



Consultation on changes to immigration-related Home Office statistical outputs.

Scope of the consultation

This consultation, under the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, covers the following publications produced by Home Office Statistics:

- *Control of Immigration: United Kingdom Statistics* (annual publication)
- *Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary*
- *British Citizenship Statistics* (annual publication)

These are available from <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>.

Comments on the proposals, detailed below, are sought from users of the above publications.

Duration

Start date: 24 February 2011

End date: 4 May 2011

This ten week consultation period will allow an update to be included within the *Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary Q1 2011*.

Enquiries and responses

Enquiries about the content or scope of the consultation; requests for hard copies; and responses can be emailed to MigrationStatsEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

Methods of consultation

As this is a largely technical issue, this will be a purely written exercise.

Following the consultation

The outcome of the consultation will be reported in the *Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary Q1 2011* to be published on 26 May 2011. A report on the responses will be published in July / August 2011.

Background

Home Office Statistics consulted with a group of key users of control of immigration data and have brought these proposals as a result of these meetings.

The proposals are designed to make data more accessible to users, at the same time as helping to ensure resources are directed to the most important topics within immigration.

Summary of proposals

Home Office Statistics are proposing a phased development of changes that would ultimately lead to the release of data using the web as the main vehicle of dissemination.

It is proposed that in a phased development between August 2011 and February 2012:

- i) commentary and analysis of the data should be structured in virtual topics, be shorter and focus on key points, but provide longer term trends;
- ii) the annual and quarterly *Control of Immigration* publications, together with the *British Citizenship Statistics*, are combined to avoid duplication;
- iii) tables are presented in such a way that makes them more accessible to users, in particular listing within tables all annual data, followed by quarterly data (a draft example of this layout is available in Table 1.2 of *Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary Q4 2010*); and a standard and full country of nationality and continent list;

- iv) the number of tables released is reduced through a combination of amalgamation and a reduction in the variables reported on; and
- v) all data (except passenger arrivals) are provided unrounded.

Proposals and questions

i) Shorter commentary and analysis of the data structured in virtual topics, focusing on key points, but providing longer term trends

It is proposed that the topics are:

- Before entry (visas)
- Admissions
- Extensions
- Settlement
- Citizenship
- Asylum
- Removals
- Detention
- Work (cross-cutting topic)
- Study (cross-cutting topic)
- Family (cross-cutting topic)

Q1. Are the above structure of topics appropriate?

The proposal is for the commentary to focus on key points.

Q2. Should the commentary and analysis of the data be shorter and focus on key points, but also provide longer term trends?

ii) Amalgamate the annual and quarterly *Control of Immigration* publications and the *British Citizenship Statistics*

It is proposed to combine the three publications *Control of Immigration: United Kingdom Statistics*, *Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary* and *British Citizenship Statistics*.

This proposal should not affect the timing of the first release of the various statistics published; annual data on British citizenship would be published in May; revisions of other annual data will continue to take place in or before August.

Q3. Should the *Control of Immigration: United Kingdom Statistics*, *Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary* and *British Citizenship Statistics* be combined?

iii) Presenting tables in a more accessible format

It is proposed that tables that are currently produced quarterly will continue to present both quarterly and annual data, with the annual data listed first, followed by the data for each quarter. This is proposed in order to make them more reusable to users. A draft example of this approach is available in Table 1.2 of the *Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary Q4 2010*.

It is proposed to publish a standard and full country of nationality and continent list.

Q4. Should the table formats be presented in line with the above proposals?

iv) Reducing the number of tables released through a combination of amalgamation and a reduction in the variables

The content of the high volume of tables produced, including information on asylum fast track, the breakdown of asylum removals by main applicant and dependants, information on court proceedings, is no longer reflective of the work that the UK Border Agency performs. In order to meet the needs of our users and streamline the statistics that are produced, it is proposed to reduce the number of tables released. This will primarily be through amalgamation of tables, but also through the slight reduction in the variables reported on.

Below is a list of information that it is proposed, from August 2011, will no longer be available through this move:

Asylum

Applications by age and sex for dependants; however applications by age and sex for main applicants will continue to be published and data including dependants will continue to be available via EUROSTAT.

Post decision reviews on asylum applications; data supplied to and available from EUROSTAT on final outcomes of asylum cases are more comprehensive as they include outcomes beyond the post-decision review.

Support information, including the breakdown of applications by support type and family size, and cases with support ceased. Data on supported asylum seekers by local authority will continue to be published.

Fast track applications, of which decisions made, appeals lodged and removals and voluntary departures made.

Removals and voluntary departures

The breakdown of asylum removals by main applicant and dependants will no longer be available; however asylum removals including dependants will continue to be produced.

Court proceedings

Information on court proceedings will no longer be published in the *Control of Immigration* publications. This series was provided by Ministry of Justice and is a subset of data that will continue to be published by Ministry of Justice.

Appeals

Outcomes of appeals determinations by broad category and Asylum principal appellant appeals lodged and determinations will no longer be published in the *Control of Immigration* publication. These data are sourced from Tribunals Service Immigration and Asylum and will continue to be published in *Quarterly Statistics for the Tribunals Service*. The asylum appeals data series will be replaced by one on principal asylum applicants sourced from the UK Border Agency administrative database to be consistent with other published data on asylum.

Q5. Are there reasons why data, detailed above, should be retained? If so, we would welcome information on the uses that you make of the data proposed to be dropped.

v) Provide all data (except passenger arrivals) unrounded.

Consideration is being given to publishing the statistics in this bulletin that are based on administrative data in an unrounded format; they are currently rounded to the nearest 5. This would be with the aim of increasing the utility to users by allowing them to perform accurate calculations on these data for themselves. However, full consideration needs to be made of situations when the numbers are small and potentially disclosive. This proposal does not include the data on passenger arrivals, which are estimated due to sampling of landing cards.

Q6. Should all data (except passenger arrivals) be published unrounded? If not, please state the reasons why, including any risks of disclosure.

Responses: Confidentiality & Disclaimer

The information you send us may be passed to colleagues within the Home Office, the Government or related agencies.

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 [FOIA], the Data Protection Act 1998 [DPA] and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you want other information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence.

In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

The Department will process your personal data in accordance with the DPA and in the majority of circumstances this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.