

Triennial Assembly: Proposed Contribution on the Topic ‘Ensuring User Understanding of the ONS Plans for the LFS’

Discussion Topic: Labour Force Survey Future

Theme: Commitment to user engagement and consultation, Increase User trust in UKSA, Assure users that progress is being made with data sharing and the use of Administrative data, Facilitate frank and open discussion about data quality issues and future challenges

Introduction

Better Statistics’ Associates are concerned about the reporting of the accuracy of the LFS – for example the Financial Times has said that ‘*Gaps in labour market figures are hampering policymakers, businesses and researchers*’. Moreover, Recommendation 14 of the Lievesley report was: **The UKSA should engage with the Cabinet Office to explore the consequences of mandatory completion of the Labour Force Survey.**

Suggested pre-reading:

[OSR review](#) of transformation of the LFS and details of the [Stakeholder Advisory Panel](#) plus minutes of their meetings.

Details to be covered

BSC believe that it would be useful to demonstrate UKSA commitment to User Engagement and very much welcomed by delegates to have a session at the Assembly at which:

1. ONS should explain the present status of the transformation and the future plans.
2. Users can understand what use is being made HMRC data
3. And what exactly is meant by ‘Real Time’ in this context.
4. Also, what is being done to improve the response rate, and if shorter questionnaires are the answer, what data will be retained and what lost
5. Followed by discussion of whether making completion Mandatory would be the best long term solution in the UK

Conclusions would identify genuine user concerns, and recommendations. Possible ways forward. The issues where user consultation would be helpful,

Proposed Facilitator/ Speakers: Can we suggest that Professor Jonathan Portes might chair the session with ONS speakers?

Proposed Mode: presentation from speakers, Breakout groups addressing sub-issues or Q&A Session