

Addendum to Better Statistics further submission to Lievesley Review of UKSA

Page #	Date	Description
1	31/3/2022	Letter from BSC welcoming Appointment of Sir Robert Chote (RC)
2	16/5/2022	Email to RC attaching Copy of the Opinion / BSC Report on Public Awareness of Inflation Measures
3	-	Report of Public Awareness Survey (summary originally prepared for In the Seminar on 11 th May).
12	23/8/2022	Email to RC attaching letter commenting on RC's recent blog
13	"	The letter to RC references measures of public confidence in UKSA and other issues, including the code of practice.
16	-	Letter to DG of OSR dated 20/6/2022 referencing code of practice, response rates and coverage of UK population in surveys,
18	26/5/2023	Email to RC accompanying letter of same date
19	"	Letter to RC expressing concerns with recent PACAC meeting and possibility of misleading Parliament.
21	8/6/2023	Email from RC in reply to letter of 26 th May
22	9/6/2023	Email to RC acknowledging receipt of email of 8/6/2023
23	30/6-2023	Letter to RC in reply to his email of 8/6
25	2016	List of statistics produced by ONS in 2016 (I believe this excludes those statistics provided by the GSS).



Better Statistics CIC

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Sir Robert Chote
Chair, UKSA

By email: robert.chote@kcl.ac.uk

31st March 2022

Dear Sir Robert,

I am writing on behalf of Better Statistics CIC (BSC) to welcome your appointment as Chair of the UKSA. As you may be aware BSC was established just over a year ago with the ambition to promote public awareness of, and interest in, the production of accurate and relevant statistics. We were originally established as the *Campaign for Better Business Statistics*, reflecting our belief that the ONS was failing to record the economic contribution of micro-enterprise and the gig economy. Subsequently we removed the word 'business' and extended our campaign to include commentary upon the *faster indices* introduced as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic. We also responded to the *Consultation on the Reform to Retail Prices Index (RPI) Methodology* in 2020 and have taken an active role in discussions on user engagement with the ONS, resulting from the PACAC report of 2019. Further details are available on our website, including the video of our successful [launch meeting](#) from last November.

We understand that you will be very busy over the coming weeks settling into your new job, but we are pleased to invite you to attend our forthcoming Seminar "[Inflation 2022](#)" to be held at the Royal Statistical Society, Errol Street at 3 pm on 11th May. Our confirmed speakers now include Paul Lewis, the broadcaster and journalist, Mike Hardie from the ONS, a representative from the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England (person tbc), Professor Jonathan Portes and Jill Leyland & Jon Astin from the RPI/CPI interest Group of the Royal Statistical Society.

It promises to be an interesting meeting so I hope you will be able to spare the time; I'm also pleased to say that Grant Fitzner, Chief Economist at the ONS, has registered his interest to attend.

Meanwhile if we can be of assistance to you in your new role please do not hesitate to contact me.

With all good wishes,

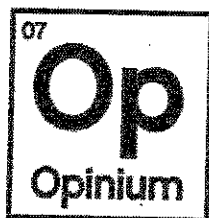
Tony Dent

Director, Better Statistics CIC

Tel: 078 8508 8521



Better Statistics CIC



What people think,
feel and do

Survey Results for Inflation Seminar

11th May 2022

Summary of key findings:

Almost all respondents are aware of the rise in inflation and for the majority of people it has already affected them personally. Although a few people have benefited (or expect to benefit) from the increase in interest rates, the majority are experiencing a significant effect on their lifestyle with some people suffering considerable difficulties. As one respondent said:

I'm managing OK but I am tracking expenditure much more carefully and buying less treats. I am trying to increase my emergency fund in case of difficulty. And I am trying to help others by increased food bank donations.

The public are unfamiliar with most acronyms with only the CBI receiving a majority recognition:

	All answering	NET: Aware		NET: Familiar	
CBI	2000	1134	57%	436	22%
RPI	2000	941	47%	523	26%
ONS	2000	865	43%	446	22%
CPI	2000	772	39%	372	19%
OBR	2000	544	27%	225	11%
MPC	2000	454	23%	179	9%
CPIH	2000	435	22%	162	8%

In each case awareness and knowledge of the initials are significantly lower for female than for male respondents. There are also important differences by age, with awareness and familiarity of CPI higher than for RPI amongst those aged 18 to 34. Moreover, both awareness and familiarity are higher amongst younger age groups than older ages, for both CPI and for CPIH, whereas the opposite is the case for RPI.

Public awareness of the experimental Household Cost Indices is low at just 11%, however the majority of those aware of them consider they are likely to be useful. Once again men are more aware than women and the young are more likely consider the indices to be potentially useful.

There is considerable confusion in the public mind as to the roles played by the various organisations involved in different aspects of dealing with inflation. In particular almost twice as many people believe that the Bank of England is responsible for measuring inflation than think that it is a responsibility of the ONS (40% to 22%). Others believe it to be the treasury, the OBR or other organisations, but 29% say they don't know.

On average respondents claim to be experiencing a higher level of inflation than the official figure with 53% of respondents claiming to experience an inflation rate of 8% or higher. There are important differences by gender and age with women experiencing a higher level of inflation than the men and older adults a higher rate than younger people.

However there is only a minor additional increase in the rate expected over the next 6 months.

Only a minority of people (34%) were aware of the Monetary Policy meeting last week, with awareness of the meeting significantly higher amongst men and amongst older adults. Those differences by age and gender are mirrored in the distribution of agreement with the decision although there remains a high level of uncertainty amongst all categories of respondents.

Q:BS15. They have announced that interest rates will be raised to 1%, their highest levels for 13 years. Do you agree with that decision?

	Total	Gender		Age		
		Male	Female	18 - 34	35 - 54	55+
Base: All answering (Weighted)	2000	975	1018	554	659	787
Yes	37 %	46 %	28 %	27 %	32 %	47 %
	736	450	283	152	210	373
No	30 %	29 %	31 %	39 %	34 %	20 %
	600	278	320	218	224	158
Don't know	33 %	25 %	41 %	33 %	34 %	33 %
	664	247	416	184	224	256

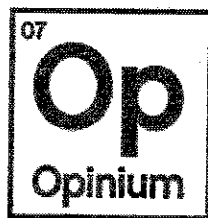
Finally, respondents provided a wide variety of suggestions as to how inflation might be dealt with although almost half accepted that they did not have any ideas. Solutions suggested included: *capping energy prices; changing the Government; controlling prices; controlling wages; increasing benefits; increasing higher rate personal taxes; increasing wages; lowering taxes; raising Interest rates; reversing Brexit; and windfall taxes.*

One respondent provided a 317 word essay explaining how to deal with the issue. Beginning with the phrase "I agree with Professor Richard Murphy" the ending referred to the [Richard Murphy](#) website for those interested in the details.

Technical Note: This report summarises the results of some online research conducted by Opinium research on behalf of Better Statistics CIC from 6th to 9th May 2022. Please go to [Maytab](#) for the tabulations of the research, based upon a representative sample of 2,000 adults throughout the UK.



Better Statistics CIC



What people think,
feel and do

Survey Results for Inflation Seminar 11th May 2022

Introduction:

This report summarises the results of online research conducted by Opinium research on behalf of Better Statistics CIC from 6th to 9th May 2022. Please go to [Maytab](#) for a full set of the tabulations of the research, based upon a representative sample of 2,000 adults throughout the UK.

Awareness of acronyms for Institutions and inflation terms:

Very few acronyms are well recognised and understood by UK consumers, with only the initials **CBI** recognised by a majority of respondents. RPI continues to achieve the highest recognition of the three inflation measures. The detailed results indicate that relatively few respondents were able to clearly identify what the acronyms actually stand for.

Q.BS1. Which of the following best applies to your knowledge of each of these acronyms?

	CBI	CPI	CPIH	MPC	OBR	ONS	RPI
Base: All answering (Unweighted)	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000
Base: All answering (Weighted)	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000
I have never heard this term before	30 % 602	45 % 900	60 % 1197	59 % 1187	56 % 1128	42 % 846	40 % 791
I have only heard of the term, I don't know any details	21 % 414	12 % 246	8 % 160	8 % 155	9 % 180	11 % 228	10 % 196
I know what the letters stand for, but not much else	14 % 284	8 % 154	6 % 114	6 % 120	7 % 139	10 % 191	11 % 222
I am fairly familiar, with the term and what it stands for	14 % 286	12 % 231	6 % 111	6 % 116	7 % 144	14 % 285	16 % 312
I am very familiar with the term and what it stands for	7 % 150	7 % 140	3 % 51	3 % 63	4 % 81	8 % 160	11 % 211
Don't know / can't recall	13 % 264	16 % 329	18 % 368	18 % 359	16 % 329	14 % 289	13 % 267
NET: Aware	57 % 1134	39 % 772	22 % 435	23 % 454	27 % 544	43 % 865	47 % 941
NET: Familiar	22 % 436	19 % 372	8 % 162	9 % 179	11 % 225	22 % 446	26 % 523

The details by gender and by age for each of the above acronyms are available in the supporting tables, as are the answers provided for what respondents consider each of the initials stand for.

In each case awareness and knowledge of the initials are significantly lower for female than for male respondents and there are also important differences by age of respondent. For example, awareness and familiarity with the CBI is much greater for those aged 55 and over than it is for younger aged groups.

With regard to the inflation measures, it is worth noting that awareness and familiarity of both CPI and CPIH are higher amongst younger age groups than for the older age group, whereas the opposite is the case for RPI. Moreover, both awareness and claimed familiarity of the CPI are higher than for RPI amongst those aged 18 to 34.

Further details on measures of inflation:

It is encouraging that both the CPI and CPIH have a higher awareness than when we last reported on this subject in October 2021. There has also been a change in understanding which is the preferred measure as used by the Office for National Statistics:

Q:BS4. Which one do you believe is now the official measure of inflation as experienced by consumers?

	<u>May 2022</u>	<u>October 2021</u>
Base: All answering (Unweighted)	2000	2000
Base: All answering (Weighted)	2000	2000
CPI	26 %	13 %
	513	253
RPI	21 %	12%
	421	241
CPIH	10 %	4%
	198	84
Unsure	43 %	71 %
	868	1522

Part of the significant difference between the recent May results compared with last October's figures is thought to be due to different wording in the questions. In October we had asked:

"Which of these measures do you believe are now preferred by the Office of National Statistics as the best measure of inflation?"

As will be noted below, not all consumers are sufficiently aware that the ONS is the organisation responsible for measurement of the inflation rate and we believe that fact had influenced the significantly lower level of awareness observed last year.

We also asked if respondents had heard of the Household Cost Indices and, again it was the younger people who were more aware of them and also more inclined to consider them to be potentially useful (see results on following page).

Q:BS15. They have announced that interest rates will be raised to 1%, their highest levels for 13 years. Do you agree with that decision?

	Total	Gender		Age		
		Male	Female	18 - 34	35 - 54	55+
Base: All answering (Unweighted)	2000	975	1018	472	687	841
Base: All answering (Weighted)	2000	975	1018	554	659	787
Yes	37 %	46 %	28 %	27 %	32 %	47 %
	736	450	283	152	210	373
No	30 %	29 %	31 %	39 %	34 %	20 %
	600	278	320	218	224	158
Don't know	33 %	25 %	41 %	33 %	34 %	33 %
	664	247	416	184	224	256

Respondent Opinions

At the end of the survey all respondents were invited to describe their own experiences resulting from inflation and also what their opinion was with regard to what should be done about it.

Q:BS16. How would you say inflation is affecting you personally?

Although asked at the end of the survey we thought it of interest to review the responses to this open question before examining the answers to the other questions. Unsurprisingly, the majority of respondents are experiencing one or more negative effects of inflation, although a minority claim not to be experiencing any effects as yet with some saying they are benefitting from receiving higher interest on their savings "I get more interest" and "I hope bank accounts will start to give interest again".

Probably that minority is matched by those who are having to use their savings to keep going "Dipping into my savings" and "I have seen a rise in costs which means I am saving less". Certainly the great majority are feeling the effects in one way or another:

"I'm struggling financially because cost of living is rising."

"I'm finding it extremely difficult to juggle buying nutritious food or putting heating on."

"I'm struggling to pay for basic necessities, I'm having to cut back on food shopping and drastically cutting back on shopping for things that would be considered treats"

"In every way possible from rent and council tax through utilities, petrol and prices generally. Saving towards retirement is becoming impossible."



A few people just simply state their situation in a few words: "skint", "making me skint", "I'm broke" with one respondent claiming "driving me to suicide".

Two more thoughtful responses serve to describe the complexity of the difficulties some people are dealing with:

"I'm managing OK but I am tracking expenditure much more carefully and buying less treats. I am trying to increase my emergency fund in case of difficulty. And I am trying to help others by increased food bank donations."

"Everything is going up and it is a worry, we are managing but if it keeps going up I worry, we have savings but they are for retirement so I don't want to spend them. We are buying cheaper and cutting back on leisure spending and using as little gas and electric as possible, meal planning and buying cheap food. It's hard and a worry. My husband has his own business as a chiropractor and ideally we would increase prices to help ourselves but the majority of patients are elderly and on a fixed income and not well off and I feel bad, so so far we haven't, we didn't increase prices during covid either despite having to spend on ppe and not being able to work for months and are still experiencing cancellations and nursing home closures due to covid, so reduced income and now some people are cancelling appointments as they can't afford the cost. It's all bad."

Q:BS17. What do you think should be done to combat inflation?

Respondents provided a wide variety of suggestions as to how inflation might be dealt with although almost half accepted that they did not have any ideas. Solutions suggested included: *capping energy prices; changing the Government; controlling prices; controlling wages; increasing benefits; increasing higher rate personal taxes; increasing wages; lowering taxes; raising Interest rates; reversing Brexit; and windfall taxes.*

Some examples are"

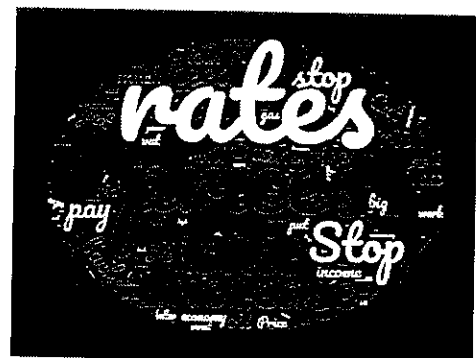
"action on fuel prices, windfall taxes and shift of tax burden away from low to middle earners"

"Accepting that it will be high and adjusting the target upwards. Using taxation/regulation/price-controls to mitigate the impact on ordinary people"
"tighten our belts"

"I'm afraid little can be done apart from interest rate rises drive us into a recession."

"reduce petrol tax, cancel NI increase, increase pensions"

"start fracking"



"In order to combat inflation, governments should adopt wage and price regulations. Governments can also combat inflation by lowering an economy's money supply"

"All businesses become non-profits"

"Reduce taxes and give people more of their own money reintroduce the 20£ allowance for those in most need."

And many more suggestions can be read on sheet BS17 of the accompanying set of tables (see [Maytab](#)).

From: Tony Dent
Sent: 23 August 2022 09:01
To: Robert Chote <robert.chote@gmail.com>
Subject: Recent OSR report

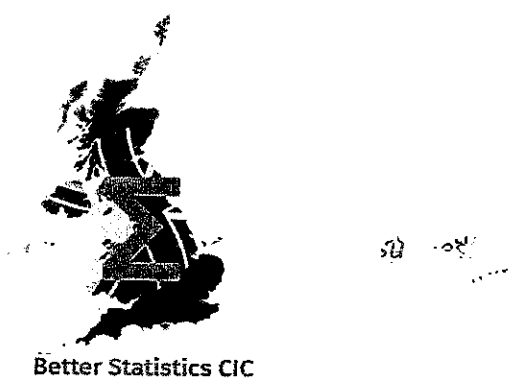
Dear Robert,

Attached please find a letter commenting upon some aspects of the recent OSR report on the state of the UK National Statistical System. This is accompanied by a copy of the letter we had sent to Ed Humpherson in June.

Although we do not consider the contents to be confidential, we have not cc'd the letter, other than to close associates.

We therefore hope it may be of some value to you in your position as chair of the UKSA. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

With all good wishes,
Tony
Better Statistics CIC



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Sir Robert Chote
 Chairman, United Kingdom Statistical Authority

By email: robert.chote@gmail.com

Dear Robert,

I hope you are well and settling into your new role. I also hope that you will find this letter to be of assistance to you in your role as Chair of the UKSA.

I was interested to read your recent blog, which was published whilst I was on vacation in the US. Although we at Better Statistics would agree that the tenor of the recent report by the OSR is encouraging in many respects, there remain some concerns that we believe are worth your attention.

As background, I attach a copy of the letter that Better Statistics had sent to Ed Humpherson, Director General for Statistics Regulation on 20th June inst. You will see that in that letter we drew attention to the low response rate achieved for the **Public Confidence in Official Statistics 2021** and had commented that the headline figure quoted for that study conflicted with other evidence. We are therefore disappointed to see that the OSR's recent report says "A 2021 study of public confidence in official statistics found high confidence in the statistical system with 87% of people trusting ONS statistics and 79% of people agreeing that COVID19 statistics are accurate." Quite simply we do not believe that those figures accurately reflect the opinions of the population of the UK and we would prefer that the reporting should state that "87% **of respondents** had expressed trust in ONS statistics" to ensure that the information is not potentially misleading, although even that may not be a sufficiently informative qualification for many readers (see further below under misleadingness).

A second issue refers to part of the commentary under the **Quality** pillar, which includes the following statement: "Our review of population estimates and projections found that improvements were needed in methods, communication and embracing challenge. ONS has published updates on completed, ongoing and future work to address our recommendations. Our review specifically noted that '...we found that in some smaller cities that had a large student population, the population estimates did appear to be inconsistent with, and potentially higher than local evidence suggests'. Comparisons between the recently published Local Authority (LA) Census estimates and previous population estimates, created using admin data, including the mid-year population estimates, indicated that there did appear to be an issue with some population estimates for smaller cities. ONS has committed to publishing regular progress updates against our findings."

We recognise that this refers to the complaint from the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) that the population estimates prepared by the ONS for the City of Coventry had been excessive for a number of years, resulting in the loss of green belt land in Worcester (see *DGLetter* for relevant correspondence). Now the recent Local Area Census results, published in June, indicated that the previous estimates for Coventry had overestimated the population by as many as 40,000 people comparing the Census figure with the 2021 mid-year estimates. We do not agree that this difference should be characterised by the OSR as *“there did appear to be an issue with population estimates for smaller cities”*.

Meanwhile, when challenged by the CPRE on the difference between the Census and their previous estimate, the ONS had issued the following statement to the BBC *“In the case of Coventry, for example, the census shows our Mid-Year Estimates have been giving a slight overestimate of the population”*. They offered no apology or further explanation with the result that the CPRE continue to believe that the ONS has something to hide. The manner in which this has been handled is extremely unfortunate. Many of the MYE's produced by the ONS were, of course, well within acceptable error, however, the ONS's failure to correct their Coventry estimate when it was evident that it was incorrect and then to characterise the error as *‘slight’* is misleading and does not inspire confidence.

There are other aspects of the report that, perhaps, we could question, but we are primarily concerned with the growing use of administrative data in place of survey work and the use of data from non-governmental sources. Within which context we fully endorse the comment that: *“Greater transparency is needed around development plans for statistics to enable users to understand upcoming changes and help prioritise developments.”*

We also consider that the OSR should be more proactive in ensuring that such proposed changes will conform to the code of practice. The report places significant emphasis on the introduction of real time data into evidence. However, BSC have noted that such evidence, particularly economic evidence, has frequently been provided from sources that have not signed up to the code.

The **Strategic Business Plan 2020 to 2025** published by the OSR on 9th July 2020 had included the intention to *“support widespread voluntary adoption of the Code of Practice beyond official statistics”*, yet there is no evidence of any increase in voluntary registrations for the code during the subsequent period. Shortly after the foundation of Better Statistics CIC we had intended to register under the code, expecting to complete some suitable application form with, possibly, a place to provide references. However, no such form exists and we recommend that one should be created and that no real time data should be used on a consistent basis without the originating organisation being registered under the code of practice. Inter alia we believe that the register should have greater prominence on the OSR website.

In closing, we comment on two further points:

Misleadingness: We welcome the OSR's continued concern to improve the understanding of this important issue and would suggest that every report should also comment on representation or potential bias as well as confidence intervals. As noted above, there must be the possibility of significant bias whenever response rates are low and non-response has not been investigated, as was the case with last year's Survey on Public Confidence.

In respect of **confidence intervals**, we suggest that consideration should be given to using the *coefficient of variation* instead of such intervals whenever there is a series of estimates being provided. This facilitates comparisons of reliability across the different measures in a manner that confidence intervals often conceal.

Work load: Very properly the report pays tribute to the immense amount of work undertaken by the GSS and the ONS in seeking to respond to the exigencies of the rapidly changing environment and circumstances that society faces. Within which context the occasional error or oversight may be forgiven but it is the opinion of BSC that, in fact, the statistical service is often doing too much. At the launch of the proposed GSS User Engagement Strategy in February 2021 Sir Ian Diamond had commented that, in return for improved user engagement, it would be worth reducing the work load and we had then written to Sir Ian on 11th March 2021 to suggest that a revived Statistics User Forum might contribute to the process of reducing the work load.

As far as we are aware there has been no subsequent attempt to consider the relative value of items that are included in the ongoing workload. Certainly, BSC would be pleased to assist with such evaluation, were it to be attempted.

Finally: To return to the attached letter to Ed Humpherson, we believe that, in addition to actually strengthening the code, the powers of the OSR should be increased to ensure adherence to the code, and to encourage more prompt action whenever the OSR makes specific recommendations.

We had thought to copy this letter to Ed Humpherson, Sir Ian Diamond and to Professor David Hand, Chair of the recently formed NSEUA Committee, but we are unsure as to what help that would be to you or to the overall objectives of Better Statistics.

Meanwhile we hope that you will consider the above comments to be constructive and we would be pleased to discuss them and other issues with you or other members of the UKSA at any time.

With all good wishes

Tony

Director, Better Statistics CIC



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Mr. E. Humpherson
Director General for Regulation
United Kingdom Statistical Authority

By email via: Regulation@statistics.gov.uk

20th June 2022

Dear Ed,

It was good to see you in Glasgow, I am sorry that I missed your important session. I hope it went well. For the record my personal view is that there is little value in continuing with the present systems and I will be interested to review the discussion when I have the time.

Meanwhile, I am pleased to say that we have now received a reply from Peter Benton and I will include that in the record of the correspondence between BSC and the ONS on the CIS over the course of the past 10 months. I expect to send that record to your team investigating the CIS in the next few days, and I will also copy you on it.

I doubt that we will have any time on the 27th to discuss the wider issues of the code of practice, so I hope that we might set up an alternative time to specifically discuss that. I am sure you will recall that the two primary concerns of BSC were, firstly, strengthening the code with regard to Value for Money and secondly, providing some guidelines in respect of minimum response rates.

You have commented that you see little reason for amending the code for value for money and I accept that the code does reference the issue. However, the discussion on the 27th should serve to explain our concerns as to the current weakness of the code and I return to this further below.

In respect of our concerns about response rates, we are pleased that you propose to take the issue further with the GSS. The requirement for action here is urgent because poor response rates increasingly seem to be accepted without comment; a factor that is severely limiting the representation of our ethnic minorities and poorer members of our society and which must call into question the mantra "*for the public good*".

I would draw your attention to two recently published important studies whose results, we believe, may be inaccurate as a result of poor response rates:



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- a) Firstly, Public confidence in official statistics 2021, as conducted by Natcen on behalf of the UKSA and
- b) Secondly the CDEI report on Public attitudes to data and AI: Tracker survey, conducted by Savanta on behalf of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

Although the former is appropriately conducted by modern standards, the overall response rate was just 23% and we believe it was significantly lower within important subgroups of the population. Certainly, the headline results do not conform with other more qualitative information available (for example please see Public Understanding of Economics - J. Runge et al).

Response rates for the CDEI report are not presently available, but they have said that they will ensure some representation of ethnic minorities in the telephone 'boost' study for the next wave. Ethnic minorities were not represented at all within the boost sample for the first tracker and, therefore, the study results cannot claim to be representative of the UK population in the manner inferred by the headlines of the published report.

Clearly, providing some specific code of practice guidelines in this area might well prove to be controversial, but it is important that we recognise the limitations of a lot of the research presently conducted and not continue to turn a blind eye to these facts.

As you know, our concern extends beyond the world of official statistics and BSC is supportive of the aim of the OSR to extend the reach of the code of practice; indeed we would like to see its influence reach into the commercial sector.

Strengthening the code in these two areas, linking value for money to guidelines that ensure improved inclusion and therefore representation can only serve to strengthen our statistics, both national and other.

I hope we can find time for consideration of these important issues in due course.

With all good wishes,

Tony
Director, BSC.

From: Tony Dent
Sent: 26 May 2023 15:10
To: Robert Chote <robert.chote@gmail.com>
Subject: PACAC meeting

Dear Robert,

Attached please find a letter arising from the recent PACAC meeting.

I am sorry to say that I was not the only observer who felt dissatisfied with the event, following from the recent UKSA event 'celebrating' half way with the five-year plan.

Unfortunately, it seems we at BSC are unable to provide a more constructive contribution other than through letters of this kind.

Hopefully that will change,

Best wishes,
Tony
BSC



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Sir Robert Chote
Chairman.
United Kingdom Statistics Authority

By email to: Robert.Chote@gmail.com

26th May 2023

Dear Robert,

I took advantage of the video link to watch the PACAC meeting on Tuesday and I was surprised by some of the evidence provided by you, Sir Ian and Ed Humpherson. Evidence that evinced none of the humility you had suggested was often needed in discussing statistics – or at least economic estimates.

Although there were a number of matters I personally found to be less than satisfactory, I will confine myself to just two comments.

I firstly refer to your comment on the pillar of '*trust in statistics*' at the very start of the public session. I am sure you will recall my writing to you on 23rd August last year to inform you that we believed it to be misleading to quote the results of the 2021 Survey of Public Confidence, as conducted by Natcen, without providing some qualification. You will doubtless also recall my surprise that Sam Becket should have chosen to quote the same 87% figure in her talk at the UKSA event on 22nd March inst. Albeit she did mention that it was '*of respondents to the survey*' but she did not mention the fact of a 23% response rate. Neither did you, when you spoke of an 80% measure of trust amongst respondents to the Public Confidence survey on Tuesday. As a result I believe you will have provided Parliament with an entirely false impression of the public's awareness of the UKSA and the level of trust in many of our statistics. There is plenty of evidence to the contrary, also within the public domain, and I shall be happy to provide some of it should you so desire.

Then, towards the end, in response to a question concerning public engagement, Sir Ian Diamond had referred to my attendance at a meeting of his National Statistician's Expert User Advisors Committee (NSEUAC) on the 9th March. I am sure that he intended that fact to illustrate the health of user engagement by UKSA but, frankly, I object to my presence being used in this misleading way. The **minutes of the meeting** bear almost no relationship to the **presentation** I gave, or even to the subsequent discussion. This continues the same pattern of user engagement that I have been involved with since the formation of BSC in February 2021 and I do not believe that NSEUAC contributes to any of the improvement in public engagement requested by PACAC in 2019.

Given Ed Humpherson's homilies on the issue of members of parliament who mislead parliament (and the public), I cannot avoid thinking there is some hypocrisy at work here. What was the impression you were seeking to make? I am sure you would not have wished to deliberately mislead parliament, but I am equally sure that was the effect.

I am reminded of the comment by Professor Sturgis in his recent review of OSR's approach to quality assessing the Covid Infection Survey: *"It is worth noting that the individual level response rates published on the ONS website are also, **no doubt unintentionally**, rather misleadingly overstated because they are given as the number of responding individuals over the number of eligible individuals in responding households. An individual level response rate would usually incorporate an estimate of the number of individuals in nonresponding households, which here would imply a response rate closer to 10% rather than the 91% (for England) reported by ONS."* **(My emphasis)**

Of course I am sympathetic to the urge to place a positive light on activities and aware that Parliament is frequently the place for hyperbole, so one could say there is nothing unusual here. But I like to think more highly of our statistical service, however, I am sure that Ed can advise you and Sir Ian as to whether the above comments merit correction or not. Meanwhile I will stick with my previous personal observation that although UKSA does a lot of very good work, it also does a lot of sloppy work, largely because of trying to do too much. My personal conclusion is that it needs a change of culture, but that can probably only happen with a thorough re-organisation and I guess that's another story.

As with my letter to you of 23rd August 2022, I do not consider this letter to be confidential although I am not copying it to others. I do, however expect to make it public in a month's time. Meanwhile, I hope you can advise me of any action you have taken on the above details and whether there are any proposals in place to genuinely improve user engagement in the manner requested by PACAC in 2019, which I had naively assumed to mean some degree of user *influence*.

With all good wishes,



Tony Dent,
Better Statistics CIC

From: Robert Chote <robert.chote@gmail.com>
Sent: 08 June 2023 17:03
To: Tony Dent <tony@betterstats.net>
Subject: Re: PACAC meeting

Dear Tony

Thank you for your letter. I am sorry you feel that way, but let me respond to some of the points you made.

As regards a lack of humility in discussing economic statistics, I went out of my way to explain to the committee - from the perspective of a long-term consumer of such outputs as a journalist and for forecasting purposes - that one should not place too much faith in the ONS's initial estimates of GDP and the quarterly changes therein. They are merely the first draft of economic history and, even though they are more robust than they used to be and show no evidence of systematic bias, the picture we paint of the economy can look very different as the information set upon which they are based becomes richer over time (thanks, for example to lagged information from the tax system). Not all economic statistics are revised and refined in the same way, of course, hence my reference to the important work that OSR and ONS continue to do on the best way to communicate the uncertainty around statistical estimates.

As regards measures of trust, as you acknowledge Sam and I were both careful to say that the percentages expressing trust in ONS and its statistics that we quoted from the NatCen survey were of respondents rather than necessarily of the public as a whole. It is hardly surprising that the response rate for such a survey is well below 100 per cent, but I am not sure what one can say with confidence about the direction and size of any bias that you would expect to result. If you have any evidence on that point, do of course feel free to share it with me.

As regards the NSEUAC meeting, I wasn't there of course but the reference in the minutes to you a) updating the committee on the Better Statistics CIC, b) highlighting that there were several ways in which UKSA could improve, c) urging the publication of more useful material from the NSEUAC and d) urging NSEUAC to be more transparent didn't seem at much odds with what you had in your slides. But do let me know in what respects you think that was so. I will of course ask Ian and the independent Chair what their plans are in this area.

As regards your concern at the apparent lack of influence and responsiveness arising from user engagement, I note that you quoted from the Sturgis Review. The commissioning of the Sturgis Review was of course a direct response to the concerns you expressed about OSR's review of the CIS methodology and presentation. Far from shrugging off your views, they commissioned a distinguished outside expert to examine your methodological concerns and their own performance in scrutinising the CIS, and then published a response to his report accepting his recommendations on their regulation work. As with the work currently being undertaken by ONS in collaboration with others on the measurement of excess deaths and gender identity in the census, this seems an example of meaningful responsiveness when users express concerns.

I won't respond to some of your more *ad hominem* observations, save to say that even if I were to disagree with some of the propositions you advance I would not for a minute question that they are put forward in good faith and with the best interests of the public and statistical system at heart. I think is true of most people who work and contribute in this area.

With best regards,
Robert

From: Tony Dent <tony@betterstats.net>
Sent: 09 June 2023 13:14
To: Robert Chote <robert.chote@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: PACAC meeting

Thank you Robert,

I, too, am sorry that I feel that way, and I assure you that I and my colleagues are very concerned to assist the UKSA to maintain the public's trust in our statistics in whatever way we can.

I will write further in due course to clarify those aspects of my comments that I feel your reply does not adequately address.

Meanwhile, be assured we appreciate the prompt attention to our concerns. Have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Tony
BSC



Better Statistics CIC

Better Statistics CIC

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Robert Chote,
Chairman,
United Kingdom Statistical Authority.

By email via: robert.chote@gmail.com

30th June 2023

Dear Robert,

I have now had the opportunity to review your response to my email of 26th May concerning the UKSA review with PACAC.

Firstly, I apologise for misleading you by my attempt at irony in mentioning your reference to the difficulties of economic forecasting. I had meant to convey that I wished UKSA would show more concern for potential inaccuracy with the remainder of our statistics. They are too often presented and spoken of with a confidence that I personally often find misleading. I hope that the remainder of this note will provide suitable examples of such 'over reach' (as I see it).

Trust in the ONS: I accept that both you and Sam qualified the reporting of trust in the ONS as 80% of respondents to the survey, but the fact is that you had not otherwise qualified your statement to the MP's, who I believe would have understood you to be speaking of a representative survey and would not have considered the possibility of bias resulting from the relatively poor response rate. Professor Sturgis, in his recent review on behalf of the OSR, had observed that response bias "*arises when the propensity to respond to a survey is correlated with the survey variable of interest*". I believe that the result you quote suffers from such bias and evidence that the opinion of the population of the UK may not be represented by that survey may be inferred by the work of Johnny Runge et al in their series on Communicating and Valuing Economic Statistics sponsored by ESCoE. Incidentally, when I first raised this issue last July, Mike Hughes (ex-director at ONS) had written to me as follows: "*My disbelief in the NatCen figures is reinforced by two factors:*

- *the results of Eurostat's periodic 2015 Eurobarometer survey (see page 20) which showed levels of the UK's public trust in official statistics around 45%, similar to ONS's recorded levels in the mid-2000s*
- *the results of Johnny Runge's anecdotal evidence from the PUoE work."*

The NSEUAC meeting: Thanks for your response. I accept that relatively brief minutes are not a bad thing, but part of my presentation had made reference to the fact that the minutes are often so sparse as to convey nothing of interest or value, other than that something was discussed. However, I accept that may be less true with the minute of my attendance than of other items.

In fact my primary concern when writing previously had been the consistent failure to publish the papers submitted to the NSEUAC meetings. I am pleased to say that has been subsequently rectified and they are all now published alongside the minutes for all the past meetings, including the meeting I attended. With regard to speaking with Sir Ian about user engagement I have been banging on for years about having a better search function – as have others. Perhaps you could ask when we might get that benefit?

The Sturgis Review: You may not be aware that Ed had commissioned Professor’s Sturgis review in response to our own stated intention to seek such a review. Moreover, we had only considered the review to have become necessary, because the OSR had failed to take our concerns seriously when they undertook their second review. We had previously provided the OSR with evidence of the failure of the ONS to answer our questions, including evidence of the refusal to supply BSC with information by incorrectly claiming that the information we sought was the IP of IQVIA. Despite that evidence the OSR did not call out the ONS as failing the Trustworthy Pillar or question the worth of the CIS in any way. We do not believe it should have been necessary to obtain an independent report to identify that the OSR’s job was not seen as having been done properly.

The PACAC meeting: Ad hominem or not there were many aspects of the PACAC meeting that were of concern to me and other observers but I had attempted to confine myself to those areas where I felt the MP’s may have been misled by the testimony. I emphasise – ‘*may have been*’ because it can come down to how people interpret what is said. For example John Stevenson MP had asked Sir Ian “*We understand that the ONS is currently reviewing some of the data relating to gender identity, to understand the responses, because there appears to be a larger number counted as transgender. Should we be treating this data with caution?*” Sir Ian’s reply was “*Not necessarily with any more caution than we said very clearly in our release on 14 April.*” Sir Ian then went on to imply that everything was entirely “*business as usual*”.

Now, in the recently published 2023-24 UKSA Strategic Business Plan, we see the following comment: “*The release on sexual orientation and gender identity received positive coverage with media outlets noting this was the first time this information had been provided on a voluntary basis at such scale.*”

You will note that there is no mention of the suspicion that many members of our ethnic minority had misunderstood the gender questions in the Census, giving rise to relatively large estimates of transgender persons within some communities. Is this of no concern?

In truth, I have absolutely no desire to bang on about the various issues that I feel have not been satisfactorily dealt with in recent years. I expect to list the important ones in BSC’s submission to Professor Lievesley’s review of UKSA. However, whilst it is relatively simple for BSC to identify and expose fault, it is much less easy to determine how matters should be improved. With the growth of the use of administrative data, modelling and AI systems, the nature of the changes required are, in my view, quite dramatic.

Would it be useful for us to meet and have a coffee or, perhaps, lunch in the near future?

Meanwhile I attach a copy of our commentary on the Sturgis review, which further explains our concerns with the CIS and the OSR’s oversight of that survey.

With all good wishes,



Tony
Director, Better Statistics CIC

Producer	Crown/Non Crown Body	Status	Title	NS Theme	Frequency	Geography
ONS		National Statistic	E-commerce and ICT activity	B&E	Annual	UK
ONS		National Statistic	Annual Business Survey – Provisional Results	B&E	Annual	UK
ONS		National Statistic	Annual Business Survey – Revised Results	B&E	Annual	UK
ONS		National Statistic	Annual Business Survey – Provisional Regional Results	B&E	Annual	UK
ONS		National Statistic	UK Business Enterprise Research and Development (BERD)	B&E	Annual	UK
ONS		National Statistic	UK Gross Domestic Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD)	B&E	Annual	UK
ONS		National Statistic	PRODCOM Statistical Bulletin (and accompanying annual industry spreadsheets) - provisional	B&E	Annual	UK
ONS		National Statistic	PRODCOM Statistical Bulletin (and accompanying annual industry spreadsheets) - intermediate	B&E	Annual	UK
ONS		National Statistic	PRODCOM Statistical Bulletin (and accompanying annual industry spreadsheets) - final	B&E	Annual	UK
ONS		National Statistic	Output in the Construction Industry	B&E	Monthly	GB
ONS		Official Statistic	Turnover and Orders in Production and Services Industries	B&E	Monthly	GB
ONS		National Statistic	Focus on Victimisation and Public Perceptions	C&J	Annual	England & Wales
ONS		National Statistic	Focus on property crime	C&J	Annual	England & Wales
ONS		Official Statistic	Focus on property crime	C&J	Annual	England & Wales
ONS		Official Statistic	Focus on violent crime	C&J	Annual	England & Wales
ONS		Official Statistic	Crime Statistics in England and Wales Statistical Bulletin	C&J	Quarterly	England & Wales
ONS		National Statistic	Public Service Productivity Estimates: Education	CCSE	Annual	UK
ONS		National Statistic	Public Service Productivity Estimates: Healthcare	CCSE	Annual	UK
ONS		National Statistic	Public Service Productivity Estimates: Total Public Services	CCSE	Every 2 years	UK
ONS		National Statistic	Business Demography	CES	Annual	UK
ONS		National Statistic	UK Business: Activity, Size and Location	CES	Annual	UK
ONS		Official Statistic	Local Enterprise Partnership Profiles	Econ	6 monthly	England
ONS		Official Statistic	Local Profiles	Econ	6 monthly	England
ONS		National Statistic	United Kingdom Balance of Payments - The Pink Book	Econ	Annual	UK
ONS		National Statistic	Occupational Pension Schemes Statistical Bulletin	Econ	Annual	UK
ONS		National Statistic	Effects of Taxes and Benefits on household income - article	Econ	Annual	UK
ONS		National Statistic	Effects of Taxes and Benefits on household income (Statistical Bulletin)	Econ	Annual	UK
ONS		National Statistic	United Kingdom National Accounts - The Blue Book	Econ	Annual	UK
ONS		National Statistic	UK Environmental Accounts (Statistical Bulletin)	Econ	Annual	UK
ONS		National Statistic	Regional Gross Disposable Household Income	Econ	Annual	UK
ONS		National Statistic	Regional, sub-regional and local gross value added	Econ	Annual	UK
ONS		National Statistic	Foreign Direct Investments (Business Monitor)	Econ	Annual	UK
ONS		National Statistic	Foreign Direct Investments (Statistical Bulletin)	Econ	Annual	UK
ONS		National Statistic	International Trade in Services	Econ	Annual	UK
ONS		National Statistic	Capital stocks and Capital Consumption (Statistical Bulletin)	Econ	Annual	UK
ONS		National Statistic	National Balance Sheet	Econ	Annual	UK
ONS		National Statistic	Input-Output and Use Tables	Econ	Annual	UK
ONS		Official Statistic	Quality Adjusted Labour Input Measures (Experimental Statistics)	Econ	Annual	UK
ONS		Official Statistic	Volume Index of Capital Services (Experimental Statistics)	Econ	Annual	UK
ONS		Official Statistic	Regional Real Gross Value Added (Experimental Statistics)	Econ	Annual	UK
ONS		Official Statistic	The Economic Importance of Tourism: UK Tourism Satellite Account	Econ	Annual	UK
ONS		Official Statistic	Subregional Productivity (Experimental statistics)	Econ	Annual	UK
ONS		Official Statistic	Relative Regional Consumer Price Levels in 2010 (Experimental Statistics)	Econ	Annual	UK
ONS		National Statistic	International Comparisons of Productivity: First Estimates	Econ	Every 2 years	UK
ONS		National Statistic	International Comparisons of Productivity: Revised Estimates	Econ	Every 2 years	UK

ONS	National Statistic	Ownership of UK Quoted Shares	Econ	Every 2 years	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Small Areas Income Estimates	Econ	Every 3 years	GB
ONS	National Statistic	Government debt and deficit under the Maastricht treaty (First Release)	Econ	6 monthly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Aerospace and electronics cost indices (MM19)	Econ	Monthly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Price Index Numbers for Current Cost Accounting (MM17)	Econ	Monthly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Producer Price Indices (MM22)	Econ	Monthly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Producer Prices (First Release)	Econ	Monthly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Labour Force Survey Dataset	Econ	Monthly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	UK trade (first release)	Econ	Monthly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Consumer Price Indices (Statistical Bulletin)	Econ	Monthly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Consumer Price Indices (Statistical Bulletin Briefing Note)	Econ	Monthly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Retail Sales (first release)	Econ	Monthly	GB
ONS	National Statistic	Index of Production	Econ	Monthly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Index of Services	Econ	Monthly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Public Sector finance (First Release)	Econ	Monthly	UK
ONS	Official Statistic	House Price Index	Econ	Quarterly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Services Producer Price Indices	Econ	Quarterly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Labour Force Survey Dataset	Econ	Quarterly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Balance of Payments (First Release)	Econ	Quarterly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	UK Trade in Goods by Classification of Product by Activity CPA (08)	Econ	Quarterly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Consumer trends	Econ	Quarterly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	GDP preliminary estimate (First Release)	Econ	Quarterly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Quarterly National Accounts (First Release)	Econ	Quarterly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Second estimate of Gross Domestic Product	Econ	Quarterly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	UK Economic Accounts	Econ	Quarterly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Mergers and Acquisitions involving UK companies	Econ	Quarterly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Labour Productivity Quarterly Release	Econ	Quarterly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Profitability of UK companies (First Release)	Econ	Quarterly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Investment by Insurance Companies, Pension Funds and Trusts (MQ5)	Econ	Quarterly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Business investment-provisional results	Econ	Quarterly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Business investment-revised results	Econ	Quarterly	UK
ONS	Official Statistic	SPPI Development Articles (Experimental Statistics)	Govt	Annual	UK
ONS	Official Statistic	Expenditure on health care in the UK (Experimental Statistics)	HPLS	Annual	UK
ONS	Official Statistic	Integrated Household Survey Dataset	HSC	Ad Hoc	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Social Inequalities in Alcohol-related Adult Mortality by National Statistics Socio-economic Classification	HSC	Ad Hoc	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Social Inequalities in Fatal Childhood Accidents and Assaults: England and Wales	HSC	Annual	GB
ONS	National Statistic	General Lifestyle Survey Overview Report	HSC	Annual	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Life expectancy at birth and at age 65 by local areas in the UK	HSC	Annual	England
ONS	National Statistic	A cancer survival index for primary care trusts	HSC	Annual	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Cancer incidence and mortality in the UK	HSC	Annual	England
ONS	National Statistic	Cancer statistics, registrations (MB1)	HSC	Annual	England
ONS	National Statistic	Cancer survival by Cancer Network, England	HSC	Annual	England
ONS	National Statistic	Cancer Survival in England	HSC	Annual	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Alcohol-related deaths in the United Kingdom	HSC	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Deaths involving Clostridium Difficile, England and Wales	HSC	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Deaths related to Drug Poisoning and Drug Misuse in England and Wales	HSC	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Excess Winter Mortality in England and Wales	HSC	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Gestation-specific Infant Mortality in England and Wales	HSC	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Suicide Rates in the United Kingdom	HSC	Annual	UK

ONS	National Statistic	Unexplained Deaths in Infancy, England and Wales	HSC	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Health Expectancies at birth and at age 65 in the United Kingdom	HSC	Annual	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Disability-free life expectancy at birth and at age 65, sub-national estimates for England, 2007–09	HSC	Annual	England
ONS	National Statistic	Disability-free Life Expectancy: Comparisons of Sources and Small Area Estimates in England	HSC	Annual	England
ONS	National Statistic	Avoidable Mortality in England and Wales	HSC	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Deaths involving MRSA, England and Wales	HSC	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Disability-free Life Expectancy at birth and at age 65 for National Area Deprivation Deciles 2006-08, England	HSC	Annual	England
ONS	National Statistic	Healthy Life Expectancy at birth, Upper Tier Local Authorities 2009-11	HSC	Annual	England
ONS	National Statistic	Healthy Life Expectancy at birth, National Area Deprivation Deciles, 2009-11	HSC	Annual	England
ONS	National Statistic	Geographic Patterns of Cancer Survival in England	HSC	Annual	England
ONS	Official Statistic	National Bereavement Survey (VOICES)	HSC	Annual	England
ONS	Official Statistic	National Bereavement Survey (VOICES) by PCT Cluster	HSC	Annual	England
ONS	National Statistic	Trends in Life Expectancy by the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (Statistical Bulletin)	HSC	Every 5 years	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Trends in All-cause Premature Mortality by NS-SEC for England and Wales, Wales and English Regions, 2001-03 to 2008-10	HSC	Every 5 years	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Monthly Provisional Figures on Deaths Registered by Area of Usual Residence, England and Wales	HSC	Monthly	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Civil Service Statistics	LM	Annual	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Work and worklessness among households (Statistical Bulletin)	LM	Annual	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Business Register and Employment Survey	LM	Annual	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings	LM	Annual	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Low Pay Estimates	LM	Annual	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Workless households for regions of the UK (Statistical Bulletin)	LM	Annual	UK
ONS	Official Statistic	Patterns of Pay	LM	Annual	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Average Weekly Earnings Indicator	LM	Monthly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Labour Market Statistics Regional Statistical Bulletin	LM	Monthly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Labour Market Statistics Statistical Bulletin - which includes statistics on Employment, Unemployment, Economically active and inactive, Claimant count, Workforce Jobs, Vacancies, and Earnings	LM	Monthly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Public Sector Employment	LM	Quarterly	UK
ONS	Official Statistic	Experimental Index of Labour Costs and Hours	LM	Quarterly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Wealth in Great Britain	P&P	Ad hoc	GB
ONS	National Statistic	Pension Trends	P&P	Ad hoc	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Family Spending	P&P	Annual	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Internet Access – Households and Individuals	P&P	Annual	UK
ONS	Official Statistic	Personal Well-being in the UK	P&P	Annual	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Internet Access – Quarterly Update	P&P	Quarterly	UK
ONS	Official Statistic	Small area Model-Based Households in Poverty Estimates	Pop	3 to 3 years	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Marital status projections	Pop	Ad hoc	England & Wales
ONS	Official Statistic	Short-term migration estimates: local authorities (Experimental Statistics)	Pop	Ad hoc	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Long-Term International Migration (final, calendar year)	Pop	Annual	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Long-term international migration from International Passenger Survey (final, calendar year)	Pop	Annual	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Population by Nationality and Country of Birth	Pop	Annual	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Adoptions in England and Wales (First Release)	Pop	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Interim life tables	Pop	Annual	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Mid-year population estimates - national, local authority levels	Pop	Annual	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Mid-year population estimates by marital status	Pop	Annual	England & Wales

		Population estimates of the very old (including centenarians)	Pop	Annual	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Super Output Area mid-year population estimates for England and Wales (Experimental Statistics) [Lower and Middle Layer Super Output Areas]	Pop	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Electoral Statistics	Pop	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Civil Partnerships in the UK ¹⁵	Pop	Annual	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Baby names in England and Wales	Pop	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Birth summary tables, England and Wales	Pop	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Characteristics of birth 1, England and Wales	Pop	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Characteristics of birth 2, England and Wales	Pop	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Characteristics of mother 1, England and Wales	Pop	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Characteristics of mother 2, England and Wales	Pop	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Further parental characteristics, England and Wales	Pop	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Births by Area of Usual Residence of Mother	Pop	Annual	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Live births by socio-economic status of father, England and Wales	Pop	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Parents' country of birth, England and Wales	Pop	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Families and households in the UK	Pop	Annual	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Divorces in England and Wales	Pop	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Marriages in England and Wales (provisional)	Pop	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Childhood, Infant and Perinatal Mortality in England and Wales	Pop	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Death Registrations Summary Tables, England and Wales	Pop	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Injury and Poisoning Mortality, England and Wales	Pop	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Mortality Statistics ¹ : Deaths ² Registered in England and Wales by Area of Usual Residence	Pop	Annual	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Mortality Statistics: Deaths Registered in England and Wales	Pop	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Conceptions in England and Wales	Pop	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Birth cohort tables for infant deaths, England and Wales	Pop	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	Official Statistic	Short-term migration estimates: local authorities (Experimental Statistics)	Pop	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	Official Statistic	Migration indicators for local authorities	Pop	Annual	UK
ONS	Official Statistic	Population estimates by ethnic group (experimental) [includes administrative and health geographies]	Pop	Annual	UK
ONS	Official Statistic	Health Geographies mid-year population estimates for England (Experimental Statistics)	Pop	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	Official Statistic	Parliamentary constituency mid-year population estimates for England and Wales (Experimental Statistics)	Pop	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	Official Statistic	National park mid-year population estimates for England and Wales (Experimental Statistics)	Pop	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	Official Statistic	Ward mid-year population estimates for England and Wales (experimental) (also includes Census Area Statistics (CAS) wards)	Pop	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	Official Statistic	Commuting Patterns from the Annual Population Survey	Pop	Annual	GB
ONS	National Statistic	Decennial life tables	Pop	Every 10 years	UK
ONS	National Statistic	2011 Census: Population and household estimates for England and Wales	Pop	Every 10 years	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	2011 Census: Population and household for Wales (bilingual)	Pop	Every 10 years	Wales
ONS	National Statistic	2011 Census: Population and household estimates for England and Wales - unrounded figures for the data published 16 July 2012	Pop	Every 10 years	England & Wales

ONS	National Statistic	2011 Census: Population and household estimates for Wales - unrounded figures for the data published 16 July 2012 (bilingual)	Pop	Every 10 years	Wales
ONS	National Statistic	2011 Census: Second address estimates for local authorities England and Wales	Pop	Every 10 years	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	2011 Census: Population and Household Estimates for Wards and Output Areas in England and Wales	Pop	Every 10 years	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	2011 Census: Key Statistics for local authorities in England and Wales	Pop	Every 10 years	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	2011 Census: Key Statistics for unitary authorities in Wales (bilingual)	Pop	Every 10 years	Wales
ONS	National Statistic	2011 Census: Population and household estimates for the United Kingdom	Pop	Every 10 years	UK
ONS	National Statistic	2011 Census Key Statistics and Quick Statistics for Wards, Output Areas, Civil Parishes, Parliamentary Constituencies in England and Wales	Pop	Every 10 years	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	2011 Census Key Statistics and Quick Statistics for health areas, postcode sectors in England and Wales	Pop	Every 10 years	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	2011 Census Key Statistics and Quick Statistics for National Parks in England and Wales	Pop	Every 10 years	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	2011 Census Key Statistics and Quick Statistics for National Parks in Wales (bilingual)	Pop	Every 10 years	Wales
ONS	National Statistic	2011 Census Short-term Residents for Local Authorities in England and Wales	Pop	Every 10 years	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	2011 Census: Population Estimates by five-year age bands, and Household Estimates, for Local Authorities in the United Kingdom	Pop	Every 10 years	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Quick Statistics for England and Wales on National Identity, Passports Held and Country of Birth	Pop	Every 10 years	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Quick Statistics for Wales on National Identity, Passports Held and Country of Birth (bilingual)	Pop	Every 10 years	Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Detailed Characteristics for local authorities in England and Wales	Pop	Every 10 years	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Detailed Characteristics on Housing for Local Authorities in England and Wales	Pop	Every 10 years	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Headcounts and household estimates for postcodes in England and Wales	Pop	Every 10 years	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Key Statistics and Quick Statistics for Built-up Areas in England and Wales	Pop	Every 10 years	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Detailed Characteristics for 2011 Census merged wards and middle layer super output areas in England and Wales	Pop	Every 10 years	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Detailed Characteristics for regions in England and for Wales, and additional tables on migration for England and Wales	Pop	Every 10 years	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Local Characteristics on Ethnicity, Identity, Language and Religion for Output Areas in England and Wales	Pop	Every 10 years	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Population estimates by single year of age and sex for Local Authorities in the United Kingdom	Pop	Every 10 years	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Local Characteristics on Health and Unpaid Care for Output Areas in England and Wales	Pop	Every 10 years	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Detailed characteristics on demography and families for 2011 Census merged wards and middle layer super output areas in England and Wales	Pop	Every 10 years	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Local Characteristics on Migration for Output Areas in England and Wales	Pop	Every 10 years	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Detailed Characteristics on Communal Establishments for 2011 Census Merged Local Authorities in England and Wales	Pop	Every 10 years	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Key Statistics and Quick Statistics for local authorities in the United Kingdom - Part 1	Pop	Every 10 years	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Workday population statistics for output areas in England and Wales (Part 1)	Pop	Every 10 years	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Short-term resident population statistics for local authorities in England and Wales	Pop	Every 10 years	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Detailed Characteristics on Labour Market for 2011 Census merged wards and middle layer super output areas in England and Wales	Pop	Every 10 years	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Key Statistics and Quick Statistics for local authorities in the United Kingdom - Part 2	Pop	Every 10 years	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Detailed Characteristics on Qualifications for 2011 Census merged wards and middle layer super output areas in England and Wales	Pop	Every 10 years	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Key Statistics and Quick Statistics for local authorities in the United Kingdom - Part 3	Pop	Every 10 years	UK

ONS	National Statistic	Local Characteristics on Demography for Output Areas in England and Wales	Pop	Every 10 years	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Local Characteristics on Housing for Output Areas in England and Wales	Pop	Every 10 years	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Local Characteristics on Labour Market for Output Areas in England and Wales	Pop	Every 10 years	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Local Characteristics on Qualifications for Output Areas in England and Wales	Pop	Every 10 years	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Detailed Characteristics on Travel to Work for 2011 Census merged wards and middle layer super output areas in England and Wales	Pop	Every 10 years	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	2011 Census statistics for Eurostat	Pop	Every 10 years	UK
ONS	National Statistic	National population projections	Pop	Every 2 years	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Period and cohort life expectancy tables	Pop	Every 2 years	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Subnational Population Projections for England	Pop	Every 2 years	England
ONS	National Statistic	Migration Statistics Quarterly Report	Pop	Quarterly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Provisional Estimates of Long-Term International Migration	Pop	Quarterly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Vital Statistics: Population and Health Reference Tables	Pop	Quarterly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Quarterly Conceptions to Women aged under 18, England and Wales	Pop	Quarterly	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Weekly Provisional Figures on Deaths Registered in England and Wales	Pop	Weekly	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Cohort Fertility	Pop/HSC	Annual	England & Wales
ONS	National Statistic	Travel Trends	T&T	Annual	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Travelpac	T&T	Annual	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Overseas Travel and Tourism	T&T	Monthly	UK
ONS	National Statistic	Overseas Travel and Tourism	T&T	Quarterly	UK