



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Summary of responses to the consultation on a set of specific proposed changes to official statistics produced by the Defra group

4 November 2016



© Crown copyright 2016

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v.3. To view this licence visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/ or email PSI@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications

and also on our website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs/about/statistics#consultation>

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us:

Defra Head of Profession for Statistics
Head of Profession Team

Email: StatisticsHoP@defra.gsi.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/defra

Contents

Executive summary	1
Background.....	3
Changes to Farming Statistics	4
Overview	4
What you said	4
Our response	5
Changes to Food Statistics	6
Overview	6
What you said	6
Our response	6
Changes to Environment Statistics	8
Overview	8
What you said	8
Our response	8
Changes to Forestry Commission Statistics	10
Overview	10
What you said	10
Our response	10
Changes to Natural England Statistics	11
Overview	11
What you said	11
Our response	12
Ongoing development.....	13
Conclusion	14
Annex A – Summary of responses for Farming and Environment statistics.....	1

Farming statistics summary.....	1
Environment statistics summary.....	5
Annex B: The statistics portfolio.....	1
Annex C: List of Respondents	1

Executive summary

In February 2016, Defra group launched a consultation on a suite of proposed changes to the official statistics outputs produced by the group.

We received a total of 42 responses to this consultation – from a range of stakeholders including businesses, national and local government, voluntary/charity organisations and academia (see [Annex C](#)).

The responses provided great value in helping us to understand the how and why of the uses made of Defra official statistics by organisations and individuals, and the potential impact of the changes proposed.

Comments were received on each area of work included in the consultation – statistics related to the environment, farming and food and those specifically produced by the Forestry Commission and by Natural England.

For each of these areas, we have reviewed the comments and any suggestions for alternatives to the proposed changes.

Consultation feedback can be summarised as follows:

- **Scaling back scope / frequency for major surveys.**

Concerns in response to specific proposals centred on a perceived “downgrading” of the data leading to a reduction in value, consistency, accuracy, relevance and confidence in conclusions from analysis. Also of concern was reduction in our ability to track progress against targets, for example on Greenhouse gas mitigation measures.

- **Withdrawal of some less utilised products or those that can be produced by others.**

Feedback indicated concerns with proposals that might see some data collated outside Defra group, noting potential implications for the robustness and independence of future statistics. Issues raised also included the potential lack of experience of alternate organisations in collecting data; clarity on the format and timing of future publications and the ease of access to alternative sources of information.

- **Increased use of administrative data**

We received general support and encouragement to increase the use of administrative data with the caveat that such use does not impact negatively on publishing timetables.

- **Change frequency or timing of publication**
Concerns raised were on changes to the currency of available data in some areas and potential knock-on effects on some secondary outputs.

Across the different areas of work, we have identified cases where the evidence received indicated a need to review current proposals; in other instances we have identified the need for further ongoing discussions with individual consultees, which are now in progress.

The feedback highlighted some key areas where the current proposals require further consideration:

1. Proposal to change the frequency of the Farm Practices Survey.
2. Proposal to change the frequency of the Cereal Stocks Surveys.
3. Proposal to stop collecting poultry headcount numbers.

More broadly, the responses to the consultation exercise have confirmed a strong level of external interest in the statistical work across Defra group, which we will build on in continued engagement with key stakeholders.

The statistical programme of work will continue to evolve, in parallel with the linked open data work across Defra group which has already resulted in 1000's of data sets being made available for use with minimal restriction. Our aim is to continue to work with users and other interested parties to maintain and build on the value of their inputs to this consultation, developing the products and enabling data-driven decision making across the group and more widely.

The consultation was undertaken before the EU referendum. Following the referendum decision we will use the feedback received to this consultation to ensure that our overall statistics portfolio aligns with the changing landscape.

It has been necessary to progress some of the proposed changes to our statistics, at least in the short term, in order to continue to maintain a range of outputs that best meets user needs. These changes, which will be subject to ongoing scrutiny, have been highlighted.

Following the vote to leave the EU, we must keep abreast of changing statistical priorities and evidence needs. Hence we may need to implement further changes to the overall portfolio.

Background

Defra group comprises the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, with its linked non-ministerial departments, executive agencies and non-departmental bodies. Together the group now operates to a single agreed strategy and a single business plan. The Defra group produces and uses a wide range of statistics which are critical to the work of the Department and other users. Many statistics are necessary to meet regulatory requirements and to support international comparisons.

As producers of official statistics across Defra group, we face both immediate and long-term opportunities and challenges. We must keep our statistics relevant to ever changing user needs, while taking advantage of new technologies and the opportunities of open data, in order to increase the relevance of our statistics and to operate more efficiently in producing them.

A review of our statistics identified a series of proposals for changes to fewer than 30% of our current range of statistics products. These changes aimed to allow us to work within departmental and wider needs and priorities, while maintaining a wide-ranging statistics portfolio for our users.

The Code of Practice for Official Statistics requires us to consult users before making changes that affect statistics. We conducted a 4 week consultation on our proposals, which commenced on 25 February and concluded on 24 March 2016.

The consultation document outlined our priorities for the years ahead and highlighted the areas where we intend to make changes in response to the changing environment. For example, we are looking to make more use of electronic data collection; better exploit administrative and other data sources; optimise survey design and frequency of publication; work collaboratively across organisational boundaries; and focus on areas of greatest interest to the full range of users of our statistics.

For each proposal, consultees were asked to address four specific questions.

1. What impact will the specific proposals have on your work?
2. If the impact is high or medium, please provide details.
3. Are there any other options for these specific proposals that we may consider?
4. Are there any suggestions for alternative datasets, methods or approaches which might be used?

In addition, we invited consultees to consider our full range of statistical products, not just those for which proposals have been made, and provide:

- Any general feedback on the uses made of our statistics.
- Other ideas on how we can further reduce burdens on survey respondents or introduce further efficiencies in our compilation of statistics.

Changes to Farming Statistics

Overview

26 stakeholders responded to this section of the consultation. Replies from businesses and national government departments / organisations generated most responses with each of these accounting for just over of a quarter of replies. The next highest proportion of responses came from trade associations.

Farming statistics represent over one third of the official statistics produced across Defra group and utilise a large proportion of the available staff resources. The majority of proposals for change are associated with this group of statistical outputs.

Respondents provided a total of 55 comments indicating a medium or high impact of proposals relating to individual products. Partly due to the number of statistical products they encompass, the majority of comments related to the “June Survey” (the June Agricultural Survey of land use and livestock statistics) and Farm Business Survey (FBS) statistics. There was also keen interest in the proposals for British Survey of Fertiliser Practice; Cereal Usage statistics; Cereal Stocks Surveys; Farm Practices Survey (FPS).

What you said

Comments about the proposals include:

- Concerns relating to suggested reductions in the sample size and frequency of surveys. It was felt that there would, in effect, be a “downgrading” of the data leading to a reduction in value, accuracy, relevance and confidence.
- Specific concerns around changes to the Farm Business Survey, such as proposed reductions in the sample size, which could reduce confidence in conclusions drawn from this data. One response specifically voiced strong objection to the proposed one month delay in publication of forecast of farm business income.
- A number of concerns around monitoring Greenhouse Gas Emissions across proposals for the Farm Practices Survey (FPS), British Survey of Fertiliser Practices (BFP) and Agricultural Statistics and Climate Change.

Our response

A detailed explanation of feedback on the proposed changes to farming statistics and our response is provided in [Annex A](#).

Key points raised suggest the need to:

- Pause on the cancellation of the Cereal Stocks Surveys (Survey of Ports, Co-operatives and Merchants; Survey of Farm Stocks) due in February 2017 with further consultation on proposed changes to the related statistics.
- Pause and further consult on the proposal to move the Farm Practices Survey from an annual exercise to a cycle of every 4th year in the Spring and the linked transfer of responsibility for collecting Greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation measures to industry.
- Pause and further consult on changes to the collection of poultry statistics in the 2017 June survey.

It has been necessary to proceed with changes to some statistics for the current survey year or 2016 publications:

- The 2016 Campaign for the Farmed Environment Survey is not being undertaken.
- There are currently no plans to publish the monthly Fruit and Vegetable Wholesale Prices after 8 August 2016.
- The Autumn Farm Practices Survey will not be conducted in 2016.
- Data on Farm Business Income and Household Composition and on Farm Business Survey - Farmer Intentions will not be collected in 2016.
- Sample sizes for the 2015/16 Farm Business Survey have been reduced.
- Publication of Cereal Usage Statistics has changed from monthly to quarterly.

Changes to Food Statistics

Overview

The proposals for Food statistics are:

- *Family Food (UK) - Collect a subsample of weights and measures data in the Family Food Living Cost and Food Survey module, whilst retaining expenditure data for the whole sample.*
- *Food Transport Indicators (UK) - These statistics were last published in January 2012 and there are no plans to update this analysis.*

A total of 19 responses to the proposals for food statistics were received. Replies from businesses generated most responses accounting for almost one third of replies. The next highest proportion (19%) of responses came from trade associations.

What you said

'To our knowledge, there are no other data sources that provide consumption trends as far back as the Family Food survey, nor the split between in home and out of home usage. This sort of information will be used by businesses in the industry as part of their strategic planning.'

Comments provided about the proposals include:

- A general concern that the proposals within this area – particularly related to the Family Food Survey - could result in less information, including historical data, being available.
- Specific concerns about potential future accuracy of statistics for small scale product areas (e.g. game meat).
- A specific request to consider whether further information could be gathered with regard to food waste.
- Specific concerns about the proposed changes to statistics related to food transport.

Our response

It has been necessary to implement modifications to how we collect data for the *Family Food* publication. The changes will be incorporated in the next publication, the timing of

which is associated with the publication of the ONS Living Cost and Food Survey of which family Food is a module.

The methodological change and other efficiency savings were essential to ensure the continuing operation of the survey. ONS implementation of the change has been designed to minimise the impact on the precision of estimates produced.

As a survey primarily of purchases and not explicitly consumption (such as the National Diet and Nutrition Survey), it would be difficult and possibly confusing for respondents to the Family Food Survey to ask them specifically about food waste. Family Food, amongst other sources, is used by WRAP in the production of their regular assessments of household waste.

There are currently no plans to produce the *Food Transport Indicators (UK)*, which were last published in 2012. This is not a primary data collection. It is a calculation using a number of official and National Statistics sources and the calculation methodology is published, which will allow users to apply it for themselves if desired.

This position will be kept under review as needs change in response to the decision to leave the EU.

Changes to Environment Statistics

Overview

26 stakeholders responded to this section of the consultation, providing feedback on the proposals for Environment statistics. Business organisations accounted for just over a quarter of replies. National Government departments and academia each accounted for around a fifth of the total responses.

What you said

- Concerns were raised regarding the ease of access to underlying data where official statistics publications were being reduced in frequency or withdrawn.
- Approval of the continued collection of localised coastal bathing intelligence.
- Respondents reported no direct impact if estimates for the UK Carbon Footprint were not published as official statistics.

Our response

A detailed explanation of the feedback on the proposed changes to our environment statistics and our response is provided in [Annex A](#).

In instances where we propose to cease or change the frequency of formal environmental statistical publications, we will ensure that users have the best possible access to the underlying data.

We proposed ceasing publication of the annual Air Quality Statistics UK, relying on other publications which hold this data. Feedback from the consultation was inconclusive but following further consideration, we will continue to publish this statistic while seeking to revise and refresh this for publication in 2017.

It has been necessary to make some changes to the next release of or forthcoming data collection for the following publications:

- No plans to publish the next Local Pollution Control Statistics as an official statistic.
- We are not in a position to collect and publish Environmental Protection Expenditure Survey data in 2016.
- The next publication of Local Authority Collected Waste statistics will be the annual data for 2015/16, which is likely to be published in November 2016.

- The next annual publication of Bathing Water Quality statistics will be for England instead of UK.

Changes to Forestry Commission Statistics

Overview

The proposals for Forestry Commission statistics were:

- *State of Europe's Forests: UK data - Stop publication (data is available from an alternate source).*
- *Sustainable Forest Management Indicators: revised – Stop publication (data is available from an alternate source).*

A total of 16 responses to the proposals for Forestry Commission statistics were received with around a third coming from local or national government departments and organisations.

What you said

'There is merit in continuing with the two UK publications that have been earmarked for discontinuation, as the data has to be collected and reported to Forest Europe for publication.'

In the majority of cases, however, the proposed changes were deemed to be of low impact to the respondents with no further comments provided.

Specific comments on the proposals include:

- Concerns that discontinuing publication of "State of Europe's Forests: UK data" and "Sustainable Forest Management Indicators" would make it difficult to locate UK specific data.

Our response

As noted in our proposal, the data in the publications "State of Europe's Forests: UK data" and "Sustainable Forest Management Indicators" are submitted to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), who collect and analyse data on behalf of Forest Europe. The data are made available on the Forest Europe website in the same format and level of detail.

Effective signposting of the UK specific data is more efficient than duplicating it in a specific publication. However, given concerns over accessibility, we must, as in other areas, ensure that users have the best possible information to access this data. An explicit link to the UK data has now been provided on the Forestry Commission website.

Changes to Natural England Statistics

Overview

The proposals for Natural England statistics are to review content of the survey and sample size; review the content and format of the annual publications, the online cross-tab viewer and the published raw data files for:

- *Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) – Annual report.*
- *Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) – Quarterly report.*

There were 11 respondents who supplied feedback to the proposals for Natural England's MENE statistics, providing comments across both the annual and quarterly publications. The largest group of these replies (45%) came from voluntary / charity organisations.

We acknowledge and regret that there was an inconsistency in the consultation paper published on 25 February 2016 with a closing date of 24 March 2016. Our intention was to make it clear that the entire MENE survey was likely to be impacted by the proposed changes outlined. This included the removal of Children's questions which have been used to support the development of a Children's Indicator. This was clarified in the supporting documentation prepared by NE which was publicly available on request and shared with a number of partners during the consultation period. However in Annex 2 of the consultation paper, it indicates that these questions have not been affected. We apologise for any confusion caused.

What you said

'MENE is the foremost survey in relation to understanding people's use of nature and the natural environment, equipping Natural England with a crucial body of insight to inform and measure delivery of its role. In turn, it is very likely to be critical to provide the core policy evidence and measurement in relation to the 25 Year Plan for Nature and future policy across Defra.'

Comments provided about the proposals include:

- Concerns about the (late) timing of the proposals to reduce the survey.
- Lack of linkage between these proposals and the wider direction of government policy.
- Implications for future measurement of policy impacts (e.g. related to the Government's new strategy for Sport or to biodiversity related indicators).

- Implications of the changes on sample sizes on more regional/local uses for the survey.
- The loss in consistency of data with that provided by previous surveys.
- The potential impacts on future understanding of barriers to engagement and for identifying behaviours of members of the public from traditionally 'harder to reach' groups.
- Concerns that the removal of questions on expenditure during a visit weakens potential insights into opportunities from payments for ecosystem services.

Our response

The proposed changes to MENE have gone ahead. Due to contractual arrangements, an amended contract had to be agreed while the consultation was underway in order to enable field work to begin from the start of April 2016. The fact that we had to make this decision before the consultation period had ended was an issue that faced many of the surveys included in Defra's consultation and, although this is at odds with general practice for Official Statistics, notice of this had been given to the UK Statistics Authority and overall support for this approach given.

Looking to the future, we continue to explore new and innovative ways of gathering data relating to people's engagement with the natural environment – for example through the use of an on-line survey panel or through using third party data - in order to ensure that long-term costs are more sustainable. We will be contacting all respondents and also making contact with the wider group of stakeholders within interests in this area in order to best evolve this work and to maintain and grow its value.

MENE is a survey of the England adult population (aged 16 and above) asking about engagement with the natural environment. The survey and its outputs have no direct links to any EU requirements.

Ongoing development

Across all of the areas covered by the consultation, respondents provided a range of suggestions concerning the way in which Defra group's programme of statistical work should evolve. These, some of which are already part of initiatives we are taking forward, include:

- Increased use of electronic data collection.
- Increased use of administrative data and improved access and connectivity between administrative datasets.
- A more co-ordinated approach to data gathering between Defra and key industry partners.
- Improving the functionality and transparency of the Local Authority WasteDataFlow system to make it a valuable asset for the sector as a whole.
- Improve signposting to the Air Pollution in the UK and UK Air publications.

We also received some suggestions about the longer term evolution of the set of underlying surveys – for example:

- Options to evolve the scope of the Family Food Survey (to better explore issues around hunger).
- Options to evolve the scope of the Farm Business Survey to:
 - use FBS evidence in support of the 25 year Food and Farming Strategy;
 - more efficiently capture information.
- Options to move to more collaborative production of surveys – specifically MENE, FBS, Cereal stocks surveys, FPS and Campaign for the Farmed Environment survey.

We will investigate these further, discussing with stakeholders where necessary.

Using the input from this consultation, the statistical programme of work will continue to evolve, in parallel with the linked open data work across Defra group which has already resulted in 1000's of data sets being made available for use with minimal restriction. Our aim is to continue to work with users and other interested parties to maintain and build on the value of their inputs, developing the products and enabling data-driven decision making across the group and more widely.

Conclusion

The consultation was undertaken before the EU referendum. Although development of the proposals was mindful of the forthcoming vote, the outcome has raised the need to further consider the focus of the proposals made.

It has been necessary to progress changes to a small number of our statistics, at least in the short term in most cases, in order to continue to maintain a range of outputs that best meets user needs. These changes, which will be subject to ongoing scrutiny, have been highlighted.

We now need to utilise the feedback received, reflect on our responses and consider how the entire statistics portfolio aligns with the future statistical priorities and evidence needs.

Stakeholders will be consulted whenever proposals for significant changes to our statistics are deemed necessary.

Annex A – Summary of responses for Farming and Environment statistics

Farming statistics summary

Product	Proposed Change	Feedback on proposals	Defra group response ¹
Campaign for the Farmed Environment (CFE) survey England	Cease the Campaign for the Farmed Environment survey, used to monitor the uptake of CFE measures.	Reduce resource for farm advice. Lose wider engagement CFE survey provides Concern that decision being made before position on funding is clear.	Currently no plan to conduct the CFE survey in 2016.
Cereal Usage Surveys: <i>Cereals usage by Millers, Brewers, Distillers & Maltsters UK</i>	Stop collecting statistics on cereal usage to inform the cereals balance sheets. Transfer responsibility to the industry so that the market would continue to have this information.	Operation of the system unclear, incl. checks and balances and how information is used. Increase risk of disorganisation in grain market. Comfortable with transfer of responsibility; current level of data and its frequency and timeliness, is optimal.	The frequency of publication of ' <i>Cereals usage by Millers, Brewers, Distillers & Maltsters UK</i> ' has changed from monthly to quarterly (last monthly publication was on 5 May 2016 (data to March))
<i>Animal Feed GB</i>			Animal Feed GB statistics are continuing as a monthly publication.
			Defra's collection of cereal usage statistics and the publication arrangement for both sets of release above are proceeding

¹ Note: We will continue to review this position as needs change in response to the decision to leave the EU.

			alongside ongoing discussions with Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) on longer term arrangements.
Cereal Stocks Surveys (Survey of Ports, Co-operatives and Merchants; Survey of Farm Stocks)	Only collect data and publish statistics for on-farm stock of cereals data once per year (stop February collection / May publication).	Important to underpin cereal balance sheet. Limit ability to assess markets.	Pause on cancellation of the February Survey - discuss further with industry.
Fruit and Vegetable Wholesale Prices England	Reduce frequency of publishing prices data. Change from publishing a monthly statistics notice to weekly a dataset which will contain same level of information. The weekly data is of greater interest, is more relevant and is better aligned to the source data than the monthly summary.	No feedback received.	Currently, the last monthly release will be on 8 August 2016.
Farm Practices Survey - Autumn survey Farm Practices Survey – Spring survey GHG Mitigation measures	Cease. Run Spring survey every fourth year instead of annually. Transfer responsibility for collecting Greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation measures to the industry.	No specific comments received regarding the Autumn survey. Limits support on policy formulation on environmental performance. Undermine Govt. support to industry's target for delivery of Greenhouse Gas Action Plan. Concern for robustness and independence of data and lack of expertise to collect.	The Autumn survey 2016 will not go ahead. Pause - discuss the consultation responses and evidence needs further with policy.

British Survey of Fertiliser Practice	Review the data collected in the British Survey of Fertiliser Practices and scale back to essential items. Review sample size.	Concerns around impact on data feeding into the Agriculture Greenhouse Gas Inventory. Reduce ability to monitor improvements in fertiliser use efficiency (nitrous oxide emissions).	The review has been completed.
Agricultural Statistics and Climate Change England	Review the frequency of publication of the Agricultural Statistics and Climate Change publication.	Relevant to Dairy Roadmap – measuring performance of industry against targets on environmental impact. The principle of reviewing the content and frequency is sound.	2016 release will be published as usual. The review will be a forward look for 2017 and beyond.
Agriculture in the United Kingdom	Review the need for and content of the Agriculture in the UK publication.	Could hinder understanding of drivers of emissions in agriculture.	Proceed with review.
Farm Business Survey - Farm Household Income and Household Composition	Cease data collection	No specific concerns were raised.	Data not collected in 2016.
Farm Business Survey - Farmer Intentions Survey	Cease data collection.	Understanding intentions can influence policy.	Data not collected in 2016.
June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture: <i>Final Crop Areas and Cattle, Sheep and Pig Population (June, England)</i> <i>Provisional arable crop areas (June, England)</i> <i>Final land use,</i>	Optimise the sample size for the June Agricultural Survey in England, changing from 30,000 to 25,000 in non-Structure Survey years. Crop data will be boosted by using Basic Payments Scheme (BPS) administrative data.	Potential reduced accuracy of forecasting models for beef, pork, and sheep meat production. Use of BPS data could negatively impact publishing timetables Lack of wheat and barley production figures through BPS.	Review proposals for June survey 2017 onwards.

<p><i>livestock populations and agricultural workforce (June, England)</i></p>	<p>Stop collecting poultry numbers on the June Agricultural Survey and rely on poultry production statistics.</p>	<p>Impact ability to produce the Wales aggregate agricultural account.</p>	<p>Pause - discuss further internally and with Welsh Government.</p>
<p><i>Provisional crop areas and livestock populations (June, UK)</i></p> <p><i>Final crops areas, yields, livestock populations and agricultural workforce (June, UK)</i></p> <p><i>Wheat and barley production (UK)</i></p>	<p>Change frequency of agricultural labour statistics to only collect Structure Survey years (three times per decade), and rely on ONS Labour Force Survey in other years.</p>	<p>No specific concerns were raised.</p>	<p>Review proposal to next collect labour statistics in 2020.</p>
<p>Farm Business Survey:</p> <p><i>Farm accounts in England</i></p> <p><i>Farm Rents (England)</i></p> <p><i>Farm Business Income by Farm Type in England</i></p> <p><i>Fertiliser usage on farm (England)</i></p> <p><i>Farm Succession (England)</i></p> <p>Water usage on farms in England</p>	<p>Optimise the sample size for the FBS -reduce from 1,900 to 1,800 in 2015/16 and 1,750 from 2016/17.</p>	<p>Reduce confidence in conclusions from analysis and testing of policy implications.</p> <p>Knock on impact on secondary FBS outputs.</p>	<p>Sample sizes for the 2015/16 survey have been reduced.</p>
<p>Farm Business Survey - Forecast of Farm Business Income</p>	<p>Move publication from end January to end February.</p>	<p>Knock on impact on timing of Wales farm income forecasts publications.</p>	<p>Review proposal for the 2017 publication and beyond.</p>

		Objection to delay in publication due to need for timely data.	
--	--	--	--

Environment statistics summary

Product	Proposed Change	Feedback on proposals	Defra group response ²
Air Quality Statistics (UK)	Stop publication. Rely on other publications which hold this data.	The Air Pollution in the UK and UK Air publications provide adequate information – need better signposting on GOV.UK.	Revising and refreshing the national statistic publication is going ahead and will be announced through a technical note by the end of 2016. Work is already under way to improve the signposting to the UK-Air website from Gov.UK. This will continue and address user experience feedback from this consultation.
Local Pollution Control Statistics in (England and Wales)	Data would still be available but would not be published as official statistics.	Has level of use been determined. Lack of explanation of the format or source of data in future.	Currently no plan to continue publishing this information as an official statistic in 2016.
Carbon Foot Print estimates (UK)	Estimates would continue to be compiled by the contractors but they would cease to be published as official statistics.	Major impact for Scotland's statistics. No direct impact in Wales if not being published as official statistics.	No decision on the future of this publication as yet.
Environmental Protection Expenditure by Industry (UK).	Stop current survey and consider other ways to meet this EU regulatory requirement.	Single comment on EPE restricted to agricultural interests which is a relatively	We will not be able to publish the Environmental Protection Expenditure Survey data

² Note: We will continue to review this position as needs change in response to the decision to leave the EU.

		small part of the survey.	in 2016. It is likely that the Office for National Statistics will be taking this over and the next publication should be in 2017.
Local authority collected waste - quarterly estimates (England)	Stop quarterly publication, moving to annual only.	Regular reporting and monitoring of recycling rates is important to maintain performance and assurance of meeting 50% recycling rate target. Data used to set targets may be a year out of date. It is onerous to retrieve data from WasteDataFlow.	The next release we will be able to publish will be the annual results for 2015/16 (aiming for publication in November 2016). Development work is being undertaken to improve the raw data format and data/reports available from WasteDataFlow.
Statistics on Coastal Bathing Waters (UK)	Change of scope from UK to England only	No comments indicated opposition. One welcomed that localised coastal bathing intelligence will continue to be collected.	The move to England only statistics from November 2016 is already underway.
Water Abstraction from Non-Tidal Surface Water and Groundwater (England and Wales)	Stop producing sub-national breakdowns.	Current sub-national breakdown no longer exists. No responses specifically proposing any alternative.	Under review. Work with Natural Resources Wales to decide on the best route forward. Aiming for a decision by the end of the calendar year.

Annex B: The statistics portfolio

Feedback has highlighted the high regard in which many of our statistics are held. This includes:

On the importance of the Farm Practices Survey:

‘The industry is reliant on core statistics from the Farm Practices Survey in support of its reporting of progress towards environmental production targets’.

Regarding cereal usage data:

‘In the cereals market, commercial decisions are regularly made upon reading this information.’

We regularly produce around 140 official statistics products across the entire Defra group. Proposals for changes to 32 of these products were considered through the consultation process. It has been necessary to implement changes to some of these products, at least as a short term measure. We are also aware that, as a result of the recent vote to leave the EU, statistical priorities and evidence needs will be changing. Users can be assured that we will continue to maintain a comprehensive and flexible statistical portfolio which takes user needs into consideration in both the short term and as our understanding of the future relationship with the EU and of our domestic policy requirements grows.

The current portfolio is set out in [Table 1](#).

Feedback on other publications

As part of official statistics procedures all our statistics are kept under review and user feedback encouraged. Whilst the consultation invited views on proposed changes to a specific set of our statistical products, details of all of the official statistics produced across Defra group were provided in the consultation document. Our purpose in doing this was to take the opportunity to extend our user engagement and gain greater insight in to the users of and uses made of our statistics. Very few consultees responded to this part of the consultation.

Table 1: Defra group statistics portfolio

Statistics area	Product title	Defra group producer body	Designation / Current frequency	Data source	Included in current consultation Y/N	Data supplied to EU Y/N
Strategic Objective 1: Environment						
A cleaner, healthier environment, benefiting people and the economy						
Environment	Air Quality Statistics UK	Defra	National statistic / Annual	Administrative: Automatic Urban and Rural Network (AURN)	Y	Y
	Emissions of Air Pollutants (UK)	Defra	National statistic / Annual	National Atmospheric Inventory (managed by Ricardo AEA)	N	Y
	Wild bird populations (England)	Defra	National statistic / Annual	Observer records.	N	N
	Wild bird populations (UK)	Defra	National statistic / Annual	Observer records.	N	N
	Nature Conservation: Local Sites in Positive Conservation Management (England)	Defra	Official statistic / Annual	Administrative – Natural England	N	N
	Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services, Biodiversity 2020 indicators	Defra	National statistic / Annual	Various sources	N	N

	UK Biodiversity Indicators	Defra	National statistic / Annual	Various sources	N	N
	England Natural Environment Indicators	Defra	Official statistic / Annual	Various sources	N	N
	Local Pollution Control Statistics in England and Wales	Defra	Official statistic / Ad hoc	Survey	Y	N
	Carbon Foot Print estimates UK	Defra	Official statistic / Annual	Data from contractor	Y	N
	Environmental Protection Expenditure by Industry UK	Defra	Official statistic / Annual	Survey	Y	Y (Submitted by ONS)
	Statistics on Coastal Bathing Waters UK	Defra	Official statistic / Annual	Data from Environment Agency and the Devolved	Y	Y
	Water Abstraction from Non-Tidal Surface Water and Groundwater England and Wales	Defra	Official statistic / Annual	Administrative – Environment Agency	Y	Y
	Local authority collected waste -quarterly estimates England	Defra	National statistic / Quarterly estimates and annual results	Survey of local authorities waste collection management via WasteDataFlow	Y	Y
	UK Statistics on waste	Defra	Official statistic / Annual	Various sources – primarily EA Waste Data Interrogator	N	Y

	Digest of waste and resources (UK)	Defra	Official statistic / Annual	Various sources	N	N
	Fly tipping (England)	Defra	Official statistic / Annual	Administrative	N	N
	Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) – Annual report	Natural England	National statistic / Annual	MENE survey	Y	N
	Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) – Quarterly report	NE	National Statistic / Quarterly		Y	N
	Proportion of Usable Agricultural Area under Environmental Stewardship Schemes	NE	Official statistic / Bi-monthly	Agri-environment scheme monitoring & reporting program	N	N
	Condition of Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSI)	NE	Official statistic / Monthly	Integrated Site Assessment Survey	N	N
	MENE Children's report	NE	Official statistic / frequency tbc	Adopted in 2016 as part of the core MENE survey. The children's questions had already been incorporated into the main MENE survey.	N	N
	National Bat Monitoring Programme (annual Report)	Joint Nature Conservation Committee	Official statistic / Annual	Volunteer survey	N	Y

	Breeding Bird Survey (annual report)	JNCC	Official statistic / Annual	Volunteer survey.	N	Y
	UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (annual report)	JNCC	Official statistic / Annual	Volunteer survey	N	Y
	Seabird monitoring programme population trends (annual report)	JNCC	Official statistic / Annual	Volunteer survey	N	Y
	Wetland Bird Survey (annual report)	JNCC	Official statistic / Annual	Volunteer survey	N	Y
	Wetland Bird Survey - 3 year alerts	JNCC	Official statistic / Every 3 years	Derived from the Wetland Bird Survey data.	N	N
	UK Site Extent and Condition Statistics (annual report)	JNCC	Official statistic / Annual	Various sources	N	Y
Forestry	Forestry Facts and Figures UK	Forestry Commission	National statistic / Annual	Administrative data, survey & data from others	N	N
	Forestry Statistics	FC	National statistic / Annual	Administrative data, survey & data from others	N	N
	Timber Price Indices	FC	National statistic / Twice a Year	Administrative source	N	N
	UK Wood Production and Trade (provisional figures)	FC	National statistic / Annual	Administrative data, survey & data from others	N	N

	Woodland Area, Planting and Restocking	FC	National statistic / Annual	Administrative sources	N	N
	State of Europe's Forests: UK data	FC	Official statistic / Every 4-5 years	Various - Compendium	Y	N
	Sustainable Forest Management Indicators: revised	FC	Official statistic / Every 4-5 years	Various - Compendium	Y	N
	Global Forest Resources Assessment: Final UK report	FC	Official statistic / Every 5 years	Administrative data, survey & data from others	N	N
	Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting for Forests: UK data	FC	Official statistic / Annual	Administrative data, survey & data from others	N	Y
	Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire: Draft UK data	FC	Official statistic / Annual	Administrative data, survey & data from others	N	Y (Data also submitted to other international organisations)
	Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire: Final UK data	FC	Official statistic / Annual	Administrative data, survey & data from others	N	Y (Data also submitted to other international organisations)
	Public Opinion of Forestry UK/	FC	Official statistic /	Survey (commissioned)	N	N

	England		Every 2 years			
	Public Opinion of Forestry Scotland	FC	Official statistic / Every 2 years	Survey (commissioned)	N	N
	Public Opinion of Forestry Wales	FC	Official statistic / Every 2 years	Survey (commissioned)	N	N
	UNECE Timber Committee Questionnaire: UK return	FC	Official statistic / Annual	Administrative data, survey, data from others	N	N
	Nursery Survey	FC	Official statistic / Annual	Survey (in house)	N	N
	Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (JWEE)	FC	Official statistic / Every 2 years	Administrative data, survey, data from others	N	N
	Public Opinion of Forestry Northern Ireland	FC	Official statistic / Every 2 -4 years	Survey (commissioned)	N	N
	Forestry Commission England Headline Performance Indicators	FC	Official statistic / Quarterly	Administrative data, survey, data from others	N	N
	Forestry Commission England Corporate Plan Performance Indicators and Woodland Indicators	FC	Official statistic / Annual	Administrative data, survey, data from others	N	N
	Woodfuel Demand and Usage in Scotland: Update Report	FC	Official statistic / Annual	Survey (commissioned)	N	N
	Scottish Forestry Strategy Indicators	FC	Official statistic / Annual	Administrative data, survey, data from others	N	N
	Woodland Carbon Code	FC	Official statistic /	Administrative sources	N	N

	Statistics		Quarterly			
	National Forest Inventory: Woodland Area Statistics	FC	Official statistic / ad hoc	Administrative data & field survey	N	N
	NFI Report: Standing Timber Volume for Coniferous Trees in Britain	FC	Official statistic / ad hoc	Administrative data & field survey	N	N
	National Forest Inventory Interim Statistics on the Health of Ash Trees in Great Britain	FC	Official statistic / ad hoc	Administrative data & field survey	N	N
	NFI preliminary estimates of quantities of broadleaved species in British woodlands, with special focus on ash	FC	Official statistic / ad hoc	Administrative data & field survey	N	N
	NFI Survey of the incidence of chalara fraxinea infection of ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>) in Great Britain	FC	Official statistic / ad hoc	Administrative data & field survey	N	N
	NFI Report: 50-year forecast of softwood timber availability	FC	Official statistic / ad hoc	Administrative data & field survey	N	N
	NFI Report: 50-year forecast of hardwood timber availability	FC	Official statistic / ad hoc	Administrative data & field survey	N	N
	NFI Report: Biomass in live	FC	Official statistic /	Administrative data &	N	N

	woodland trees in Britain		ad hoc	field survey		
	NFI Report: Carbon in live woodland trees in Britain	FC	Official statistic / ad hoc	Administrative data & field survey	N	N
Strategic Objective 2: Food and farming						
A world-leading food and farming industry						
Farming	Fruit and vegetable Wholesale Prices England	Defra	National statistic / Monthly	Wholesale markets, via Horticultural Market Inspectors	Y	N
	Cereals usage by Millers, Brewers, Distillers & Maltsters UK	Defra	National statistic / Monthly	Survey	Y	Y
	Animal Feed GB	Defra	National statistic / Monthly	Survey	Y	Y
	Cereal Stocks UK / England and Wales	Defra	National statistic / Twice a year	Survey	Y	Y
	Agricultural Price Index (UK)	Defra	National statistic / Monthly	Defra surveys, Agricultural, Horticultural Development Board (AHDB), and the ONS	N	Y
	Poultry and Poultrymeat (UK)	Defra	National statistic / Monthly	Monthly survey of registered England and Wales hatcheries	N	Y
	Slaughter (UK)	Defra	National statistic	Survey	N	Y

			/ Monthly			
	Utilisation of milk by dairies (England & Wales)	Defra	National statistic / Monthly	Survey	N	Y
	Milk Prices and Composition of Milk (UK)	Defra	National statistic / Monthly	Survey	N	Y
	Egg Statistics (UK)	Defra	National statistic / Monthly	Survey	N	Y
	Survey of Orchard Fruit (England and Wales)	Defra	National statistic / Ad hoc	Survey	N	Y
	Basic Horticultural Statistics (UK)	Defra	National statistic / Annual	Collected under contract.	N	Y
	Area of Crops Grown For Bioenergy (England and UK)	Defra	Official statistic / Annual	Various sources	N	N
	Farm Animal Genetic Resource: Breed inventory results (UK)	Defra	Official statistic / Annual	Industry	N	N
	Organic (UK)	Defra	National statistic / Annual	UK Organic Certification Bodies	N	Y
	Agriculture in the English regions	Defra	National statistic / Twice a year	Defra and Devolved administrations	N	Y
	Total Income from Farming (UK)	Defra	National statistic / Twice a year	Defra and Devolved administrations	N	Y
	Total factor productivity of the	Defra	National statistic	Various. By-product of	N	N

	UK agricultural industry		/ Twice a year	Total Income from Farming.		
	Farm Structure Survey: focus on agricultural labour (England and UK)	Defra	National statistic / Ad hoc	Surveys	N	Y
	Farm Structure Survey: Diversification and renewable energy production on farms (England)	Defra	National statistic / Ad hoc	Survey	N	Y
	Farm Practices Survey – outputs vary depending on policy need	Defra	Survey twice per year. Outputs are National statistics	Bespoke survey	Y	N
	British Survey of Fertiliser Practice GB	Defra	National statistic / Annual	Survey	Y	Y
	Farming statistics: Final Crop Areas and Cattle, Sheep and Pig Population England	Defra	National statistic / Annual	June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture	Y	Y
	Farming statistics: Provisional arable crop areas England	Defra	National statistic / Annual		Y	Y
	Farming statistics: Final land use, livestock population and agricultural workforce England	Defra	National statistic / Annual		Y	Y

	Farming statistics: Provisional crop areas and livestock population UK	Defra	National statistic / Annual		Y	Y
	Farming statistics: Final crops areas, yields, livestock population and agricultural workforce UK	Defra	National statistic / Annual		Y	Y
	Farming statistics: Wheat and barley production UK	Defra	National statistic / Annual		Y	N
	Farming Statistics - Livestock Populations (December, England)	Defra	National statistic / Annual	Survey for pigs. Sheep and Goat inventory. Cattle Tracing System admin data.	N	Y
	Farming Statistics - Livestock Populations (December, UK)	Defra	National statistic / Annual		N	Y
	Farm Business Survey: Farm accounts in England	Defra	National statistic / Annual	Farm Business Survey	Y	N
	Farm Business Survey: Farm Rents England	Defra	National statistic / Annual		Y	N
	Farm Business Survey: Farm Business Income by Farm Type in England	Defra	National statistic / Annual		Y	N
	Farm Business Survey: Fertiliser usage on farm (England)	Defra	National statistic / Annual		Y	N
	Farm Business Survey: Water usage on farms in	Defra	National statistic		Y	N

	England		/ Annual			
	Farm Business Survey: Farm Succession (England)	Defra	National statistic / Annual		Y	N
	Farm Business Survey: Forecasts of Farm Business Income by type of farm (England)	Defra	National statistic / Annual		Y	N
	Farm Business Survey: Farm Household Income and Household Composition (England)	Defra	National statistic / Annual		Y	N
	Farm Business Survey: Farmer Intentions Survey (England)	Defra	Official statistic / Ad hoc		Y	N
	Soil Nutrient Balances UK Provisional Estimates	Defra	Official statistic / Annual	Various including June Ag Survey, BSFP, Cereal Production Survey.	N	Y
	Soil Nutrient Balances England Provisional Estimates	Defra	Official statistic / Annual	Various incl. June Ag Survey, BSFP, Cereal Production Survey.	N	Y
	Agricultural Statistics and Climate Change England	Defra	Official statistic / Annual	Various including surveys, industry estimates.	Y	N
	Campaign for the Farmed	Defra	Official statistic/	Survey	Y	N

	Environment (CFE) - Survey of land managed voluntarily England		Ad hoc			
	Agriculture in the United Kingdom	Defra	National statistic / Annual	Compendium	Y	N
	Single Payment Scheme Statistics - primarily payment and claim validation numbers (England)	Rural Payments Agency	Official statistic / Dec-June	Administrative	N	N
	Cross Compliance Inspection Statistics (England)	RPA	Official statistic / Annual	Administrative	N	N
Food	Family Food (UK)	Defra	National statistic / Annual	Survey	Y	N
	Food Transport Indicators UK	Defra	National statistic / Annual	Various, incl. Dept for Energy & Climate Change; Dept for Transport	Y	N
	Total Factor Productivity of the UK Food Chain	Defra	National statistic / Twice a year	Various, mostly ONS employment, inflation and economic data	N	N
	Food Statistics Pocketbook (UK)	Defra	National statistic / Annual	Compendium of NS, Official and third party sources	N	N
Fisheries / aquaculture	UK Sea Fisheries	Marine Management Organisation	National statistic / Annual	Various - Compendium	N	N

	Monthly sea fisheries stats	MMO	National statistic / Monthly	Logbooks, sales notes, landings declarations from fishermen	N	Y
	Monthly effort stats datasets	MMO	Official statistic / Monthly	Logbooks from fishermen	N	Y
	UK quota management spreadsheets – allocations for the year	MMO	Official statistic / Annual	Logbooks, sales notes and landings declarations from fishermen	N	Y
	Details of registered and licensed vessels over 10 metres and 10 metres and under	MMO	Official statistic / Monthly	Data from the Registry of Shipping & Seamen and UK licencing systems	N	N
	Management of UK Fisheries Quotas: -over-fishing by UK vessels	MMO	Official statistic / Annual	Logbooks, sales notes and landings declarations from fishermen	N	Ensure delivery of EU requirement
	Management of UK Fisheries Quotas: - Number of quota stocks managed and international swaps	MMO	Official statistic / Annual	Logbooks, sales notes and landings declarations from fishermen and UK transfer systems	N	Ensure delivery of EU requirement
	Management of UK Fisheries Quotas: - Number of transfers of days at sea between vessels	MMO	Official statistic / Annual	Effort management data systems	N	Ensure delivery of EU requirement

	undertaken.					
	Management, recording and provision of data on fisheries activities and catches: Percentage of information entered on to the fisheries database within 5 work days of receipt of all necessary information.	MMO	Official statistic / Annual	Data from fisheries management databases and electronic reporting systems	N	N
	UK Vessel and Economic Links: Fishing vessel licence aggregations/licence transfers undertaken and transfers of Fixed Quota Allocation units.	MMO	Official statistic / Annual	Data from UK licence and FQA data systems	N	N
	Salmonid & Freshwater Fisheries Statistics for England & Wales	Environment Agency	Official statistic / Annual	Declared catches for salmon, sea trout, eels, smelt, lamprey by rods, nets, other instruments.	N	N
	Aquaculture production and economic data, and industry structure (England, Wales, Scotland, N Ireland)	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	Official statistic / Annual	Survey	N	Y

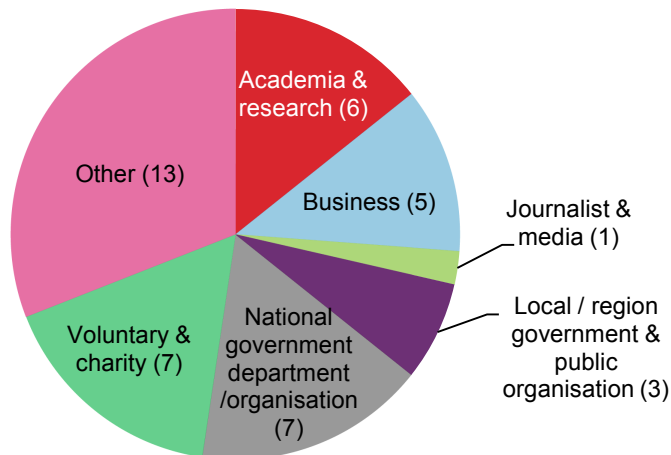
	Aquaculture economic data	CEFAS	Official statistic / Annual	Survey	N	Y
Strategic Objective 3: Rural						
A thriving rural economy, contributing to national prosperity and wellbeing						
	Quarterly Rural economic bulletin (England)	Defra	Official statistic / Quarterly	Various sources	N	N
	Irregular ad hoc topic reports (England)	Defra	Official statistic / Ad hoc	Various sources	N	N
	Rural Urban Classification (England)	Defra	Official statistic / Ad hoc	Census and population estimates	N	N
	Statistical Digest of Rural England	Defra	Official statistic / 2 months	Various sources	N	N
Strategic Objective 4: Protection						
A nation better protected against floods, animal and plant diseases and other hazards, with strong response and recovery capabilities						
Flooding	Central Government Funding for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in England	Defra	Official statistic / Annual	Financial	N	N
Animal & plant health	Incidence of Tuberculosis (TB) in Cattle (GB)	Defra	National statistic / Monthly and Quarterly statistics releases and monthly underlying datasets	Administrative Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) work management IT support system (Sam)	N	N

	Return of expenditure incurred and prosecutions taken under the Animal Health Act 1981 and incidences of disease in imported animals for the year 2010 (England and Wales)	Animal and Plant Health Agency	Official statistic / Annual	Local authorities with an animal health and welfare enforcement function	N	Y
	Salmonella in livestock production (England, Scotland and Wales)	APHA	Official statistic / Annual	Administrative Farmfile/SMS (APHA)	N	N
	Quarterly Disease Surveillance Reports (England and Wales)	APHA	Official statistic / Quarterly	Administrative Farmfile and VIDA	N	N
	Veterinary Investigation Surveillance Reports (VIDA) (England, Scotland and Wales)	APHA	Official statistic / Annual	Administrative VIDA (extracts from Farmfile (APHA) and Scottish data)	N	Y
	Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) Statistics - Summary Statistics for Active Surveillance in GB	APHA	Official statistic / Monthly	Administrative Defra's TSE surveillance system, managed by APHA	N	Y
	TSE Statistics - Summary Statistics for Active Surveillance N Ireland	APHA	Official statistic / Monthly	Administrative APHIS	N	Y
	UK Veterinary Antibiotic Resistance and Sales Surveillance	Veterinary Medicines Directorate	Official statistic / Annual	Market Authorisation Holders, APHA surveillance	N	N

Annex C: List of Respondents

This annex lists the respondents to the consultation. The 42 responses came from a range of stakeholders including businesses, national and local government, voluntary/charity organisations and academia.

Segmentation of all responses



The largest proportion of responses fell within the 'other' category. This primarily comprised trade organisations and membership organisations

Please note the following:

- The number of respondents listed does not match the 42 total responses we quoted in the 'Background' section of this document. This is because 2 responses were received from individuals who asked that their response remained confidential.
- We have indicated whether the respondent said they were responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation.

Organisation group	Organisation	Response on behalf of
Academia and Research	Centre for Agricultural Strategy, University of Reading	Organisation
	Increment Ltd	Organisation
	PGRO	Organisation
	University of Cambridge	Organisation
	University of Edinburgh	Individual
	Confidential response	
Business	Association of Independent Crop Consultants	Organisation
	Openfield - larger farmer owned co-operative	Organisation
	Strutt and Parker	Individual
	The Garlic Farm	Individual
	Confidential response	
Journalist and media	The ENDS Report	Organisation
Local / region government & public organisation	Cornwall Council	Organisation
	Hart District Council & Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	Organisation
	Ipswich Borough Council	Organisation
National government department /organisation	Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB)	Organisation
	Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)	Organisation
	Natural Resources Wales	Organisation

	Office for National Statistics	Individual
	Scottish Government (agriculture, environment, rural, fisheries statistics)	Organisation
	Scottish Government (Climate Change statistics)	Organisation
	Welsh Government	Organisation
Other	Agricultural Engineers Association	Organisation
	Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC)	Organisation
	British Association for Shooting and Conservation (B.A.S.C.)	Organisation
	British Oat & Barley Millers Association (BOBMA)	Organisation
	Committee for Climate Change	Organisation
	Country Land and Business Association (CLA)	Organisation
	Dairy UK and The Dairy Council	Organisation
	Environmental Services Association (ESA)	Organisation
	Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC)	Organisation
	Maltsters' Association of Great Britain	Organisation
	National Association of Waste Disposal Officers (NAWDO)	Organisation
	National Farmers' Union (NFU)	Organisation
	Sport and Recreation Alliance	Organisation
Voluntary & charity	Campaign for National Parks	Organisation
	Cornwall Rural Community Charity	Organisation
	Feeding Britain	Organisation

	Field Studies Council	Organisation
	National Trust	Organisation
	The Open Spaces Society	Organisation
	The Ramblers	Organisation