Annex A: Analytical Priorities

Produce high-quality, timely and granular statistics that describe the landscape of the UK covering the topics that matter most

1. Put administrative data at the core of our population and migration systems and provide new insights into migration and tourism, health and other areas as we do so

Our role as independent government statisticians is to meet the demand from users of the statistics – in this case, a clear understanding of the latest trends in population and migration with more timely and accurate figures upon which to allocate resources and plan policy.

- We have developed a work programme to improve the statistics that the GSS produce on population and migration over the next few years. In 2020 we will aim to publish migration and population estimates based on administrative data, integrating where possible into our published headline statistics.
- Our latest research shows the progress we have made towards a new approach for producing population stocks and flows using administrative data, by bringing more sources together to fill gaps in coverage.
- We have linked immigration, education, health and income records, and have explored how we can use these sources to determine the usually resident population of England and Wales and immigration flows to the UK. This includes developing data driven rules, based on registrations and 'signs of activity' we can identify from each data source.
- To take our research further and maximise the benefits of administrative data, our next steps will be to link across a fuller range of data sources available to ONS, to continue building an integrated system for more accurately measuring population and migration.

Contact us at: Migstatsunit@ons.gov.uk

2. Improve access to health and social care statistics and the coherence of them, making it easier to understand what is happening in this complex landscape

Health and social care data are produced by multiple organisations and agencies, making it difficult to find and compare statistics.

- There are many opportunities to link health data with wider data about the population, their characteristics and experiences. Doing so will bring additional insight into people's health outcomes, their well-being and allocation of resources in the health system. We will look to produce:
  - New analysis of health inequalities
  - Improvements to healthy life expectancy statistics
  - Improvements to our understanding of mental health
  - Understanding on care pathways
  - A new statistical series on disability

- To provide greater coherence and communication, we will deliver the new English Health Statistics Steering Group workplan to improve coherence across the GSS health landscape this year.
- We will also develop, produce and publish statistics and analysis of the productivity of health and adult social care services to enable the Department of Health and Social Care, NHS, HM Treasury and other policy analysts to monitor and track progress.

Contact us at: GSS.health@ons.gov.uk

3. <u>Improve and expand our income, wealth and quality of life statistics</u>

Income, earnings and wealth join up with our Economic Statistics to build a macro picture of the economy. They are also used in public policy to understand differences between households, contributing to understanding inequalities and are fundamental in considering different peoples' and communities' quality of life. Developments this year include:

- Transforming ONS household finance statistics through development and exploitation of the Household Financial Survey, as well as investigating how to successfully integrate administrative and other non-survey sources.
- Improving and expanding the current human capital estimates, investigating the relationship between skills and earning, as well as looking at the changing share of the workforce with different qualifications in different jobs and the impact on income.
- Developing and implementing a new pilot online time use survey to enhance understanding of digital transformation and well-being.
- Continuing to develop new ways of measuring and reporting on the income, wealth, consumption and inequalities of, and between, households.
- Designing and delivering a quarterly combined dashboard of economic and personal wellbeing data with accompanying commentary.

Contact us at: PeopleAndProsperity@ons.gov.uk

4. <u>Continue to improve the way we report crime statistics to make it clear to users how to interpret our statistics</u>

Our crime statistics bulletin has changed to make it easier for users to find data on different crimes, rather than focusing on an overall 'crime rate'. This has included taking steps to highlight the strengths of different sources for different crimes, such as violent crime including knife crime, and introducing new data on cyber-crime. This year we will:

- Create, implement and embed an easy to use statistical framework for accessing crime and justice statistics in 2019/2020.
- Produce a compendium of data sources to provide the best evidence of child abuse. This is planned for publication early next year and will draw together several data sources on victims across the criminal justice system. We are also conducting a feasibility study to determine whether a prevalence study of child abuse could be effective.

Contact us at: crimestatistics@ons.gov.uk

5. <u>Improve the coherence of housing statistics across the UK</u>

Housing policy is devolved across the four nations of the UK. Over recent years, statisticians in each country have been leading developments which have had significant benefits for users. However, there is a need to improve the coherence of housing statistics across the UK. Housing and homelessness statistics are currently published by more than seven different departments and public bodies, making accessibility to data and comparisons difficult.

- Our plan to improve the coherence, quality, accessibility, harmonisation and user engagement of statistics on housing, planning and homelessness across Government was [published in May 2018](#).
- We have developed a common statistical framework for measuring the housing landscape and are continuing to investigate the feasibility of harmonising the definitions used across departments and researching new data sources to improve the quality and coverage of existing statistics.
- The priorities we are working on include the Private Rental Sector, improving subnational housing statistics and analysis, Homelessness and Affordable Housing, with emerging upcoming priorities on Quality and Standards of Housing.
- We will continue to develop our work programme as our engagement with users across the UK continues, researching new data sources to improve the quality and coverage of existing statistics.
- We are also considering how to address the lack of a single access point to data and statistics produced by the different sources.

Contact us at: better.info@ons.gov.uk

6. <u>Improve the accessibility and coherence of our environmental statistics</u>

Our Environmental accounts show how the environment contributes to the economy (for example, through the extraction of raw materials), the impacts that the economy has on the environment (for example, energy consumption and air emissions), and how society responds to environmental issues (for example, through taxation and expenditure on environmental protection).

- In June, we made the Environmental Accounts release more accessible to our users by splitting the main release into narrower focused, policy relevant publications over the course of a year.
- In 2020, we will also be incorporating more Natural Capital estimates into the Environmental Accounts.
- To tie all of these developments together, in conjunction with Defra, we are aiming to develop a Centre for Expertise for environmental statistics in Spring 2020.

Contact us at: environmental.accounts@ons.gov.uk

Provide analysis and insight to address the key issues facing society

1. Centre for Ageing and Demography

Our population is ageing. More people are living well into retirement, with relatively fewer people of working age to support the economy, young people and older people. An ageing population has implications for housing, the workplace, community life, the health and social care system and younger generations.

- The centre will deliver more outputs in our living longer series, delivering analytical insight into an ageing population. This will focus on work, housing, health and care.
- Analysis will cover older households and housing, the working patterns of an older population, and healthy ageing, as well as local and regional variations.
- Following on from our [Milestones: journeying into adulthood](#) piece, we will be exploring life's milestones for ages 35 and beyond, including: financial milestones – looking at, for example, paying off your mortgage and student loan, financial independence, disposable income and taking your pension; and later life milestones – looking at family completion, losing a parent, retirement and widow(erg)hood.

Contact us at: pop.info@ons.gov.uk

2. Centre for Equalities and Inclusion

Statistics are often compiled to give an overall population total, or average rates. However, many of our users want to know the differences between different people, communities and characteristics on a range of data and topics. The Centre for Equalities and Inclusion will seek to contribute to public policy debate through:

- Publishing a data audit, with a navigation tool, to allow users to access a wide range of data across the different protected equalities characteristics.
- Developing a state of the nation report on faith, religion and belief.
- Deepening our analysis of intergenerational data, considering social mobility, income and earnings and changes over time.
- Analysing children's educational trajectories in relation to household and equalities data, using experimental linked census and administrative data for England.

contact us at: equalities@ons.gov.uk

3. Centre for Crime and Justice

Alongside work to improve our regular communication of crime statistics, the Centre for Crime and Justice will seek to improve understanding of people's experience of crime. This includes:

- Journeys through the Justice system
- Support the debate around violent crime and knife crime through use of data
- Consider how best we capture crimes involving abuse

- Conduct research to explore the extent of repeat victimisation

Contact us at: crime.statistics@ons.gov.uk

4. Centre for Subnational Analysis

There is an appetite from the public, local bodies and central Government to understand data at a local level. People want a better understanding of what life is like in their town or neighbourhood and how that compares between different places. Local bodies are receiving more powers to set local policy, and central Government needs to allocate resources to benefit communities in an effective way. This year we will:

- Provide more data at the local level for Local Authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships, Cities and Towns to make better decisions on local policies, planning and supporting their local population and businesses. This will include the development of a local authority data dashboard.
- Offer new analysis of High Streets, Towns and Cities to consider which places are thriving, and which are getting left behind, as well as delivering a better understanding as to why. This directly supports allocation of funds from Government and policies developed through Local Industrial Strategies.

Contact us at: cities@ons.gov.uk

5. Centre for International Migration

Alongside work to improve our data collection and statistical quality on migration, the Centre will look to support understanding of international migration through:

- Production of high-quality regular outputs every quarter, including the Migration Statistics Quarterly Report.
- The publication of articles relating to migrant work patterns and occupations, including analysis on the coherence of existing sources.
- The impact of migration on public services, such as the health sector.

Contact us at: migstatsunit@ons.gov.uk

6. Provide new outputs on cross cutting and emerging issues to support the UK in making key decisions

Whilst we have developed these Centres for some of the most important aspects of public policy debate, many questions are cross-cutting in their nature or do not fall neatly into these areas.

We have the capacity to respond to emerging cross cutting needs and to generate data-led evidence of interest. Last year we contributed analysis on young people, digital exclusion, pub closures and the automation of jobs, to name but a few.

We will continue to provide these new insights on the topics that matter, engaging with public debate to produce relevant and timely analysis, and being proactive, and not reactive, in our approach.

Contact us at: policy.evidence.analysis@ons.gov.uk

Create new outputs and products, using innovative methods and all available sources to fill evidence gaps

1. <u>Deliver indicators necessary for monitoring the UK's progress against the Sustainable Development Goals</u>

In 2015, all member states of the United Nations signed up to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. They set measurable aims for improving our world and topics include: poverty, hunger, education, equality, the environment, justice and the economy. ONS is responsible for the UK reporting against the 17 goals, through providing data on the 230 global indicators that underpin them.

- We have data for 74% of the global SDG indicators, having used a range of different data sources and techniques for collecting these important data. We will continue to explore alternative methods for reporting, including data science capability and the use of administrative data to ensure we report 100% of the global indicators for the UK.
- We will publish an annual UK progress report towards the SDGs in November, which will show how many indicators we have data for, and our next steps for filling the evidence gaps that still exist.
- We have also been developing our own online reporting platform for disseminating UK data. The platform will make all UK data on the SDGs, including all levels of disaggregation, publicly available to those with an interest in the progress the UK is making.
- As well as gathering the data, we will continue to publish both analytical articles and explainer pieces to put the data into context. Examples of work we have previously released includes: explainer piece covering 'What's the difference between sex & gender', 'Measuring Inequalities in the UK for the SDG goals' and 'Renewable Energy in the UK'.

Contact us at sustainabledevelopment@ons.gov.uk

2. <u>Deliver a new set of health projections</u>

At present, we are currently conducting a feasibility study to unravel all the different approaches to measuring health projections, what the government and wider user needs are, and how ONS can move into this area of work. The feasibility study aims to understand:

- The main policy requirements and evidence gaps across government.
- An assessment of existing approaches, including: different types of projection models, health models currently used in the UK and overseas, data requirements and methods.

We will set out a series of recommendations for how we propose to take Health Projection work forward later this year and assess our ability to meet user needs.

Contact us at hle@ons.gov.uk

3. Improve understanding of public service productivity and efficiency

A substantial amount of money is spent on the Government's delivery of Public Services. With potential Spending Review this year, there is a need to more clearly report on the productivity and efficiency with which public services are run.

- We will develop the public service productivity analysis to produce new insights and provide new data dashboards for users to consider efficiency between different public services, and, where we are able, between different units (hospitals for example).
- We will bring together data from new and existing sources to provide analysis to understand the story of public service efficiency, for example looking at health, education, adult and child social care. This will enable to public to understand whether public funds are being well spent, as well as informing decisions on future public spending.

Contact us at efficiencymeasurementunit@ons.gov.uk

4. Develop new metrics of human capital

Human capital has been defined as "the knowledge, skills, competencies and attributes embodied in individuals that facilitate the creation of personal, social and economic well-being". It sees education and training as investment into individuals' value and how much potential they gain.

- We are looking to improve and expand upon the current human capital estimates, following the announcement in the 2018 Autumn budget for ONS to better understand how investment in people helps improve their earning and skills potential.
- In the short term, we will be increasing our insights on particular topics, whilst in the longer term, we will provide the groundwork for developing a wider conceptual framework and evidence base for human capital, incorporating wider definitions bringing in factors such as health and more direct measurement of skills.
- This is in keeping with our aspirations to keep pace with, and proactively expand upon, the international debate on the topic of the value of skills and knowledge of the workforce. We aim to achieve these goals through compilation and development of new methods, statistics and analysis.

Contact us at economic.wellbeing@ons.gov.uk

5. Continue our research into the use of administrative data to produce population and census statistics in the future

At the ONS, we are looking to utilise more administrative data in our outputs. We are assessing our abilities to move towards an Administrative Data first approach to producing Census, population and wider statistics. This will involve:

- having rapid access to new and existing data sources
- the ability to link data efficiently and accurately
- methods to produce statistical outputs that meet priority information needs of users
- acceptability to stakeholders
- value for money

Integrating data from a range of administrative data sources and surveys offers much wider potential to improve statistics on a variety of topics such as:

- Fuel poverty
- Mental health
- Debt
- Crime
- Inequalities
- Ageing
- Migration
- Housing affordability and provisions.

Contact us at Admin.Data.Census.Project@ons.gov.uk