ONS is currently finalising the ONS Survey Charter, a single document which will apply to all ONS surveys. It will set out in a user-friendly way the commitments ONS makes to its survey respondents and the users of its survey statistics.

### Survey Control Unit

ONS has responsibility for survey control across all government departments. Survey controls apply to all statistical surveys of businesses and local authorities conducted by, or on behalf of, government departments or agencies where there is potentially a burden, or a perceived burden, on those approached to participate. The Survey Control Unit (SCU) aims to promote necessary surveys of the highest quality and prevent bad or unnecessary surveys to limit the load placed on respondents. The SCU is independent of the areas that conduct business surveys and it serves to ensure that the *Prime Minister's Instructions on the Control of Statistical Surveys* and the *Protocol on Managing Respondent Load* are adhered to. Particular emphasis is placed by the unit on ensuring that:

- compliance load is clearly identified
- new survey proposals are clearly justified
- alternative sources are thoroughly examined
- proposals follow recognised guidelines for best practice
- regular surveys are subject to periodic review

Each year the SCU publishes the *GSS Report on Survey Activity*, which provides a picture of survey activity across the GSS. The report enables users and data providers to judge the effectiveness of government efforts to minimise compliance burden while maintaining a system of reliable and accurate economic and business statistics. The report is available on the National Statistics website.

Every government department conducting a statistical survey of businesses or local authorities is required to produce a Compliance and Quality Improvement Plan. For some departments, whose survey outputs may be small, this may simply consist of an entry in their annual business plans. For ONS, the requirement under the Prime Minister's Instructions is to produce a separately identifiable plan that has to be submitted to the Financial Secretary to the Treasury (FST) for approval.

ONS has an established network of Survey Control Liaison Officers (SCLOs) in government departments responsible for National Statistics outputs. Regular liaison meetings are held with the SCLOs to standardise best practice and improve the quality of survey activity.

Other work currently being carried out by the SCU includes:

- providing underlying guidance for the Respondent Load Protocol
- reviewing the Prime Minister's Instructions
- preparing, in association with the Harmonisation Branch, a comprehensive list of surveys of business and local authorities and also social surveys
- assessing survey control procedures used within other government departments

### ONS business survey response rates

Response rates to most business surveys remain consistently high, with most businesses co-operating fully to requests for data and relatively few written complaints about survey load – in 2004/05 ONS received one written complaint for every 2,234 questionnaires completed.

Nevertheless, ONS is continuing to work with a variety of people across government to develop techniques that reduce the load on providers while maintaining high response rates to surveys.

One of the most significant developments in the last few years has been the creation of a Small Business Forum. This is a cross-government forum that enables representatives of small businesses to work with representatives from different government departments conducting substantial statistical surveys in considering initiatives to limit the survey load. The forum has an important role in helping to balance the user needs for economic statistics within the compliance load this places on businesses.

ONS continues to have strong links with the Department of Trade and Industry's Small Business Service (SBS). Besides working closely to set up the Small Business Forum, a strong line of communication has been developed between ONS's Correspondence Unit and the SBS, leading to improved dialogue between the two organisations. This ensures that the smaller businesses receive a clear and coherent response to their concerns, whether they raise these with ONS or the SBS.

ONS has also been working with the Better Regulation Task Force Team, an independent body advising government on actions to ensure that enforcement and regulation are in accord with the principles of good regulation.

ONS has already made significant progress in the application of the Managing Respondent Load Protocol to surveys of businesses and local authorities and has a continuing programme of work. Current initiatives include:

- Work undertaken by the ONS Respondent Communication Project to review business

questionnaires taking into consideration respondent views/issues.

- ONS is also involved in the rolling Survey Review Programme cycle as both a department leading reviews and one participating in reviews led by other government departments. Before a review of a survey is initiated, a check is made for alternative sources of information, including recent reviews, thus ensuring that data providers are not asked to provide the same information again
- Non-compliance to ONS business surveys is subject to a response-chasing and enforcement strategy. This combined strategy looks at procedures with which ONS can improve response and methods to enable staff to achieve a better response from respondents, while ensuring that ONS acts in line with the criteria laid down in the Government's Enforcement Concordat that 'we will carry out our duties in a fair, equitable and consistent manner'. The response-chasing and enforcement strategy monitors ONS compliance with the Enforcement Concordat

### ONS social survey response rates

Declining response affects the confidence ONS customers have in the integrity of its outputs. There are now some signs that the measures that have been applied over the last year are beginning to make an impact on response, but overall social survey response rates continue to be a cause for concern and increasing them remains a priority.

ONS has put in place a Response Project Board, which meets regularly to review response rates and develop a programme of work to stop and then reverse the decline in response rates. In the last year ONS has made progress in a number of areas:

- Avoiding Refusal Training (ART) – ONS has continued to review the impact of its ART pilot; analysis has revealed that response rates for those interviewers who received ART training increased and this training will now be rolled out to all interviewers
- improving survey materials – ONS has been reviewing all of its survey materials and will be

rolling out standardised material linked to a new Public Enquiry Line, which it is hoped will minimise possible refusals at the earliest opportunity

- improving interviewer performance management – field managers have been receiving improved interviewer performance data and these are allowing managers to identify the need to make changes to working patterns and improve work planning to reduce non-contacts in specific areas

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# cross-cutting issues

# ONS Statistical Modernisation Programme

## Introduction

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) Statistical Modernisation Programme (SMP) has been put in place to enable the production of statistics that better reflect changes in society and the needs of key stakeholders, in particular policymakers across government. SMP is an acknowledgment that the needs of stakeholders cannot be met with current resources and systems, and will ensure that the UK has world-class statistical systems in terms of the methods and processes used, the quality of statistics produced and the professionalism of ONS staff.

## Strategic influences and policy drivers

The internal and external drivers for modernisation continue to increase and include:

- expectations of key users, in particular the users of the National Accounts and labour market statistics, where the existing systems do not meet reasonable demands for resilience and flexibility, and expose ONS to the risk of failing to sustain national statistical outputs
- changing needs of some external users, for example in areas of pension statistics
- the need to reduce reliance on outdated IT systems which are supported by a diverse range of statistical tools
- pressures on ONS to meet government-wide timetables for e-business, in particular those initiatives involving interactive Internet data collection
- pressure to reduce compliance costs and to realise the benefits that will accrue from redesigning business surveys, along with integration and wider use of administrative data which can replace direct collection from businesses

- expanding requirements for regional analysis, and the need to be able to draw samples from the business register that are geographically representative, and the development of statistics to support regional differentiation of pay arrangements

## Aims and objectives

The overall aim of SMP is to improve the quality and timeliness of, and access to, the key statistical systems managed by ONS, rendering them better suited to the purpose for which they are intended and increasing their efficiency. This will be achieved by relocating these systems into a robust and enduring, shared technical environment which is supported by an agreed set of common statistical tools and methods. Where necessary, this process will involve the redesign of the statistical systems to ensure that their quality, accessibility and efficiency are optimised.

The key objective of the programme is to deliver a series of benefits:

- reducing the direct costs to ONS of developing and managing the statistical systems within the scope of the programme
- increasing the value of the outputs and improving their quality
- improving the integration and harmonisation of sources, processes and outputs
- reducing the risks to ONS
- providing faster access and speed of processing
- reducing development time
- enabling new work to be done more cheaply

The common driver is production of a more standardised and efficient system which will generate better statistics and release resources for improved analysis, resulting in better informed decision-making. The key characteristics expected

of the new systems are that they should meet current demands and be capable of adapting to future demands and developments.

## Work in 2004/05

The focus during 2004/05 was on Phase One of SMP. This was concentrated largely on the infrastructure, architecture and integration of some of the statistical tools. Significant progress has been made in key areas:

- an infrastructure which uses an Oracle database and Java development language is in place
- a set of standard statistical tools has been agreed covering time series, coding, estimation, editing and imputation, disclosure checking and tabulation – these tools are being integrated into the new environment and an index number construction tool is being built in-house
- a new website is planned as part of SMP and the following components have been successfully implemented: a content management system (to allow consistent collection, management and publication onto the website), a release calendar and a new search engine

## Outputs realised

SMP is an ongoing programme of change. Phase One has delivered a prototype of a Central ONS Repository for Data (CORD), which has interfaces with some statistical tools. To date the following have been realised:

- a prototype database (CORD) has been created
- the loading of unit level data (with accompanying metadata) and aggregate level data into the new database has been successfully implemented
- key elements of the metadata system are in place – the Classifications Repository (which will be a central source of reference for publication and variable definitions involving a classification), and the Administrative and Survey Data Management System (which holds key information about all surveys)
- the statistical tools for estimation and seasonal adjustment have been successfully interfaced with CORD

- a prototype showing some of the functionality of the new system, using Labour Force Survey (LFS) data, was demonstrated in February 2005 (this is known as proof of concept)

The next stage of the programme will move on from the proof of concept stage to the delivery of production quality business solutions.

## Outcomes

The benefits to be delivered by SMP have been classified as ‘cash benefits’, which deliver direct cash savings to ONS, and ‘statistical benefits’. The latter include improving quality, reducing risk and increasing scope/quantity, for example, more frequent, more sub-national statistics.

A benefits realisation model is being implemented to provide a clear picture of the programme deliverables that contribute to benefits and outcomes. Interim performance measures will also be agreed and closely monitored.

## Lessons learned

The end of Phase One of SMP was an appropriate time to conduct a pause and review in order to learn from the experience gained to date. Key lessons, which will be built upon for the next phase of the programme, include:

- ONS will exploit what has been delivered to date and will build upon these achievements and experiences by developing business solutions in a more incremental way
- a growing range of new tools and the extended capacity of existing tools, particularly SAS, mean that ONS will need to develop fewer processing tools to put in place the engine of a fully integrated survey processing capability

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# Neighbourhood Statistics

## Introduction

Better information is a crucial part of delivering the Government's neighbourhood renewal agenda. In particular, the provision of statistics for small areas (usually smaller than electoral wards) will help renewal practitioners target resources and efforts to those places that most need them. The Neighbourhood Statistics Service (NeSS) is a cross-government initiative that is committed to producing and publishing better information for small areas. The programme is delivered in partnership with the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM).

## Strategic influences and policy drivers

The main policy driver for NeSS, which was established in response to Policy Action Team 18: Better Information (PAT18), is the need for statistical information to support the Government's *National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal*. However, there are new government strategies, which also influence the development of NeSS:

- the Allsopp Report (March 2004), which calls on government to make dramatic improvements in economic statistical information for regions and smaller areas
- the Government Strategy on Worklessness, which focuses on very local pockets of unemployment and economic inactivity that exist across England
- the report *Rural Strategy 2004* highlights the particular challenges for regeneration in rural areas such as: greater demand for housing, an ageing population and an increasing population with increased mobility for the majority, all of which affect service provision; the report states that economic solutions will be found through the area-based initiatives

- health inequalities exist in areas of deprivation due to the multiple factors that impact on health, such as poor access to services and unemployment; the Public Health White Paper *Choosing Health: making choices easier* builds upon the commitments made in *Tackling Health Inequalities: a programme for action*, which highlighted the actions that must be taken to tackle the health inequalities that exist between the most deprived areas and the rest

The common theme that runs throughout these reports is the increasing need for small area information that will improve decision-making.

Although fundamentally about statistics for small areas in support of policies to tackle deprivation, NeSS supports the Government Statistical Service (GSS) objective of providing world-class statistics and it has acted as a pathfinder for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Statistical Modernisation Programme. The most recent Neighbourhood Statistics development uses Oracle and Java technologies, which provide a much greater capacity for holding small area data and enable more flexible analysis. It will deliver some of the critical elements of the modernised ONS technical infrastructure.

## Aims and objectives

The vision for NeSS in its development phase up to March 2006 is that:

'By 2006, the Neighbourhood Statistics Service will provide a timely, relevant and comprehensive set of statistics, indicators and analyses that describe the characteristics of a neighbourhood consistently over space and time. The Service will be used by regeneration professionals to plan neighbourhood renewal policies and monitor their effectiveness, and will be widely respected as the natural home for small area statistics in the UK.'

NeSS will be seen as successful in meeting its objectives if it delivers the following outcomes:

1. to provide timely and relevant information and analysis about small areas that is consistent over space and time and used routinely in policy development, planning, delivery, evaluation and for monitoring progress
2. to improve understanding of the patterns of deprivation and neighbourhood change in the country
3. to act as a pathfinder for change in the infrastructure and statistical practice of the GSS

The following sections describe in more detail how the achievements of the year contribute to the desired outcomes.

#### **Provision of timely and relevant data about small areas**

Since NeSS started in mid-2000, an ever improving and expanding website and associated software tools have been developed. Early versions of the website concentrated on making existing data freely accessible to all using the existing technical infrastructure. The latest version has been built using Oracle and Java technologies, and this will provide much greater capacity for holding small area data and enable more flexible analysis.

To supply information for small areas, data owners needed software tools and guidance. From the beginning of the programme, tools were made available to data owners. These tools have been systematically enhanced and in October 2004 a tool kit was issued to data owners which comprised: an address matching and referencing tool to validate addresses and add geographic codes; a disclosure and aggregation tool to ensure that no personal information is disclosed; a metadata tool to standardise the collection of information about the data; and a data formatting tool to enable transmission of data to ONS.

A considerable range of small area statistical information is now publicly available, free of charge, on the NeSS website including: Census 2001 data;

the National Online Manpower Information Service (Nomis®); and new statistics, indicators and classifications developed from sources around government. During 2004/05 much of the new data that government departments have been developing since the earlier years of the programme have been released for the first time and, in several cases, further updates, bringing series as up to date as possible, have followed on quickly.

The provision of new data, and updates to existing data series, has improved greatly during 2004/05, but some data are still not as up to date as is desirable. The new software tools which have been provided to data suppliers and a new data loading system are expected to reduce the time taken to process data. However, as some of the data on NeSS are being published for small geographic areas for the first time, quality checks must be applied to ensure that the data are non-disclosive (that is, no individual can be identified from the data that are published) while still providing useful information. This can delay publication and this risk is higher when data are published for very small geographic areas.

#### **Improvement of understanding of patterns of deprivation and neighbourhood change**

The PAT18 report highlighted the fundamental problem of lack of stability and consistency of small area geographies. To address this issue, a new small area statistical geography named 'Super Output Areas' has been developed which satisfies the need for a stable geography over time and provides areas broadly similar in size for analysis purposes. The successful development of this geography provides a significant capability for understanding patterns of deprivation and neighbourhood change in the country.

During 2004 ONS has been building analytical capability at small geographic areas with users being guided through the wealth of material available about any topic in NeSS through the use of key indicators. In addition, the analytical team will provide area profiles, briefings and small area analysis in response to specific requirements.

### Pathfinder for changes to infrastructure and statistical practice

During 2004 and early 2005 website development focused on modernising the underlying infrastructure to provide a more resilient, scalable and flexible system. It involved a complete rebuild of all parts of the system from data loading to dissemination using Java and Oracle technologies.

The developments have included prototyping novel methods for presentation of information and pioneering information management systems which will be integral to the wider ONS Statistical Modernisation Programme. In particular, NeSS has developed functionality that provides a flexible mapping and graphing capability (Scalable Vector Graphics). Prototypes of the system were tested over several stages with core users and potential users at their workplace. This provided valuable feedback and informed some changes made when developing this system.

The need to modernise the infrastructure underpinning the handling of geographic information has also been recognised elsewhere, for example, in Ordnance Survey products, and ONS systems must be capable of adapting to these changing demands.

ONS is developing a Geographic Referencing Infrastructure (GRI). The GRI is a key plank in the statistical modernisation of ONS and will deliver a national geographic referencing framework that will support the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of statistics, underpinning both NeSS and National Statistics. In data terms the GRI includes postcodes and addresses, standard names for areas, boundaries, background mapping and service location points.

New data policies, innovative statistical techniques and tools for producing small area statistics have been developed and are being established as part of National Statistics best practice for the GSS. These include the geography policy, and data access and confidentiality policies and guidance.

### Outcomes realised

As with any major system development, NeSS has not been without its share of resource and technical problems. However, the end result is a very powerful and sophisticated service that is available to everyone involved in the development, delivery and evaluation of policies and programmes aimed at tackling deprivation and improving local communities.

### Looking forward

Continued development of the service is planned through to March 2006, at which point the formal development will close. In the coming year the GRI will be delivered and implemented, the website will continue to be developed in response to feedback from users, and the potential for links to other websites will be explored. The range and timeliness of data will continue to improve, with particular stress on those topic areas where coverage is weakest.

### Contacts

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You can find NeSS on the Internet at:  
[www.statistics.gov.uk/neighbourhood](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/neighbourhood)

Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics at:  
[www.sns.gov.uk](http://www.sns.gov.uk)

Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service at:  
[www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk](http://www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk)

Other useful websites:

[www.renewal.net](http://www.renewal.net)

[www.neighbourhood.gov.uk](http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk)

# Supporting devolved policymaking

## Introduction

Several divisions within the Office for National Statistics (ONS) contribute to ensuring that statistical needs at sub-UK level are met. The Neighbourhood Statistics Service (NeSS) and the Social and Vital Statistics Division address statistical requirements arising from neighbourhood renewal policies in England. Their work is covered in other chapters of this report. They are complemented by the ONS Regional and Local Division (RLD), which is tasked with maintaining effective working relationships between ONS and the devolved nations, developing effective working relationships between ONS and regional bodies in the UK, and developing a programme of analysis and reporting on regional and local statistics in England. In addition, the ONS Social Data Collection and Administrative Sources Division has a key role in facilitating the use of administrative data for statistical purposes at the local level. These divisions co-ordinate the development of joined-up planning across the Government Statistical Service (GSS) for sub-UK statistical information, through the management of cross-cutting groups such as the Statistics for Regional Policy Working Group. Other government departments and the devolved administrations contribute to the development of sub-UK statistics and are well-represented on these cross-cutting groups.

## Strategic influences and policy drivers

### The European context

Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, is responsible for collecting a wide range of sub-UK data on behalf of the European Commission, to help inform policymaking across Europe. In the UK data are provided to Eurostat by ONS and other government departments.

ONS co-ordinates a UK-wide response for Eurostat projects such as Urban Audit II, which includes major cities in England and the devolved nations.

### Coherence between the four nations of the UK

There is a Memorandum of Understanding and a Concordat on Statistics between ONS and the devolved administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The devolved administrations are represented on the various working groups and are regularly consulted on issues where coherence is required.

### Devolution for the English regions

The Government is committed to making sustainable improvements in the economic performance of all the regions of England. This gives rise to a growing need for relevant, high-quality data at a regional as well as at a national and local level. In particular, data are needed to support the work of the Government Offices for the Regions, Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) and Regional Observatories.

### Economic strategic planning and the Allsopp Review

A regular production programme for Regional Accounts statistics has now been re-established. These statistics assist other government departments with their strategic planning across the regions and also assist regional organisations such as the RDAs to develop their regional economic strategies.

The two reports of *The Review of Statistics for Economic Policymaking* by Christopher Allsopp, published in 2003/04, made a number of recommendations concerned with economic statistics required to support regional policy. Substantial work to develop an implementation

programme across the GSS was carried out in 2004, and a statement of the ONS implementation strategy was published in November 2004.

### Rural policy and rural proofing

There is an increasing drive for all government policies to take considerations of rural areas into account, a process termed 'rural proofing'. The Government's Report *Rural Strategy 2004* set out a new devolved and targeted approach to rural policy and its delivery. Such an approach requires the development of a statistical information base that is able to support separate analyses for such areas. As part of this initiative, new classifications of urban and rural areas in England and Wales for two levels of geography were published in July 2004, followed by additional classifications for three further levels of geography in March 2005.

### Urban policy

Similarly, attention by policymakers to issues of particular relevance to urban areas requires relevant statistical information.

The ongoing development of NeSS supports the broad policy aims of both rural and urban policy.

## Outcomes and outputs realised

### Identifying gaps in sub-UK data

Work continued at a modest level in 2004/05 to identify gaps in statistical data at the sub-UK level and discussion with regional bodies about their information requirements continues.

A group was established by ONS in 2004/05 to develop a decision-making mechanism to establish priorities and assess demands for regional data. This was in response to a recommendation of the Allsopp Review.

### Geographical issues

#### Small Area Statistics: Super Output Areas

The Super Output Areas (SOAs) are a new geography designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics. They were introduced initially for use by NeSS and are intended to eventually become the standard across National Statistics. Disclosure requirements mean that some sets of data can be

released for much smaller areas than others, so three layers of SOAs – lower, middle and upper – are to be created for England and Wales. From March to May 2004 draft boundaries for the middle layer of SOAs were published for consultation, and these were finalised in August 2004.

In Scotland there are two layers of SOA: 'data zones', released in February 2004, and 'intermediate zones', released in February 2005. In Northern Ireland, SOAs were released in 2005. There is one layer of SOA, with a population size between 1,300 and 2,800. This is similar in size to the lower layer SOA in England and Wales.

### Rural and urban definitions for England and Wales

Choosing a suitable urban and rural definition is complicated by the number of different definitions in use as no single classification meets the needs of all users. The definitions previously used were conflicting as they were based on different approaches. A joint project was set up in 2002, to produce a harmonised classification of both urban and rural areas for England and Wales. ONS, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), the Countryside Agency (CA) and National Assembly for Wales (NAW) sponsored the project.

Under the new classification, published in July 2004, Output Areas (OAs) are described either as urban or rural. Due to the demand for a better definition of rural settlements, the main focus of the project has been the development of more detailed classifications for rural areas. These new classifications have been endorsed as National Statistics classifications. An online validation exercise was conducted in April/May 2004. It allowed data users and providers to examine and comment on the preliminary findings of the new rural and urban classification. Overall, around 800 people registered and approximately 100 people responded with feedback. The majority of respondents welcomed the initiative and were very supportive of the methodology and the classification.

The classifications covered Census OAs and 2003 Statistical Wards. In March 2005 further urban/rural classifications were published for Census Area Statistics wards (CAS wards) and the lower and middle layers of SOAs. These are the new geographies used for NeSS. Also in March 2005 a minor error in the OA level classification and a more significant error in the Statistical Ward level classification were corrected. Since it only impacted on a small part of the country, this error is likely to have had a minimal impact for most users.

The rural and area classifications are available on the National Statistics website at:  
[www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/nrudp.asp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/nrudp.asp)

## The Allsopp Review

As part of its settlement of the 2004 Spending Review, ONS agreed a target to implement the recommendations from the *Allsopp Review of Statistics for Economic Policymaking* in full by 2009. Two sub-targets, to begin expanding surveys in 2006 and to establish ONS offices in each of the English regions by March 2007, were also agreed.

Work to develop the programme to meet these targets began in 2004 by identifying a number of workstreams that would be undertaken and also the parts of ONS that would be involved. A number of other government departments were also identified as having a key role to play. In addition, interdependencies between the expected work to implement the Allsopp programme and existing change programmes were identified and examined. A paper setting out how the recommendations would be implemented, in general terms, was published in November 2004. It included an indicative timetable for the key milestones in the development and publication of new regional Gross Value Added (GVA) data.

In response to another Allsopp Review recommendation, work also began in 2004 on preparing the way for developing ONS offices in each of the English regions. Possible functions the regional offices could undertake have been explored with representatives of regional institutions. ONS is

now considering proposals to open two pilot regional offices in 2005/06 to explore these potential functions further and to inform options for decisions on other offices.

Reflecting the importance and growing size of the work to implement the recommendations from the Allsopp Review, the Allsopp Review Implementation Division was created within ONS in January 2005 to take forward implementation.

The ONS Response to the Allsopp Review is available on the National Statistics website at:  
[www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/development/downloads/implementing\\_allsopp.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/development/downloads/implementing_allsopp.pdf)

## Neighbourhood Statistics for England and Wales

A new version of NeSS has recently been launched. The latest development has been built using Oracle and Java technologies, which provide much greater capacity for holding small area data and enable more flexible analysis of data. An expanded Neighbourhood Profile has been developed which gives quick and easy access to a wide range of information about a chosen area with just the insertion of a postcode or a click on the map. The new development also offers improved registration facilities, such as the storage of individual areas and data requests and search options. More details can be found in the Neighbourhood Statistics chapter.

## Urban Audit II

On 18 October 2004 ONS published datasets for 24 cities in the UK as part of the Urban Audit II project. The project is sponsored by the European Commission and enables comparisons to be made between 258 European cities using standardised variables. ONS collected nearly 250 datasets from a variety of sources, on topics from health and crime to unemployment and travel, which show how life differs between a selection of 14 large and 10 medium-sized cities across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Data were collected for 2001 at three spatial levels: the city itself, the 'Sub-City District' (lower level administration units) and the Larger Urban Zone (LUZ), which consists of a

cluster of local authorities surrounding the city and aims to capture the impact of the city beyond its administrative boundaries.

Current work involves the collection of historic variables for 1991 and 1996. These are scheduled to be published later in 2005.

Data for UK Urban Audit cities are available from the National Statistics website via [www.statistics.gov.uk/urbanaudit](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/urbanaudit)

Data are also available to download in spreadsheet form via StatBase. The data for all 258 European cities featured in the project are available via [www.urbanaudit.org](http://www.urbanaudit.org)

## Wales

### Economic statistics for Wales

There has been a Welsh boost to existing inquiries, such as the Annual Business Inquiry and the Business Register Survey.

There have also been improvements to the short-term economic indicators. In the last 12 months an Index of Distribution has been published, and the implementation stage of the Index of Hotels and Restaurants is in progress. An Index of Transport is currently being produced.

### Key client group datasets

In partnership with the Local Government Data Unit – Wales, the National Assembly for Wales has established a National Pupil Database which is due to be launched in mid-2005.

### Social issues

There have been analyses of the Welsh Local Labour Force Survey, including in-depth bulletins of employment and economic inactivity. Fieldwork for the new Welsh Health Survey continued, and key results from the first six months of the survey were published.

### Diversity-related statistics in Wales

The *Statistical Focus on Disability and Long-term Illness in Wales* presents a range of statistics on people with a disability or long-term illness. It compares their social and economic circumstances

with those of other people. The *Statistical Focus on Older People in Wales* presents a range of statistics on older people (mainly people over the age of 50). It compares their health and their social and economic circumstances with those of people in younger age groups. The *Statistical Focus on Ethnicity in Wales* provides a picture of the population of Wales and its ethnic breakdown. It examines the characteristics and circumstances of all the ethnic groups and how they differ. All these publications are available on the NAW website: [www.wales.gov.uk](http://www.wales.gov.uk)

## Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland, like other devolved administrations, is expanding its statistics portfolio, reflecting the increasing demand for sub-regional information.

In 2004/05 the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) finalised all outputs that were agreed during the user consultation phase of the 2001 Census. This work contributed to the delivery of comparable information across the UK and included the release of both univariate and cross-tabular results for the 5022 Census OAs in Northern Ireland. In addition, work was undertaken to develop Northern Ireland specific outputs, such as the 2001 *Census Key Statistics for Settlements* and the 2001 Census Grid Square Product, the latter of which enables time series analysis through the provision of a consistent geographical base. NISRA also finalised the development of the Northern Ireland Census Access System ([www.nicensus2001.gov.uk](http://www.nicensus2001.gov.uk)), which further enhanced the electronic delivery of Census results over the Internet using Geographic Information System (GIS) platforms, and enabled users to produce both univariate and cross-tabular results for a combination of geographical areas to meet their specific needs. Similarly, Census results, along with an array of supporting information, were made available electronically via the NISRA website ([www.nisra.gov.uk](http://www.nisra.gov.uk)).

The development of the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) continued throughout 2004/05. New developments

included: availability of the service through digital television, significant increases in the volume and breadth of data held on the NINIS website, and the development of a map catalogue. In addition, work progressed with the Census Office in Northern Ireland to develop small area statistics for towns and villages.

## Scotland

Scotland, like the other devolved administrations, has an active programme of ongoing and developmental statistical activity.

The Scottish Statistics Plan lists a number of developments to improve the range of statistics to meet the growing requirements of devolved government. The plan also reflects the National Statistics agenda to improve the quality, reliability and accessibility of statistics so as to improve liaison and joint planning with users/providers and other analytical services.

Further details about the Scottish Statistics Plan and the achievements of the statistical service in the Scottish Executive may be accessed at: [www.scotland.gov.uk/stats](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats)

### Achievements in 2004/05

There were significant advances made in small area statistics in Scotland through Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics. These included the development of a wide range of key socio-economic indicators at the data zone level to help develop policymaking and improve service delivery at the local area, and the development of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2004 to identify small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across all of Scotland in a fair way. These new small area statistics are freely available through innovative Internet-based dissemination and geographic analysis systems.

There has been a substantial programme of development in macroeconomic statistics and in the many areas of statistical development relating to regional economic growth. In particular, the quality of quarterly Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

estimates has been improved by investigating better sources of data, especially relating to the service sector, and improving methodology. A programme has also been initiated to harmonise economic data from a variety of sources using the input-output framework, and the estimates of exports from Scotland have been improved by enhancing the coverage of the Global Connections Survey.

There has been concern that the existing coverage and presentation of health and care statistics is not meeting needs as well as they could. A review of health and care statistics in Scotland was initiated so that statistical priorities could be tied more closely to user needs and particularly to monitoring the Scottish Executive's commitments.

Work is continuing with partners across the education sector to increase the range and quality of data shared between the key stakeholders. The emphasis is on sharing data at the unit level and implementing the idea of 'collect once, use many times'. The priorities for data development are reached through evaluation of stakeholder needs, availability of data and quality of information. Linking together attainment, school census and other material (such as deprivation measures) allows analyses to inform the assessment of activity across Scottish education.

The General Register Office for Scotland published origin destination statistics from the 2001 Census to support migration and transport policymaking. A review of household estimates and projections at the small area level was initiated and development of small area population estimates continued.

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## Citizen Information Project

### Introduction

Work has continued within the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on the development of a high-quality common population register for the UK. The work is on track to report to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury in July 2005, and this will allow ministers to decide whether or not to implement the proposals across the public sector.

### Strategic influences, policy drivers and aims

The vision of the Citizen Information Project (CIP) is to provide a national infrastructure of basic personal data which can be shared across the public sector. The benefits that such a register would bring include:

- citizens only updating their details once across government
- improving efficiency by reducing duplication in public sector departments and agencies
- enhancing the quality of basic contact data accessible to all public services and the statistical base for policy research and analysis
- providing a strong legal basis for personal contact data holdings and exchange
- allowing government to accurately personalise and target communications and services

The development of a register would also support:

- the Gershon Review agenda, especially to improve back office services
- departments in achieving their Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets and in designing further improvements to public services, including more personalised services
- the rollout of the e-government delivery programme, which is about improved customer

service, including increasing the provision and take-up of transactional services

- improved policy analysis, research and official statistics

One specific driver for the work is the commitment in the *Modernising Government* White Paper, published in March 1999, for people to be able to notify different parts of government of details such as a change of address simply and electronically in one transaction.

### Work during 2004/05

On 28 October 2004 the Chief Secretary to the Treasury updated Parliament on CIP progress and on the programme of work over the rest of the current stage of development:

[www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/cm200304/cmhansrd/cm041028/wmstext/41028m01.htm#column\\_53](http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/cm200304/cmhansrd/cm041028/wmstext/41028m01.htm#column_53)

This work has confirmed the findings of the feasibility study, published in January 2004, that a UK population register has the potential to generate efficiency benefits and service improvements across government. However, initial work has indicated that, because many people use several names and addresses, the correct name and address would need to be verified, perhaps to different levels, for each part of government.

The CIP team has investigated the costs and benefits of a range of potential options for delivering a population register. It has recommended that, if Identity Cards were to become compulsory, it may be more cost-effective to deliver these benefits through the National Identity Register (NIR), which is part of the proposals for Identity Cards, rather than develop a separate register. The Government has accepted this recommendation.

## Future work

ONS is now in the second stage of project definition and will report to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury in summer 2005. In this stage, ONS will examine in more detail how the NIR could function as a population register and explore opportunities for adding value to existing database developments which could be cost-effective ahead of the NIR reaching maturity. ONS is also exploring how efficiency and analytical requirements that cover the whole population, rather than just adults, can be met.

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There is also a dedicated page on the General Register Office website:  
[www.gro.gov.uk/cip](http://www.gro.gov.uk/cip)

# National Statistics Online

## Introduction

The National Statistics website ([www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)) is the window the world has on the statistical services provided by the Government Statistical Service (GSS). The site facilitates timely delivery of impartial, comprehensive and high-quality statistical reports and data on all aspects of economic and social life in the UK in both summary and detailed form. It delivers information produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), as well as official statistics compiled by other UK government departments and organisations. The website includes a wide range of statistical information from national to neighbourhood level on social, health, economic, demographic and labour market topics as well as social surveys and the population Census. This wealth of available data is key to decision-makers in the government and non-government sectors as well as the general public.

## Strategic influences, policy drivers, aims and objectives

The ONS Statistical Modernisation Programme (SMP) has had the biggest impact on the National Statistics website as development of the site has fallen under its remit.

The focus for the site over the past year has therefore been on continuing to publish new content within the current design and infrastructure alongside maintenance of existing content. With regard to [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk), SMP aims to solve the technical challenges around content management and provide a new strategic infrastructure that the site will migrate into. The current website and National Statistics services will continue to run in their existing formats until SMP delivers the new infrastructure, which is due to be completed in 2006.

## Work during 2004/05

The key development between December 2004 and March 2005 was the deployment of the new corporate search engine and development of an integrated release calendar. A large metadata audit and update of the main site database were undertaken in order to provide meaningful results for the search engine of all National Statistics, including those from other government departments. Two systems were also integrated to provide an overview of all statistical releases via a single calendar. This work will improve access to information and data for all users.

With minimal promotion and development, the site has managed to continue to achieve good levels of traffic, with an average of 6.4 million visits a month. It has, however, been given poor ratings by the Government Forum 365 website (which judges central government websites for accessibility and against the e-government metadata standards), where it ranks at 59 out of 70.

Some prototype work was completed looking at archiving historical documents and a single route for print production via automatic generation of pdfs from the content management system. However, this work and development of more effective web-based metrics have been subsumed into SMP.

## Content published

The new series of web first publications focusing on specific topics continued with the launch of *Focus on Health*, *Focus on Religion* and *Focus on Social Inequalities*.

From this year, for some of the key topics in the ONS flagship publication *Social Trends*, there are links from the web version to topic-based summaries containing a key chart and short interpretative commentary. These will be updated

as new data become available. By adding to these summaries over time, a continually updated version of the key topics in *Social Trends* will become available. A pdf file can also be found on the website, containing links to Excel spreadsheets giving the data for all tables, figures and maps.

ONS Geography continued to develop further interactive infographics, including the Urban Audit interactive map (of which there were two versions), Area Classification ward level maps and interactive population pyramids. The ONS Longitudinal Study also went live in September 2004.

Content syndication continued, with the ongoing use of the Really Simple Syndication (RSS) news feeds mostly used by local government, and a Short Message Service (SMS) was also trialled. These developments will allow users to gain access to statistics via new channels of communication.

## Other site developments

### Neighbourhood Statistics Service

Following the success of the prototype, ONS has now moved forward with the launch of a new version of the Neighbourhood Statistics Service (NeSS) website. The latest development has been built using Oracle and Java technologies, which provide a much greater capacity for holding small area data and enable more flexible analysis of data. The new website also offers better mapping capability built on Scalable Vector Graphics technology (which allows users to customise their maps), time series and other simple statistical tools, and the capability to define individual geographic areas. An expanded Neighbourhood Profile has been developed, giving quick and easy access to a wide range of information about a chosen area with just the insertion of a postcode or a click on the map. This development also offers improved registration facilities, such as the storage of individual areas, and data requests and search options.

### General Register Office

A new version of the General Register Office (GRO) website ([www.gro.gov.uk](http://www.gro.gov.uk)) was launched in May 2004, including a new site design and new content,

all of which was migrated into a content management system to facilitate easy updating. In July 2004 the website won the Corporate Award at the annual Public Sector Web Awards organised by the Government Internet Forum. A further release was launched in October 2004 and monthly site traffic is now averaging over 1.6 million visits. The site has also been recognised as having made significant improvements by the *Annual Report into Key Government Websites* published by Porter Research, where it jumped from an overall score of 45 per cent in 2003 to 60 per cent in 2004, with top marks being allocated for the content quality.

### Stats4schools

This website [www.stats4schools.gov.uk](http://www.stats4schools.gov.uk) supports the teaching of statistics across the National Curriculum. It provides teachers and pupils with a free online resource offering up-to-date statistics linked to lesson plans and worksheets dealing with interesting themes relating to pupils at Key Stages 3 and 4. The new site, launched earlier in the year, was also migrated into the content management system, which allowed the subsequent development of a mirror site in the Welsh language. The Stats4schools site has been very well received by the education audience, and many national and local government education resource sites have established links to it.

### Eurostat

A grant was applied for and awarded to develop EU Statistics UK, a site that markets various European statistical products and which is supported by a call centre. This initial site went live in October 2004 and has seen considerable increases in traffic from a relatively small potential audience. A second site, which is a guide to the data on the Eurostat website, has also been developed and was launched in April 2005.

### Citizen Information Project

A small site about the Citizen Information Project (CIP) was developed and launched in October 2004.

## Outcomes and outputs

There have been limited benefits and improvements to the National Statistics website over the year because

of the impact of SMP. The main piece of work has been deploying the new search engine to make it quicker and easier to find content and developing a release calendar, all of which have contributed to delivering one of ONS's key Service Delivery Agreements (the 'One Stop Shop' SDA9 target).

Considerable progress has been made in terms of best practice for site development and improving efficiency in developing websites. Training and development on use of the content management system have highlighted the need for additional communication and change management. Corporate standards for external and internal search engine strategies continue to be developed and will increase future efficiency and effectiveness.

### **Lessons learned and costs**

The cost of leaving the development of the National Statistics website to be addressed within SMP has been considerable, as it is a resource-intensive site to maintain in its current form. However, the metadata audit undertaken this year has given ONS very clear pointers in the prioritisation and volume of work needed in order to deliver a new content management system which will be undertaken during 2005/06.

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# Sustainable development

## Introduction

The goal of sustainable development, according to the government publication *One future – different paths: The UK's shared framework for sustainable development*, published in 2005, is to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations.

For the UK Government, that goal will be pursued in an integrated way through a sustainable, innovative and productive economy that delivers high levels of employment, and a just society that promotes social inclusion, sustainable communities and personal well-being. This will be done in ways that protect and enhance the physical and natural environment, and use resources and energy as efficiently as possible.

## Work in 2004/05

Indicators play an integral role in communicating what sustainable development is, and in highlighting where progress is being made or where policies need to be further developed.

A new pocket-sized statistical compendium, *Sustainable development indicators in your pocket* (SDIYP), was published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) in April 2004. This provided an overview of sustainable development through a selection of around 50 UK Government's indicators, supporting the 1999 strategy *A better quality of life*. The booklet was very well-received, proved popular with schools and colleges, and was commended by the UK Sustainable Development Commission and internationally. Some 60,000 copies have been distributed so far.

The publication of SDIYP coincided with the launch of a government consultation document on a future

sustainable development strategy – *Taking it on: developing UK sustainable development strategy together* – which included several questions on monitoring and indicators. The consultation responses on indicators fed into a wider review of indicators of sustainable development, which was undertaken during the year.

Defra has lead responsibility for promoting sustainable development across government and during the autumn and winter of 2004/05 it co-ordinated cross-departmental discussions on indicators with the view to establishing a new agreed set. A UK Framework for Sustainable Development, shared among the UK countries, was launched in March 2005. This included a set of 20 UK Framework Indicators that will be used to monitor progress in priority areas.

At the same time a new UK Government sustainable development strategy, *Securing the future: delivering UK sustainable development strategy*, was launched. It includes an additional 48 indicators supporting the priority areas for Whitehall departments and in non-devolved matters.

Work is under way to produce figures and assessments for the UK Framework Indicators and UK Government Strategy Indicators for publication in June 2005. However, in the case of eight indicators further research and new data collection will be necessary to establish measures.

A number of the indicators in the new set are 'decoupling' indicators selected from a set of sustainable consumption and production indicators that have been revised during the year following a consultation in 2003/04.

While developing the new set of indicators, indicators relating to the 1999 strategy have been

maintained and published on the government's sustainable development website:  
[www.sustainable-development.gov.uk](http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk)

### Work in the devolved administrations

The Scottish Executive (SE) has continued to report annually against the 24 indicators originally published in April 2002 in *Meeting the Needs ... Priorities, Action and Targets for Sustainable Development in Scotland*. Following the launch of the UK framework for sustainable development in March 2005, SE is developing a new Scottish strategy for publication in the autumn. Part of the strategy work will be to carry out the commitment to review the current set of Sustainable Development Indicators for Scotland, taking account of the priorities being developed for the Scottish strategy and the new set of UK-wide indicators.

The National Assembly for Wales (NAW) has continued to report annually and develop its own set of indicators as part of its Sustainable Development Scheme and Action Plan.

In Northern Ireland, a strategy is under development, and work has already been undertaken on a set of indicators which will be further refined to take account of the priorities and objectives of the emerging strategy.

### Sub-UK data

The fourth annual report on regional versions of the headline indicators relating to the 1999 strategy, *Regional quality of life counts – 2003*, was published by Defra for the English Government Office Regions in June 2004. This report was intended to assist the regions in monitoring progress and raising awareness, and to supplement indicators they choose to develop themselves.

Alongside the review of national indicators, a review of local indicators of sustainable development has been undertaken jointly by the Audit Commission and Defra, with the view to establishing a new guide to *Local quality of life indicators*, which will be published later in 2005.

### International initiatives

Work has also been undertaken to identify suitable international indicators to complement the national indicators. The intention is to publish alongside the national indicators a series of links to allow comparisons with other countries or to highlight global issues.

The UK has continued to play an active role in developing indicators of sustainable development for use by international institutions. In particular, the UK has been involved in indicator work with Eurostat in support of the European Union Sustainable Development Strategy. The UK has also continued to provide advice to other countries that have been in the process of establishing their own sustainable development strategies and indicators.

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## Other developments in 2004/05

### Introduction

The purpose of this chapter is to highlight those developments that have had a significant impact on the Government Statistical Service (GSS) but were not anticipated when the National Statistics Work Programme was being developed.

### Civil Registration Review Project

#### Introduction

Civil registration has a vital role in securing and protecting basic human rights. In England and Wales, it provides, among other things, an individual with a name and identity within society, a facility for marriage, evidence of parentage, and evidence of entitlement to inheritance.

Today's system of civil registration has changed little since it was first introduced in the 1830s. People still have to give information about births, deaths and marriages in person in the area where the event occurred. This information is recorded in paper-based registers, using pen and ink, and access is through a paper-based certified copy ('certificate') of the entry in the register.

#### Strategic influences and policy drivers

Civil registration reform is an essential piece of modernisation that will deliver benefits for the public, local authorities and other government departments. It features on the Prime Minister's list of 31 projects that are vital to the delivery of the strategic e-government agenda, and a key driver for this change is to provide the public with greater access and choice for civil registration, making use of new technology. The project is also supporting the introduction of civil partnerships in England and Wales.

### Aims and objectives

The proposals for change include modernisation of the legislation and changes to the structure of the service, transferring the responsibility for face-to-face service delivery to local authorities. The introduction of new technology will allow the public to access registration services via the Internet and telephone call centres.

A key area of output for the project is the modernisation of the General Register Office's technology so as to deliver improvements to the Local Registration Service and also back office efficiencies, including production of certificates and management information.

The plan also incorporates the electronic capture of existing registration records, including historic records back to 1837. These paper-based registration records will be digitised and added to the database. It is anticipated that, over time, the use of paper certificates to access services within government or the private sector will reduce as organisations will be able to check information electronically.

The proposed changes will make it easier to deal with the Government at key points in the lives of citizens and their families. For example, using this electronic information, members of the public will find it easier to apply for a passport or driving licence or deal with a relative's estate after death, as they will not have to provide certificates in support of their applications.

### Work during 2004/05

The original project objectives and outcomes were dependent on proposed legislative changes to be delivered using the process defined in the Regulatory Reform Act (RRA). The first draft Regulatory Reform Order dealing with proposed changes to the registration of births and deaths was

presented to the Commons' Regulatory Reform Committee and the Lords' Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee in July 2004.

In December 2004 the Order was scrutinised by the Committees, both of which rejected the use of the Order under the RRA as a means of delivering this legislative reform. Despite this setback, the project has continued to move forward on the modernisation agenda by identifying the best technology to offer web-based registration to Local Registration Officers and developing a robust business case to support the digitisation of 250 million existing registration records. The Civil Registration Review team is now actively exploring alternative legislative routes to deliver some of the planned changes.

In other developments, the project has supported the work led by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) on civil partnerships and in November 2004 the Civil Partnership Bill received Royal Assent. In addition, in May 2004 the General Register Office launched a new website which won the Best Corporate Site category in the Government Internet Forum Awards in July 2004.

The project is on target to deliver significant business process re-engineering, particularly in the area of certificate production, helping towards ONS's overall Gershon efficiency targets.

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## Measurement of Government Output and Productivity in the National Accounts

### Introduction

In the National Accounts the output of the public services has traditionally been measured by the convention that output equalled the volume of the inputs. However, the 1993 *System of National Accounts*, the key international guidance, decided that all National Accounts should increasingly move to measuring public sector output by direct indicators. The UK has made faster progress with this agenda than most other countries. The amount of resources allocated to public services in the UK has increased in recent years, and the delivery and management mechanisms have developed and become more complex. As a result, there has been an increasing emphasis on the quality of service for the customer, and the weight put on accurate measurement of government output has become greater.

This led the National Statistician, in December 2003, to ask Sir Tony Atkinson, to conduct an independent review of the progress made in measuring public sector output and productivity, and make recommendations as to the way forward. Sir Tony was supported by a team drawn from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), the Treasury, the Bank of England and the Department of Health. The review consulted widely with ONS National Accounts Group, spending departments, devolved administrations and the Treasury and also with international statistical bodies, National Statistical Institutes and a range of other experts and stakeholders.

Sir Tony's Final Report *Measurement of Government Output and Productivity in the National Accounts* was published on 31 January 2005. It made 54 recommendations on how to improve the measurement of public services output and productivity. These included nine principles to provide the framework for methods to measure public services. For the full report see: [www.statistics.gov.uk/atkinson](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/atkinson)

## Key recommendations of the Atkinson Review

The 54 recommendations in the review can be grouped into the following areas:

- Endorsement of ONS's strategy in moving away from the traditional output = input convention. Returning to the traditional assumption, with its implication that public services productivity never changes, would be neither feasible nor desirable.
- The need for a principled approach. Methodology should be based on an agreed set of principles, to ensure a disciplined professional approach commensurate with the complexity of the task and to ward against actual or perceived political interference in a politically sensitive area.
- Notwithstanding the substantial progress already achieved, the need for further improvements in methodologies used to measure public service outputs. Current methodologies suffer from a number of drawbacks, including: too limited coverage of activities; aggregation at too high a level; and frequent use of data from England, not the whole of the UK. In some cases, misclassifications have occurred or effects of changes in the machinery of government have not been taken into account. Information is sometimes available only with a substantial time lag.
- Measurement of government output should follow, as far as possible, methodology parallel to that appropriate for the private sector. Among other issues, this implies that output measurement for the public sector should take account of quality changes. A high-quality public service constitutes greater output than a lower quality one.
- The desirability of corroboration: the 'triangulation principle'. No single number, however carefully constructed, can fully capture the performance of complex public services with multiple objectives. Furthermore, the story given by direct indicators of outputs and inputs needs to be compared with, and corroborated by, other available evidence on public services productivity.

These sources of evidence need to be balanced or triangulated in arriving at the final statistics.

The Final Report also includes specific recommendations for the way forward in the key areas of health, education, public order and safety, and social protection. In each case, these build on work currently in progress and on what has been achieved so far. The main proposals for each area are:

### Health

- better measures for primary care
- movement towards measuring whole courses of treatment
- ideas for measuring quality change in health care

### Education

- measure pupil attendance rather than pupil numbers
- update the quality measure for schools as an interim measure
- develop a new extended quality measure, which might include measuring the value of education through increased earnings
- new measures for output of initial teacher training and publicly funded nursery places

### Public order and safety

- more detailed measures for the Criminal Justice System (CJS), with possible quality adjustment to reduce the value accorded to overcrowded prison cells
- measure Fire Service output based on weights that reflect the cost to the community of fire
- further development of measures of the output of the CJS as a whole, having regard to the complex interactions between the component parts

### Social protection

- wider and more detailed coverage in the measure of adult social services output
- extension of the children's social services output measure
- development work on quality adjustments for social services

- update the index for social security administration, including adjustment for accuracy and timeliness

## Achievements

The review formally ended in January 2005 with the publication of the Final Report. The National Statistician broadly welcomed the report, while reserving his detailed response until he had fully considered the recommendations. To respond to the challenge that the Atkinson recommendations embody, he announced the creation of the UK Centre for the Measurement of Government Activity. This will be a directorate of ONS, subject to the National Statistician's authority and executive management, but with its own advisory board of eminent experts, to help take forward its agenda. Like the Atkinson Review team, the UK Centre will work closely with other departments, key public services and the relevant outside experts. Setting up the UK Centre is well under way.

Some improvements were made to the UK National Accounts in the 2004 Blue Book, notably in the health field, as a result of the Atkinson work. These were only made after satisfying ONS's usual rigorous quality assurance procedures. A number of proposals for improvements have been made for the 2005 Blue Book. Those which pass the quality assurance procedures will be incorporated. Details, both of the revised methodologies and their quantitative effects, will be published well in advance of the Blue Book itself.

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## Assessing public confidence in official statistics

### Introduction

In 2004 ONS and the Statistics Commission agreed to jointly undertake a project to assess public confidence in British official statistics.

### Strategic influences

Understanding, measuring and addressing public confidence in government and its institutions is a key objective of the UK Government. Ensuring good faith in the nation's statistics is one aspect of this. As such, addressing public confidence in official statistics is embedded in the aims and objectives of the statistical system.

The *Framework for National Statistics* articulates the Government's commitment to a statistical service that is responsive to stakeholders' needs and 'produces reliable statistics that command public confidence'. The National Statistics Code and Protocols present the means by which government statisticians will fulfil this commitment.

In addition, one of ONS's corporate targets is to improve public confidence in the integrity and validity of outputs. This commitment was backed at the Treasury Select Committee hearing in October 2003 when the National Statistician agreed to undertake a national survey to assess public confidence.

### Aims and objectives

The aim of the project was to build an understanding of, and a measure of, public confidence in British official statistics. Its objectives were to:

- understand the issues underlying or driving public confidence in official statistics
- assess existing levels of public confidence
- develop a quantitative measure of public confidence

A Project Board, with representatives from across government, was established to oversee the project.

## Work to date

The project had four underlying studies:

- desk research to identify public confidence issues around official statistics in other countries
- qualitative analysis of the general public's views of official statistics and how they formulate these views, principally using focus groups
- quantitative analysis of the general public's views of official statistics using the ONS Omnibus Survey
- qualitative analysis of the views of 'opinion-formers' of official statistics using unstructured interviews

The first three studies were undertaken by ONS and the remaining study was undertaken by MORI on behalf of the Statistics Commission.

ONS prepared a report which brought together the findings of the four studies, highlighting those issues that were most commonly raised by participants. This report was published on the National Statistics website on 28 February 2005 and can be accessed via:

[www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/public\\_confidence/reports.asp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/public_confidence/reports.asp)

## Findings and further work

The project found the following:

- public confidence is a complex issue and confidence levels vary between statistical series and between participants
- on the whole, participants had more confidence in the quality of official statistics than in the delivery of official statistics
- there was considerable confidence in the methodologies used to produce official statistics and the accuracy of outputs
- participants were concerned that there was interference at certain stages of the statistical process, particularly in determining statistical definitions and choosing which statistics to collect
- there were conflicting views regarding the independence of the Government Statistical Service (GSS) including ONS – participants emphasised that the independence of statistical

services was one of the most important factors for ensuring confidence in statistics

- participants believed that the statistical service's communication mechanisms were poor in a number of areas, and improving communication was seen as vital
- there was a perception among participants that the Government manipulated official statistics
- participants believed that the media misrepresented official statistics, and selective reporting by the media, based on particular biases, was considered widespread

ONS undertook a follow-up survey on public confidence in official statistics on the March 2005 ONS Omnibus Survey. Results of this survey will be published in Autumn 2005 and will be used to further inform understanding of public perceptions and refine the ONS measure of public confidence. ONS then plans to convene a working group to address the issue of public confidence in official statistics. The principal role of this group will be to develop a detailed strategy aimed at building confidence in official statistics.

## Lessons learned

The Project Board highlighted the following lessons learned from the project:

- undertaking a triangulation approach to this work proved positive; both the qualitative and quantitative work were complementary, gathering information from a number of different sources and via a number of different organisations and methods
- including representatives from across the GSS on the Project Board proved successful as they provided a broader perspective on the issues impacting on public confidence

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themes

# Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry

## Summary of performance against plan in 2004/05

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<b>Developments</b>	
<b>Improvements to sources</b>	
<b>England and Wales</b>	
The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) will continue work on the validation and implementation of a new urban/rural definition, with further development to include Super Output Areas classification (England and Wales).	<p>Following on from the publication of the Census Output Area and Statistical Ward definition for England and Wales in 2003, a definition for Lower Super Output Area (LSOA), Middle Super Output Area (MSOA) and Census Area Statistics (CAS) Ward was made available for England and Wales in March 2005 (<a href="http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/nrudp.asp">www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/nrudp.asp</a>).</p> <p>Work is progressing on the forthcoming Local Authority Classification for England and production of a classification of the English Primary Care Trusts (PCTs), which should be released later in 2005.</p>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	
Work on electronic forms will be extended and all data providers will be encouraged to increase their use of the facility in 2004/05.	This project is ongoing. The option to make an electronic return is now available to respondents for all major surveys. Promotional material has been used to raise awareness and actively encourage uptake. In 2004 the number of e-responses was 40 per cent higher than in 2003, although the absolute number of returns in this format remains low. Further targeted marketing of the service will continue in 2005/06.
<b>Other developments</b>	
Defra and the devolved administrations will introduce a new system of classifying farms by type and size for the UK by the end of 2004.	Defra, along with the devolved administrations, has introduced the new farm classification with effect from the June 2004 Agricultural Census.
Defra will continue work to identify the precise definitions and datasets for the full range of food and farming indicators. It is intended that these indicators will be published and updated on a rolling basis on the Internet and the first publication will take place in 2004.	The headline indicators and supporting set of core indicators for monitoring progress of the Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy (SFFS) have been identified and agreed with the SFFS Implementation Group. Work is progressing to finalise the headline indicators and their targets and trajectories so that they can be published by summer 2005.

Plan	Performance against plan
	<p>A suite of core indicators is being developed to add breadth and depth to the monitoring process. Indicators are being selected and their data sources identified through consultation with relevant policy, science, economics and statistics experts. Consideration is also being given to future development of the indicators and/or their data sources.</p> <p>Indicators will be published on a website to be launched in summer 2005. This has been delayed due to finalising the headline indicators.</p> <p>Statistical sources are also being developed for more general policy appraisal, particularly the interaction between the economic performance and the environmental impact of the agriculture sector.</p>
Defra will continue to progress the development and accessibility of UK farm datasets.	The availability of UK-level data has been improved and in 2004 a queryable UK dataset was published on the web for the first time. This allows customers to obtain UK-level data from 2000 onwards at a slightly more detailed level than is available from the statistics notice. It is intended to continue this in 2005.
UK Fisheries Departments to develop a UK database for fisheries activities.	A 'proof-of-concept' UK catch and activity database went live from 1 December 2004. This is being developed as a live tool for analysis and production of regular outputs to meet UK internal and international reporting obligations. It is also being expanded in terms of its content to cover a wider range of data. Modules are being developed to allow end-users controlled direct access to the data through the use of predefined sub-sets of the data and specific data extraction reports.
UK Fisheries Departments will continue trials to establish a common European Union (EU) technical solution to the provision of electronic logbook information from fishing vessels.	The UK is engaged in the EU technical committee that is working to establish the scope of, and technical solutions for, the introduction of such systems, including participation in the EU-funded technical trials planned for 2005/06.
Defra will increase the use of administrative records and e-forms, and will develop links with the new Whole Farm Approach for England.	<p>In 2004/05 Defra continued to make use of administrative and e-form data. There was an increase in the number of Arable Area Payments records used for the June Agricultural and Horticultural Survey from 20,000 to 60,000 in 2004. E-form responses remained constant at approximately ten per cent of response rate for the June and December 2004 Agricultural Surveys.</p> <p>From 2006 Defra is looking to use the Whole Farm Appraisal (WFA) to gather (e-form) data for all surveys.</p>

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
Defra will streamline horticulture and potato statistics in England, to accommodate reduced budget provision.	Arrangements were put in place for more streamlined data collection requirements for fruit, vegetables and potatoes from April 2004 to meet the reduced budget. Policy and key trade representatives were involved in the discussions and have been supportive of the necessary changes. There has been a loss of some detail or information available for fruit and vegetables, but this has been minimised and key information for the more important crops has been retained. Contributions to key outputs have been maintained.
Defra will develop a strategy for use of the new Corporate Business Register and Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR) for England.	Defra's Customer Information Programme (CIP) is developing a single customer register for Defra, building on the model launched early in 2005 by the Rural Payments Agency.  At a business level, a project is under way to initially link the Farm Survey System (FSS) Register, used to run surveys and mailshots across Defra, with the IDBR. Customer segmentation within the CIP and the IDBR will be crucial to enabling links across registers, or to provide the single function of a pan-government business register. Successful linking and enhancements of the FSS Register and the IDBR will provide a more up-to-date register of businesses engaged in agricultural activity, which will allow accurately targeted surveys reducing compliance costs.
<b>Publications of new outputs</b>	
Defra will publish the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy by the end of 2004.	<i>The Animal Health and Welfare Strategy for Great Britain</i> was published in June 2004, along with an accompanying evidence base. Work is now being carried out to develop a set of indicators to measure progress of the Strategy and these should be ready for publication by summer 2005.
Defra will publish indicators to monitor progress with the SFFS in England.	A website has been developed to publish the results and background information for each of the indicators. This will include progress against the trajectories for the headline indicators. The website is due to be launched in summer 2005. Data will be updated each quarter on a rolling programme, as the latest figures become available.
<b>Quality Reviews</b>	
Defra will support the implementation of the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit Review of the fishing industry.	The Review included several recommendations on expanding the coverage, accessibility and quality of information for a wide range of aspects of the fisheries sector. The joint response by the UK Fisheries Departments, which will now be published in summer 2005 (rather than by the end of April 2005 as originally intended), will include responses to these recommendations, including a plan of action which will be incorporated into a Quality Review of fisheries statistics.

# Commerce, Energy and Industry

## Summary of performance against plan in 2004/05

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<b>Developments</b>	
<b>Improving trade data</b>	
Her Majesty's Customs and Excise (HMC&E) will continue to develop a Trade Interactive Delivery System for the input and validation of overseas trade data, as part of its e-business programme.	The development of an enhanced electronic system for the collection of trade data with interactive input and editing capabilities is being taken forward within the context of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) e-business requirements. It is unlikely that delivery will be achieved before the end of 2006 at the earliest.
The Office for National Statistics (ONS) will develop its estimation methodology and outlier treatment for trade in services. The survey questionnaire will also be reviewed to test respondents' understanding of requirements in order to ensure that the outputs of the survey meet user needs.	<p>Changes were made to the Quarterly International Trade in Services (QITIS) processing systems in 2004, and one-sided Winsorisation was used for the first time in July 2004 for the delivery of the second quarter of 2004 results. Analysis against 2004 annual data estimates will not be possible until November 2005.</p> <p>The International Trade in Services (ITIS) questionnaire was selected for inclusion in the full review programme for business surveys in January 2004 because of the need for compliance with the Eurostat Balance of Payments (BoP) Regulation. This necessitated more detail for existing questions and the inclusion of three new questions. The five stages of the review are below with a full implementation date of January 2006 for all ITIS questionnaires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identification of key customers and consultation</li> <li>• redesign of the questionnaire(s) – based on the data requirements and evidence from stage one</li> <li>• pre-field testing and evaluation</li> <li>• field test and evaluation of redesigned questionnaire</li> <li>• post-implementation evaluation</li> </ul> <p>The project is currently on target, having field-tested the questionnaire in the fourth quarter of 2004 and first quarter of 2005. The draft evaluation of the questionnaire was presented to the project board in March 2005. It is intended, subject to the evaluation, that full implementation should be completed by January 2006 for the Annual International Trade in Services (AITIS) and also the Film and Television Survey (FTV). This would mean that all ITIS data will meet the requirements of the Eurostat BoP Regulation.</p>

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<b>Improving sub-UK data</b>	
ONS will undertake a major review of sampling for business surveys to improve the quality of sub-UK estimates.	This work is now being considered as part of the ONS response to the Allsopp Review.
ONS will improve sub-UK estimates by making adjustments to the sub-UK methodology of the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI).	This work is now being considered as part of the ONS response to the Allsopp Review.
<b>Measuring e-activity</b>	
ONS will carry out the fourth annual survey of businesses in 2004.	The survey commenced in 2000 and has been developed alongside the European-wide collection, which is now supported through a European Commission Regulation. The survey covers most of the economy and businesses of all sizes. Variables covered include sales and purchases over information and communication technologies (ICTs), businesses' access to the Internet, the number of employees using personal computers, and the use of integrated ICT systems.
ONS will continue to work with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and Eurostat to improve measurement of e-activity in the financial sector and to improve the definition of e-business processes.	ONS conducted a pilot survey of financial sector businesses in 2004 to test the feasibility of questions relating to the value of sales over ICTs. As a result of this pilot, new questions have been adopted for the 2005 survey.
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	
The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) will work to improve consistency between the Manufacturing Sales and Exports Survey and the Northern Ireland ABI to better inform estimates of manufacturing sales in Northern Ireland.	Improved validation procedures were introduced, resulting in improved consistency of estimates from the two surveys. A revised back series for the Manufacturing Sales and Exports Survey was published in November 2004.
DETI will compile a multi-source report to meet users' information needs regarding the activities of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Northern Ireland.	DETI will provide a report on SME activity in Northern Ireland by December 2005.
DETI will report on research into measuring exports in the tradeable services sector.	A final report on Measuring Tradeable Services in Northern Ireland was produced, with recommendations for the way forward.
DETI will revise the format of its key National Statistics publications to improve accessibility for users.	Following user consultation, a substantially revised web-based <i>Monthly Labour Market Report</i> was released in January 2005. A new house style was introduced for all DETI publications.
DETI will pilot an e-survey option for the Northern Ireland ABI in 2004.	An e-survey facility was developed for the ABI and was made available for respondents to the 2004 survey in January 2005. ABI results for 2003 were produced using the DETI data collection and analysis system.

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<b>Energy statistics</b>	
The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) will continue to play a key role in working with Eurostat to develop a revised approach to the EU Electricity and Gas Price Transparency Directive, which will take account of the operation of liberalised energy markets.	Following a meeting of the EU Energy Statistics Committee in May 2004, it was agreed that there would be a test run of the new methodology for the collection of prices from 1 January 2005. The UK is participating in this exercise and results were available by the end of March 2005. Eurostat published its draft report on the test exercise at the end of April 2005.
ONS/DTI will implement changes to guidance given to respondents and validity tests for the Purchase Inquiry on energy consumption to enable comparison of detailed categories of energy consumption.	Changes were implemented to reduce the size of the validity gates for the representative gas and electricity data, and to clarify definitions on the questionnaire. However, the representative price data obtained for gas and electricity were still significantly higher than those indicated from alternative data sources. Representative price questions will be removed from the ABI questionnaire from 2005.
DTI will continue to take forward a project to facilitate electronic data capture for a number of energy surveys.	DTI conducts a number of energy surveys. One of these is currently being used as a pilot programme for improving electronic data collection. The lessons learned from this exercise are being rolled out across each of the other surveys. In parallel, DTI is investigating the use of a single data entry point to the DTI.
DTI will produce and publish estimates of regional and local energy consumption by fuel and end user.	Local and regional data for gas consumption are now available for 2001, 2002 and 2003, with a breakdown between domestic and business consumers. Similar experimental 2003 data for electricity consumption were released in January 2005. Data for other fuels will be made available late in 2005.
<b>Measuring innovation and research and development activity</b>	
DETI will prepare for the Northern Ireland component of the Community Innovation Survey which will take place in 2005.	Survey design will allow analysis of Northern Ireland results, and fieldwork is scheduled to take place in 2005.
DETI will work with InvestNI to provide a measure of the business uptake of broadband services in Northern Ireland.	Existing survey data were analysed to provide an appropriate measure of business uptake of broadband services.
DTI will take forward the design and management of the next UK Community Innovation Survey, and ONS will carry out the fieldwork to collect data on innovation activities by UK firms from 2002 to 2004.	This work was completed. Future collections are now covered by a European Commission Regulation.
DTI will continue to contribute to OECD work to revise the Oslo Manual, which defines innovation activity and measurement.	It is expected that the revised Oslo Manual will be available towards the end of 2005.

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<b>Other developments</b>	
The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) will review the methodology used for its Creative Industries Economic Estimates (CIEE).	Access has been obtained to Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR) microdata, and consultation on the new methodology began in April 2005.
DTI will work with Eurostat on revisions to the International Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) and the Central Product Classification.	DTI has led a cross-government steering group to support the UK proposals to the EU and the United Nations (UN) on product and industrial classifications. The new industrial classification is expected to be implemented in 2007/08. Working in close co-operation with ONS, the steering group will also take responsibility for the co-ordination of the implementation of the new SIC to ensure that cross-departmental issues are appropriately considered and managed.
ONS will continue to participate in a Eurostat pilot project to expand the Structural Business Statistics Regulation (SBSR), to collect turnover data by client and by product for SIC 72 (computer services) and selected industries within SIC 74 (other business activities).	<p>ONS despatched around 4,600 questionnaires in April 2004 to SIC 72 (computer services) and SIC 74 (business services). Provisional results were produced in December 2004. Final estimates will be forwarded to Eurostat in summer 2005.</p> <p>ONS has recently signed a contract to participate in the final stage of this pilot exercise. Questionnaires were despatched in April 2005.</p>
<b>Quality Reviews</b>	
ONS will begin work to re-engineer the IDBR.	<p>The re-engineered IDBR will not be in place by the March 2006 deadline specified in the <i>National Statistics Annual Report 2003/04</i>. The project delay is due to changes in priorities within the ONS Statistical Modernisation Programme.</p> <p>However, there was some progress on IDBR re-engineering during 2004/05. With the re-engineering team reaching full strength in October 2004, analysis of the current system has been carried out and documented in preparation for the design stage of the new system, and it is anticipated that this stage will be completed by the end of 2006/07.</p> <p>Consultation with users has commenced and a new data model has been produced for the business units. This data model will enhance survey sampling functionality and enable the Allsopp Review and EU Business Regulation requirements to be met.</p> <p>The re-engineered IDBR will use the new tools under development for ONS. These are SuperCROSS, SAS and Tau Argus for statistical analysis, Matchcode for address cleaning, and improved data matching and industry coding tools which are currently under review.</p>

Plan	Performance against plan
ONS will begin work to re-engineer the IDBR. (continued)	In response to the National Statistics Review of Farm Statistics, Defra and ONS have agreed to set up processes to link the Defra Farm Survey System Register and the IDBR. The project has started, with financial support for Defra from Eurostat, and implementation is scheduled for the end of 2006.
ONS will carry out a Quinquennial Review of the ABI.	The <i>Quinquennial Review of the ABI pt 2 – Financial Questionnaire</i> was published in May 2004 and is available on the National Statistics website.
ONS will carry out work to validate the results of the revised questionnaires for the long-term insurance surveys.	<p>As part of the action plan following the Pension Contributions Statistics Review, the questionnaires used to collect data from businesses were updated to include more detailed questions and new guidance. The main changes to the quarterly surveys were to the long-term insurance funds' income and expenditure questionnaires.</p> <p>The early results are highly provisional as respondents take time to adapt to the changes. However, the Business Monitor <i>Investment by insurance companies, pension funds and trusts</i> contains a reconciliation table displaying premiums and claims estimates on both the old and new bases. New questions were also included in the annual survey of long-term insurance funds' income and expenditure.</p> <p>Response to the new annual questions from surveyed businesses has been poor despite consultation with the businesses about the questions before they were introduced. As a result, the quality of any aggregates produced for the new annual questions is not sufficient to justify their publication as National Statistics at this time. ONS is continuing to work with the insurance industry to improve the level and quality of response to these questions.</p>
Lessons learned	
The benefits of effective consultation.	The development of a regional and local dimension to energy statistics, in particular local electricity consumption data, has confirmed the benefits of extensive consultation in the development of new statistics. The processes gave a firm understanding of the needs of Regional Development Agencies and local authorities, while close working with the electricity industry enabled the design of the collection of information in a complex situation to be achieved in a manner that yielded extensive data at a low compliance cost. In particular, the engagement of key and enthusiastic people in the electricity industry was central to the development of innovative solutions to the collection of the data.

# Crime and Justice

## Summary of performance against plan in 2004/05

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<b>Developments</b>	
<b>Offender statistics</b>	
The Home Office (HO) will use the new models it has developed to project all sentences during 2005/06.	HO has commenced testing the models developed for covering projections of all sentences. Underlying technical environments are being changed across the department and migration of models to the new technical environment is proving to be a challenge. Currently technical problems are being addressed and it is envisaged that a provisional projection will be produced in 2005/06. A website has been developed, where the latest statistics are available: <a href="http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/noms.html">www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/noms.html</a>
<b>New publications</b>	
The Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) will develop new publications on civil and family justice statistics.	In May 2004 DCA published a new statistical bulletin <i>Family Justice System Statistical Bulletin, 2002 data</i> . It contains historical data up to 2002. The civil justice statistics publication has been held back due to data quality issues.
HO will publish more frequently the figures on police strength.	At present, it is planned that figures on police strength will be published on a more timely basis.
<b>Other developments</b>	
HO will develop small area figures on crime.	Work is under way in HO to compile recorded crime statistics at small area level consistent with the national figures already published. These figures will be based on geo-coded record level data provided by police forces via, in most cases, the newly adopted National Management Information System (NMIS).
HO will introduce electronic data collection from police forces.	The electronic collection of police data is dependent on the rollout of the NMIS in police forces. NMIS has been rolled out to all forces which have agreed to take it and the remaining forces are committed to provide data in the same format. Planning is now under way to identify the specifications and costs of a data hub to hold the data supplied by forces from NMIS or equivalent systems. It is expected that the electronic collection process will be dual run with the current annual data requirement process for one year.

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<p>HO, DCA and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) will take forward the recommendations of the Review of Statistics on the Administration of Criminal Justice and the responses received through public consultation.</p>	<p>The Review of Statistics on the Administration of Criminal Justice, published in 2002, contained 61 recommendations. These related to issues of coherence, consistency, coverage, relevance, efficiency of production, timeliness of statistics and management information.</p> <p>A steering group was formed with representatives from the trilateral Criminal Justice System (CJS) departments, the magistrates' courts service inspectorate and the Criminal Justice Information Technology Office to consider the recommendations. The steering group assigned priorities to each recommendation and agreed that 31 pieces of work should be taken forward, as resources permit. For those recommendations that were shelved the risks of not taking them forward were identified.</p> <p>The work to be taken forward falls under five high-level recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CJS analysts and others will move towards using a single analytical database covering the magistrates' courts and the Crown Court</li> <li>• analysts will provide support and input to strategic IT initiatives, which will allow cases to be tracked through the CJS and management information to be produced more generally to inform CJS business</li> <li>• timeliness of the statistics will be improved</li> <li>• improvements in the quality of statistics will be addressed</li> <li>• improvements in the promotion and presentation of results and access to data will be considered</li> </ul> <p>A significant number of recommendations have either been taken forward or are currently being pursued. More recently, a position paper has been produced which informs key stakeholders within the CJS of progress against the recommendations, and seeks their continuing support for this work.</p>
<p>HO to carry out local surveys of victim and witness satisfaction within the CJS, which will be run from 2004/05 and will be aggregated to provide national data.</p>	<p>Local surveys of victims and witnesses will be carried out in each of the 42 areas of England and Wales covered by Local Criminal Justice Boards.</p>

Plan	Performance against plan
	<p>The decision to proceed followed a developmental study, which was carried out in autumn 2004 by MORI. The purpose of this work was to explore the feasibility of criminal justice agency staff in each area being able to provide sufficient victim and witness details from their records for a contractor to select a stratified random sample for inclusion in the survey. The study also set out to test a draft questionnaire which had been developed for the survey. The developmental study showed that the survey was feasible, although the amount of work involved for areas in providing samples would vary, depending on the ways in which records were kept.</p> <p>Each area has now provided victim and witness leads for the first quarterly sweep of the survey. It is hoped to interview a sample of 100 victims and 100 witnesses in each CJS area, although initial indications are that there will be a shortfall in some areas. The sample is stratified according to case outcome, in order to provide adequate representation of cases in which there was a contested trial.</p> <p>The first headline figures from the survey are expected in late May 2005. Initially, five quarterly sweeps of the survey will be carried out, with a possibility of extension of the contract for a further two years. The data will be capable of aggregation, using appropriate weighting, to provide national as well as local data.</p>
<b>Improving access to data from the courts</b>	
<p>DCA will work to improve the quality of data collected from county and magistrates' courts on civil and family justice.</p>	<p>Work has been ongoing to address the quality of data entered into CaseMan and FamilyMan, the civil and family case management IT systems in the county courts. This has involved providing guidance to the courts and amending the IT systems where appropriate.</p> <p>Ongoing work with Public Service Agreement (PSA) delivery teams, using the new Management Information System (MIS) as a key tool, has proved very successful in promoting a greater understanding of management information and its impact on business delivery.</p> <p>A project reviewing the data collected on paper forms from the county courts has concluded and the recommendations will be implemented to reduce the burden on court staff and ensure relevant and accurate data are collected. These changes will be made as part of a complete review of the statistics collected by the DCA, to be carried out in 2005/06 and 2006/07.</p>

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<p>The Court Service hopes to provide limited access to source data for cases in the Crown Court and county courts through the new MIS, to allow agencies to create their own reports. The data will be available on CD-ROM and will be the first steps in providing direct access to data.</p>	<p>The data were provided in Microsoft Access format on CD-ROM to HO. This had records for over 100,000 cases in the Crown Court in the same structure as the source administration system. Therefore any interrogation of this database can easily be replicated on the full data warehouse.</p> <p>Work was undertaken to provide court statistics on the Internet, allowing the public greater access to Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) performance and workload figures. The website is live and the web address for the pilot year is: <a href="http://www.courtstatistics.info">www.courtstatistics.info</a></p>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	
<p>Courts Northern Ireland will roll out the remaining civil modules of the Integrated Courts Operation System (ICOS) by the end of July 2004. The criminal and family modules will follow, with complete coverage expected by the end of 2005.</p>	<p>Rollout of the Civil County Court module started in January 2004 and was completed in July 2004. The High Court Civil and Family module began rollout in July 2004 and was completed in February 2005 (this includes County Court Divorce).</p> <p>It is planned to rollout the Criminal and remaining Family modules in early 2006.</p>
<p>Northern Ireland Office (NIO) will continue development of an equity monitoring system.</p>	<p>Work on the development of an equity monitoring system has continued. The system is reliant on a mixture of administrative and self-classified data.</p> <p>Administrative data will be collected via the Causeway Integrated IT project. This is ongoing, with the first stage of implementation due in May 2005; the second stage of implementation to include Court data is planned for summer 2006.</p> <p>A scoping study was commissioned of all of the issues involved in taking forward the Equity Monitoring Self-Classified Data Collection Pilot. The objectives of the study were to describe clearly the actual process of how the pilot should be conducted and include an options appraisal for an independent monitoring unit. The findings of the study will be considered by the Equity Monitoring Sub Group of the Criminal Justice Board in mid-2005.</p>
<p>Courts Northern Ireland will continue development of ICOS. This will increase the opportunity for collating timely and robust data on court processing. Data from ICOS will be utilised along with that from other criminal justice agencies to give better insight into the overall justice system as part of the Causeway Project.</p>	<p>Development is continuing.</p>

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
NIO will increase partnership working via the Research and Statistics Sub Group of the Criminal Justice Board, particularly in the areas of equity and support for the implementation of the recommendations of the Review of the CJS in Northern Ireland.	Statisticians from all the Criminal Justice Organisations (CJOs) form a significant proportion of the membership of the Research and Statistics Sub Group of the Criminal Justice Board. The Sub Group meets regularly and over the last year has discussed a range of issues aimed at improving statistical harmonisation, particularly in the areas of equity and support for the implementation of the recommendations of the Criminal Justice Review. After a review of corporate governance by the Criminal Justice Board, a new Equity Monitoring Sub Group was recently established.
NIO will commission and analyse surveys of the prison and general population to provide self-reported information on offending behaviour.	Research into self-reported offending behaviour was commissioned and a research report will be published in autumn 2005. A proposal to participate in an international juvenile self-reported delinquency study is currently being considered.
The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) will devise a methodology for identifying information to record and report domestic violence, racial, sectarian and homophobic related crime.	Both the form used to record crime details, and the database onto which these details are entered, have been amended to allow for the identification of crimes with these motivations. Procedures have been put in place to ensure the data are collected appropriately.
PSNI will carry out the Cultural Audit in September 2004.	The Cultural Audit took place in April 2005.
<b>Scotland</b>	
The Scottish Executive (SE) will develop the collection of local area crime figures for the Neighbourhood Statistics Service (NeSS).	Specific progress was not possible, as no source for necessary funding to enhance police IT systems could be identified. Nevertheless, individual police forces are improving the recording of crimes by location and it may be possible to build on police efforts. In the absence of funding, it is not possible to indicate a timetable for achievement of this plan.
<b>Improving access to data</b>	
Northern Ireland will move towards increased use of pdf and the Internet as a means of improving accessibility for information users.	All publications are now available on the Internet in pdf format. Other formats can be supplied on request.
SE will develop new bulletins on racist incidents and bail statistics.	Experimental statistics on bail were published as part of a research report in March 2004. Progress on developing a new bulletin on bail was delayed due to higher priority work and it is not possible to indicate a timetable for the new bulletin. Collection of statistics on racist incidents was implemented, but production of the related bulletin was delayed because of long-term sickness of a member of staff. Until the staffing situation is resolved, it will not be possible to indicate a timetable for the new bulletin.

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
SE will develop a new website for the Justice Department Analytic Service.	Progress on developing a new website was delayed due to staff shortages. A new Criminal Justice Research website was established at the end of 2004/05.
HO will improve electronic access to data including spreadsheets and publications via the Internet, making statistical data more available to researchers and the public.	Significant technical developments are planned for the Research Development and Statistics website. A pilot study in June/July 2005, will examine the feasibility of loading the majority of statistical databases onto the Internet. It is hoped that these databases will provide information in a way that can be easily manipulated.
<b>Quality Reviews</b>	
Departments will carry out a review of Statistics on the Administration of Civil Justice.	This review has been postponed for an indefinite period.
<b>International developments</b>	
HO to carry out the International Crime Victims Survey during 2004.	<p>All parts of the UK are participating in the latest International Crime Victims Survey, enabling international comparisons of the likelihood of being the victim of a crime, fear of crime and attitudes to the police. This survey is being conducted in the main Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries. The United Nations (UN) is co-ordinating this survey and results are expected in the second half of 2005.</p> <p>HO has been an active member of a group advising the European Commission on a new programme to improve the comparability of criminal justice statistics in Member States. The programme will be initiated later this year and includes the collection of criminal justice data by Eurostat.</p>
<b>Additional work not included in 2003/04 Work Programme</b>	
HO will introduce a new survey of offending.	The Home Office Crime and Justice Survey (C&JS) is a self-report offending survey involving face-to-face interviews in the home. It was first conducted in 2003 with a sample of around 12,000 people aged from 10 to 65 living in private households in England and Wales. The survey collected information on the extent and nature of offending, drug and alcohol use, attitudes to and contact with the CJS, and experiences of victimisation. Respondents were asked about offending in their lifetime and in the last 12 months. This is the first nationally representative self-report offending survey to cover such a wide age range. The interview samples for 2004 and 2005 were part panel and part fresh sample. This design provides indicators of trends in offending and drug use, and some longitudinal information on patterns of offending and drug use at an individual level.

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
	<p>The main aims of the survey are to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a measure of the number of offenders in the general household population in England and Wales and the offences they commit, including those who will not have been processed by the CJS</li> <li>• an estimate of the proportion of offenders and offences that come to the attention of criminal justice agencies</li> <li>• an estimate of the proportion of active offenders who are young people and the proportion of crime they commit</li> <li>• information on the nature of offences committed and, in particular, offender motivations</li> <li>• information on patterns of drug use and links to offending</li> <li>• data to identify the risk factors associated with the onset and continuation of offending and drug use, and factors associated with desistance</li> </ul> <p>A further sweep is planned for 2006 and there will be a review in mid-2005 to assess the need for future surveys.</p>
<p>HO will introduce a new survey of crimes against businesses.</p>	<p>Initial results from the 2002 survey were published in 2004 and full findings are to be published in 2005. There are currently no plans to introduce a new survey, but the work on electronic data collection from police forces will improve the police recorded statistics relating to commercial crime.</p>

# Economy

## Summary of performance against plan in 2004/05

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<b>Developments</b>	
<b>National Accounts re- engineering</b>	
<p>The Office for National Statistics (ONS) will redevelop statistical processing systems and associated business processes for the National Accounts. This re-engineering project will deliver a fully tested and quality assured National Accounts system by March 2006.</p>	<p>The re-engineering of National Accounts remains a key component of ONS's Statistical Modernisation Programme (SMP). There has been some slippage in the preliminary phase of SMP, in which the main aims were to establish proof of concept for the systems being designed (see separate chapter on SMP for more details).</p> <p>As a result, there has been some reduction in the scope of what can now be delivered for SMP as a whole by March 2006 and alternative technical approaches to the development are now being explored, which should enable a more effective delivery programme. These technical options are being considered in the context of the top priorities for ONS in meeting user needs and the overall SMP vision. The delivery of those working systems for National Accounts by March 2006 which form major stepping stones to full delivery remains one of these high priorities.</p> <p>A considerable part of the work on National Accounts re-engineering over the past year has been on configuring the detailed calculations required in the new system. However, slower progress on the delivery of systems has meant that limited progress has been made on testing and analysis.</p> <p>A great deal of progress has though been made over the last year in specifying the methods that will be used to put into practice the findings of the High Level Methods Review. The outline for a new quarterly and annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) system based on the supply-use framework has been established. These requirements are being used in the systems analysis work to specify the systems that will be used to implement the new methods. Other areas of considerable development have been in defining the methods for a monthly GDP system and a thorough review of the Dividends and Interest Matrix.</p>
<b>Regional Accounts</b>	
<p>ONS will develop a work programme for implementation of the recommendations arising from the Allsopp Review into Statistics for Economic Policymaking.</p>	<p>ONS is currently developing a work programme for implementation of the Allsopp Review. See the chapter on Supporting devolved policymaking for more information.</p>

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<p>ONS will publish estimates of regional/sub-regional household income to inform the next European Union (EU) cohesion report.</p>	<p>ONS published regional and local area Gross Value Added (GVA) in December 2004. These data were compiled using Inland Revenue (IR) PAYE data and signal a return to the regular timetable for publication of regional economic data. Both of these were recommendations in the Allsopp report.</p> <p>There was a delay in publishing regional household income data. However, these data were published in April 2005. Data on regional gross fixed capital formation will be published in the second half of 2005.</p> <p>ONS continues to improve the quality of the current Regional Accounts datasets, and has provided information about improved methods and analysis of input data alongside its published datasets.</p>
<p>ONS will investigate methodologies to produce constant price regional GDP estimates to supplement the current price series already produced by Regional Accounts.</p>	<p>The development of constant price regional GDP will be addressed by the Allsopp Programme and in response to the Regional Accounts Quality Review.</p>
<b>Productivity</b>	
<p>ONS will review the future development of government output, productivity and associated price indices under a review team headed by Sir Tony Atkinson. ONS will publish a preliminary report in July 2004 and a final report in January 2005.</p>	<p>An interim report was published in July 2004 and the final report, <i>Measurement of Government Output and Productivity in the National Accounts</i>, was published on 31 January 2005 (<a href="http://www.statistics.gov.uk/atkinson">www.statistics.gov.uk/atkinson</a>).</p> <p>The National Statistician responded to the report's publication with a broad welcome, while reserving a detailed response until he had fully digested the recommendations. To respond to the challenge that the Atkinson recommendations embody, he announced the creation of the UK Centre for the Measurement of Government Activity. This is an integral directorate of ONS and subject to the National Statistician's authority and executive management, but with its own advisory board of eminent experts, to assist and advise in taking forward its agenda.</p> <p>For more details see the section on the Atkinson Review in the chapter: Other developments in 2004/05.</p>
<p>ONS will continue to work on ways of better integrating labour market statistics and National Accounts. ONS will produce estimates of multi-factor productivity in 2004/05.</p>	<p>Work on the links between labour market statistics and the National Accounts led to improvements in the productivity methodology, published in summer 2004. Results of the work are also informing the re-engineering of the National Accounts systems.</p> <p>Estimates of multi-factor productivity have progressed, with the development of both capital and labour input measures reflecting the changing composition of these inputs. However, publication will be delayed until summer 2005 as the effect of improvements to input series and to the methodologies are taken on. This will mean that the results are consistent with Blue Book 2005.</p>

Plan	Performance against plan
<b>Other developments in National Accounts</b>	
<p>ONS will continue to work on developing ways to measure the 'new economy'.</p>	<p>The development of information and communication technology (ICT) use surveys in households and enterprises has continued to produce statistics with improved quality and international comparability.</p> <p>A programme of work, sponsored by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), has identified the impact of ICT investment and use in UK firms, and this has led to the identification of potential improvements in use of ICT survey data. These are now being explored so as to improve investment data in National Accounts.</p> <p>ONS, sponsored by Eurostat, has led pilot work on surveys in the financial services sector.</p> <p>Based on its own work, and involvement in the Canberra Group, ONS has also proposed a framework to Eurostat to co-ordinate key objectives in new economy measurement, both within Europe and across the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).</p>
<p>ONS will develop constant price supply-use tables which will be used within the re-engineered National Accounts systems.</p>	<p>These tables will be developed as part of the National Accounts Re-engineering Project (NAREP).</p>
<p>ONS will develop the Environmental Accounts to improve existing estimates for forestry and public sector environmental protection expenditure, and also to meet any additional data requirements needed for Sustainable Development Indicators.</p>	<p>The ONS Environmental Accounts Team worked in consultation with colleagues at the Forestry Commission to produce information on woodland diversity for 2003 and wood products and production for 1994 to 2003. These data were published for the first time in the autumn 2004 edition of <i>Environmental Accounts</i>.</p> <p>Improved estimates of public sector environmental protection expenditure were published in the spring 2004 edition of <i>Environmental Accounts</i>, following liaison with colleagues in Her Majesty's Treasury (HMT).</p> <p>ONS is continuing to work with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) on the supply and development of information required for the Sustainable Consumption and Production Indicators.</p>
<p>ONS, in conjunction with Eurostat, will develop a practical guidance manual for EU countries wishing to develop Health Accounts entitled <i>SHA Guidelines</i>. This manual will be available electronically by May 2004.</p>	<p>The external Project Board approved the <i>SHA Guidelines</i> and the other project products prior to being submitted to Eurostat in May 2004. Eurostat formally accepted <i>SHA Guidelines</i> and the other products in November 2004, noting 'All persons contacted unanimously told us that they were pleased with the content and the quality of the project deliverables. They all suggested to Eurostat to accept the report without further change requests. This is fully in line with our own evaluation results.'</p>

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<p>ONS will carry out a project to develop a monthly measure of GDP.</p>	<p>The production of monthly GDP remains one of the planned outcomes for the re-engineered National Accounts.</p> <p>ONS made a very promising start during 2004/05 on the development of a monthly measure of output. This will combine the existing Index of Production (IoP) and Index of Services (IoS), together with data on agriculture and construction, into a single coherent framework. Core methods work and an audit of existing processes/methods are now nearing completion, and systems development will begin late in 2005.</p> <p>A precursor for this work is the development of the IoS as a mainstream National Statistic, which is planned for completion during 2006. Five more services industries were reviewed last year, bringing the percentage of the index which has been reviewed to 82 per cent.</p>
<p>ONS will carry out a joint project with DTI to improve the quality of quarterly estimates of construction output and this will include consideration of a monthly survey of the construction sector. The final report for this project will be published in 2004.</p>	<p>The DTI and ONS published their final report into the early estimates of construction output for GDP in December 2004. The report explores why there were revisions to the estimates of construction sector output growth between the first quarter and the second quarter of 2003 and what they were, and looks into the scope for improving these early estimates.</p> <p>It proposes that ONS offers DTI continuing technical assistance to investigate ways of providing monthly estimates of construction output, either model- or survey-based.</p>
<p>ONS will continue to develop monthly and geographical Balance of Payments (BoP) analyses to meet European Central Bank (ECB) data collection requirements for portfolio investment and the geographical breakdown specified under the new EU BoP Regulation which comes into force in 2006.</p>	<p>Production of monthly estimates of BoP key current account items has continued and these are published by ONS as experimental statistics. Contingency plans to meet ECB requirements for portfolio investment have been prepared for potential implementation as appropriate in the future. Preparations to meet the geographical requirements of the EU BoP regulation in 2006 are on track.</p>
<p>HMT will publish accounts for the central government sector for 2003/04 based on UK Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (UK GAAP).</p>	<p>HMT is well advanced with preparing accounts for the central government sector for 2003/04 based on UK GAAP.</p>
<p><b>Northern Ireland</b></p>	
<p>The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) will provide an e-survey facility for the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI) and will also introduce results from the newly developed Northern Ireland ABI data collection and analysis system.</p>	<p>An e-survey facility was developed for the ABI and was made available for respondents to the 2004 survey in January 2005. ABI results for 2003 were produced using the DETI data collection and analysis system.</p>

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
DETI will publish results from the experimental IoS, subject to them meeting required quality standards. An e-survey capability will be established for IoS by spring 2005 and work will commence on a chain-linked IoP.	IoS results indexed to 2001 and produced on a chain-linked basis are due to be published by June 2005. The IoS e-survey facility is scheduled to be introduced in the second quarter of 2005 and a chain-linked IoP rebased to 2001 was published in January 2005.
DETI will publish a compendium of economic statistics in spring 2005, which will bring together all of the business statistics collected by DETI.	The scope of the publication has been widened to include economic research conducted by or on behalf of DETI so as to better inform economic decision-making. It is scheduled to be published in June 2005.
DETI and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board will examine ways in which existing tourism statistics can be improved consistent with the requirements of the TSA.	A first-steps project was commissioned to produce a prototype TSA for Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic. This optimised the use of existing data sources and identified data needs for full TSA compliance.
<b>Scotland</b>	
Scottish Executive (SE) will review the methodology for the Scottish quarterly manufactured export series.	The methodology was reviewed and a new quarterly series was introduced in July 2004.
SE will improve the non-resident expenditure data and finance data in the Scottish input-output tables.	New data sources were investigated and information was combined with data from UK tourism surveys, the International Passenger Survey (IPS) and the Expenditure and Food Survey (EFS). Detailed resident and non-resident tourist expenditure was derived and this was incorporated into the 2001 input-output tables published in December 2004.
SE will work on the Economic Systems Development Project which will develop the Scottish macroeconomic statistical systems and processes.	Work has begun to harmonise a variety of macroeconomic statistics produced for Scotland within a structured framework. Data for Scotland from the UK Regional Accounts were used as a constraining variable in the 2001 input-output tables and this was used to produce the GDP weights for 2001. Further improvements will feed into the 2002 tables.
SE will produce a draft Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) for Scotland in summer 2004.	A provisional Scottish TSA for 2000 was produced and details were published in <i>Scottish Economic Statistics 2004</i> .
SE will update Scottish industry weights to 2001 as part of the project to develop chain-linked Scottish GDP data.	Industry weights were updated to 2001 in October 2004.
<b>Wales</b>	
The National Assembly for Wales (NAW) will commission work on developing a short-term indicator for hotels and restaurants.	NAW commissioned work both into an Index of Hotels and Restaurants (IoH/R) as well as an Index of Transport. A report investigating the options to take the IoH/R work forward has been completed and work has begun on developing an experimental index. Investigation into an Index of Road Transport has been completed and work on an index is planned.

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<p>NAW will publish an experimental Index of Distribution for Wales in 2004.</p>	<p>An experimental Index of Distribution was published in November 2004 and it is intended that this will become a regular quarterly output. There is ongoing work investigating the back data. It is intended that eventually this index will become a National Statistic.</p>
<b>Developments in price statistics</b>	
<p>ONS will participate in a Eurostat taskforce to investigate the feasibility of using price level data to monitor price convergence with the EU and eurozone.</p>	<p>A joint Purchasing Power Parities (PPP)/Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) Task Force looked at developing indicators of price convergence and the possibility of producing regional PPPs derived from data collected as part of the Eurostat PPP comparison programme and from national Consumer Prices Index (CPI) data collections. Eurostat stopped this work once it became clear that users would want more detail on price convergence than could be supplied by National Statistics Institutes and that there were high costs associated with developing these measures. It also became clear that regional price variations were smaller than had been expected, and work on producing regional PPPs was dropped in favour of improving PPPs at a national level.</p>
<p>ONS will take a lead role in the planning of the next round of the International Price Comparison Programme (ICP), which is a global statistical initiative established to produce internationally comparable price levels, expenditure values and PPP estimates.</p>	<p>The ICP is a global initiative which aims to produce comparable estimates of GDP per capita and price level indices for over 150 countries. It is organised on a regional level and it is co-ordinated by a 'global office' located within the World Bank. The results of the regional ICP programmes will be linked together to give global results via a supplementary global survey of around 18 countries known as the 'ring comparison'.</p> <p>ONS is taking an active role in delivering this high-profile international initiative, which is seen by the Government as a key programme and has received substantial financial support from the Department for International Development (DFID). The National Statistician is a member of the ICP Executive Board, which has responsibility for the governance of the programme, and ONS is acting as the co-ordinator for the Eurostat/OECD countries participating in the ring comparison (Estonia, Japan, Slovenia and the UK). ONS is providing technical support to the ICP Africa region co-ordinated by the African Development Bank where the programme is also seen as a vehicle for statistical capacity building.</p> <p>The results of the ICP will be used in assessing progress towards the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals.</p>

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<p>ONS will continue to work with Eurostat in carrying out a pilot project to see whether the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) known in the UK as the CPI can be extended to include owner occupier's housing costs by way of a 'net acquisitions' index of new dwellings prices.</p>	<p>The first stage of the Eurostat pilot project was completed in early 2004. The results of this stage were promising, but there remain a number of difficult technical issues to be resolved before the suitability of this approach can be evaluated, in particular the treatment of land, and the limited volume of data available in some smaller Member States as a consequence of the low number of house transactions. Eurostat plans to launch the second stage of this pilot, which will be expanded to cover more countries, during 2005. ONS intends to continue to play an active role in this pilot project.</p>
<p><b>Developments in trade statistics</b></p>	
<p>Her Majesty's Customs and Excise (HMC&amp;E) will continue development of its trade information systems, through provision of a web-driven alert service which will be developed to deliver multi-departmental messages relevant to importers/exporters directly to the target audience. HMC&amp;E will continue to promote the use of this electronic service.</p>	<p>Following customer consultation, the online Trade Information Service <a href="http://www.uktradeinfo.com">www.uktradeinfo.com</a> has been restyled to provide simpler access and navigation for users. Additionally, access to the detailed eight-digit level trade data and associated products has been made available free of charge, to encourage the widest possible use. Other enhancements have included the development and promotion of proactive datasets for specific trade sectors, and to reflect items of topical interest. These changes have generated positive customer feedback and 1.5 million web hits for 2004/05.</p> <p>The Intrastat information service now includes an online gateway that provides a basic introduction to the legal obligations of new declarants. The gateway also gives a structured route to more detailed Intrastat web content and tools, including an enhanced, searchable electronic Intrastat Classification Nomenclature.</p> <p>The <a href="http://uktradeinfo.com">uktradeinfo</a> alert service continues to grow and now offers statistics and import/export related alerts from Defra, ONS, DTI, the Rural Payments Agency and the Food Standards Agency as well as from across Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). Approximately 5,000 customers currently subscribe.</p>
<p>HMC&amp;E will also continue to develop its e-business programme. This programme aims to offer businesses simpler and more convenient ways to transact. This programme will also include technology to improve the risk-based assurance of data and reduce the cost of compliance for businesses.</p>	<p>The development of an enhanced electronic system for the collection of trade data with interactive input and editing capabilities is being taken forward within the wider HMRC e-business requirements, and it is unlikely that delivery will be achieved before the end of 2006 at the earliest.</p>
<p>HMC&amp;E will work on linking trade statistics with the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR) to improve the accuracy of statistics reported by company branches.</p>	<p>The agreement for data access is now in place and the methodology developed during the pilot stage is being refined. HMRC expects to move to delivering outputs during 2005/06.</p>

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
HMC&E will expand its Intrastat collection of EU trade statistics following the expansion of the EU. HMC&E will also run a training programme for those traders it has identified as being brought into the Intrastat reporting system as a result of this expansion.	HMC&E amended all delivery channels, including uktradeinfo.com, in accordance with EU changes and delivered a targeted marketing campaign to ensure that importers and exporters affected by EU enlargement had access to the information they needed to meet their Intrastat responsibilities. A web-based microsite was also developed to encourage self-service access to electronic information and data collection systems. Integrated communication and web-based information services will be a key element in delivering Intrastat compliance strategies in 2006.
HMC&E will work to accommodate changes arising from the revision of the basic Intrastat Regulation which is due to be implemented from 1 January 2005.	The new regulations were implemented on 1 January 2005. A promotional campaign has been executed to boost business awareness, utilising the uktradeinfo alert service, customer email contacts and appropriate web content. HMRC is now working with businesses to ensure compliance with the new regulations.
<b>Quality Reviews</b>	
ONS will publish the revised Quality Review of Regional Accounts. This will be followed by an official ONS response and action plan.	The revised Regional Accounts Quality Review was completed in 2004. ONS is now forming a response, with reference to the Allsopp programme. The review and the ONS response will be published in due course.
The Quality Review of Balance of Payments (BoP) Statistics will be published.	<p>The report for BoP and Trade Statistics was published on the National Statistics website in September 2004. The plan to implement the recommendations detailed in the Quality Review report was released at the same time.</p> <p>The project team reviewed the progress of implementing recommendations in January 2005, and an updated implementation plan was published in February 2005:  <a href="http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/quality/reviews/downloads/ImpPlan.doc">www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/quality/reviews/downloads/ImpPlan.doc</a></p>
In addition to the formal National Statistics Quality Reviews described above, the Retail Prices Index (RPI) Research Programme will continue for both RPI and HICP.	<p>During 2004 statistical techniques developed between 2001 and 2004 achieved acceptance and became incorporated in the regular work of ONS. In particular, 2004 saw the introduction in regular index production of hedonic methods for the explicit measurement of quality change in high-tech goods and also witnessed more extensive use of electronic scanner data for the selection of the individual items to be priced and for setting weights.</p> <p>In 2005 ONS will investigate the possible extension of these techniques and will also examine more strategic issues: an extended review of sampling procedures at all levels to ensure that the price quotes collected are representative of retail expenditure, and the examination of alternative data sources for index construction, such as checkout scanner data. A review will also be conducted of internal data handling procedures to ensure cost-effectiveness and statistical efficiency.</p>

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<b>Additions to plan from 2003/04 Work Programme</b>	
<p>ONS will develop a system to allow researchers to have access to restricted microdata.</p>	<p>ONS has developed a virtual lab for accessing restricted microdata in a secure setting. This allows ONS, other government departments and researchers seconded into government to conduct empirical work which otherwise would not be possible while protecting the data in a secure environment. A focus of such work has been on productivity by analysing the determinants of business activity, such as e-commerce activity, using linked business surveys.</p>

# Education and Training

## Summary of performance against plan in 2004/05

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<b>Developments</b>	
<b>Schools statistics</b>	
<p>The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and devolved administrations will ensure maximum benefit from exploitation of the Pupil-Level Annual School Census (PLASC) and equivalent databases.</p>	<p>DfES used PLASC data to publish a range of tables in 2004/05 showing pupil numbers broken down by several variables. It also published detailed Key Stage assessment statistics broken down by various pupil characteristics. This was made possible by linking together individual pupil-level attainment records and the corresponding PLASC data.</p> <p>As part of the DfES's New Relationship with Schools Programme, a data dissemination project was initiated in 2004. This project has started a user consultation exercise around the exploitation of PLASC and other school-related data sources. This will continue in 2005/06 and may lead to the production of new PLASC-related outputs.</p> <p>In Scotland, collection of attainment, exclusions, attendance and absence data at pupil level has enabled a wide range of additional analyses to be carried out. Work is progressing to increase the volume, range and quality of data provided at unit level. This work increases the analytical possibilities, decreases the burden on respondents, and allows data to be collected once and used many times.</p> <p>In Northern Ireland, a wide variety of analyses were conducted at individual pupil level.</p>
<p>Departments will extend the range of data that is available on the Internet via the Neighbourhood Statistics Service (NeSS). Areas under investigation include early years, schools, further education (FE), higher education (HE) and adult learning. DfES will make pupil-level data available, including residence-based participation and General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) performance.</p>	<p>DfES has used data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and the School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables (SCAAT) to publish data on NeSS at ward and local authority (LA) district level looking at the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• number of resident postgraduate and undergraduate students at Higher Education Institutions and student mobility in England</li> <li>• National Curriculum Assessments of 14 and 15-year-olds.</li> </ul>

Plan	Performance against plan
	<p>DfES has also published small area information going back to 1997 on the Floor Targets Interactive Service sponsored by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) (<a href="http://www.fti.neighbourhood.gov.uk/index.asp">www.fti.neighbourhood.gov.uk/index.asp</a>). The information monitors progress towards Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets relating to the National Curriculum Assessments of 11, 14 and 15-year-olds.</p> <p>In addition, DfES has published small area information about education and skills on the In Your Area website (<a href="http://www.dfes.gov.uk/inyourarea">www.dfes.gov.uk/inyourarea</a>). The website allows users to access key facts and local information about education and skills based on postcodes. The data available within the site offer comparisons between 1997 and the latest available year and cover five geographies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• parliamentary constituency</li> <li>• ward</li> <li>• LA district</li> <li>• local education authority (LEA)</li> <li>• Government office region (GOR)</li> </ul> <p>Figures for England as a whole are also provided.</p> <p>DfES has produced residency-based data at ward and LA district level looking at pupil characteristics and the National Curriculum Assessments of 7, 11, 14 and 15-year-olds. It is envisaged that this information will be published on the NeSS website later in 2005. The delay in releasing this data has been caused by investigative work within DfES and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) looking at statistical disclosure control.</p> <p>DfES is working with colleagues in the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to develop small area FE and work-based learning data for dissemination on the NeSS website later this year. Work is also ongoing with colleagues in ONS to develop small area data about early years and childcare and children's services.</p>
<p>DfES will investigate the issues surrounding the development of small area attainment data by pupil characteristics and the development of existing education and skills statistics at Census Output Area (COA) level.</p>	<p>DfES has developed and published small area attainment data split by pupil gender on the NeSS website at ward and LA levels. Further information split by pupil characteristics, including free school meals and special educational needs, has also been developed at ward and LA level. While data have been developed at the COA level, there are no immediate plans to publish information at this level because of issues surrounding confidentiality. Instead, DfES is working to develop and publish information at the lower and middle layer Super Output Areas (SOAs) on the NeSS website later this year. DfES is also working with the LSC to develop SOA level information about FE and work-based learning.</p>

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<p>DfES will change the design of the Youth Cohort Study (YCS) to take account of overlaps in coverage with a new Longitudinal Study of Young People in England and data from the National Pupil Database (NPD) and PLASC.</p>	<p>DfES has not yet changed the design of the YCS to account for overlaps with its new Longitudinal Study as the sample in the Longitudinal Study is a younger group than that in the YCS. As the sample moves towards the age at which the YCS begins, opportunities will become available to exploit linkages between the two studies.</p> <p>DfES has used data from the NPD instead of self-reported qualifications for the majority of respondents in the most recent YCS. This has reduced the burden on respondents and should avoid the small number of cases where reported qualifications are not accurate.</p>
<p>There are plans to extend the range of data collected from schools:</p> <p>In Wales, the PLASC will be extended in coverage and frequency to include all schools by 2005/06 and to meet the additional information requirements of the National Council for Education and Training (NCET) for sixth formers.</p> <p>The National Assembly for Wales (NAW) will carry out a consultation with users to determine the make up of the Common Basic Dataset (CBDS) with the aim that it will mirror developments in England and Scotland wherever possible.</p> <p>In England, DfES will carry out a project to enable the rationalised collection and dissemination of school workforce data by implementing the Adult Common Basic Dataset and co-ordinating the development of a Schools Workforce Database.</p>	<p>All schools were covered in the January 2005 PLASC (excluding independent schools and Pupil Referral Units), although software difficulties meant that not all schools with sixth forms have been able to provide data for September 2004.</p> <p>Consultation was undertaken from December 2004 to February 2005.</p> <p>An initial Schools Workforce Common Basic Dataset, that will underpin new individual level school workforce data collections, has been developed. Following widespread consultation, a series of pilot individual level collections is planned for 2006 and, if successful, these should lead to regular collections each term from January 2007 onwards. The new collections will provide valuable data on the characteristics, deployment and movement of teachers and support staff in England. Further background to the new collections can be found on: <a href="http://www.teachernet.gov.uk">www.teachernet.gov.uk</a></p>
<p>NCET will develop an interactive data system for the Lifelong Learner Wales Record (LLWR).</p>	<p>The system is operational internally within Education and Learning Wales (ELWa) and for education and training providers.</p>
<p>The Scottish Executive (SE) will continue to improve the content of, and collection arrangements for, data on the destination of school-leavers in Scotland</p>	<p>Extensive discussions have taken place over the last year to facilitate the transfer of pupil-level data between education authorities, Careers Scotland and the Scottish Executive Education Department. A mechanism for these transfers has now been agreed and it is expected the first transfer will take place in 2006/07.</p>
<p>NAW will link postcode information from PLASC to attainment data.</p>	<p>This was achieved by March 2005. The dataset forms part of the National Pupil Database (Wales) and analysis from this dataset will be available to schools, LEAs and the research community around summer 2005.</p>

Plan	Performance against plan
NAW will develop new validation processes to compare pupil-level school censuses.	This is a long-term project which is ongoing.
<b>Post- 16 learning statistics</b>	
LSC will extend validation and credibility checking for its web-based post-16 learning data collection systems.	<p>LSC receives post-16 individual learner data from providers using a web-based system. Data received are subject to checks on validity and credibility. During the last 12 months, significant work has been undertaken to improve the quality of data received from providers. This work has been a combination of one-off exercises and the introduction of systematic processes to improve the quality of data.</p> <p>The one-off exercises covered a range of post-16 data and placed emphasis on improving future data quality by highlighting the importance of data in overall post-16 planning and decision-making. The systematic approach focused on more immediate feedback to providers, highlighting areas where data potentially lacked credibility or the quality of data would either need to be confirmed or the data revised.</p>
LSC will continue to develop statistical publications on post-16 learning to cover satisfaction and destinations.	Information on learner satisfaction is collected and published annually by LSC. Recommendations from a learner destinations feasibility study are being taken forward. Initially this will require further research to identify user requirements for a future dataset.
LSC will review the information collected from FE colleges on staff numbers and their qualifications, with a view to significantly reducing the amount of information that is requested.	The study was completed and minor changes were made to the staff data collected for 2003/04 in the light of the report. Since then, LSC has started to look at radically changing the way it collects and uses management information, including staff data. In addition, DfES is looking at a new approach to collecting staff data for the whole post-16 sector.
A Teaching Quality Information (TQI) project will be taken forward in England, Wales and Northern Ireland to make data on teaching quality accessible through the Higher Education and Research Opportunities (HERO) website.	This project is run by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) on behalf of England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. A website has been developed and will go live early in 2005. Quantitative data are supplied by HESA.
LSC and DfES will work together to extend the NPD by matching data post-16 to give a much more complete picture of participation and attainment of learners up to the age of 21 in FE, work-based learning and school sixth forms.	<p>LSC and DfES jointly carried out a <i>National Statistics Quality Review of the Measurement of Attainment of Young People in England</i>, which is available on the National Statistics website.</p> <p>The review recommended moving to a new measure of PSA targets to increase level two and level three attainment by age 19. The new measure uses matched administrative data through the NPD. It will greatly improve accuracy of target measurement, the ability to track progress and the capacity to target under-performing areas.</p>

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
	<p>Post-16 attainment and participation data to 2003/04 have been matched to the NPD. This gives a complete picture of attainment by age 19 for the 2004 cohort and shows how attainment is building up for future 19-year-old cohorts. Attainment figures for the 2004 cohort were published in a DfES Statistical First Release (SFR) and will form the baseline for the PSA target to increase level two attainment at 19 years by 2006. Data will be matched on an annual basis, monitoring attainment up to age 22.</p>
<b>Adult education and work-based learning</b>	
<p>LSC and DfES are working together on a number of projects to make better use of adult education data by matching across years, for example, to improve monitoring of targets for the attainment of young people.</p>	<p>See above for progress on data matching for monitoring attainment targets for young people.</p> <p>LSC is considering options for matching data for older learners, but currently has no firm plans in this area.</p>
<b>Lifelong learning statistics</b>	
<p>HESA will explore the possibility of a universal student identifier. This work will be taken forward as a Management Information Across Partners (MIAP) project.</p>	<p>This has become a MIAP rather than a HESA project, although HESA is represented on the Project Board. In the face of continuing uncertainties over approval for the use of the National Insurance Number as a unique learner number (ULN), and with timetable pressures, the MIAP Programme Board has endorsed the recommendation of the ULN Project Board to proceed with the active development of the contingency proposal, subject to ministerial approval and the availability of funds.</p>
<p>The Basic Skills Agency will undertake a basic skills survey in Wales.</p>	<p>A basic skills survey was undertaken during 2003/04 and provisional results were reported in December 2004.</p>
<p>DfES will review measurement of the Basic Skills Target to investigate use of awarding body data to increase completeness, quality and timeliness.</p>	<p>Comparisons were carried out during the year of the results on using the data from the Individualised Learning Record (ILR), collected by LSC, and awarding body data. As a result, it is proposed to measure progress towards the target by use of the ILR. An external statistical review of the methodology of measuring the progress to the target is planned for summer 2005, with a view to publishing results of progress to the target in an SFR.</p>
<b>Higher education statistics</b>	
<p>HESA will extend its staff data collection to cover all staff, not just teaching and research staff, using a new full coverage individual record.</p>	<p>A new staff record has been introduced successfully for the 2003/04 collection, replacing three previous collections, and it has already yielded valuable information. In the first year, collection excluded 'atypical' staff, that is, broadly speaking, those who do not have full-time or proportionate part-time contracts. They will be included in the 2004/05 collection.</p>

Plan	Performance against plan
HESA will review the Finance Statistics Record.	The Finance Statistics Record has been reviewed and some simplifications have been made for implementation for the 2004/05 collection.
HESA will carry out further work to make it easier for institutions to use the Standard Occupational Classification codes (SOC 2000) for student/parental occupation, occupation of graduates and occupation of HE staff.	This work has been carried out successfully through the Institute for Employment Research, University of Warwick by Professor Peter Elias.
HESA will employ a consultant to explore the range of HE provision, particularly private provision, not captured by current data collection procedures.	A consultant has been identified and the project awaits detailed specification and authorisation through DfES, which is the source of funding.
HESA will collect data on national identity in addition to their existing ethnicity field. Data will be collected from 2005/06 on the student record and from 2003/04 on the staff record.	This applies only at Welsh HE Institutions and, in the case of students, to those of Welsh domicile, and has been taken forward as planned.
HESA will redesign its publications and these will incorporate a CD-ROM for detailed information.	Redesigned publications in this style were produced commencing with those based on 2002/03 data.
HEFCE will begin to develop new access performance indicators (PIs) to meet the requirements set out in the Government White Paper <i>The Future of Higher Education</i> .	HESA has now taken over the publication of PIs, but the Performance Indicators Steering Group, chaired by HEFCE, remains responsible for development and specification. As yet, no new indicators have been defined.
DfES will publish an SFR on the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) in spring 2004.	DfES published an SFR in April 2004 which gave the HEIPR disaggregated by gender for the academic years 1999/2000 to 2002/03 and there was a further SFR in April 2005.
<b>Other developments</b>	
LSC, DfES, Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) and the Adult Learning Inspectorate will jointly announce a new set of measures of success in 2004.	<p>In spring 2004 the partners published a document outlining the new priority measures of success for development: <a href="http://www.successforall.gov.uk/index.cfm?pg=96">www.successforall.gov.uk/index.cfm?pg=96</a></p> <p>The priority measures, and progress made during 2004/05, are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learner success rates. Specification for a work-based learning measure comparable with FE will be developed and introduced during 2005/06. DfES and ministers are considering whether to extend the annual schools census so that a school sixth-form measure comparable to FE can be calculated. The methodology for curriculum-adjusted success rates is nearing completion and will be introduced by the end of 2005.</li> </ul>

Plan	Performance against plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Value added and distance travelled measures for 16 to 19-year-olds had the specifications developed during 2004/05, and the measures will be piloted during autumn and winter 2005 and rolled out in autumn 2006. A quantitative distance travelled measure for adult learners was deemed infeasible.</li> <li>• New measures to support the delivery of the Skills Strategy are planned to be piloted in 2005/06 and rolled out in 2006/07.</li> <li>• A value-for-money indicator will be developed and tested in 2005/06, piloted in 2006/07 and fully implemented in 2007/08.</li> </ul>
<p>LSC will carry out a pilot national learning destinations survey in 2004.</p> <p>ELWa will carry out a similar telephone survey for Wales.</p>	<p>LSC is taking forward recommendations from a learner destinations feasibility study. Initially this will require further research to identify user requirements for a future dataset.</p> <p>A pilot survey for work-based learners was undertaken in 2004.</p>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	
<p>Department of Education, Northern Ireland (DENI) will publish information on the religion of pupils in special schools.</p>	<p>A table showing the religion of pupils in special schools was published in an SFR in April 2004.</p>
<p>DENI will extend coverage of the School Leavers Survey to include special schools.</p>	<p>Problems with new software in secondary schools meant that the provision of the relevant software for special schools had to be delayed. It is hoped that the software will be installed in all special schools by 2005/06.</p>
<b>Scotland</b>	
<p>SE will integrate the survey on pre-school and childcare staff into the main census of pre-school and children's day care.</p>	<p>Figures were published in an integrated way, receiving good feedback from the users of statistics.</p>
<p>SE will publish new statistics on the characteristics of those children entering secure accommodation and what happens to them there.</p>	<p>Figures were published as part of a holistic publication on children's social work services.</p>
<p>From autumn 2004 SE will receive data on pupil-level attendance, absence and exclusions through the Scottish Exchange of Educational Data (ScotXed). This will provide new categories of analysis and allow linkage to pupil characteristics from the school census and to attainment data. Publication of this data is expected in December 2004.</p>	<p>This was achieved, with publications receiving good feedback from the users of statistics.</p>
<p>SE will review the collection of child protection statistics. This will ensure that the collection is policy relevant and will maximise alignment with national standards introduced as part of the Child Protection Reform Programme.</p>	<p>A new statistical collection, Children in need statistics, is currently being piloted and these statistics will be collected nationally for the first time in 2006/07.</p>

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
SE will review information gathering on discipline in Scottish schools. The review will be completed in 2004 and will ensure that, as far as possible, plans for data collection during the academic year 2004/05 can be adjusted to reflect the review outcome.	The review group reported in October 2004. The decision was taken to discontinue the annual collection of statistics. It will be replaced by a sample survey of teachers' perceptions, taking place every three years.
SE will carry out a student income and expenditure survey.	The survey is currently in the field. It is expected that the results will be reported in summer 2005.
SE will work with schools, LAs and management information systems developers to ensure good quality data for individual pupil records in the 5 to 14 age group covering attainment of individual pupils and young people's attendance, absence and exclusion from school.	This was mainly achieved, with the majority of LAs providing good quality attainment data for the 2003/04 school year. However, policy developments relating to the assessment of the 5 to 14 age group have meant that the data requirements in this area have changed.
<b>Wales</b>	
ELWa will roll out the LLWR to FE colleges and work-based learner providers. Data will also be collected on the national identity of students and staff as well as the Welsh-speaking ability of students.	From August 2003 LLWR was rolled out to all FE institutions and LEA Community Learning providers. In addition, following a period of trial running, from August 2004 LLWR was the principal data collection system for work-based learning providers. First results for 2003/04 were published in April 2005.
<b>Quality Reviews</b>	
DfES will publish the School Workforce Review.	The final report, <i>NSQR Series Report No 39 – Review of School Workforce Statistics</i> , was released on the National Statistics website in September 2004.
HESA will complete implementation of the recommendations from the Destinations Review.	The National Statistics Review of Destinations Data has been completed and is under consideration by the Education and Training Theme Working Group.
DfES will work on the Early Years and Childcare Review.	Due to resource issues there is no further progress to report on this review since the previous annual report. The review is on hold pending the recruitment of suitably qualified resources. It is anticipated that these resources will be recruited and the review completed by December 2005.
HESA will implement the recommendations arising from the reviews mandated by the Better Regulation Task Force (BRTF) reports.	Changes recommended by these reviews have either been made already or are scheduled within a work programme.
<b>International developments</b>	
SE will publish an analysis of the Scottish results from the 2000 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).  In addition, a new publication <i>International Data on Education in Scotland</i> will be published in November 2004. This will put Scotland's performance in education in an international context.	This was achieved and results were published in June 2004.  It was decided during the year that there was little customer demand for the publication and it was subsequently dropped.

# Health and Care

## Summary of performance against plan in 2004/05

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<b>Developments</b>	
<b>Organisational structures</b>	
<p>In 2004/05 there will be a merger in the Department of Health (DH) of 'statistical' functions with 'economic' and 'operational research' functions to form an overall 'analytical services' function. Analytical staff will be placed in each of the three new DH groups to ensure closer links with strategy, delivery, and standards and quality functions. It is expected that analytical staff will produce added-value cross-cutting analyses, but details are subject to stakeholder consultation.</p>	<p>Three new analytical teams were created in autumn 2004, with one group covering each of the three main business areas within DH.</p> <p>The drivers for this change are twofold: firstly to bring analysis closer to the centre of the policymaking process and to integrate analytical thinking more effectively into the Department's work, and, secondly, to use a multidisciplinary approach to get the best from the combined skills and talents of statisticians, economists and operational researchers.</p> <p>This has presented challenges in defining ways of working and in establishing new modes of relationship between analysts and policymakers, but there are clear examples of success in all three areas of strategy, delivery, and standards and quality.</p> <p>With their emerging work programmes for 2005/06, the three new teams are well placed to make a significant contribution to the work of DH in the coming year.</p>
<p>During 2004/05 a new Health and Social Care Information Centre (H&amp;SCIC) will be created. This will reduce the burden on health and social care providers while supporting the need for information sharing.</p>	<p>During 2004/05 work to establish a new H&amp;SCIC, as a National Health Service (NHS) Special Health Authority was undertaken.</p> <p>It was formally established on 1 April 2005, and takes on some of the information-related functions of the NHS Information Authority and some statistics and information management functions of DH (including social care).</p> <p>The Centre will co-ordinate and streamline the collection and sharing of health and social care data on behalf of the NHS, providing an important service to front-line staff by reducing the burden of information collection, allowing them to focus on providing care.</p> <p>Initially the Centre will concentrate on three interrelated strands of work. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• making information more accessible to care services, regulators, the Government and the public by providing access via common tools and software</li> </ul>

Plan	Performance against plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reducing the burden on health and social care providers by streamlining data collection, while supporting the need for information sharing for the purposes of (among others) patient choice, commissioning, accountability, evidence-based practice and policy formulation</li> <li>• strengthening the capacity for informed decision-making by providing support on how information should be used for managing all aspects of care, developing common classification systems, facilitating training and sharing best practice</li> </ul> <p>More information on the H&amp;SCIC can be found on its website: <a href="http://www.ic.nhs.uk">www.ic.nhs.uk</a></p>
<b>Health inequalities</b>	
<p>DH will continue to develop and populate a basket of indicators relating to health inequalities.</p>	<p>The London Health Observatory (LHO) is leading on this work and a project was started in January 2004 to establish a system to facilitate access to the indicators. Reports covering the background and development of the local basket and data for most of the indicators have been made available on the LHO website: <a href="http://www.lho.org.uk/health_inequalities/basket.htm">www.lho.org.uk/health_inequalities/basket.htm</a></p> <p>The indicators have been added in stages to the website. Population of the website is continuing and, subject to further negotiation, it is planned for these indicators to be incorporated onto the Neighbourhood Statistics (NeSS) website in due course.</p> <p>At a later stage of the project, it is intended that work will be undertaken in a number of areas, including making data available below local authority (LA)/ Primary Care Trust (PCT) level, ideally to Super Output Area level and providing additional inequalities dimensions (eg, by ethnicity and socio-economic group).</p>
<b>Children's care</b>	
<p>The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Northern Ireland (DHSSPS) will continue to develop tools to collect information on educational outcomes for children living in care and leaving care and information on unmet need in children and adult services.</p>	<p>Tools to collect information on educational outcomes for looked after children and care leavers, and assessed unmet need in children and adult social services have now been fully developed and are reviewed annually. Web-based electronic collections of Outcome Indicators (OCs) OC1, OC2 and OC3 have been introduced. The assessed unmet need collection was last issued in April 2004, and the OC1 and OC2 collections and first OC3 collections were issued in July 2004.</p>
<p>DHSSPS will develop information to underpin its Children's Strategy.</p>	<p>Information collections have been developed for looked after children and care leavers, adoption of looked after children, and assessed unmet need in children's services. These data will support the Children's Strategy. Other information needs may arise once the Strategy is developed.</p>

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
DHSSPS will publish information from the OC2 collection.	Information from the first OC2 collection was published in October 2004 in <i>Outcome Indicators for Looked after Children</i> .
The Scottish Executive (SE) will integrate data on childminders and the childcare workforce into a more cohesive statistical picture of pre-school and childcare in Scotland.	This was achieved with surveys of childminders and the remainder of the childcare sector run in 2004. Results were published in July 2004.
<b>Mortality</b>	
DH, Healthcare Commission and the Society for Cardiothoracic Surgeons will publish information on death rates within 30 days of surgery for every cardiac surgeon.	DH and H&SCIC are working with organisations, including the British Medical Association, to develop and improve data sources so that they can be robustly used for the purpose of comparing consultant teams. Key to this is the involvement of clinicians to help to ensure that data are correctly attributed to consultant teams, that activity is correctly coded, and to improve the completeness of data collected and the reporting of relevant information. The Royal College of Physicians (RCP), via the RCP iLab, and the Royal College of Surgeons have access to the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data, which can be shared with individual consultants. A Consultant Enquiry System has been developed to provide targeted and aggregate information for clinicians, medical directors and information officers in NHS Trusts, PCTs and Foundation Trusts. Work is also under way to link HES data to limited mortality information for specific analyses.
DH, Clinical Royal Colleges, the Healthcare Commission and other organisations will provide more information on mortality and the quality of clinical care. This will include developing existing information sources and clinical audit databases so that they can provide information at consultant level to support appraisal and revalidation of individual clinicians.	DH is working towards improving data sources so that they can be robustly used for the purpose of comparing consultant teams. This means alerting and engaging with clinicians and medical directors to help ensure that data are correctly attributed to consultant teams, that activity is correctly coded, and to improve the completeness of data collected and the reporting of relevant information.  Preliminary results from the HES database have been shared with NHS Trusts, so that work can be done locally to improve the data. In addition, the RCP and the Royal College of Surgeons have online access to the HES data, and a Consultant Enquiry System has been developed in partnership with the NHS Information Authority as a product for clinicians, medical directors and information officers in NHS Trusts.
<b>Hospital waiting times</b>	
DHSSPS will pilot data on total waiting times for breast cancer treatment.	Discussions with Health Boards are ongoing to identify suitable sites in Northern Ireland to pilot total waiting time data.

Plan	Performance against plan
<p>The National Assembly for Wales (NAW) will set up a pilot project to collect information on waiting times for diagnostics and therapeutic services in Wales.</p>	<p>Monthly data have been collected since April 2004 and made available to the NHS in Wales. Work continues to determine how this is made available more widely.</p>
<b>Health and safety</b>	
<p>The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) will develop methodology and statistical sources to measure days lost due to workplace injuries and work-related illness. This will lead to the development of a workplace Health and Safety Survey and development of a quality strategy for information received from external contractors.</p>	<p>HSE uses questions in the Labour Force Survey to derive measures of working days lost. In 2004/05 it developed a new methodology which provides consistent estimates for days lost due to injuries and to work-related ill health, including imputation for non-response. Figures for 2003/04, and revised estimates for 2000/01 and 2001/02, were published in <i>Health and Safety Statistics Highlights 2003/04</i>.</p> <p>Significant progress has been made on developing a new Workplace Health and Safety Survey (WHASS), a linked survey of employers and workers which will provide data on a range of factors linked to health and safety as well as on injury and ill health outcomes. Cognitive testing and piloting of the WHASS instruments took place in late 2004/05. This will be followed by a large-scale test of the full survey process, together with separate, stand-alone telephone surveys of employers and workers early in 2005/06, paving the way for the main survey with an anticipated start date of October 2005.</p> <p>The Incident Contact Centre (ICC), run by the external contractor National Britannia, handles 200,000 notifications each year of workplace incidents from employers. The ICC takes notifications in a range of media – paper, fax, email and telephone – and codes information on those incidents onto a database. In the last year HSE developed, with the ICC, new quality standards for data that focus on key priorities for HSE and set standards for different data based on need and achievability. These data standards should provide statistics more relevant for HSE's priority business needs.</p>
<b>Supporting Neighbourhood Statistics</b>	
<p>DH will develop health and care statistics for England at small area level. These will include location and access to General Practitioners (GPs) and primary care services, synthetic estimates of the prevalence of healthy lifestyles and increasing the geographic detail of address information collected for children in need.</p> <p>This work will also include an assessment of disclosure methodology and the geographic detail available from source data.</p>	<p>A number of sources of existing data have been identified for NeSS at the LA and PCT area levels. In addition, there has been much progress in identifying and linking into new sources of information.</p> <p>A project has been started to prepare synthetic estimates of healthy lifestyle behaviours at the PCT and ward level. This is close to completion and information is expected to be published in mid-2005.</p>

Plan	Performance against plan
	<p>The DH NeSS team investigated the possibility of collecting the postcode of those addresses relating to children in need and children in care through analysis of a survey, and made a number of recommendations. Responsibility for this work now rests with the Department for Education and Skills (DfES).</p> <p>An assessment of disclosure methods has been started and DH is working with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to develop appropriate methodologies to be applied to individual record data.</p>
<p>NHS Scotland and SE will continue to develop Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics to include a range of health data at smaller areas.</p>	<p>A wide range of health data is now available on the Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics website. Data are available as numbers and rates, and include information on hospital admissions, operations, immunisation, breastfeeding, teenage pregnancy, cancer registrations and GP practice information. Data are available for a range of time periods and geographies. The smallest area of geography for which data are available is the data zone (average population size 700). Due to issues of confidentiality, not all indicators are available at this smallest level of geography.</p>
Data access	
<p>Information and Statistics Division (ISD) NHS Scotland will implement ways to allow direct access to anonymised Scottish patient histories over NHSNet and other extranets.</p>	<p>ISD have completed the first phase of a corporate data warehousing program to provide access to anonymised, patient-centred data to authorised users across NHS Scotland. The first data mart, which incorporates linked acute, mental health, cancer and GRO deaths data, has been implemented and made available to users across ISD. Access across the NHSNet is currently being piloted by a small group of NHS board analysts.</p>
<p>All departments will review their data disclosure and data access policies in order to comply with the National Statistics <i>Protocol on Data Access</i> and <i>Protocol on Confidentiality and Data Matching</i>.</p>	<p>In Northern Ireland, data disclosure and access policies have been reviewed and a Code of Practice is being drafted to standardise and refine existing procedures and practices.</p> <p>In Wales, work is ongoing to draw up a standard protocol for release of data from national health databases.</p> <p>In England, in February 2005 the National Statistician agreed to undertake a review of disclosure issues around health statistics to report by summer 2005. The terms of reference are: 'to provide DH and H&amp;SCIC with guidelines for interpreting the <i>National Statistics Code of Practice</i> and associated Protocols in the handling of health statistics across the health community, in a way that balances data confidentiality risks with the public interest in the use of the figures'.</p> <p>In Scotland ISD has been reviewing its data disclosure rules and testing an alternative approach.</p>

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<b>Data linking</b>	
DH will work towards routinely linking HES with mortality data.	For some years, published indicators giving mortality rates for organisations have used linked HES-ONS data to pick up all deaths following hospitalisation.  Methodologies have been developed to improve the matching of HES data, to identify all events for the same patient, and also matching to deaths data, using an algorithm based on personal identifiers. Work is progressing to make these data available for wider usage.
Northern Ireland will develop its health and care number, which will facilitate data linkage at an individual level.	Work on this project is ongoing. It is expected that this unique identifier will be introduced by 2008.
<b>Agenda for Change</b>	
DH will continue to develop plans for the operational system to support the 'Agenda for Change', including an Electronic Staff Record. (ESR)	The ESR will replace 29 payroll systems and 38 Human Resources systems with a single, national integrated solution which will be used by all NHS organisations throughout England and Wales. Five pilot sites went live in 2004/05 and a data warehouse is being developed to enable automatic access to the ESR data. This will reduce the need for the majority of central NHS workforce data collections. Much of the development work has been done in 2004/05, with live data testing due to take place in summer 2005 and the ESR will go live later in 2005.
Northern Ireland will specify a new Human Resources Management System (HRMS) in response to the Agenda for Change.	The central HRMS database is undergoing a number of changes to accommodate the Agenda for Change. These include the development and introduction of new grade and department codes which will greatly facilitate workforce analysis and workforce planning.
<b>Learning difficulties</b>	
DHSSPS will publish data on the prevalence and service needs of persons with a learning disability.	The commissioned reports – <i>Administrative Prevalence of Learning Disability in NI</i> and <i>Modelling the Distribution of Services for People with Learning Disability in NI</i> – were published by DHSSPS in September 2004, as part of a consultation exercise on its new allocation formula.

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<p>DH will carry out a survey of people with learning difficulties.</p>	<p>In 2003/04 DH commissioned a survey of people with learning difficulties in England following a successful pilot in 2003. Interviews for nearly 3,000 people were completed in October 2004. The survey set out to establish from people with learning difficulties themselves what their whole lives are like, including where they live and with whom, their daytime activities, and their needs, wants and aspirations. People were asked to describe current use of services, as well as their views on the services, to help establish the gaps between the current provisions for people with learning difficulties and what they would like.</p> <p>People with learning difficulties have been an integral part of the project board throughout.</p> <p>The survey report is due to be published in July 2005.</p>
<b>Improving geographic coherence</b>	
<p>DH and ONS will work together to determine the population and vital statistics that can be made available for the smaller NHS areas, where they are not coterminous with LAs.</p>	<p>There are two issues that relate to improving geographic coherence: issues of disclosure related to non-coterminosity of PCT areas to LAs, and work required to clarify the local boundary position between PCTs and LAs.</p> <p><b>Disclosure</b></p> <p><i>Population statistics</i></p> <p>The mid-2001 to mid-2003 population estimates for PCT areas were released in February 2005 by ONS. PCT populations will now be produced annually and it is planned that the mid-2004 data will be released in November 2005.</p> <p><i>Vital statistics</i></p> <p>A review was announced in February 2005 which related to data access where small numbers were involved. Details of this can be found in the Data access section above.</p> <p><b>Local boundaries</b></p> <p>There have been a series of changes to electoral ward names and boundaries since 2000 when PCT Establishment Orders were created. As a result of these changes, there will be a number of cases where PCT Establishment Orders may need to be amended so that they accurately reflect the current local situation.</p> <p>ONS Geography Team prepared a summary of the ward changes in each PCT, including changes to ward names and/or boundary changes since 2001. It also highlighted those ward boundary changes which may have an impact on the overall boundary of the named PCT and neighbouring PCTs.</p> <p>In summer 2005 ONS will contact all Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs), asking relevant PCTs to clarify their local boundary position.</p>

Plan	Performance against plan
<p>DHSSPS will publish a new regional strategy for Health and Personal Social Services and will continue development of a data warehouse.</p>	<p>A 20-year Regional Strategy, entitled <i>A Healthier Future</i>, was published in December 2004. Development of a data warehouse is ongoing.</p>
<p><b>Hospital activity</b></p>	
<p>NAW will examine ways in which maternity data can be improved via the main Patient Episode Database Wales (PEDW).</p>	<p>Some additional data have been included in the annual Statistical Release <i>Maternity Statistics: method of delivery</i> published using PEDW data.</p> <p>Work is now proceeding, in consultation with stakeholders, to identify the best way to rationalise data flows from maternity systems to the centre utilising the new National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD).</p>
<p>DHSSPS will consider proposals to carry out a private patient data collection to complement the Hospital Information System. Work will also continue on the patient level waiting list exemplar.</p>	<p>Plans to pilot a private patient data collection system are being developed with Health Boards. Work on the patient level waiting list exemplar is ongoing.</p>
<p>SE/NHS Scotland will reconcile cancer and coronary heart disease clinical databases with Scottish morbidity records.</p>	<p>For some years now, ISD has been working with regional cancer networks and national organisations to develop integrated cancer datasets that eliminate duplication in data collection. These datasets are intended for use both in clinical and non-clinical settings, and contain items to address clinical effectiveness and best practice standards, cancer registration and waiting times. In the initial stages, appropriate national data definitions were used to facilitate extraction of information from existing IT systems, but now cancer core standards are being developed as part of the eHealth National Clinical Dataset Development Programme (NCDDP). NCDDP work is also currently developing endometrial, breast and head and neck site specific data standards to support the development of pilot national generic standards. Other cancer standards will follow.</p> <p>ISD has funded staff in cardiology departments to improve the quality of data in the Scottish Coronary Revascularisation Database (SCRD). It has also funded the procurement of a new clinical IT system in cardiology and cardiac surgery departments which, in time, should be able to generate acute hospital discharge records (SMR01) data directly. ISD also has a programme of work ongoing to improve the completeness and quality of the SMR01 data recording and is linking records to identify particular problems of disagreement between the SCRd and SMR01.</p>

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
DH will start to collect data for outpatient appointments as an extension to HES. Work will also be done to mandate clinical coding, which will improve the quality and completeness of the data.	Information on outpatient attendances, 'did not attends' (DNAs) and cancellations has been added to the HES data warehouse. Work is under way to assess the completeness and quality of the information so that guidance can be provided to customers and stakeholders.  The inclusion of complete and accurate clinical data is encouraged to support patient care and local planning, and is likely to be a requirement of the developing patient clinical record. Recently Accident & Emergency data have also been added to HES and preliminary analysis will commence shortly.
<b>Workforce planning</b>	
DHSSPS will collect new workforce data to better inform workforce planning on a coherent multi-professional basis. This will begin with a pilot exercise in respect of the mental health and learning disability programmes.	The pilot study involved an extensive data collection exercise, which was completed in June 2004 and was of great benefit in informing the resultant workforce plan. Lessons learned have been fed through to the Department's central workforce planning group.
NHS Scotland will improve the frequency of data for all staff groups during 2004/05.	Six-monthly statistics for all non-medical NHS Scotland staff were published in August 2004 and February 2005. A new medical and dental web-based system was put in place to allow more frequent, quarterly reporting of consultant numbers and vacancies. Timeliness of all publications has increased in 2004/05, with information now published four months following data collection.
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	
DHSSPS will continue to develop data on ambulatory care and non-consultant led activity.	Work in these areas is ongoing.
DHSSPS will continue to develop a system to collect and disseminate information on a range of key service pressure information on a daily basis via Intranets with consideration given to extending the system to include extra pages to cover emergency planning and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).	The pilot system reporting key daily service pressures information is live and continues to be developed.
<b>Wales</b>	
NAW will set up project groups to collect data on previously unreported activity. Publication of this data will be phased in as quality improves.	Agreement has been reached to proceed with asking the NHS in Wales to report on nurse-led activity in outpatient departments. This will form part of the outpatient minimum dataset.
NAW will continue fieldwork for the new Welsh Health Survey, which will collect information on health, health-related behaviour and use of health services throughout the year.	Fieldwork for the new Welsh Health Survey continued, and the first provisional results were published.

Plan	Performance against plan
<p>New data collection processes will be implemented to inform the 'balanced scorecard' approach to performance management in the NHS in Wales.</p>	<p>NAW has set up a Project Board to oversee implementation of the balanced scorecard across NHS Wales.</p> <p>Monitoring of Service and Financial Framework targets has been implemented and procedures for the collation and presentation of data for the balanced scorecard approach have been developed.</p>
<b>Other developments</b>	
<p>The Health and Care Theme Working Group will discuss plans for a framework for UK health and care statistics. This will build on work presented at the 2001 Statistics User Council Conference and will ensure that these statistics are comprehensive, coherent and meet user needs. It will also help to identify gaps and weaknesses in particular national systems.</p>	<p>Due to other, higher priority developments, this issue was not discussed by the Theme Working Group but it will be considered by the Group as part of its response to the Statistics Commission's recent report on Health Statistics.</p>
<p>DH and NHS Scotland will continue to improve the completeness and quality of the Mental Health Minimum dataset.</p>	<p>Scottish developments are being carried out under the Improving Mental Health Information Programme of NHS Scotland, which is working to establish common information sets, as part of a Mental Health Information Strategy for Scotland (currently out for consultation – see <a href="http://www.isdscotland.org/imhip">www.isdscotland.org/imhip</a>). In the last year NHS Scotland has also completed a retrieval pilot for the Information Core for Integrated Care (encounter and intervention data on community-delivered mental health services), and worked with a group of service users, care practitioners and managers to define a standardised discharge (from psychiatric hospital) dataset, which is about to be piloted. Both these clinically facing information sets are designed to supply all-Scotland consistent data.</p>
<b>Additional work not included in 2003/04 Work Programme</b>	
<p>DH will provide statistical support for the Spearhead Group of those LA areas with the worst health and deprivation.</p>	<p>More than half of DH Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets are about improving population health and targeting health inequalities. The Secretary of State recently announced the creation of a Spearhead Group of those LA areas that are in the bottom fifth nationally for three or more of the following five factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• male life expectancy at birth</li> <li>• female life expectancy at birth</li> <li>• cancer mortality rate in people aged under 75</li> <li>• circulatory disease mortality rate in people aged under 75</li> <li>• Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 (LA summary), average score</li> </ul> <p>These factors were designed to identify the areas where people live short lives, in very deprived circumstances. The membership of the Spearhead Group is fixed until 2010.</p>

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
	<p>DH is looking to this group, including the PCTs which map to them, to make the fastest progress in tackling health inequalities. These areas have now been granted extra funding in the PCT revenue allocations announced in February 2005.</p> <p>Underpinning these targets is a clear set of data indicators, which will be the basis for monitoring and performance management from DH, through SHAs, to PCTs.</p>
<p>DH will develop a Health Poverty Index (HPI).</p>	<p>DH has funded the production of an HPI. The NHS Plan (2000) proposed the production of an HPI to underpin national work on reducing inequalities, combining data on health-related factors, including health status, health behaviour, prevention and service access. After widespread consultation, use of a small set of indicators was preferred to a single summary index. The HPI is primarily a tool for identifying local health and health inequalities issues, using indicators on health and wider determinants of health. It allows local health communities to identify issues that can be built into their planning to improve health and tackle health inequalities.</p> <p>The immediate benefit of the HPI is that it draws together existing indicators, presented in an innovative way, and places no data collection or analysis burden on NHS organisations.</p> <p>Following user feedback on the demonstration HPI website in 2003/04, the live interactive web-based HPI tool was launched in November 2004, with data updated to 2001 at LA level. This is publicly available on the Internet at <a href="http://www.hpi.org.uk">www.hpi.org.uk</a>. The HPI is currently being updated with 2003 data, which will be made available on the website in summer 2005.</p>
<p>DH will develop systems to support the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF)</p>	<p>QOF provides financial rewards to GPs for the provision of high-quality care. This is intended to benefit both patients and the NHS and, as an example, PCTs should see fewer avoidable hospital admissions through improved chronic disease management.</p> <p>Quality Management and Analysis System (QMAS) is a new single, national IT system which will support the QOF payment process and give GPs and PCTs objective evidence and feedback on the quality of care delivered to patients. The system shows how well each practice is doing, measured against national achievement targets detailed in the new General Medical Services contract, which sets out the way GPs work and the way they are financially rewarded.</p>

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
	<p>A Quality, Prevalence and Indicator Database (QPID) is being developed to hold information from QMAS in order to make the valuable information resource available to a wider user base, and an analysis and information service based on QPID will be launched from April 2005. QPID is necessary because the dataset underlying QMAS has the potential to meet the requirements of a wide range of users, over and above the scope of QMAS reporting.</p>
<p>DH will develop a new data collection on the number of carers receiving services.</p>	<p>In 2004 a new data collection was introduced to capture information about the number of carers receiving services following an assessment or review by social services.</p> <p>These data will be used in an improved carer's performance indicator which has been included in the Personal Social Services Performance Assessment Framework Performance Indicator Set in 2004/05.</p>

# Labour Market

## Summary of performance against plan in 2004/05

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<b>Developments</b>	
<b>Developing the Labour Force Survey</b>	
The Office for National Statistics (ONS) will carry out a Labour Force Survey (LFS) pilot study during September 2004 to test a system of sampling and interviewing for people who live in communal establishments. This will be based on sampling institutions on the Postcode Address File small users file. A report will be published in 2004.	A pilot study was carried out in November 2004 and a draft report has been prepared. This will be published late in 2005.
ONS will develop and test new inactivity questions for the 2005 LFS, with a view to improving the value of the Survey for assessing potential labour supply.	Revised questions are being included in the LFS from spring 2005. A key objective is to identify those people who will, or are likely to, work in the future and those who will not or are unlikely to do so. Although it will take some time to determine how successful the new questions are in helping to predict future labour supply, improved information on economic inactivity will be available later in 2005.
ONS will publish revised population estimates for 1992 to 2000 in September 2004.	In September 2004 ONS published the mid-year population estimate for 2003, along with revised mid-year estimates for 2001 and 2002. The Government Actuary's Department (GAD) also published revised projections for 2004 and later years in September 2004. ONS published revised estimates for 1992–2000 in October 2004.
ONS will issue interim, revised LFS time series in September 2004. These will incorporate the 2003 mid-year population estimates which are due to be published in August 2004.	The revised population estimates and projections were incorporated into the LFS estimates in the October 2004 <i>Labour Market Statistics First Release</i> .
ONS launched a new survey designed to improve the quality of neighbourhood statistics in England in January 2004. The data from this new survey, combined with the existing annual LFS, will improve the quality of the annual local area labour market statistics (LMS) databases produced by ONS. The first enhanced file will be produced for the calendar year 2004, around summer 2005.	The new survey was successfully launched in January 2004 and fieldwork ran continuously throughout the year. First outputs relating to the 2004 calendar year will be available in summer 2005 and will be released on a rolling annual basis every quarter thereafter.
ONS will publish a plan, by spring 2003, for investigating the potential of using the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR) to improve the quality of the LFS employment and jobs data by workplace, industry, and public/private sector.	A plan was published and work is now under way to examine the feasibility of utilising the IDBR to enhance the quality of LFS data. A first field trial was held in February 2005 and a report is expected by summer 2005.

Plan	Performance against plan
<p>ONS will publish a plan for a methodological study to construct and assess the quality of provisional estimates from the LFS, produced a month in advance of the final estimates.</p>	<p>ONS is developing a model that forecasts the key LFS series on the basis of weekly weighted LFS data for 11 weeks of the quarter. If successful, this project would allow ONS to produce provisional LFS estimates a month in advance of the final estimates.</p>
<p>ONS will publish a plan for a methodological study investigating all aspects of LFS weighting.</p>	<p>A plan was published setting out the range of methodological work to be undertaken. Projects completed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the design of a weighting system for the Scottish Local Labour Force Survey, which takes data from the main LFS together with a boost survey to provide labour market estimates for Scottish councils</li> <li>• the design of a weighting system for the Neighbourhood Statistics Survey, which takes data from the main LFS together with a boost survey to provide labour market estimates for local authorities</li> <li>• a study to investigate the impact on precision of LFS estimates from a simplification of population controls</li> </ul> <p>In addition, initial results of a study investigating wave-specific weighting and its impact on attrition bias and variance have been produced.</p>
<b>Other planned developments</b>	
<p>ONS will introduce tables on children in workless households broken down by ethnicity and region into the <i>Workless Households First Release</i>.</p>	<p>A number of improvements have been made to the biannual household news release. In addition to the release of Census reweighted household data, the publication also includes new tables and improved metadata. All figures in the release tables have been weighted to the post-Census population estimates published in February/March 2003. Additionally, a time series in Excel format is available as a new product on the National Statistics website. In response to requests from customers, new tables showing estimates of children in workless households by region and by ethnic group have been added and all the tables in the release now consistently include data by households, people and children.</p>
<p>ONS will develop a new methodology for estimating the number of individuals on low rates of pay. It will build on data produced from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE). The results from the survey will be published in October 2004.</p>	<p>The new low pay methodology using only ASHE was developed and applied to data collection and results production. Improved estimates were published in October 2004.</p>
<p>ONS will take forward the linkage and integration of the ASHE with other sources in 2005 as it develops an earnings analysis unit.</p>	<p>ONS set up a new Earnings Analysis Branch in January 2005. A key project in its first year is to investigate the linkage of ASHE with other data sources.</p>

Plan	Performance against plan
<p>During 2004 ONS will monitor the new methodology developed to gather data on seasonally adjusted claimant count by age of recipient and the duration of their claim, particularly with regard to any significant changes in the level of clerical claims.</p>	<p>From April 2004 data showing the claimant count by age and duration on a seasonally adjusted basis were included in the <i>Labour Market Statistics First Release</i>. The new age and duration series is produced at the overall UK level only and not by region. Annual analysis of the claimant count by age and duration, including clerical claims, continues to be published.</p>
<p>In 2005 ONS will publish a comprehensive guide to LMS on the National Statistics website, completing the recommendation from the LMS Framework Quality Review.</p>	<p>In 2003 ONS produced an experimental <i>Online guide to labour market statistics</i>, which was made available on the National Statistics website.</p> <p>From June 2004 dedicated resources were allocated to fully develop this manual to include details of all key concepts, data sources, methods and dissemination relating to LMS. It is expected the project will be completed by July 2005. In the meantime, incremental improvements to the experimental version are being made.</p>
<p>ONS will start a project to investigate the seasonal adjustment of vacancy data by industry and size of establishment.</p>	<p>Following a methodological assessment, ONS introduced seasonally adjusted vacancy data, at aggregate level and by industry, in the National First Release from November 2004. Seasonally adjusted vacancy data by size of enterprise are also available electronically on the National Statistics website.</p>
<p>During 2004 National Statistics accreditation will be sought for the currently experimental modelled unemployment data for local areas. The model will then be extended to include local area employment and inactivity estimates and a wider range of geographies.</p>	<p>An article on the development of improved estimation methods for local area unemployment levels and rates was published in <i>Labour Market Trends</i> (January 2003 edition). ONS's Methodology Group has since produced new model-based estimates using reweighted LFS data. They have also compared the results from a fixed effects model and a random effects model to ascertain which type of model should be used for the routine production of these estimates. In all cases, the random effects model produced better quality estimates. During summer 2004 the random effects model was peer reviewed by the National Statistics Methodology Advisory Committee (MAC). Once the quality assurance and the peer review issues have been satisfactorily completed, during 2005, it is expected that National Statistics status will be sought for the estimates.</p> <p>In the meantime, ONS updated the existing experimental fixed effects model to use the reweighted LFS estimates based on post-2001 Census population estimates published in February 2003.</p>
<p>ONS will establish a project to report on the potential for developing the linkage and integration of the New Earnings Survey (NES) with other sources and make recommendations for implementing its findings, to be completed by October 2004.</p>	<p>This work is a top priority for the new Earnings Analysis Branch set up in January 2005.</p>

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
ONS will publish revisions to the experimental historical time series of employment, hours of work and unemployment, taking on board the effects of the latest LFS reweighting.	These series have now been upgraded and ONS has launched them as National Statistics. They provide estimates of employment, unemployment, economic inactivity and hours of work for the period 1971–91, consistent with existing series for 1992 onwards. The data were estimated adjusting for discontinuities in the existing pre-1992 LFS series and by modelling back in time using an econometric model.
ONS will publish two new series – the Average Earnings Ratio (AER) and the Labour Cost Index (LCI) – as experimental indicators in spring 2004.	ONS has completed development of the AER and LCI. They are scheduled for release in May 2005, subject to the approval of the National Statistician.
ONS will carry out investigative work in respect of labour price measures. This will involve a small pilot survey in the aerospace sector of the economy, together with analysis of existing sources. Emerging findings should be available at the end of 2004.	A feasibility study, using a small pilot survey, was completed in 2004.
ONS will produce up-to-date UK labour force projections during autumn 2004.	<p>The latest set of UK labour force and activity rate projections to 2020, broken down by age and sex, are due to be published during 2005. They are intended to update the last set of projections from June 1998 which, due to several regressions, seasonal adjustment reviews and the 2001 Census, are now out of date.</p> <p>The projections will use data from the reweighted historical series above and will incorporate the latest GAD population projections.</p>
ONS will continue to work closely with the National Assembly for Wales (NAW) and Scottish Executive (SE) to ensure that the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI) survey design gives results for Wales and Scotland that meet their specific needs.	NAW and SE were substantially involved in the quality assurance of ASHE results. Further methodological improvements eg survey design, will be taken on through Allsopp Implementation.
ONS and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will examine whether data on Jobcentre vacancy inflows and, if at all possible, Jobcentre vacancy stocks, can be published. This will be dependent on the resolution of technical quality issues.	<p>A limited range of statistics on Jobcentre Plus vacancies, relating to the inflows of newly notified vacancies, is available on the National Online Manpower Information Service (Nomis®), though not at this stage as National Statistics.</p> <p>ONS and DWP are continuing to monitor and review the data with a view to restoring the series when it is appropriate to do so. It is expected that an article will be available by mid-2005 detailing the latest situation regarding both the newly notified vacancy series and the vacancy stock estimates.</p>

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<p>ONS will produce a detailed blueprint for an initial set of indicators to describe the labour market at local levels. These will initially be for unitary authority/local authority districts, but also in due course for other geographical areas. The indicators will include residence-based claimant count rates and comparable rates for other benefits and jobs density.</p>	<p>In January 2004 Nomis® launched the new labour market profiles for local authorities. Users specify the local authority, or input a postcode, and Nomis® will choose the local authority that contains that postcode, and labour market data are presented for the area, together with data for both that region or devolved authority and for Great Britain. The indicators are presented in the format of the labour market framework, showing data on labour demand, labour supply and working age benefits. Labour market profiles for parliamentary constituencies and wards were launched in April 2004.</p>
<p>ONS will draw on information derived from the 2001 Census to enhance the available range of local area LMS using the structure of the new local LMS blueprint.</p>	<p>Residence-based labour market data from the Census are used to populate the labour supply variables of the Nomis® labour market profiles for wards, which were launched in April 2004. Nomis® and ONS's Labour Market Division (LMD) are looking at using workplace Census data to populate some of the labour demand variables in these profiles. Also, Census-based population data have been used as denominators for jobs densities and residence-based claimant count proportions for local geographies (parliamentary constituencies and travel-to-work areas), for which official population estimates are not available.</p>
<p>ONS will seek to ensure that there is no transitional disruption to the service level currently provided by Nomis® following the introduction of the Neighbourhood Statistics Service (NeSS).</p>	<p>ONS and Durham University extended the existing contract to ensure the Nomis® service will continue in its current state until March 2006. Funding for Nomis® for a further two years until March 2008 is currently being sought.</p>
<b>Re-engineering labour market statistics</b>	
<p>ONS will have a fully re-engineered system available by 2005, to allow consistent LFS time series and microdata to be published together.</p>	<p>It is planned that modernised LFS processing systems will be introduced that will enable new population data to be incorporated into revised LFS microdata to the same sort of timetable now achieved for LFS time series. This will be done by using the interim adjustment procedure. Further information about the timing of this innovation will be made available as soon as possible, but the current aim is to complete this part of ONS's statistical modernisation work by mid 2006.</p>
<p>ONS plans that by 2005 modernised LFS processing systems will be ready. They will enable the new mid-year estimates for 2004 to be incorporated into revised LFS microdata much more swiftly.</p>	<p>Future revised population estimates, when accompanied by consistent historical series, will be incorporated as swiftly as possible into revised LFS series using the interim LFS adjustment procedure. The aim will be to incorporate the new mid-year estimates for 2004, due to be published in mid-August 2005, into the LFS estimates included in the September 2005 Labour Market Statistics First Release.</p>

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<p><b>Quality Reviews</b></p> <p>ONS will publish the final report of the Employment and Jobs Review (E&amp;JR) towards the end of 2004.</p>	<p>The E&amp;JR is addressing the issue of coherence in the estimates of employment, jobs and hours of work statistics published by ONS.</p> <p>Its main objectives are to provide an account of user needs, an assessment of quality and coherence issues with existing sources, and recommendations for better and more coherent employment, jobs and hours of work sources and outputs.</p> <p>Following publication of an interim report on the emerging findings and recommendations from the review, this work has been taken forward in conjunction with other key reports, in particular the Allsopp and Atkinson Reviews.</p> <p>Work is under way to consider how the re-engineering and integration of business surveys will improve the IDBR and Workforce Jobs (WFJ) estimates, and the feasibility of linking the workplace of LFS respondents to the IDBR industry codes.</p> <p>A survey is being undertaken of ABI respondents to quantify potential discrepancies between the LFS and ABI measures of jobs. Further work is also ongoing to reconcile the jobs series at Government Office Region level, as well as for the whole of the UK, and to study differences between LFS and WFJ by industry. Work packages on methodology and administrative data will also contribute to the final review report.</p> <p>The final report on the E&amp;JR is due to be drafted by summer 2005.</p>
<p>The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) will carry out a review of trade union (TU) membership and labour disputes statistics.</p>	<p>The main aims of the review are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify the main users and uses of TU membership and labour disputes statistics</li> <li>• establish how well the outputs meet user requirements</li> <li>• assess how well the outputs are meeting quality requirements, for example relevance, accuracy, timeliness, punctuality, accessibility, clarity, comparability, coherence and completeness</li> <li>• identify areas for improvement and assess which should take highest priority</li> <li>• make recommendations for future work on TU membership and labour disputes statistics and, if necessary, options for how to better meet user requirements</li> </ul> <p>The report will be published in summer 2005.</p>

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<b>International developments</b>	
ONS will change the basis of its LFS questionnaire and microdata outputs from seasonal to calendar quarters from January 2005.	Eurostat agreed to a derogation until January 2006 and ONS has made plans to implement this change after this date.
ONS will develop an international strategy for labour market work and analysis. This strategy will be developed with reference to the overall ONS international strategy.	<p>The international dimension is very important in LMS for a number of reasons. The statistical framework is based around internationally agreed definitions, for example, unemployment. International analysis and research can impact on these definitions, and hence on the way ONS manages LMS. Many countries are experiencing similar issues and difficulties at the same time, and a joined-up approach to problem solving is more efficient than working in isolation.</p> <p>So, for example, ONS undertakes comparative studies of UK and other labour markets, to learn more about the UK from the similarities and differences, and also provides input to international research work so as to influence the direction of this work.</p> <p>Wherever possible, an international dimension is incorporated into labour market analytical projects.</p>
ONS will take forward work to assist in the development of vacancy statistics in the European Union (EU).	The UK was one of the first Member States to be able to supply comprehensive vacancy statistics to Eurostat. Almost half of the EU member countries are now able to supply comprehensive vacancy statistics to Eurostat on a quarterly basis. As a result, Eurostat is now considering drafting regulations for the future supply of vacancy data for EU Member States. As background to any future decisions, Eurostat has issued a questionnaire for Member States to report the latest state of vacancy statistics in their countries, including the coherency with other labour market indicators.
All departments will fulfil the obligations of the EU Structural Business Regulation and the EU Short Term Statistics (STS) Regulation. The latter will bring further pressures on content and timeliness, in particular for more labour market information in the services sector.	ONS statistics on employee jobs and hours requirements already meet the requirements of the STS. The Annual Earnings Ratio (AER) will permit wages and salaries demands in STS to be covered. The Structure of the Earnings Survey and Labour Cost Survey Regulations are met using ASHE. ABI/1 provides annual structural requirements, although at present the provisional deadline of 10 months cannot be met. This will be achieved for the 2006 survey by moving the reference date to September.
ONS will contribute to plans for increased international analysis, and articles looking at comparisons between countries.	<p>Articles published in <i>Labour Market Trends</i> this year included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'International comparisons of labour disputes in 2002'</li> <li>• 'International comparisons of labour market data sources'</li> <li>• 'Employment and unemployment in the new EU member countries'</li> </ul>

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
	<p>Additionally, ONS is participating in a number of international networks. Among these are an International Labour Organisation (ILO) network on labour under-utilisation and the Paris city group (United Nations) looking at hours of work. Close contact on all aspects of European LMS is maintained with Eurostat, and ONS continues to collaborate with labour market statisticians from individual countries, such as the Ukraine.</p>
<b>Lessons learned</b>	
<p>Public sector employment.</p>	<p>Substantial benefits can be gained by working collaboratively across government when a priority statistical need arises, such as the requirement to improve the quality of public sector employment statistics as part of public sector reform. ONS is well placed to lead this sort of cross-departmental statistical development exercise.</p>
<p>Continuous improvement.</p>	<p>Despite being a well-established output, the introduction of enhancements to the monthly LMS First Release shows that a process of quality improvement to existing products can be effective and meet user needs.</p>

# Natural and Built Environment

## Summary of performance against plan in 2004/05

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<b>Developments</b>	
<b>Natural environment</b>	
The Office for National Statistics (ONS) will review estimation of public sector environmental protection expenditure with a view to utilising Her Majesty's Treasury (HMT) data compiled for the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA).	Improved estimates of public sector environmental protection expenditure were published in the spring 2004 edition of <i>Environmental Accounts</i> , following liaison with colleagues in HMT. The ONS Environmental Accounts Team will continue to receive these data, on an annual basis, and publish initial estimates of public sector environmental protection expenditure in the spring edition of the Accounts.
ONS will consult with colleagues in other government departments on the feasibility of producing an industry analysis of environmental taxes.	Following consultation with colleagues in HMT and Her Majesty's Customs and Excise (HMCE), an industry analysis of UK environmental tax payments in 2001 was first published in an <i>Economic Trends</i> article in August 2004. The data also appeared in the autumn 2004 edition of <i>Environmental Accounts</i> . The development of this analysis continues, in anticipation of future Eurostat data requests.
The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) will publish the results of its consultation on a basket of decoupling indicators in support of the Government's Sustainable Consumption and Production Framework.	This is complete. The summary of consultation responses was published in October 2004 and a revised basket of indicators was published in April 2005.
Defra will review the indicators of sustainable development alongside the review of the UK Sustainable Development Strategy. This review will include consideration of the presentation and interpretation of the indicators, as well as whether existing indicators are the most appropriate.	Work is ongoing concerning presentational and interpretative issues surrounding indicators, and will continue to be developed as part of the establishment of the new indicator sets.
Defra will replace the Annual Survey of Municipal Waste Management Statistics in England and Wales with data from the new national municipal waste database WasteDataFlow from 2004/05 onwards.	The last annual Defra Municipal Waste Management Survey, for the year 2003/04, has been completed. WasteDataFlow, the new web-based system for collecting quarterly waste data from local authorities (LAs), went live in April 2004. It is designed to provide more frequent, timely and detailed waste data for the development of policy and monitoring, including the statutory Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (from 1 April 2005) and to provide LAs with reporting and benchmarking tools. Almost all LAs in England, Wales

Plan	Performance against plan
	and Northern Ireland are now registered and many have started to enter data. There is a package of measures to support LAs in switching to the new system, including a telephone helpline, online training and guidance as well as a programme of training workshops. This is a significant change in municipal waste data collection, and development work, for example, on reporting and validation procedures, has continued throughout the first year of operation.
Northern Ireland district councils will submit municipal waste quarterly returns using the DataFlow system.	All district councils will submit municipal waste quarterly returns using the DataFlow system to the Department of the Environment by the end of 2004/05.
Defra will work with the Environment Agency and other stakeholders to develop a three-year strategy for waste data needs.	<p>The aim of this project is to provide a sound evidence base for improved waste policy development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, at both national and local levels. Defra is working to deliver this waste data project through its Waste Implementation Programme, with the Environment Agency as one of the key delivery agents.</p> <p>A draft strategy was issued for consultation in October 2004 and closed in January 2005. Responses to this consultation will feed into the forthcoming implementation process.</p>
Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland (DENI), in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), will carry out a survey of agricultural waste in Northern Ireland.	An agricultural waste practices survey was carried out during 2004/05 in conjunction with the Department for Agriculture and Rural Development. The survey of agricultural waste has been postponed until 2005/06.
DENI, Northern Ireland will publish results from its survey of public attitudes to the environment.	Results on public attitudes to the environment were published by NISRA as part of the Northern Ireland Continuous Household Survey in November 2004.
Defra will continue to populate the Environmental Evidence Index and will also test that it is fit for purpose.	The first stage of population of the Index has been completed; datasets to be included in the second stage are being reviewed and further population will follow. The metadata template is being reviewed and testing for fitness for purpose is in the initial stages.
<b>Housing</b>	
The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) will integrate into the household projections a model which relates economic factors to headship rates, marital status and internal migration.	This work has been completed, based on 1996-based projections. For the main 2003-based projections, to be published in mid-2005, the model will be available to produce regional projections to test different economic scenarios.
NISRA will produce the first set of household projections for Northern Ireland.	Northern Ireland household projections were published in January 2005 in a NISRA occasional paper <i>Household Projections for Northern Ireland: 2002–2025</i> .

Plan	Performance against plan
<p>The National Assembly for Wales (NAW) will carry out the Living in Wales Survey. This is designed to be similar to a house condition survey but with additional questions on the environment and the use of the Welsh language.</p>	<p>The fieldwork for the 2004 Living in Wales Survey was completed in November 2004. The first results of the survey will be published before end-June 2005. The fieldwork for 2005 started in April 2005.</p> <p>Consideration is currently being given to the topics to be covered by the 2006 survey and whether or not the survey should be extended to take place in 2007 and 2008.</p>
<p>ODPM will publish a detailed report on housing and households based on the Census and other sources.</p>	<p>ODPM has completed the housing chapter of the <i>Older People Report</i> using a variety of household surveys and the Census.</p> <p>Some progress has been made on the more detailed housing report, but the withdrawal of support from the external authors and general lack of resources have resulted in a delay in production.</p>
<p>Department for Social Development, Northern Ireland will carry out analysis of the new database of homelessness statistics.</p>	<p>Analyses of the homelessness database were carried out and used in the departmental report which was put out for consultation.</p>
<p>The Scottish Executive (SE), together with Communities Scotland, will review the way in which information is gathered from LA housing departments and housing associations in order to develop a better integrated data collection. A key priority will be to develop a new data collection on progress by social landlords towards the Scottish Housing Quality Standard.</p>	<p>An initial assessment has been made of content and patterns of data collection from social landlords but no significant changes have yet been made to data collection arrangements. Work on reorganising and simplifying the data collection has been carried forward to 2005/06.</p> <p>LAs and housing associations were required to submit plans by end-March 2005 for achieving the new Scottish Housing Quality Standard. A pro-forma has been developed for authorities to provide a summary of key stages in these plans and summaries will be published in summer 2005.</p>
<p>SE will hold a seminar with LA case officers to assess how information is being recorded in the homelessness case-based electronic recording system and to identify priorities for improved guidance and possible system changes.</p>	<p>A seminar was held and improvements in guidance and support for LA case officers agreed. A new homelessness case officers section has been created within the SE statistics website to provide guidance on completion of the electronic pro-forma.</p>
<p>ODPM will implement an imputation system for estimating missing values/returns for all housing statistics returns.</p>	<p>This has been completed. A new improved algorithm has been developed to deal with multi-dimensional tables and this will be incorporated in all returns during 2005/06.</p>
<p>ODPM will introduce seasonal adjustment procedures for homelessness data during 2004.</p>	<p>Seasonally adjusted estimates of homeless decisions and homeless acceptances (using the standard X11-Arima model) have been produced back to the first quarter of 1997 and were first published as part of the first quarter 2004 statistics, which were released in June 2004.</p>

Plan	Performance against plan
<b>Land use statistics</b>	
<p>ODPM will combine employment and floor space data to model areas of town centre activity for England.</p>	<p>Provisional town centre boundaries and statistics in England and Wales for 2000 and 2002 were published in January 2005. These provide employment and floorspace statistics for about 1,000 town centres.</p> <p>They reflect the accuracy of the postcoded data supplied by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) and from the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI), and also the limitations to publication imposed by disclosure regulation applicable to both data sources. The future programme of work will be testing the accuracy of VOA coding with local users of the data. ABI data are sample-based and are subject to both sampling error and bias in the estimation process that furnishes employment and turnover data for small spatial areas such as town centres. Suggestions for improvement to the data have been made to ONS in the context of the Allsopp Report.</p> <p>An evaluation of the statistics and boundaries for 2000 and 2002 is due to be launched, in which selected LA users will be invited to comment on relevance and suitability in relation to their local policy needs. It will also be an opportunity to test the accuracy of some emerging data on 'new floorspace' which could feed into a monitoring tool for ODPM.</p> <p>The evaluation process is a necessary pre-cursor to the planned publication of a time series of boundaries and statistics, incorporating revisions to previously published statistics, for the time period 1998 to 2002 but incorporating 2004 floorspace statistics. The plan is to publish the time series information by 30 December 2005, but this will be subject to funding decisions and staff availability.</p>
<p>ODPM, ONS, NAW, Defra and the Countryside Agency will develop and release a new urban and rural definition/classification for England and Wales.</p>	<p>This was published in July 2004 and details of this and the methodological report <i>Developing a New Classification of Urban and Rural Areas for Policy Purposes – the Methodology</i> can be found on the Neighbourhood Statistics Service (NeSS) website.</p>
<p>ODPM will launch for comment a standard classification system for land use and land cover in early 2004/05.</p>	<p>Launch of the classification has been delayed until early 2005/06.</p>
<b>Neighbourhood Statistics Service</b>	
<p>ONS will develop the housing domain of NeSS, which will include development of a National Housing Database, a National Register of Social Housing and the introduction on continuous recording of new lets of social properties, both for registered social landlords and LAs.</p>	<p>Eight datasets are currently on the web and are being updated annually, with a further seven in the pipeline. The hardware has been set up for a National Housing Database, but this is being held up by data sharing issues. Piloting is under way for the National Register of Social Housing with a view to beginning national rollout later in 2005/06.</p>

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
	Registered social landlords have been recording new lets of social properties for the past ten years and NeSS datasets are in the pipeline. LAs are being brought into the lettings monitoring system; 52 started in 2004/05 and a further 50 are committed to start in 2005/06. ODPM is currently working on ways to speed up participation of the final 120.
<b>Data collection</b>	
The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) will continue with its pilot electronic data collection from construction contractors for the output, new orders and registry-proving surveys.	Work on this project has been temporarily suspended pending the renewal of the DTI support and maintenance contract. DTI hopes to restart this project late in 2005/06.
<b>Changes to publications</b>	
ODPM will agree a final structure for published reports from the Survey of English Housing (SEH).	The 2003/04 report will be released in stages as web-only reports, each covering a particular theme. A decision on whether a final, combined 2003/04 report will be released on paper or as web-only will be taken late in 2005/06.
<b>Website improvements</b>	
NAW will develop the dissemination of statistical information, including housing statistics over the Internet.	There is now a section of the NAW website which is dedicated to housing statistics. This is continuously updated as the available data develop and improve. The weblink is: <a href="http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/housing/housing.htm">www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/housing/housing.htm</a>
DTI will continue to populate its construction website.	Most DTI construction statistics are now available online at: <a href="http://www.dti.gov.uk/construction/stats">www.dti.gov.uk/construction/stats</a>
ODPM will extend the Housing Statistics Index to cover all SEH tables and main tables from the English House Condition Survey (EHCS).	This activity has been postponed until the restructure of the Housing Statistics part of the ODPM website is completed.
ODPM will grant all users direct access to a database of housing statistics. Users will be able to tabulate data from this database.	ODPM has recently set up an 'Improving data and statistics' project that has subsumed this task. During 2005/06 one of the first outputs will be an internal ODPM system to analyse performance against Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets.
<b>Quality Reviews</b>	
DTI will consider carrying out a further review of building materials statistics.	A paper on the future of building materials statistics was presented to the Consultative Committee on Construction Industry Statistics at its meeting in May 2004.

Plan	Performance against plan
	<p>Members felt that more information should be available on 'lightside' products, particularly as statistics on some of the traditional 'heavyside' products covered were now unavailable because of disclosure protection. DTI is undertaking further work to identify the products that would be of most interest to users.</p>
<p>DTI will publish a report on Phase Two of the review of revisions to early estimates of construction.</p>	<p>The report was published in December 2004 and a revision to construction output in the first quarter of 2003 was included in the <i>Output and Employment in the Construction Industry Statistical Press Release</i>, also published in December 2004. The resulting revision to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was published in the <i>Quarterly National Accounts First Release</i> in December 2004.</p>
<p>ODPM will continue to examine the practicability of a merger between the SEH and EHCS.</p>	<p>In April/May 2005 Analytical Services Division commissioned Stage One of a project that will identify those topics that could/should be included in a merged SEH/EHCS questionnaire; ascertain the data that can be obtained from alternative sources; and confirm that a merged questionnaire is a practical possibility. If considered feasible, Stage Two will see the development in late 2005 of a merged questionnaire.</p>
<p><b>International developments</b></p>	
<p>The European Commission, with the help of the UK, will develop a new approach to reviewing environmental reporting.</p>	<p>Following internal discussions in 2003, the Commission decided not to propose a Framework Directive on environmental reporting in the near future. Instead, the Commission is reviewing the linkages between reporting and other developments that include an element of reporting, such as reporting requirements under the Thematic Strategies, Infrastructure for Spatial Data in Europe (INSPIRE) and Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES).</p> <p>The European Commission visited Defra in July 2004 in order to get an idea of the UK's main priorities and concerns, and information on relevant initiatives within the UK.</p> <p>The Commission is now considering the next steps, and is expected to produce a proposal for monitoring and reporting under the Thematic Strategies in 2005.</p>
<p>DTI will be participating in work to improve the information available across the European Union (EU) covered by the Short-Term Indicators Regulation.</p>	<p>The report on revisions to early estimates of construction (see above) included a section on the provision on monthly construction information to fulfil the requirements of the new EU regulation, currently being considered by the European Parliament.</p>

# Population and Migration

## Summary of performance against plan in 2004/05

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<b>Developments</b>	
<b>Population estimates</b>	
The Office for National Statistics (ONS) will produce population estimates for Primary Care Trusts (PCTs).	ONS published population estimates for the Primary Care Organisations in England in February 2005.
General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) and ONS will develop methods to produce small area population estimates of an appropriate quality in the post-censal period.	ONS published mid-2001 and mid-2002 experimental population estimates for wards in England and Wales in April 2005.  GROS will publish mid-2003 and mid-2004 population estimates for data zones in Scotland. These are due to be issued in October 2005.
ONS will release a set of tools to data owners to ensure data for small areas are consistently geo-referenced and disclosure protected before they are transmitted to ONS with accompanying metadata.	In October 2004, a tool kit was issued to data owners. The kit has been designed to help the delivery to the Neighbourhood Statistics Service (NeSS) of data that are consistently geo-referenced and disclosure protected. This kit comprised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an address matching and referencing tool to validate addresses and add geographic codes; a second tool handles data which only contains postcodes ie, not full addresses</li> <li>• a disclosure control and aggregation tool to ensure no aggregate data could disclose personal information</li> <li>• a metadata tool to standardise the collection of information which enables users to interpret the statistics and use them appropriately</li> <li>• a data formatting tool which enables transmission of data to ONS</li> </ul> By December 2004, 70 copies of the kit had been issued and a number of training sessions provided for data owners. Experience so far has been positive, although use of the disclosure tool has shown that further work is needed to cater for large, complex tables of data. As a result, a contract for further work has been let.
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) will publish research on spatial measures of deprivation in 2004/05. This will include work on population estimates to act as denominators for deprivation indicators.	The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure was published in May 2005 and includes population estimates for Super Output Areas that are consistent with the 2003 mid-year estimates.

Plan	Performance against plan
<p>ONS will carry out research to investigate the extent to which approaches can be developed to produce population estimates by ethnic group for local areas.</p>	<p>ONS publishes population estimates by ethnic group on an ad hoc basis from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). However, this only allows estimates to be produced at a regional level and there is a continuing need for research to enable estimates to be produced at local area levels. This work has not progressed during 2004 and will remain in the Work Programme for 2005/06 and 2006/07.</p>
<p>ONS will publish a report on the work done to develop experimental projections of ethnic minority populations from 1991 at a national level, and will assess their quality by comparison with the 2001 population estimates. ONS will also assess the quality of the projections produced for 2001 to 2011.</p>	<p>The publication of a report on the projections by ethnic group was postponed from 2004/05 to allow a new methodology, based on newly available results from the 2001 Census, to be developed and tested. If the new methodology proves acceptable, a report will be issued in <i>Population Trends</i>.</p>
<p>ONS will consider methods for producing ethnic minority population projections at a more detailed geographical level.</p>	<p>The new methodology that has been developed is a 'bottom-up' approach and the ethnic population projections for England have been constructed by combining projections for each local authority district (LAD) within England. It is not expected, however, that projections for individual LADs will be robust enough for separate publication.</p>
<p>ONS will assess the strength of user needs for intercensal population estimates by country of birth.</p>	<p>Population estimates by country of birth are available from the 2001 Census and estimates for some country groupings can be produced from the LFS intercensally. Population estimates by country of birth are required by a few users to be used as denominators for births that take place in England and Wales by country of birth of the mother. In the short term, there are no plans to produce intercensal population estimates by country of birth other than those available from the LFS.</p>
<p>ONS will initiate a project which will provide an intercensal population assessment that can independently corroborate the population estimates for England and Wales.</p>	<p>ONS set up a project, initially referred to as the mid-decade population benchmark, which covers areas in England and Wales. This work is being taken forward as part of the programme of work to improve population estimates for England and Wales. It aims to identify where the current population estimates, methodology and data sources are not detecting population change accurately. An advisory group of demographic experts from central and local government and academia was set up and the first meeting was held in February 2005 at ONS's London office.</p>
<p>ONS will carry out a study to improve the understanding of sources in areas where there is a high risk that material changes in population may be missed.</p>	<p>ONS conducted two types of population studies for local authorities (LAs) in England and Wales during 2004. The Manchester and Westminster matching studies investigated differences between the city council address lists and those compiled by ONS for the 2001 Census. The full report of the matching studies is available on the National Statistics website.</p>

Plan	Performance against plan
	<p>The 2004 LA Population Studies reviewed specific areas of concern where there was a higher than usual risk that ONS population estimates might miss material changes at the local level. The full report of the LA studies is available on the National Statistics website.</p> <p>As a result of these studies, the mid-2001 population estimates have been revised for 15 of the 376 LAs in England and Wales. This work has better informed the base used to produce population estimates during the intercensal period leading up to 2011 and will also help to inform planning for the Census for England and Wales in 2011.</p>
<p>ONS will publish quarterly population estimates as experimental statistics.</p>	<p>In December 2004 ONS published quarterly population estimates for September 2003 to September 2004 as experimental statistics. In February 2005 estimates for the December 2004 quarter were added.</p>
<p>The Government Actuary's Department (GAD) will collaborate with Leeds University in a research project to develop probabilistic national projections for the UK. This project will be completed by summer 2006 and will develop methods that will enable the degree of uncertainty in national projections to be specified.</p>	<p>Due to the withdrawal of the candidate for the associated Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) studentship, work on the development of a stochastic version of the national population projections model has been delayed. GAD and the University of Leeds are discussing how this work can be rescheduled and any consequent changes to the timetable.</p>
<b>Analytical outputs</b>	
<p>ONS will produce a range of analytical outputs, focusing on family demography, fertility, gerontology and longitudinal analysis that will utilise data from a range of sources including the 2001 Census.</p>	<p>ONS produced demographic articles and reports for each of the quarterly issues of <i>Population Trends</i>. When the mid-2003 population estimates were published in September 2004, ONS also released, via the National Statistics website, some text that reported on the UK demographic position.</p>
<p>ONS will release two volumes of multi-sourced topic reports, <i>Focus on</i> reports, covering demographic issues.</p>	<p>ONS issued overviews for the <i>Focus on Population and Migration</i> volume in June 2004. Work has progressed towards the production of the planned <i>Focus on</i> full volumes, although these were not ready for publication in 2004/05.</p>
<p>The National Assembly for Wales (NAW) will expand StatsWales to cover all of its main outputs, including all relevant population and migration series relating to Wales.</p>	<p>Initial tables, with associated charting and mapping facilities, have been introduced covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mid-year population estimates back to 1981 by LA area, quinary age and gender</li> <li>• components of change for recent years by LA area</li> <li>• migration with the rest of Wales and the UK for recent years, by LA area and broad age groups</li> </ul> <p>These have effectively updated tables that appeared in the <i>Annual Digest of Welsh Statistics</i> and <i>Digest of Welsh Local Area Statistics</i>.</p>

Plan	Performance against plan
<p>GROS will update its Scottish Longitudinal Study (SLS) with vital events, immigration and new sample members identified by the 2001 Census.</p>	<p>Record linkage for the SLS has continued. The sample is being updated with vital events and immigration occurring between the 1991 Census and the 2001 Census. This was completed by the end of May 2005. Linkage with the 2001 records and the addition of new sample members identified by the 2001 Census has begun and is expected to be completed by September 2005. The SLS database is due to be launched in early 2006.</p>
<p>NISRA will continue to develop its longitudinal study and will produce a dataset based on linking the 2001 Census to administrative datasets and scoping future work.</p>	<p>The development of a longitudinal study in Northern Ireland has required an amendment to the Census Act (Northern Ireland) 1969. This is being put into place through the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 2005.</p>
<p>All departments will release Census data, including cross-tabulations, statistics for areas below LA area, and samples of anonymised records.</p>	<p>The three UK Census Offices continued their programme of release of UK Census products including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• origin-destination statistics consisting of tables using combinations of address of residence with address of residence one year ago, and of address of residence with that of workplace or, in Scotland, place of study; the products provide statistics on the origin and destination of migration and of travel to work or study</li> <li>• 2001 Census: Definitions, which provides a range of explanatory information to accompany the results of the Census</li> <li>• 2001 Census Individual Sample of Anonymised Record (SAR) version two has been produced and is available from the Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research (<a href="http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/sars">www.ccsr.ac.uk/sars</a>); a Controlled Access Microdata Sample (CAMS) provides a more detailed version of the SAR and can be accessed in a safe setting at ONS.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, ONS published various sets of Census tables for new 2004 wards and LAs in England and Wales and for the 2004 rural and urban area classification for England and Wales. Full Census results for England and Wales LAs, wards and Output Areas are available online at Nomis® (<a href="http://www.nomisweb.co.uk">www.nomisweb.co.uk</a>).</p> <p>A similar service for results for Scotland and Northern Ireland was already available online. NISRA also produced the report <i>Northern Ireland Census 2001 Key Statistics for Settlements</i>.</p> <p>GROS has started producing Census tables for the new Westminster parliamentary constituencies for Scotland and placing them as they become available on the main GROS website (<a href="http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk">www.gro-scotland.gov.uk</a>). They will be added to the Scotland Census Results Online (SCROL) website (<a href="http://www.scrol.gov.uk">www.scrol.gov.uk</a>) later in 2005.</p>

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
ONS will review the content of <i>Population Trends</i> , the flagship publication for the Theme, in the context of all social flagship publications.	Work is ongoing within ONS to review the content of the flagship journals.
<b>Census of Population</b>	
ONS will produce a preliminary business case for Census 2011. This will inform the bid for funding for the next phase of research and testing within the ONS submission to the 2004 Spending Review.	<p>A preliminary Census business case was produced during 2004 which set out the case for a Census of Population in 2011, along with an initial estimate of costs and benefits. The estimated costs for the years 2005/06 to 2007/08 underpinned the Census contribution to the ONS 2004 Spending Review submission.</p> <p>An Office of Government Commerce (OGC) 'Gateway 1' review of the Census in September 2004 concluded that 'The Review Team finds that there is a sound business case which is robust and affordable'. Further work is being carried out to develop the business case as the work on the Census progresses and ONS gains a better understanding of the likely Census design and its associated costs. This updated version of the business case will inform the bid for Census funding to the 2006 Spending Review.</p>
GROS and NISRA will continue planning for a 2011 Census.	<p>Northern Ireland ran a consultation exercise on demographic statistics, including the Census, from December 2004 to March 2005.</p> <p>GROS has continued to plan for the 2011 Census with an initial round of consultation being held. Planning for a Census test in 2006 is ongoing.</p>
ONS will publish the remaining evaluation reports for the 2001 Census. This will include the Census Access Report and culminate in a Quality Report and General Report.	A 2001 Census Evaluation Report on Census access was posted on the National Statistics website in November 2004. A Quality Report and General Report, which will conclude the evaluation programme of the 2001 Census, will be published simultaneously in summer 2005.
<b>Migration</b>	
ONS will evaluate the impact that the National Health Service (NHS) National Programme for IT (NPfIT) will have on NHS sources of migration estimates.	ONS requirements of NHS sources for the purpose of making migration estimates have been passed to those responsible for the NPfIT programme. Progress is dependent on the milestones that are set for the NPfIT programme.
<b>Registration</b>	
ONS will present a draft Regulatory Reform Order to Parliament covering the modernising of registration services in England and Wales.	A Regulatory Reform Order was presented to Parliament in July 2004, but this was rejected by Parliament in December 2004. ONS is currently exploring alternative legislative routes to deliver these changes. Further details can be found in the chapter entitled <i>Other developments in 2004/05</i> .

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
GROS will monitor the outcomes of the ONS Civil Registration Review, as well as the Shipman Inquiry and the Coroner's Review, when assessing future statistical requirements for registration.	GROS continues to monitor the statistical implications of the ONS Civil Registration Review, as well as the Shipman Inquiry and the Coroner's Review. The outcomes of these reviews will inform future decisions on the data collection changes required in Scotland.  Timescales are uncertain because ONS will now have to reconsider how to implement the proposed changes following the rejection of the Regulatory Reform Order approach.
NISRA will carry out a review of civil registration in Northern Ireland.	A review of civil registration has been completed in Northern Ireland and policy proposals will be brought forward in 2005/06.
<b>Control of immigration and asylum</b>	
The statistics on control of immigration and asylum will be further developed to reflect improvements in administrative data sources and the implementation of policy changes.	Work on this continues. In particular, the Home Office (HO) is developing a longitudinal survey of refugees. Preparations have been made to undertake a National Statistics Quality Review of the Control of Immigration Statistics Publications in 2005/6.
ONS, GROS and NISRA will work with HO to ensure the administrative data on asylum seekers and visitor switchers are used in the most effective way possible.	ONS and HO reviewed the methods used for integrating the International Passenger Survey (IPS) estimates with data on asylum seekers, resulting in the implementation of some minor methodological improvements to estimating the asylum seeker component of the 2003 Total International Migration estimates (published in November 2004).  NISRA is now receiving asylum statistics through HO and is using these statistics in the population estimates process. To date, GROS has not been involved directly in this work.
HO will continue to improve the quality and scope of the statistics to support immigration control and asylum by utilising improved administrative sources of casework information.	Further progress has been made by, for example, including for the first time statistics for assisted voluntary returns, numbers of immigration detainees aged under 18 in detention and improved presentation of data within the annual bulletin. Quality of the asylum statistics has improved with smaller revisions and speedier publication.
<b>Other developments</b>	
ONS will continue work on the population statistics re-engineering project.	Improvements to population estimates and migration statistics will enable ONS to make improvements to future sets of population estimates and projections. These will be built into the new population statistics systems that will be delivered through the ONS Statistical Modernisation Programme.

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<b>Quality Reviews</b>	
GAD will continue to implement the recommendations from the <i>National Statistics Quality Review of the Methodology for Projecting Mortality</i> .	Most of the recommendations of the Quality Review have been implemented. Work has started on setting up a database of past projections for the UK.
ONS and HO will continue to implement the recommendations which arose from the <i>National Statistics Quality Review of International Immigration Statistics</i> .	Work is continuing within ONS and HO to research and implement the Quality Review recommendations. A progress report will be published on the National Statistics website early in 2005/06.
ONS will take forward the Quality Review on population statistics through implementation of the emerging actions from the population study <i>A Demographic Statistics Service for the 21st Century</i> .	The emerging actions from the population study are reported under the individual items listed in this Annual Report.
<b>Lessons learned</b>	
In May 2004, the National Audit Office (NAO) published a report – <i>Asylum and migration: a review of Home Office statistics</i> .	<p>The review found that the asylum data and statistics are in most respects reliable. Good progress has been made on implementing the recommendations concerning the weaknesses in the process of compiling the statistics and in their presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improved documentation of production processes</li> <li>• clearer presentation of statistics relating to those applying for National Asylum Support Service (NASS) support</li> <li>• new data included on numbers supported by local authorities on pre-NASS arrangements</li> </ul>

# Social and Welfare

## Summary of performance against plan in 2004/05

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<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<b>Developments</b>	
<b>Family Resources Survey (FRS)</b>	
The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will revise the FRS grossing regime.	A new FRS grossing regime was announced in February 2005. Further analysis of Census comparisons of FRS respondents and non-respondents revealed that there was insufficient information to support adjustments for differential response as between workless households and those with adults in paid employment. However, the new regime includes a number of other improvements.
DWP will work on the FRS grossing review and investigate the feasibility of introducing regional-level population controls in the FRS grossing regime, to allow relevant counts to be produced for the English regions and for Wales.	The new regime introduces regional-level population controls and should improve the accuracy of FRS-based regional-level analysis. Further work to assess the robustness of regional-level income data is expected to report in 2005.
DWP will carry out a Strategic Review of the FRS to see how well the key needs of DWP, Inland Revenue (IR), Her Majesty's Treasury (HMT), Scottish Executive (SE) and Northern Ireland Office (NIO) are being met. An investigation of the scope for regularly linking FRS data with administrative data is also planned for 2004.	<p>The FRS 2004 Strategic Review confirmed that there is a continuing need for retaining the survey in its current form and made a number of recommendations for future developments. A follow-up report is planned for spring 2005, which will provide an update on progress.</p> <p>One recommendation was to take forward a project on the feasibility of linking FRS data with administrative data. A feasibility study was carried out during 2004, and in January 2005 work to take forward the linking project was approved. Provision for data linking, with the informed consent of FRS respondents, is planned to be included in the new FRS fieldwork contract from 2006.</p>
<b>Scottish Household Survey (SHS)</b>	
SE will carry out a readjustment weighting of the SHS, based on a full assessment of the possible bias in SHS data due to non-response.	Non-response bias analysis from the Census is now complete. Final decisions on the need for additional weighting will be taken by the end of 2005.
SE will disseminate the simplified SHS dataset and its accompanying training materials in spring 2004 to local authorities (LAs), voluntary organisations and academia.	A simplified dataset, SHS Lite, and supporting materials were produced in 2004. A follow-up seminar was held with users in spring 2005.
SE will carry out a Quality Review of the SHS.	A strategic review was scoped and initiated in 2004/05. The project initiation document is available on the SE SHS website.

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<b>Expenditure and Food Survey (EFS)</b>	
The Office for National Statistics (ONS) will implement the recommendations which arose from an internal Quality Review of the EFS.	ONS has carried out an internal Quality Review of the EFS, which made a number of recommendations aimed at improving data quality. An action plan has been produced and it was hoped to implement all the recommendations during 2004/05. This has not been possible because of staff shortages, but it is planned to complete the implementation by the end of 2005. The action plan will be regularly discussed and updated at the ONS internal EFS Management Board and progress reported at meetings of the EFS Steering Group.
ONS will test the impact of EFS adjustment factors on the survey and will discuss the results with key users.	The 2001 Census-linked study of non-response for the EFS aimed to provide the EFS with adjustment factors (weights) to take account of non-response by households with different characteristics. Preliminary weights were delivered in April 2004 and since then work has continued to investigate the robustness of the weights, as their application would last until the next Census-linked study. The impact on EFS estimates will be tested and discussed by ONS with the Survey's key users in the coming year.
<b>General Household Survey (GHS)</b>	
ONS will measure the effect of the computer-assisted self-completion option on time series data during 2004.	<p>The GHS offers a laptop self-completion option for the family information section. As the section asks for dates, numbers and yes/no responses, it lends itself to a laptop self-completion, unlike other potentially sensitive areas of the questionnaire, such as smoking and drinking.</p> <p>ONS looked at the results of the 2003/04 GHS family information section to see if there were differences between the modes of collection. The main difference was the under-reporting of stepchildren when laptop self-completion was used compared with when the interviewer asked these questions. Respondents often did not consider their partner's older or grown-up children resident in the household as their stepchildren. Where couples were cohabiting (but not married), the survey treats their relatives as if they were married. Hence their partner's children become stepchildren despite being unrelated in a legal sense. The survey also collects information on the marital status of the respondent and the relationship of the household members to each other. This enables the under-reporting of stepchildren to be corrected after the data are collected. There are insufficient years of data to measure the effect over time. Work will continue depending on available resources.</p>

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<b>Annual Population Survey (APS)</b>	
<p>ONS will conduct the first year's fieldwork of the new APS from January to December 2004 and deliver first results by June 2005.</p>	<p>The Annual Population Survey Boost (APSB) began data collection in January 2004. The first APS dataset will consist of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) (waves one and five), Local Labour Force Survey (LLFS) and APSB. The first dataset will cover January to December 2004 and will be available in June 2005. This will provide information at Local Area District (LAD) and national level.</p> <p>The APS will have a sample size of approximately 500 economically active persons per LAD and at least 450 economically active persons in Greater London boroughs. APS data will be available on the Neighbourhood Statistics Service (NeSS) website and through the National Online Manpower Information Service (Nomis®) website. Topics include demographics, identity, housing, employment-related topics and education.</p> <p>After June 2005, the APS will report on annual outputs on a quarterly basis. Data from April 2004 to March 2005 will be available in September 2005.</p>
<b>Wealth and Assets Survey (WAS)</b>	
<p>ONS will continue to work with other government departments following the completion of the pre-feasibility study into a WAS at the end of April 2004. After this, key decisions about how to take the work forward will be made through the WAS Group.</p>	<p>ONS has been working with government departments to determine requirements for the WAS. A consortium of interested parties has been established, including DWP, IR, HMT, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). ONS is currently engaged in negotiating survey funding with these departments.</p> <p>The pre-feasibility stage, which provided an initial assessment of the project, is complete. Funding departments have supplied ONS with their requirements for the survey and a preliminary questionnaire has been developed by ONS in consultation with government departments.</p> <p>The questionnaire will be tested in a small-scale feasibility study, scheduled for June 2005 with results available in August 2005. A larger pilot study is scheduled to go into the field in November 2005. The pilot will test the revised survey content from the feasibility study and will use a larger representative sample. The pilot will be a dress rehearsal for all other aspects of the survey.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the final survey will go into the field in April 2006 and the first annual results will be available in late 2007. Each phase of development will inform the next, and there will be a need to review and reflect before making decisions on how to take the next stage forward.</p>

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<b>Neighbourhood Statistics Service (NeSS)</b>	
ONS will focus efforts on developing the thematic mapping function in a more flexible way using Scalable Vector Graphics technology.	The latest release of the NeSS website includes improved mapping capability using Scalable Vector Graphics. This allows users to choose from a much wider range of statistics and tailor mapping outputs to the user's own needs. Further developments will allow the overlay of point location data (eg schools) on thematic maps.
ONS will release Super Output Area (SOA) geography at all levels by July 2004.	The Lower Layer SOAs were released in February 2004 and the Middle Layer in August 2004 after a successful consultation with those in LAs responsible for planning the activities of the authority. Data released at SOA level include Indices of Deprivation and Census data.
DWP will publish local level statistics on an extended range of benefits for 2003 data in April 2004.	Data for 2003 were released in April 2004, and 2004 data are also now available on the DWP website.
<b>Other developments</b>	
ONS will follow up the 2000 diary-based Time Use Survey using a pre-coded time use survey to take place on the ONS Omnibus Survey in four months of 2005.	As a follow-up to the 2000 diary-based Time Use Survey, a pre-coded time use diary will take place on the ONS Omnibus Survey in February, June, September and November 2005. Initial results are expected to be available in spring 2006.
The National Assembly for Wales (NAW) will publish the report <i>Statistical Focus on Older People in Wales</i> comparing social and economic conditions for older people living in Wales with other age groups.	The report was published in June 2004 and can be found on the NAW website.
The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) will develop a questionnaire for a face-to-face household survey of participation and attendance in its sectors and activities. A pilot of the survey will take place in 2004/05.	Following completion of a scoping study to assess requirements, DCMS is developing a face-to-face household survey of participation and attendance in its sectors and activities. These include sports and physical activities, arts, libraries, museums and galleries, and architecture and the historic environment. The survey fieldwork is scheduled to start in summer 2005.
DWP will review many of its National Statistics publications to include analysis from the new 100 per cent data source.	<p>The aim of the modernising statistics project is to review fully most DWP National Statistics publications in the light of Internet dissemination advances and the availability of the new Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study. The Study combines administrative data for 100 per cent of records for benefits, welfare to work schemes and employment (from IR). Tables from the Study will allow DWP to produce:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• estimates of benefit and welfare to work scheme caseloads based on 100 per cent data</li> <li>• estimates of flows through benefits and schemes into employment</li> </ul> <p>The Internet dissemination solution will allow users to specify their own tabulations, making DWP data more widely available.</p>

Plan	Performance against plan
	<p>During 2004/05 DWP conducted a full review of existing National Statistics tables. This resulted in an internal consultation exercise to agree the content and format of the new publications. A public consultation followed soon afterwards. The consultation and the response are available on the DWP website.</p> <p>Since then, DWP has been undertaking considerable quality assurance work on the study. Alongside this, development of an Internet Tabulation Tool is nearing completion.</p>
<p>DWP will release data on the Nomis® website from early 2004/05.</p>	<p>DWP data series relating to key client groups and most individual benefits are now available on Nomis®. These series will be updated on a quarterly basis.</p>
<p>DWP will conduct a benefit review of Disability Living Allowance in 2004, which will report on levels of incorrectness in payments of that benefit (due to fraud, customer error and official error).</p>	<p>The review was carried out and DWP expects to publish results as National Statistics in summer 2005.</p>
<p>Consortia of government departments will carry out second sweeps of two key longitudinal surveys: the Millennium Cohort Study (MCS) and the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA).</p>	<p>The second sweep of MCS began in September 2003 and is due to be completed in early 2005/06. By the end of March 2005 sufficient in-principle funding had been committed from government and other sources for MCS to prepare for its third sweep. The second sweep of ELSA data collection began in June 2004 and is also due to be completed in early 2005/06. Funding decisions on future sweeps of ELSA are expected in mid 2005. Sweep one results from both surveys have been deposited in the Economic and Social Data Service data archive.</p>
<p>ONS will report on the population Census-linked study of non-response.</p>	<p>The Census-linked study of survey non-response uses linked Census and survey data to examine the characteristics of non-responders and non-response bias. Work on identifying the characteristics of non-responders, non-response bias and key factors related to non-response has been completed on 10 of the 12 participating surveys: British Crime Survey; EFS; FRS; Health Survey of England; GHS; LFS; National Diet and Nutrition Survey of Adults; National Travel Survey; Survey of English Housing; and SHS. Analysis on the Time Use Survey will not be undertaken due to limited demand, while work on the ONS Omnibus Survey has been put on hold due to lack of staff resources.</p>
<p>IR will undertake a feasibility study to establish whether the newly available administrative data on Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit, and other survey data, can be used to augment the Survey of Personal Incomes to give a family dimension.</p>	<p>Payment of Child and Working Tax Credits commenced in 2003/04. The tax credits data source will be an analytical database containing the final values of virtually all 2003/04 awards based on actual 2003/04 family incomes of recipients. The bulk of these data were available by the end of 2004/05.</p>

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
	<p>In advance of this, some work has been carried out on a similar database containing award values based on earlier income data. This has pointed to some gaps and other deficiencies in the data extracted from the tax credits business system, for use by IR analysts. Investigations into these issues have commenced and will continue into 2005/06.</p>
<p>ONS will consider how to take forward the European Union (EU) requirement for a Survey of Income and Living Conditions. It will explore the feasibility of using the GHS to meet the main requirement for cross-sectional data, from 2005.</p>	<p>The GHS will be used to take forward the requirements for both cross-sectional and longitudinal data from April 2005. There will be a four-year rotating panel. Northern Ireland data will be collected in a separate exercise by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) rather than adapting the Northern Ireland Continuous Household Survey.</p>
<p>Government departments will continue the work set out in the Pension Statistics Review Action Plan with the overall aim of improving the quality and range of data available on pensions.</p>	<p>The final report from the Pension Statistics Review Action Plan was published in April 2004 on the National Statistics website.</p> <p>Most actions were completed, some of them leading to changes in the way pension statistics are collected or presented, as detailed in the report. The insurance questionnaires used to collect data from businesses were updated to include more detailed questions and guidance. Results from these changes are reported under the Commerce, Energy and Industry Theme.</p> <p>Those recommendations resulting in longer-term action are being taken forward as part of the work programme of the Pension Statistics Task Force, an inter-departmental body set up in May 2004, with membership from ONS, DWP and IR. The Task Force published an article in June 2004, which included preliminary estimates of total pension contributions on a new definition that embraces all private pensions. Other completed activities in 2004/05 included the launch of a web-based guide to pension statistics; and a successful pilot of new questions on pension contributions in the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, which will be included in the 2005 survey.</p>
<p>DWP, in conjunction with the Rio Group on Poverty Statistics, will prepare a compendium of best practices on indicators of poverty and social exclusion for EU Member States.</p>	<p>This work is now being taken forward in conjunction with similar work by the United Nations. A draft compendium is expected in 2005.</p>
<b>Quality Reviews</b>	
<p>DWP will carry out a review of Fraud and Error in Income Support and Jobseeker's Allowance in 2004/05.</p>	<p>This review has been delayed because of lack of resources. During 2005/06 DWP will consider how Quality Reviews of this series and the corresponding series on Housing Benefit should be specified and resourced.</p>

# Transport, Travel and Tourism

## Summary of performance against plan in 2004/05

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<b>Developments</b>	
<b>Road Accident Statistics</b>	
Department for Transport (DfT), Scottish Executive (SE) and National Assembly for Wales (NAW) will implement the recommendations of the Review of Road Accident Statistics, with changes in data collection from January 2005.	<p>Changes to the data collection were introduced in January 2005, including the collection of information on the contributory factors to accidents. First results will become available in 2006.</p> <p>NAW has started work on updating its road accident database and a final database is expected to be available early in 2005/06. Some changes to the <i>Road Accidents: Wales</i> publication have also been made as a result of the Quality Review. These include new tables showing traffic data and slight accident rates for local authorities (LAs) and some new summary tables containing longer time series.</p>
SE will include in <i>Key Road Accident Statistics</i> , for the first time, provisional figures for individual police forces and LAs in June 2004.	<p>Two new tables giving this information were added to <i>Key Road Accident Statistics</i>, which was published in June 2004.</p> <p>In addition, four new tables and other improvements were made to <i>Road Accidents Scotland</i> (November 2004), following consultation with the Liaison Group on Road Accident Statistics.</p>
<b>Road freight</b>	
DfT will extend <i>Transport of Goods by Road in Great Britain</i> , to include results of the first survey of company-owned vans. The first results are due to be published in June 2004. They will include results for privately owned vans to give an overall picture of van activity.	DfT published results from the first survey of company-owned vans in August 2004. For completeness, some results from the privately owned vans survey were also included.
<b>Roads and road traffic</b>	
SE will publish a report on congestion on the most heavily trafficked parts of the Scottish trunk road network.	The average times lost per vehicle-kilometre on the monitored roads in the later months of 2003 were published in <i>Scottish Transport Statistics</i> (August 2004). The detailed results were published in the Scottish Executive Traffic Controller's <i>Congestion on Scottish Trunk Roads 2003</i> report (March 2005).

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
DfT is examining whether it can improve measures of congestion. Current measures do not reflect key aspects of congestion, such as journey reliability and the amount of time spent travelling below a certain speed.	A database has been produced that will hold information on journey times on every link of the strategic road network, based on data from a variety of sources: the Highways Agency's motorway incident detection system, automatic number plate recognition cameras, and in-vehicle navigation and tracking systems using Global Positioning System (GPS). Further work is being done to establish the quality characteristics of the different sources. When it is complete, the database will provide information about variability of journey times as well as average journey times. A similar journey time database is being developed for key roads in urban areas, based on GPS data. These information systems will provide the basis for new indicators of congestion on inter-urban and urban roads, for which targets will be set in 2005/06.
DfT will survey all local roads using more objective machine-based surveys, similar to those used by the Highways Agency on trunk roads.	Machine-based surveys are now being used on principal roads and will be extended to other road classes in phases over the next two years. Visual surveys are being retained in parallel for continuity.
<b>National Travel Survey</b>	
DfT will improve the imputation procedures for the National Travel Survey.	Work on imputation has proceeded to plan. The weighting project has progressed well, though a little slower than expected because of the complexity of the data. First weighted results should be available in summer 2005.
<b>Maritime statistics</b>	
DfT will propose revisions to the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) in the current Nomenclature statistique des Activités économiques dans la Communauté Européenne (NACE)/SIC revision round to identify ports industry more precisely than the current classification allows.	The final NACE structure is expected to be available by September 2005. This will determine the first four levels of the national SIC. The procedures to determine the number of sub-classes (fifth digit) are subject to a number of discussions between ONS and other departments.
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	
Northern Ireland will publish finalised 2003/04 road traffic collision statistics during 2004.	The data were published during May 2004.
<b>Scotland</b>	
SE will publish further transport results from the Scottish Household Survey (SHS), including analyses of the information collected by new transport questions added in April 2003.	<i>Household Transport in 2003</i> (published in November 2004), <i>SHS Travel Diary results for 2003</i> (March 2005) and <i>Bus and Coach Statistics 2003–04</i> (March 2005) contained many new tables, including analyses of the results of questions added in 2003.

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
SE will also review the SHS's transport-related questions, develop them and add new ones to the survey with effect from 2005 and, if appropriate, SE will consider possible detailed SHS follow-up surveys on specific transport topics.	<p>The SHS's transport-related questions were reviewed, including consultation with members of SE's Transport and Travel Statistics Advisory Committee, and new questions were introduced in January 2005. The 2005/06 questionnaire will be published in due course.</p> <p>SE commissioned two transport-related follow-up surveys: one of users of Traveline Scotland; and one on assessing improved public transport for disabled people. The surveys are due to be completed in summer 2005 and early 2006 respectively.</p>
SE will further improve <i>Scottish Transport Statistics</i> .	<p>About 20 new tables were added, and several other improvements made, to the edition published in August 2004.</p> <p>As new data became available, updated versions of some tables were made available each month from November 2004 to February 2005.</p>
<b>Wales</b>	
NAW will publish a full hard copy of <i>Welsh Transport Statistics 2003</i> in June 2004.	The hard copy of <i>Welsh Transport Statistics 2003</i> was published in June 2004, as planned.
NAW will continue to work on implementing the recommendations from the 2001 review of its need for transport statistics, building on work already carried out.	Some further work was carried out in 2004/05. Of 40 recommendations in the report, 35 have now been completed. A further three recommendations have been partly completed.
<b>Other developments</b>	
DfT will conduct a bus punctuality pilot across Great Britain in 2004.	The pilot survey was conducted in spring 2004, and the results used to set new punctuality targets for the bus industry.
DfT will complete work on accessibility audit indicators in 2004. Most of the required datasets have been assembled. A software package is being written, with a final version due in May 2004.	The software package was completed in 2004, rather later than expected. Work on indicators has been further delayed, while public transport data have been collated and processed centrally, but should be completed in summer 2005.
DfT will publish an update of guidance on how indicators for local transport plans in England should be compiled on a consistent and cost-effective basis, in spring 2004, following comments from users.	<p>The guidance on new indicators was completed and the following key documents were published during 2004/05:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>How to monitor indicators in local transport plans and annual progress reports</i> – April 2004 update</li> <li>• <i>Technical guidance on monitoring the local transport plans mandatory indicators</i>, published in December 2004</li> </ul>
<b>Tourism statistics</b>	
The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) will publish results from the Great Britain 2002 Day Visits Survey in May 2004.	DCMS published the results in June 2004 on its website.

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
DCMS will submit the Review of Tourism Statistics to the National Statistician in spring 2004.	The National Statistician approved the final report in June 2004 and work has begun on implementing the top priorities.
DCMS will lead a Tourism Satellite Accounts First Steps programme of work.	The DCMS-led Tourism Satellite Account First Steps project reported in autumn 2004. The results are now being used to assess the size and structure of the UK tourism industry.
SE and DCMS will implement the recommendations arising from the Tourism Statistics Improvement Initiative.	A public sector group was formed to develop an implementation plan and met in July and September 2004. Following the outcome of the 2004 Spending Review allocations for DCMS, the group's conclusions were published in the form of an implementation plan.  SE participated fully in the Tourism Statistics Improvement Initiative, led by DCMS. They are now involved in implementing the top priorities identified by the review.
SE statisticians, in conjunction with Visit Scotland and Scottish Enterprise, will work on developing a Scottish Tourism Satellite Account, linking to developments for the whole of the UK.	A preliminary Scottish Tourism Satellite Account for 2000 was published in October 2004.
The National Tourist Boards and DCMS will consider changes to the design of the UK Tourism Survey, ahead of tendering the contract to conduct the survey from January 2006.	The National Tourist Boards and DCMS have ended the existing contract and recently tendered the new contract to conduct the UK Tourism Survey. DCMS assisted in consideration of the bids and the new contract was awarded for data collection to start from April 2005.
<b>Quality Reviews</b>	
DfT will start a Quality Review of Maritime Statistics during 2004/05.	The Maritime Statistics Quality Review is due to begin in 2005.
DfT will start a Quality Review of Road Traffic during 2004/05.	The Review commenced in September 2004 and will report in summer 2005.
DfT will continue its work to implement the recommendations of the Road Freight Statistics Quality Review.	Work to implement the recommendations has continued. In particular, new IT systems to allow user requirements to be better satisfied have been developed and are now operational.
DfT will publish, during 2004, the completed report for the Quality Review of the UK Domestic Waterborne Freight Survey.	This was published in September 2004 and can be found on the National Statistics website.
<b>International developments</b>	
DfT will supply data to meet the requirements of the new European rail regulation.	DfT has been providing data for the first tranche of requirements under the new regulation since May 2004. Work is ongoing to ensure DfT will be able to satisfy additional upcoming requirements.

# Other National Statistics

## Summary of performance against plan in 2004/05

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<b>Developments</b>	
<b>Personnel statistics</b>	
The Cabinet Office (CO) will carry out a strategic review to look at data collection on civil servants and output and dissemination practices.	The review recommended using the Office for National Statistics (ONS) new quarterly survey of Civil Service departments/agencies to provide statistics on headcount, and to move to a Common Employee Record (CER) for capturing strategic personnel data on Civil Service staff.
CO Personnel Statistics Branch will implement recommendations from the above review to increase quality, timeliness and accessibility of data produced.	A quarterly system is in place and due for first publication in 2005. Detailed analytical data on Civil Service staff were moved to a web-only publication and are being changed to reflect user needs. Publication lead time has reduced considerably.
CO will carry out a review of Civil Service Statistics data requirements/specifications to bring this in line with the Civil Service Reform Agenda.	Work is in hand to develop the CER to capture individual-level data which will meet changing policy initiatives stemming from the reform process, such as Professional Skills for Government.
Defence Analytical Services Agency (DASA) will work with the Department of Health (DH) and ONS to access National Health Service (NHS) numbers for all Armed Forces personnel and use these to link to Hospital Episode Statistics in the UK.	DASA is continuing to work with ONS to capture NHS numbers for all Service personnel and is developing plans to collect these in future from recruitment databases.
<b>Access to statistics</b>	
The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) will produce a Statistical Bulletin on Liquor Licensing by the end of November 2004.	DCMS published the Statistical Bulletin on Liquor Licensing in October 2004 on its website.
<b>Other developments</b>	
The Department for International Development (DFID) will continue work on special exercises on major development issues, such as education and HIV/AIDS, to enhance data quality.	Good progress has been made on the education and HIV/AIDS portfolios. The final area to be addressed relates to notional sector classification of Poverty Reduction Budget Support. A special study on this was completed in June 2005 and DFID is using the results to determine reporting guidelines. Once those guidelines have been agreed, the exercise will be extended to cover the whole of the health portfolio.
ONS will review DFID's reporting on its Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets to confirm their validity.	The ONS Methodology Advisory Committee has reviewed DFID's PSA reporting and agreed that the methods are valid given the circumstances in which the data are generated.

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Performance against plan</i>
<b>Quality Reviews</b>	
CO will complete the Quality Review on Civil Service Staffing Publications and produce a report during 2004/05.	This has been replaced by new work started in 2004 to capture data quarterly and by plans to develop the CER.
CO will work on the overarching Personnel Statistics Strategy Review which is due in 2004.	This report has been produced – please see above.
DASA will take forward the recommendations from the <i>National Statistics Quality Review of Defence Finance and Economic statistics</i> .	An implementation plan was published in June 2004 containing 121 recommendations to be implemented either in 2004/05 (Phase One) or 2005/06 and beyond (Phase Two). Significant progress has been made, including the development of industrial and regional statistics and the regular delivery of resource accounting data.
DASA will continue with the review of Defence Logistics which is scheduled to finish in early 2004/05.	<p>The <i>National Statistics Quality Review of Statistics on Defence Logistics</i> was published on the National Statistics website in September 2004.</p> <p>The report contained recommendations to clarify and expand existing information, published within chapters three to seven of <i>UK Defence Statistics (UKDS)</i>, and to broaden the scope of externally available information on Ministry of Defence (MoD) logistics. Many of the recommendations for amendments to existing UKDS chapters three to seven were implemented in the 2004 edition, published in September 2004.</p> <p>DASA published its implementation plan outlining progress against the review's recommendations and plans for future work in December 2004. The main areas identified for future investigation include: stock holdings; replenishment of spares; repair and turnaround times; equipment availability; capability; losses; and disposals.</p> <p>Where the information is found to be accessible and of reasonable quality, DASA will consider publication in future editions of <i>UK Defence Statistics</i>.</p>
DASA will carry out a review of the current war pensions statistics as part of a wider review looking at pension information on the Armed Forces generally during 2004/05.	The review of Service pensioner statistics was completed in February 2005 and an implementation plan will be published in 2005/06. The review covered the existing National Statistics on war pensions and identified data requirements from the new Armed Forces Compensation Scheme introduced in April 2005 and the Armed Forces Pension Scheme.
DASA will implement the recommendations arising from the Medical Statistics Review.	The Review made a large number of recommendations on a wide range of defence medical statistics which are being taken forward in collaboration with ONS and medical specialists in MoD.
The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) will continue work on the IT stages of the Fire Statistics Review during 2004/05.	In 2004/05 the IT scoping study was completed and a consultation document on the content of the new Fire and Rescue Service incident collection was issued. 2005/06 will see the implementation phase of the electronic data collection project under way.

# appendices



# Appendix A

## Aims and objectives of National Statistics

(Extract from  
*Framework for  
National Statistics*)

The *Framework for National Statistics*, published in June 2000, set out the aims and objectives of National Statistics as follows:

The Government and the devolved administrations are committed to enhancing the integrity, both actual and perceived, of National Statistics.

The primary aim of National Statistics is to provide an accurate, up-to-date, comprehensive and meaningful picture of the economy and society, and to support the formulation and monitoring of economic and social policies by government at all levels. National Statistics also aims:

- to inform the Parliaments and Assemblies and the citizen about the state of the nation and provide a window on the work and performance of government, allowing the impact of government policies and actions to be assessed
- to provide business with a statistical service which promotes the efficient functioning of commerce and industry
- to provide researchers, analysts and other customers with a statistical service that assists their work and studies
- to promote these aims within the UK, the European Union and internationally, and to provide a statistical service to meet European Union and international requirements

The objectives of National Statistics in pursuit of these aims are:

- improve the quality, timeliness and relevance of its services to customers, both within government and the wider community
- improve public confidence in official statistics by demonstrating that they are produced to best professional standards and free from political interference
- operate efficiently by improving value for money in the production of its outputs and minimising the burden on those who supply it with data

# Appendix B

## Relationships between departments, agencies, administrations and theme groups

### National Statistics Theme Working Groups

Department/Agency	Head of Profession	Agriculture, Fishing & Forestry	Commerce, Energy & Industry	Crime & Justice	Economy
Bank of England	✓				
Cabinet Office	✓				
Civil Service College					
Competition Commission					
Crown Prosecution Service				✗	
Defence Analytical Services Agency	✓				
Department for Constitutional Affairs	✓			✗	
Department for Culture, Media & Sport	✓		✗		
Department for Education & Skills	✓				
Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	✓	✗			
Department for International Development	✓				
Department for Transport	✓				
Department for Work & Pensions	✓				
Department of Health	✓				
Department of Trade & Industry	✓		✗		✗
Employment Service					
Equal Opportunities Commission					
Foreign and Commonwealth Office					
Forestry Commission	✓	✗			
General Register Office for Scotland	✓				
Government Actuary's Department	✓				
Health & Safety Executive	✓				
Health and Social Care Information Centre	✓				
Her Majesty's Courts Service				✗	
Higher Education Funding Council for England					
Higher Education Statistics Agency					
HM Revenue & Customs	✓		✗		✗
HM Treasury	✓				✗
Home Office	✓			✗	
House of Commons Library					
Learning & Skills Council					
Local Government Data Unit					
National Assembly for Wales	✓	✗			✗
National Audit Office					
National Health Service Scotland					
National Savings & Investments					
Northern Ireland Civil Service*	✓	✗		✗	
Office for National Statistics	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Office for Standards in Education	✓				
Office of Communications	✓				
Office of Fair Trading					
Office of Manpower Economics	✓				
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister	✓				
Office of Water Services	✓				
Scottish Executive	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Strategic Rail Authority					

✗ denotes departmental participation in a particular Theme Group.

\* Statisticians working in the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and other NI departments are not members of the GSS.



# Appendix C

## National Statistics Quality Review Programme

### Details of completed reviews as at 31 March 2005

(✓ denotes completed Reviews; + denotes the inclusion of the devolved administrations)

Theme Review Topic	Completed					Lead Departments/Comments
	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	
<b>Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry</b>						
Forestry Statistics			✓			Forestry Commission
Strategic Review of Farming and Food Statistics					✓	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
<b>Commerce, Energy and Industry</b>						
Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR)		✓				Office for National Statistics
<b>Crime and Justice</b>						
Forecasting the Prison and Probation Populations			✓			Home Office
Crime Statistics				(✓)		Home Office <sup>1</sup>
Efficacy of Sentencing				(✓)		Home Office <sup>1</sup>
Homicide Statistics				(✓)		Home Office <sup>1</sup>
Motoring Statistics				(✓)		Home Office <sup>1</sup>
Administration of Justice Statistics				(✓)		Home Office <sup>1</sup>
Drug Seizure and Offender Statistics				✓		Home Office
<b>Economy</b>						
Short Term Output Indicators	✓					Office for National Statistics
Government Accounts and Indicators			✓			Office for National Statistics
Balances of Payments and Trade Statistics					✓	Office for National Statistics
<b>Education and Training</b>						
Higher Education Student Statistics			✓			Department for Education & Skills
Initial Entry Rate into Higher Education				✓		Department for Education & Skills
School Workforce Statistics					✓	Department for Education & Skills
Measurement of Attainment of Young People					✓	Department for Education & Skills
<b>Health and Care</b>						
Reviews will be subject to the outcome of work on the Framework for Health and Care Statistics and the wide-ranging review of public health information sources.						

<sup>1</sup> These Home Office Reviews were started/completed prior to the formal launch of National Statistics and were published formally under the National Statistics banner in 2003/04.

Theme Review Topic	Completed					Lead Departments/Comments
	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	
<b>Labour Market</b>						
Distribution of Earnings Statistics			✓			Office for National Statistics
Framework for Labour Market Statistics			✓			Office for National Statistics
Labour Force Survey			✓			Office for National Statistics
<b>Natural and Built Environment</b>						
Construction Statistics		✓				Department of Trade and Industry
Survey of English Housing and Related Sources					✓	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
<b>Population and Migration</b>						
National Population Projections: Review of Methodology for Projecting Mortality		✓				Government Actuary's Department
International Migration Statistics				✓		Office for National Statistics
<b>Social and Welfare</b>						
Income Support Statistics		✓				Department for Work & Pensions
Jobseeker's Allowance Statistics		✓				Department for Work & Pensions
Child Support Agency Statistics		✓				Department for Work & Pensions
Households Below Average Income and the Pensioners' Incomes Series				✓		Department for Work & Pensions
Issues in Measuring Household Income and the Redistribution of Income				✓		Office for National Statistics
<b>Travel, Transport and Tourism</b>						
National Travel Survey		✓				Department of the Environment, Transport & the Regions (now DfT)
Bus, Coach and Light Rail Statistics				✓		Department for Transport
Road Freight Statistics				✓		Department for Transport
Tourism Statistics					✓	Department for Culture, Media & Sport
Domestic Waterborne Freight in the UK					✓	Department for Transport

Theme Review Topic	Completed					Lead Departments/Comments
	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	
<b>Other National Statistics</b>						
Defence Personnel Statistics		✓				Defence Analytical Services Agency – MOD
United Kingdom Defence Statistics Annual Publication			✓			Defence Analytical Services Agency – MOD
Armed Forces Medical Statistics			✓			Defence Analytical Services Agency – MOD
DFID's Statistical Information Systems			✓			Department for International Development
Ministry of Defence Finance and Economic Statistics					✓	Defence Analytical Services Agency – MOD
Statistics on Defence Logistics					✓	Defence Analytical Services Agency – MOD
<b>Yearly Totals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Total = 40</b>

# Appendix D

## Changes to the Scope of National Statistics during 2004/05

### Series brought into scope

#### NISRA

*Northern Ireland Household Projections* – new publication, released in January 2005. New projections will be available every two years.

#### Home Office

*Statistics on deaths reported to coroners, England and Wales, 2003<sup>1</sup>* – existing publication brought into scope in June 2004.

*Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals: Great Britain, 2003* – existing publication brought into scope in September 2004.

*Statistics on Offences Brought to Justice* – these were added to Criminal Statistics for the first time in 2004.

### Withdrawals from scope

#### NISRA

*Community Attitudes Survey* – Survey has ceased after main sponsoring organisations withdrew funding. Final publication was in March 2004 covering outputs for 2003.

#### HM Customs & Excise

*Trade Trends* – this was a publication that contained articles and datasets around the trade theme. It was withdrawn in February 2005 as the data became available through [www.uktradeinfo.com](http://www.uktradeinfo.com)

<sup>1</sup> Responsibility for Statistics on the Deaths reported to coroners passed to DCA on 1/6/05.

# Appendix E

## Costs of National Statistics

Figures on the estimated 'actual' costs of producing National Statistics for the year 2004/05 are shown both in total and separately for each National Statistics Theme.

### Summary

The 'costs' of National Statistics presented in this Annex cover two separate categories of expenditure, each of which are summarised in the table below.

- **'Actual' Resource Costs** – the estimated total costs incurred by Government Departments solely

on work designated as National Statistics – derived from end-year accounting statements that cover all official statistics

- **'Development' Costs** – significant costs incurred by Departments on any new National Statistics initiatives and developments, or any enhancements to existing statistics. These figures are a subset of the 'Resource Costs' described above.

### Summary

£m

#### Producers

'Actual' resource expenditure 2004/05	£ 253.4
'Actual' development expenditure 2004/05	£ 15.6

## Table 1

Theme/Cross-cutting <sup>1</sup>	£m Actuals 2004/05	£m Development Cost <sup>2</sup>
Agriculture, Fishing, Forestry	11.9	1.3
Commerce, Energy, Industry	4.5	0.2
Crime and Justice	5.7	0.8
Economy	37.8	2.5
Education and Training	5.3	1.0
Health and Care	17.2	2.3
Labour Market	22.7	1.0
Natural and Built Environment	5.9	0.3
Population and Migration	12.6	2.2
Social and Welfare	19.5	1.0
Transport, Travel and Tourism	21.6	2.6
Other National Statistics	2.2	0.2
<b>Cross-cutting</b>		
Census	4.4	0
Sustainable Development	0	0
Renewal and Social Inclusion	0	0
Economic	12.1	0
Social	2.7	0.2
Infrastructure	67.3	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>253.4</b>	<b>15.6</b>
Sub – totals		
<b>England and Wales</b>	<b>239.7</b>	<b>14.4</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>

1. The figures have been disaggregated, in the main, into the twelve separate National Statistics 'Themes', where each Theme represents a distinct and easily recognisable area of national life.
2. Figures are the estimated total expenditure on significant statistical developments. They are a subset of each Theme's total expenditure.

### Explanatory notes to Table 1

The figures are based on the 'full economic costs' to each contributing Department of either producing those outputs which have been designated as National Statistics, or contributing to any other work which supports the aims and objectives of National Statistics. These costs include overheads as well as staff costs.

Some statistical expenditures cannot easily be broken down by Theme, for example those relating to major or multi-purpose surveys which can be the source of a number of different outputs in a number of different Themes, or the cost of general cross-cutting work carried out to support National Statistics. These costs have been broken down into the following components:

- 'Economic' expenditure (e.g. expenditure on the Annual Business Inquiry)
- 'Social' expenditure (e.g. expenditure on the Expenditure and Food Survey)
- 'Census' – conducting the 2001 Census of Population, and Census 2011 developments
- 'Infrastructure' expenditure which is not Theme-specific (e.g. expenditure on Methodology work, the development of multi-purpose IT systems, etc)

# Appendix F

## A list of useful web links

Further information on the statistics covered by the National Statistics Themes can be found at the following websites:

### Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry

National Statistics  
[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

Department for Environment,  
Food and Rural Affairs  
[www.defra.gov.uk/esg/default.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/esg/default.htm)

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development,  
Northern Ireland  
[www.dardni.gov.uk/econs/stats.htm](http://www.dardni.gov.uk/econs/stats.htm)

Forestry Commission  
[www.forestry.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/statistics)

National Assembly for Wales  
[www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/index.htm](http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/index.htm)

Scottish Executive Environment  
and Rural Affairs Department  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/about/departments/erad](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/about/departments/erad)

### Commerce, Energy and Industry

National Statistics  
[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

Department of Trade and Industry  
[www.dti.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.dti.gov.uk/statistics)

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment,  
Northern Ireland  
[www.detini.gov.uk](http://www.detini.gov.uk)

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs  
[www.hmrc.gov.uk](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk)

National Assembly for Wales  
[www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/index.htm](http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/index.htm)

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister  
[www.odpm.gov.uk](http://www.odpm.gov.uk)

Scottish Executive  
[www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)

Organisation for Economic Co-operation  
and Development  
[www.oecd.org/statistics](http://www.oecd.org/statistics)

Eurostat  
[www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat)

Department for Culture, Media and Sport  
[www.culture.gov.uk](http://www.culture.gov.uk)

### Crime and Justice

National Statistics  
[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

Crime and Criminal Justice  
[www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/index.htm](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/index.htm)

Administration of Civil, Criminal and  
Administrative Justice  
[www.dca.gov.uk](http://www.dca.gov.uk)

Courts Statistics  
[www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk](http://www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk)

Northern Ireland Court Service  
[www.courtsni.gov.uk](http://www.courtsni.gov.uk)

Police Service of Northern Ireland  
[www.psn.police.uk/index/statistics\\_branch.htm](http://www.psn.police.uk/index/statistics_branch.htm)

Prosecution Statistics  
[www.cps.gov.uk](http://www.cps.gov.uk)

Northern Ireland Office  
[www.nio.gov.uk](http://www.nio.gov.uk)

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency  
[www.nisra.gov.uk/natstats/welcome.htm](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/natstats/welcome.htm)

Scottish Executive  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/statistics/15730/9012](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/statistics/15730/9012)

## Economy

National Statistics  
[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

Department of Trade and Industry  
[www.dti.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.dti.gov.uk/statistics)

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment,  
Northern Ireland  
[www.detini.gov.uk](http://www.detini.gov.uk)

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs  
[www.hmrc.gov.uk](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk)

Her Majesty's Treasury  
[www.hm-treasury.gov.uk](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk)

Scottish Executive  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/statistics/15572/8900](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/statistics/15572/8900)

United Kingdom Trade Information Service  
[www.uktradeinfo.com](http://www.uktradeinfo.com)

Organisation for Economic Co-operation  
and Development  
[www.oecd.org/statistics](http://www.oecd.org/statistics)

National Assembly for Wales  
[www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/  
index.htm](http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/index.htm)

Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics  
[www.sns.gov.uk](http://www.sns.gov.uk)

Forestry Commission  
[www.forestry.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/statistics)

Eurostat  
[www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/)

## Education and Training

National Statistics  
[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

Department for Education and Skills  
[www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics)

Department of Education, Northern Ireland  
[www.deni.gov.uk/facts\\_figures/index.htm](http://www.deni.gov.uk/facts_figures/index.htm)

Higher Education Statistics Agency  
[www.hesa.ac.uk](http://www.hesa.ac.uk)

Learning and Skills Council  
[www.lsc.gov.uk](http://www.lsc.gov.uk)

Office for Standards in Education  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

National Assembly for Wales  
[www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/  
index.htm](http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/index.htm)

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority  
[www.qca.org.uk/menu.htm](http://www.qca.org.uk/menu.htm)

Scottish Executive  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/statistics/15568/10729](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/statistics/15568/10729)

Teacher Training Agency  
[www.canteach.gov.uk](http://www.canteach.gov.uk)

Eurostat  
[www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat)

Department for Employment  
and Learning, Northern Ireland  
[www.delni.gov.uk](http://www.delni.gov.uk)

Organisation for Economic Co-operation  
and Development  
[www.oecd.org/statistics](http://www.oecd.org/statistics)

United Nations Educational, Scientific  
and Cultural Organisation  
[www.uis.unesco.org](http://www.uis.unesco.org)

## Health and Care

National Statistics  
[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

Department of Health  
[www.doh.gov.uk/public/stats1.htm](http://www.doh.gov.uk/public/stats1.htm)

National Health Service Health & Social Care  
Information Centre  
[www.icservices.nhs.uk](http://www.icservices.nhs.uk)

Health and Safety Executive  
[www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/index.htm)

Commission for Healthcare Audit and Inspection  
[www.chai.org.uk](http://www.chai.org.uk)

Department of Health, Social Services and  
Public Safety, Northern Ireland  
[www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/stats&research/index.asp](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/stats&research/index.asp)

General Register Office for Scotland

[www.gro-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk)

London Health Observatory

[www.lho.org.uk](http://www.lho.org.uk)

National Assembly for Wales

[www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/index.htm](http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/index.htm)

Local Government Data Unit Wales

[www.lgdu-wales.gov.uk](http://www.lgdu-wales.gov.uk)

Scottish Health Statistics

[www.isdscotland.org](http://www.isdscotland.org)

Scottish Executive

[www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/statistics/17861/10349](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/statistics/17861/10349)

Scottish Health on the Web

[www.show.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk)

Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics

[www.sns.gov.uk](http://www.sns.gov.uk)

World Health Organisation

[www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

## Labour Market

National Statistics

[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

Department for Education and Skills

[www.dfes.gov.uk](http://www.dfes.gov.uk)

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Northern Ireland

[www.detini.gov.uk](http://www.detini.gov.uk)

Department of Trade and Industry

[www.dti.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.dti.gov.uk/statistics)

Department for Work and Pensions

[www.dwp.gov.uk](http://www.dwp.gov.uk)

National Assembly for Wales

[www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/index.htm](http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/index.htm)

Scottish Executive

[www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/statistics/15648/2645](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/statistics/15648/2645)

## Natural and Built Environment

National Statistics

[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

[www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics)

Department of Trade and Industry

[www.dti.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.dti.gov.uk/statistics)

Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland

[www.doeni.gov.uk](http://www.doeni.gov.uk)

Department for Regional Development, Northern Ireland

[www.drndi.gov.uk](http://www.drndi.gov.uk)

Department for Social Development, Northern Ireland

[www.dsdni.gov.uk](http://www.dsdni.gov.uk)

National Assembly for Wales

[www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/index.htm](http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/index.htm)

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

[www.odpm.gov.uk](http://www.odpm.gov.uk)

Scottish Executive

[www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)

## Population and Migration

National Statistics

[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

General Register Office for Scotland

[www.gro-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk)

Government Actuary's Department

[www.gad.gov.uk](http://www.gad.gov.uk)

Home Office

[www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html)

National Assembly for Wales

[www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/index.htm](http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/index.htm)

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

[www.nisra.gov.uk](http://www.nisra.gov.uk)

Scottish Executive  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/statistics/15799/8908](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/statistics/15799/8908)

Scottish Census Results online  
[www.scrol.gov.uk](http://www.scrol.gov.uk)

Northern Ireland Census Results  
[www.nicensus2001.gov.uk](http://www.nicensus2001.gov.uk)

### Social and Welfare

National Statistics  
[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

Department for Culture, Media and Sport  
[www.culture.gov.uk](http://www.culture.gov.uk)

Department for Work and Pensions  
[www.dwp.gov.uk](http://www.dwp.gov.uk)

HM Revenue and Customs  
[www.hmrc.gov.uk](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk)

National Assembly for Wales  
[www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/index.htm](http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/index.htm)

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency  
[www.nisra.gov.uk](http://www.nisra.gov.uk)

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister  
[www.odpm.gov.uk](http://www.odpm.gov.uk)

Scottish Executive  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/statistics/17814/10178](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/statistics/17814/10178)

### Transport, Travel and Tourism

National Statistics  
[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

Department for Culture, Media and Sport  
[www.culture.gov.uk](http://www.culture.gov.uk)

Department for Regional Development,  
Northern Ireland  
[www.drdni.gov.uk](http://www.drdni.gov.uk)

Department for Transport  
[www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk)

National Assembly for Wales  
[www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/index.htm](http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/index.htm)

Scottish Executive  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/statistics/15781/3494](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/statistics/15781/3494)

### Other National Statistics

National Statistics  
[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

Cabinet Office  
[www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

Defence Analytical Services Agency  
[www.dasa.mod.uk](http://www.dasa.mod.uk)

Department for International Development  
[www.dfid.gov.uk](http://www.dfid.gov.uk)

Home Office  
[www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk)

National Assembly for Wales  
[www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/index.htm](http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/index.htm)

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency  
[www.nisra.gov.uk](http://www.nisra.gov.uk)

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister – Fire Statistics  
[www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm\\_fire/documents/sectionhomepage/odpm\\_fire\\_page.hcsp](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_fire/documents/sectionhomepage/odpm_fire_page.hcsp)

Department for Culture, Media and Sport  
[www.culture.gov.uk](http://www.culture.gov.uk)

Scottish Executive  
[www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)

# Appendix G

## Glossary

### A

A&E Accident & Emergency  
ABI Annual Business Inquiry  
AE Agricultural Economy  
AEI Average Earnings Index  
AER Average Earnings Ratio  
AFF Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry  
AITIS Annual International Trade in Services  
APS Annual Population Survey  
APSB Annual Population Survey Boost  
ARI Annual Register Inquiry  
ART Avoiding Refusal Training  
AS Assistant Statistician  
ASHE Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

### B

BCS British Crime Survey  
BoP Balance of Payments  
BRRG Better Regulation Review Group  
BRTF Better Regulation Task Force

### C

CA Countryside Agency  
CAMS Controlled Access Microdata Sample  
CAP Common Agricultural Policy  
CAS Census Area Statistics  
CASI Computer-assisted self-completion  
CBDS Common Basic Dataset  
CD-ROM Compact Disc Read-Only Memory

CEI Commerce, Energy and Industry  
CER Common Employee Record  
CHAI Commission for Healthcare Audit and Inspection  
CHI Central Health Index (Northern Ireland)  
CHS Continuous Household Survey (Northern Ireland)  
CIEE Creative Industries Economic Estimates  
CIP Citizen Information Project, Customer Information Programme  
CJO Criminal Justice Organisations  
CJS Criminal Justice System  
C&JS Crime and Justice Survey  
CLIP Central & Local Government Information Partnership  
CMS Content Management System  
CO Cabinet Office  
COA Census Output Area  
CORD Central ONS Repository for Data  
CPD Continuing Professional Development  
CPI Consumer Prices Index  
CPS Continuous Population Survey or Crown Prosecution Service  
CSPI Corporate Services Price Index  
CTC Child Tax Credit

### D

DARD Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland

DASA Defence Analytical Services Agency	EHCS English House Condition Survey
DCA Department for Constitutional Affairs	EIYP Environment in Your Pocket
DCMS Department for Culture, Media and Sport	E&JR Employment and Jobs Review
Defra Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	ELSA English Longitudinal Study of Ageing
DELNI Department for Employment and Learning, Northern Ireland	ELWa Education and Learning Wales
DENI Department of Education, Northern Ireland	EMU European Economic and Monetary Union
DETI Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Northern Ireland	EP European Parliament
DETR Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions	ERDF European Regional Development Fund
DfES Department for Education and Skills	ESA95 European System of Accounts 1995
DFID Department for International Development	ESR Electronic Staff Record
DfT Department for Transport	ESRC Economic and Social Research Council
DH Department of Health	ESS European Statistical System
DHSSPS Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Northern Ireland	EU European Union
DLHE Destination of Leavers from Higher Education	EUROPOL European Police Office
DoE Distribution of Earnings	Eurostat Statistical Office of the European Union
DPTC Disabled Persons Tax Credit	<b>F</b>
DRD Department for Regional Development, Northern Ireland	FASC Fast Stream Assessment Centre
DSD Department for Social Development, Northern Ireland	FBS Farm Business Survey
DTI Department of Trade and Industry	FC Forestry Commission
DWP Department for Work and Pensions	FE Further Education
<b>E</b>	FES Family Expenditure Survey
ECB European Central Bank	FOI Freedom of Information (Act)
EEA European Environment Agency	FRS Family Resources Survey
EFS Expenditure and Food Survey	FSS Farm Survey System
EFTA European Free Trade Area	FST Financial Secretary to the Treasury
	FTV Film and Television Survey
	<b>G</b>
	GAAP Generally Accepted Accounting Principles
	GAD Government Actuary's Department
	GB Great Britain

GCSE General Certificate of Secondary Education	HMT Her Majesty's Treasury (the Treasury)
GDDS General Data Dissemination System	HO Home Office
GDP Gross Domestic Product	HoP Head of Profession (for Statistics)/Statistical Head of Profession
GFCF Gross Fixed Capital Formation	HPI Health Poverty Index
GHS General Household Survey	HPSS Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland)
GIS Geographic Information System	HRMS Human Resources Management System
GMES Global Monitoring for Environment and Security	H&SCIC Health & Social Care Information Centre
GMS General Medical Services	HSE Health & Safety Executive
GOR Government Office for the Regions	HSUG Health Statistics Users' Group
GP General Practitioner	
GPS Global Positioning System	
GRI Geographic Referencing Infrastructure	IACS Integrated Administration and Control System
GRO General Register Office	ICF International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health
GROS General Register Office for Scotland	ICLS International Conference of Labour Statisticians
GSS Government Statistical Service	ICOS Integrated Courts Operational System
GSS HRC Government Statistical Service Human Resources Committee	ICP International Price Comparison Programme
GVA Gross Value Added	ICT Information and Communication Technology
<b>H</b>	IDBR Inter-Departmental Business Register
HBAI Households Below Average Income	IEA International Energy Agency
HE Higher Education	IER Initial Entry Rate
HEFCE Higher Education Funding Council for England	ILO International Labour Organisation
HEIPR Higher Education Initial Participation Rate	ILR Individualised Learner Record
HES Hospital Episode Statistics	IMF International Monetary Fund
HESA Higher Education Statistics Agency	IMP Information Management Programme
HICP Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices	IMT Information Management Taskforce (Higher Education)
HMC&E Her Majesty's Customs & Excise	INSPIRE Infrastructure for Spatial Data in Europe
HMCS Her Majesty's Courts Service	INTRASTAT Intra-EC Trade Statistics
HMP (EU) Health Monitoring Programme	
HMRC Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs	

IoH/R Index of Hotels and Restaurants (Wales)

IoP Index of Production

IoS Index of Services

IPS International Passenger Survey

IPSS Integrated Population Statistics System

IR Inland Revenue

IS Information Services

ISB Invest to Save Budget

ISD Information and Statistics Division (NHS Scotland)

IT Information technology

ITIS International Trade in Services

## L

LA Local Authority

LAD Local Authority District

LCI Labour Cost Index

LEA Local Education Authority

LFS Labour Force Survey

LGDU Local Government Data Unit

LHB Local Health Board (Wales)

LHO London Health Observatory

LLFS Local Labour Force Survey

LLWR Lifelong Learner Wales Record

LM Labour Market

LMS Labour Market Statistics

LPC Low Pay Commission

LSC Learning and Skills Council

LSOA Lower Super Output Area

LUZ Larger Urban Zone

## M

MAC Methodology Advisory Committee

MCS Millennium Cohort Study

MIAP Management Information Across Partners

MIG Minimum Income Guarantee

MIS Management Information System

MoD Ministry of Defence

MPC Monetary Policy Committee  
(Bank of England)

MSOA Middle Super Output Area

MTIC Missing Trader Intra-Community

MYE Mid Year Population Estimate

## N

NACE Nomenclature statistique des Activités économiques dans la Communauté Européenne

NAO National Audit Office

NAREP National Accounts Re-engineering Project

NASS National Asylum Support Service

NAW National Assembly for Wales

NCCHD National Community Child Health Database

NCDDP National Clinical Dataset Development Programme

NCET National Council for Education & Training (for Wales)

NDPB Non-Departmental Public Body

NES New Earnings Survey

NeSS Neighbourhood Statistics Service

NFS National Food Survey

NHS National Health Service

NHSCR NHS Central Register

NI Northern Ireland

NICS Northern Ireland Crime Survey

NINIS Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service

NIO Northern Ireland Office

NIR National Identity Register

NISRA Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

NMIS National Management Information System

Nomis® National Online Manpower Information Service

NPD National Pupil Database

NPfIT National Programme for Information Technology (Department of Health)

NRMCS National Road Maintenance Condition Survey

NS National Statistics

NSI National Statistical Institute

NSID National Statistics and International Division (ONS)

NSQR National Statistics Quality Review

NSTS NHS Strategic Tracing Service

NTS National Travel Survey

NUTS Nomenclature for Units of Territorial Statistics

## O

OA Output Area

OASys Offender Assessment System

OCs Outcome Indicators

ODPM Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development

Ofsted Office for Standards in Education

OGC Office of Government Commerce

ONS Office for National Statistics

OPEC Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries

## P

PAF Performance Assessment Framework, Postcode Address File

PARIS21 Partnerships in Statistics for Development in the 21st century

PAT18 Policy Action Team 18

PAYE Pay As You Earn

PCs Parliamentary Constituencies, Personal Computers

PCTs Primary Care Trusts

pdf Portable Document Format

PDS Patient Demographic Service

PEDW Patient Episode Database Wales

PEPs Personal Equity Plans

PESA Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses

PI Pensioners' Income

PISA Programme of International Student Assessment

PLASC Pupil Level Annual School Census

PPPs Purchasing Power Parities

PRISM Prisoner Record Information System

PRODCOM Products of the European Community

PSA Public Service Agreement

PSG Professional Skills for Government

PSNI Police Service of Northern Ireland

## Q

QITIS Quarterly International Trade In Services

QMAS Quality Management and Analysis System

Q&MPB Quality & Methodology Programme Board

QMS Quality Management System	SDA Service Delivery Agreement
QOF Quality Outcomes Framework	SDIYP Sustainable Development Indicators in Your Pocket
QPID Quality Prevalence and Indicator Database	SE Scottish Executive
QR Quality Review	SEC Socio-Economic Classification
<b>R</b>	SEERAD Scottish Executive Environment & Rural Affairs Department
RAB Resource Accounting and Budgeting	SEG Socio-Economic Group
RCP Royal College of Physicians	SEH Survey of English Housing
R&D Research & Development	SERVCOM Services of the European Community
RDA Regional Development Agency	SFFS Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy
RDP Rural Development Programme	SFR Statistical First Release
REP Re-engineering Project	SHA System of Health Accounts
REVES Réseau d'espérance de vie en santé	SHS Scottish Household Survey
RLD Regional and Local Division	SIC Standard Industrial Classification
RPI Retail Prices Index	SIDP Statistical Infrastructure Development Programme
RRA Regulatory Reform Act	SiGT Statisticians in Government Team (ONS)
RSS Royal Statistical Society	SILC Survey of Income and Living Conditions
<b>S</b>	SIMD Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation
SaFF Service and Financial Framework	SLA Service Level Agreement
SAR Census Individual Sample of Anonymised Record	SLS Scottish Longitudinal Study
SARS Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome	SMEs Small and medium-sized Enterprises
SBS Small Business Service (in the DTI)	SNS Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics
SBSR Structural Business Statistics Regulation	SOA Super Output Area
SCLO Survey Control Liaison Officer	SOC 2000 Standard Occupational Classification (2000)
SCOTSTAT Scottish Statistics User/Provider Consultation Network	SPC Statistical Policy/Programme Committee
SCRD Scottish Coronary Revascularisation Database	SPI Survey of Personal Incomes
SCROL Scotland's Census Results OnLine	StO Statistical Officer
SCS Scottish Criminological Society	STOIR Short Term Output Indicators Review
SCU Survey Control Unit	STS Short Term Statistics

SUC Statistics User Council

SUF Statistics User Forum

## T

TES Training of European Statisticians

TQI Teaching Quality Information

TSA Tourism Satellite Account

TSGB Transport Statistics Great Britain

TTWA Travel to Work Area

TU Trade Union

TUS Time Use Survey

TWG Theme Working Group

## U

UK United Kingdom

ULN Unique Learner Number

UN United Nations

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific  
and Cultural Organisation

UNSC United Nations Statistics Commission

## V

VOA Valuation Office Agency

## W

WAS Wealth and Assets Survey

WFA Whole Farm Appraisal

WFJ Workforce Jobs

WFTC Working Families Tax Credit

WGA Whole of Government Accounts

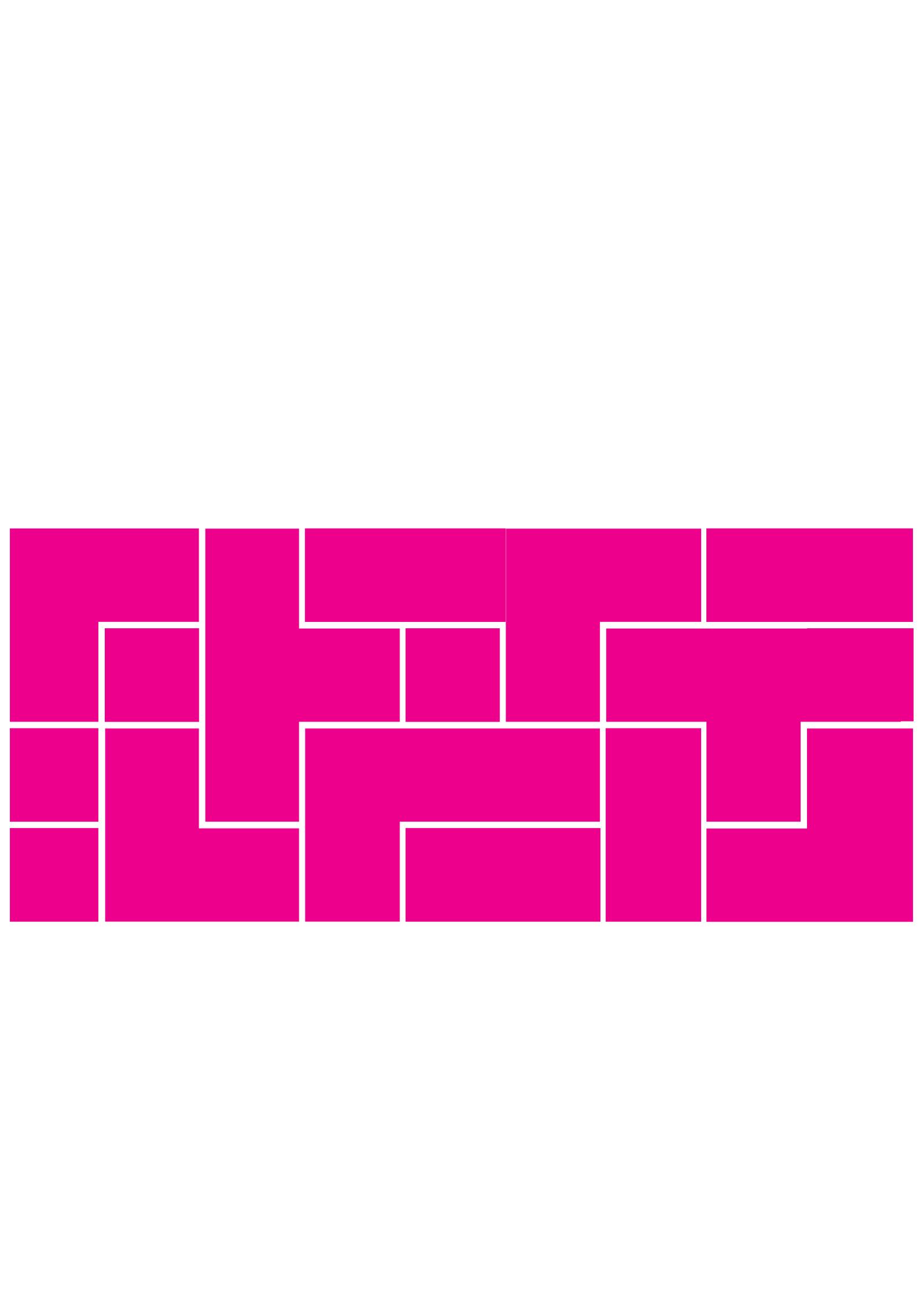
WHASS Workplace Health and Safety Survey

WHO World Health Organization

WTC Working Tax Credit

## Y

YCS Youth Cohort Study





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