

DCMS STATISTICS WORKPLAN 2018/19

Introduction

This work plan outlines the work and priorities for statistics in DCMS in 2018/19. Priorities have been determined based on user feedback and departmental priorities and are aligned with the pillars of the [new Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#): Trustworthiness, Quality and Value. As well as setting out our plans for 2018/19, a summary of key achievements and developments during 2017/18 is provided.

Feedback on this work plan is welcomed. Please contact the DCMS statistics team at: evidence@culture.gov.uk.

Priorities for 2018/19

The top priorities for DCMS statistics for 2018-19 are:

- **Trustworthiness:** We will review our data collection, storage, processing and dissemination procedures to ensure we fully meet the standards of the Code of Practice for Statistics and are fully compliant with the General Data Protection Regulation.
- **Quality:** We will review of our quality assurance procedures to ensure the quality of our outputs is maintained and clearly documented.
- **Value:** We will continue to work closely with policy teams and other users to ensure our outputs are prioritised to meet their needs and support key decisions.

In addition to these top priorities, DCMS statisticians will continue to produce regular outputs, briefing and advice on the wide range of topic areas within DCMS's remit.

Statistics at DCMS

DCMS employs a small number of statisticians, who produce National and Official statistics as well as supporting the department with a variety of advice, analysis and briefing. In line with colleagues across the Government Statistical Service (GSS) our mission is to provide “high quality statistics, analysis and advice to help Britain make better decisions”.

There are currently ten permanent, professional statistical posts at DCMS. These are based in the Central Analysis Team, with the exception of two statisticians in Broadband Delivery UK. This is an increase on the seven permanent posts reported in our 2017/18 work plan and reflects the increase in the size of the department over the past year. New posts focused on trade statistics and digital statistics were filled last year to meet the growing demand for statistics in these areas.

DCMS publishes over 30 statistical releases each year. All DCMS Official and National Statistics outputs are overseen by a member of the statistics profession. These outputs are produced in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics (2018).

Around 140 Official Statistics are also published throughout the year by DCMS Arms Length Bodies (ALBs):

- Arts Council England
- British Film Institute
- Gambling Commission
- Historic England
- OfCom
- Sport England
- VisitEngland

DCMS provides support and guidance to these organisations to help them meet their responsibilities under the Code of Practice. A complete list of ALB Official Statistics is given in the DCMS Official Statistics release calendar, at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statistics>.

What we did in 2017/18

Our key outputs and developments in 2017/18 are summarised below. In 2017/18 we:

- Provided statistical input for many policy areas including preparations for exiting the EU; measuring international trade in DCMS sectors; measuring the performance of our sectors and understanding diversity in our sectors in terms of participation and employment.
- Published 33 Official Statistics releases including:
 - results from the Community Life Survey based on self-completion rather than face-to-face data collection for the first time
 - the Cyber Security Breaches Survey as Official Statistics for the first time
 - an ad hoc release on data protection preparedness among businesses based on the Cyber Security Breaches Survey in advance of GDPR
 - four Taking Part short stories on topical issues such as digital culture and diversity to inform the work of the Race Disparity Unit.
- Held a public consultation on the scope, content and format of our Official Statistics releases and made significant changes to focus our resources more effectively
- Worked with ONS and other stakeholders to develop our DCMS Sector Economic Estimates series in response to user demand, including:
 - publishing Business Demographics for the first time;
 - publishing experimental statistics on trade in goods using HMRC data;
 - calculating deflators for DCMS sectors to produce GVA estimates in real prices;
 - developing estimates for sectors covered by the Office for Civil Society;
 - publishing additional breakdowns such as regional GVA, imports/exports to selected countries and employment by socioeconomic status;
- Continued to implement the Taking Part Survey five year strategy including development of the new web panel: designing quarterly online survey modules, monitoring uptake and attrition, agreeing the optimal data structure
- Shared lessons learned from moving the Community Life Survey online including via a User Event.
- Brought the production of monthly museum visitor statistics into the statistics team to improve quality and efficiency
- Worked with finance and policy teams to streamline the data collection for our annual museum releases, which will improve timeliness and efficiency for us and data suppliers.
- Initiated UKSA assessments of the Community Life Survey and the DCMS Sectors Economic Estimates against the National Statistics standard.
- Improved the format of our statistical releases including overhauling our release template and designing new summary factsheets; work in this area was recognised by the GSS Presentation and Dissemination runners up award.
- Continued to automate production of our outputs using R and Python.
- Shared developments and good practice with ALB statistics producers, including through shadowing and regular meetings.
- Arranged a number of secondments from ONS to promote closer working and skill sharing.

What we plan to do in 2018/19

Official Statistics releases

In 2018/19, DCMS plan to publish the following statistical releases:

- DCMS Sectors Economic Estimates:
 - GVA
 - Trade
 - Employment
 - Businesses
 - Productivity
 - Regional GVA
- Taking Part Survey
 - Annual Adult release 2017/18
 - Annual Child release 2017/18
 - Mid-year 2018/19 provisional results
 - Longitudinal results: 2012/13 to 2016/17
 - Focus reports on specific topics including Arts; Films
- Community Life Survey
 - Annual 2017/18 release
 - Focus reports on specific topics including Diversity
- Cyber Security Breaches Survey
- Monthly DCMS-sponsored museum visits
- DCMS-sponsored museum Performance Indicators
- Charitable Giving Indicators
- Sport Satellite Account
- Reported Treasure Finds
- Entertainment Licensing Statistics

We will also work with ONS on the production of a Tourism Satellite Account.

The following releases were discontinued in 2017/18 to free up time for higher priority work, following [consultation](#):

- Broadband Performance Indicators (final release May 2018)
- Exports of Objects of Cultural Interest
- School Sport Indicators

Following a request by DCMS to the UK Statistics Authority, Entertainment Licensing Statistics were downgraded from National Statistics to Official Statistics.

All Official Statistics publications by DCMS and our 7 Arms Length Bodies are pre-announced on our [release calendar](#). We keep our publications under review and are always interested in feedback on any of our outputs at evidence@culture.gov.uk.

The Code of Practice for Statistics is at the heart of the work of statisticians at DCMS, ensuring we produce statistics and analysis which are independent, robust and relevant to users. Our publications have been reviewed to ensure they align with these principles. In addition to our statistical releases, our key priorities and areas for development for 2018/19 are set out below, under the three pillars of the new Code of Practice for Statistics.

Trustworthiness: “Confidence in the people and organisations that produce statistics and data”

Following the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), we are reviewing our data collection, storage, processing and dissemination procedures to ensure we are fully compliant with the standards of the new Code of Practice for Statistics and the General Data Protection Regulation. As part of this we will:

- Work with our contractors and the DCMS Data Protection Officer to ensure the privacy notices and advance letters for our surveys are fully compliant with GDPR by 25 May 2018
- Ensure Data Protection Impact Assessments are in place for the Taking Part Survey and the Community Life Survey (CLS) and are regularly reviewed
- Carry out an audit of all our data to ensure access arrangements are fully documented and appropriate systems are in place to manage these
- Review the content of the data we provide to the UK Data Archive to ensure it meets the commitments set out in our revised privacy notices
- Develop a Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) data strategy for the organisation, storage and access to data.
- Ensure statisticians with direct responsibility for sensitive datasets have undergone data security training and fully understand their responsibilities in relation to data protection
- Ensure all statisticians have undergone training in preparation for GDPR

We will also:

- Continue to work openly with the UKSA during their assessments of the CLS and DCMS Sectors Economic Estimates series, and use their recommendations to drive further improvements to these outputs
- Publish all ad hoc analysis so it is available to all users and improve the signposting on our website to make it easier for users to find ad hoc analysis
- Continue to inform users of the publication of our statistics via our Twitter account and user newsletters
- Improve understanding of our key outputs among policy teams by holding Teach-in sessions after key publications, summarising the methodology, headline findings and strengths/weaknesses of the data
- Hold briefing sessions with Press Office and Private Office to remind them of the principles of the new Code of Practice for Statistics and the risks associated with breaching the Code
- Tighten up our pre-release procedures to increase transparency and clarity on pre-release access by individuals working in Private Offices

This work plan is also a key element of our commitment to ensure our plans, priorities and progress are transparent.

Quality: “Data and methods that produce assured statistics”

We will review of our quality assurance procedures to ensure the quality of our outputs is maintained and clearly documented. In particular, we will update and expand our quality reporting, providing clear, up to date quality information alongside all our statistical series. We will also review our methodology documentation to ensure it is up to date and proportionate for all our statistical series.

In addition, we will:

Work closely with other Departments to make best use of available **data sources** and facilitate a coherent approach to statistics on key themes including:

- Further developing the DCMS Sector Economic Estimates series, including exploring the use of ASHE data to estimate average earnings in our sectors
- Actively participating in cross-government work on trade statistics
- Working with ONS and ESCoE to develop measures of the digital economy, including the sharing economy
- Supporting cross-government work on loneliness and ensuring the Community Life Survey is used effectively to inform this work
- Collaborating with ONS, VisitEngland and Visit Britain to understand tourism trends following the EU Referendum
- Analysing data on volunteering and charitable giving collected by the Taking Part survey, the Community Life Survey and other sources

Be transparent about **methodological developments** including:

- Exploring outstanding issues relating to push-to-web survey methodology based on our experiences with the Community Life Survey and setting up a GSS expert group to help establish best practice in this area
- Working with our contractors and other experts on the development of the Taking Part survey web panel, exploring innovative approaches to recruitment and retention
- Sharing lessons learned from these survey developments through publications and at events such as the GSS methodology symposium
- Exploring the feasibility of producing modelled local authority estimates for the Community Life Survey in response to strong user demand
- Developing estimates of productivity in DCMS sectors for the first time
- Reviewing the purpose and methodology of the sport satellite account
- Staying abreast of the review of SOC codes and escalating potential issues to ONS and DCMS policy colleagues

Improve the **quality of our outputs**, in terms of accuracy, reliability, coherence and timeliness by:

- Restructuring the DCMS Sector Economic Estimates into a series of separate releases covering GVA, employment, trade and businesses, to improve the timeliness of each element and make them more accessible to users
- Carrying out a review of DCMS sponsored museum visitor statistics following the Quality Assurance for Administrative Data framework as part of wider analysis on visitor trends for the museum policy team
- Publishing confidence intervals for Community Life Survey estimates for the first time

We will also deliver Quality training for statistics producers at DCMS and in our ALBs.

Value: “Statistics that support society’s needs for information”

We will continue to work closely with policy teams and other users to ensure our outputs are prioritised to meet their needs and support key decisions. We anticipate that in 2018/19 this will include:

- Working collaboratively with other analysts and departments to produce a robust evidence base on DCMS sectors to inform negotiations on trade and exiting the EU
- Understanding trends in participation in our sectors and differences in participation by sociodemographic groups, to help promote equal access to culture and sport and to support the work of the Race Disparity Unit
- Working with ONS and the Office for Civil Society (OCS) on measurement and analysis to inform the cross-government work on loneliness
- Making more use of longitudinal data from the Taking Part survey to gain a better understanding of drivers for participation in DCMS sectors
- Using data from the Taking Part Survey, Community Life Survey and other sources to support the Department’s place agenda
- Working closely with ONS to understand the drivers behind trends in our DCMS Sectors Economic Estimates series, by sector and sub-sector
- Developing and updating indicators to monitor performance including as part of the Single Departmental Plan; the OCS strategy; the government Sport strategy
- Publishing evaluations of Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) programmes including Superfast and Super-Connected Cities, and refresh data.
- Ensuring the Cyber Security Breaches Survey continues to provide value and inform decisions relating to the National Cyber Security Programme.
- Working with the museums team to review the performance indicators following the museums Review in 2017/18
- Analysis of the DCMS People Survey results for the Executive Board

We will improve **accessibility** of our statistics by

- Redesigning our statistics web pages to make it easier for users to find results by topic
- Developing an interactive tool to allow users to explore trends in visits at DCMS sponsored museums
- Developing an interactive dashboard collating the monthly tourism statistics from different sources to ensure the tourism policy team always have access to the latest data
- Working with GDS and DCMS IT colleagues to improve the availability of software to enable further innovations in data visualisation
- Further improving the presentation of our statistics releases, taking on board comments from the Good Practice Team ‘scrum’ of our ‘Economic Estimates: Employment and Trade’ release and ensuring good practice is shared across our releases

We will improve **efficiency** by

- Building on our work with GDS in 2017/18 and continuing to automate the production of our releases using R and Python
- Working with the finance team and DCMS sponsored museums to reduce the burden on data suppliers for the two annual statistical releases on museums and improve the timeliness of these releases
- Extending scope of the Taking Part questionnaire to reflect the growing number of policy areas covered by DCMS and achieve maximum value from the survey.