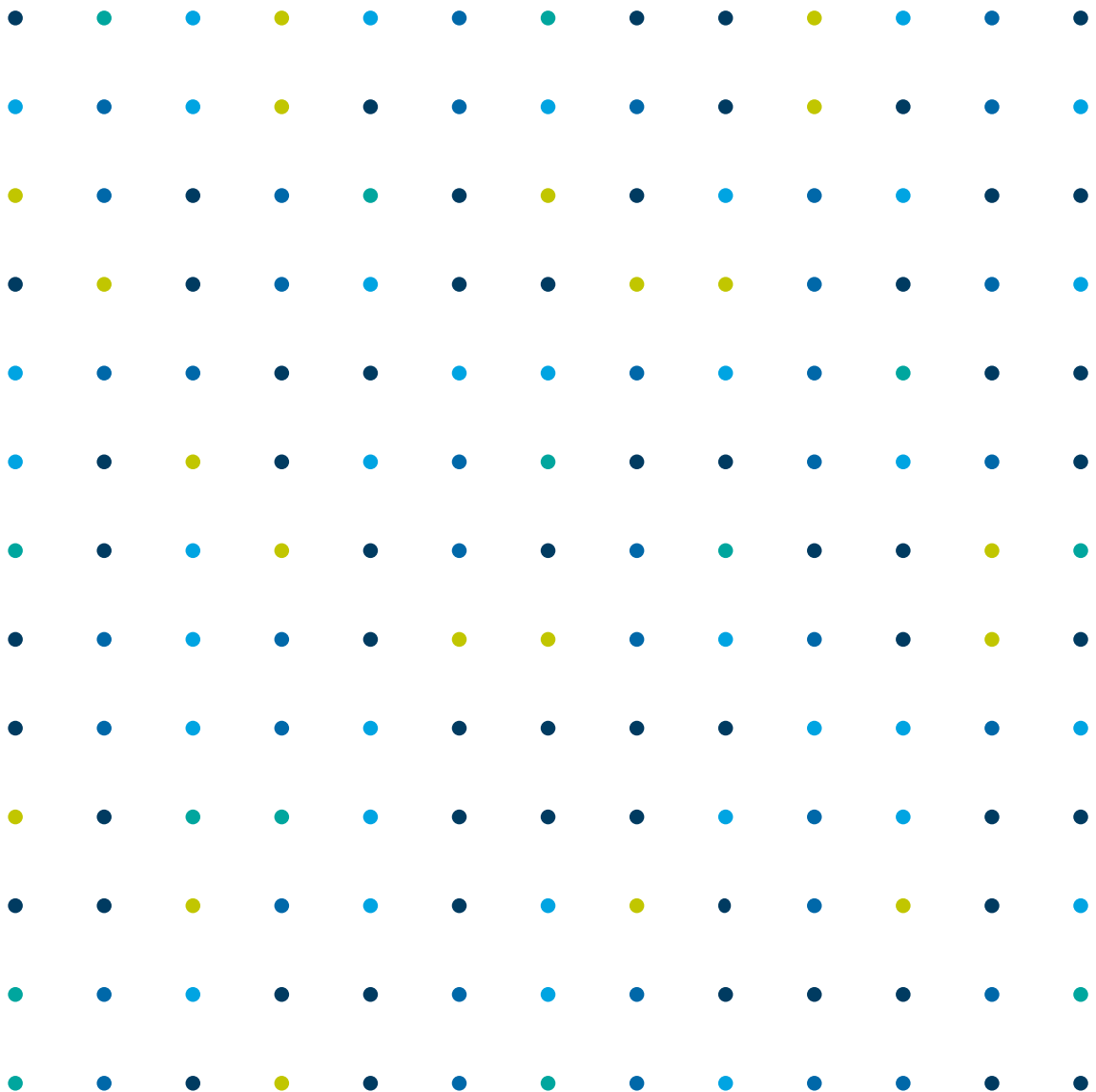


Annual report and accounts

2022/23



UK Statistics Authority

Annual report and accounts 2022-2023

For the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

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Note

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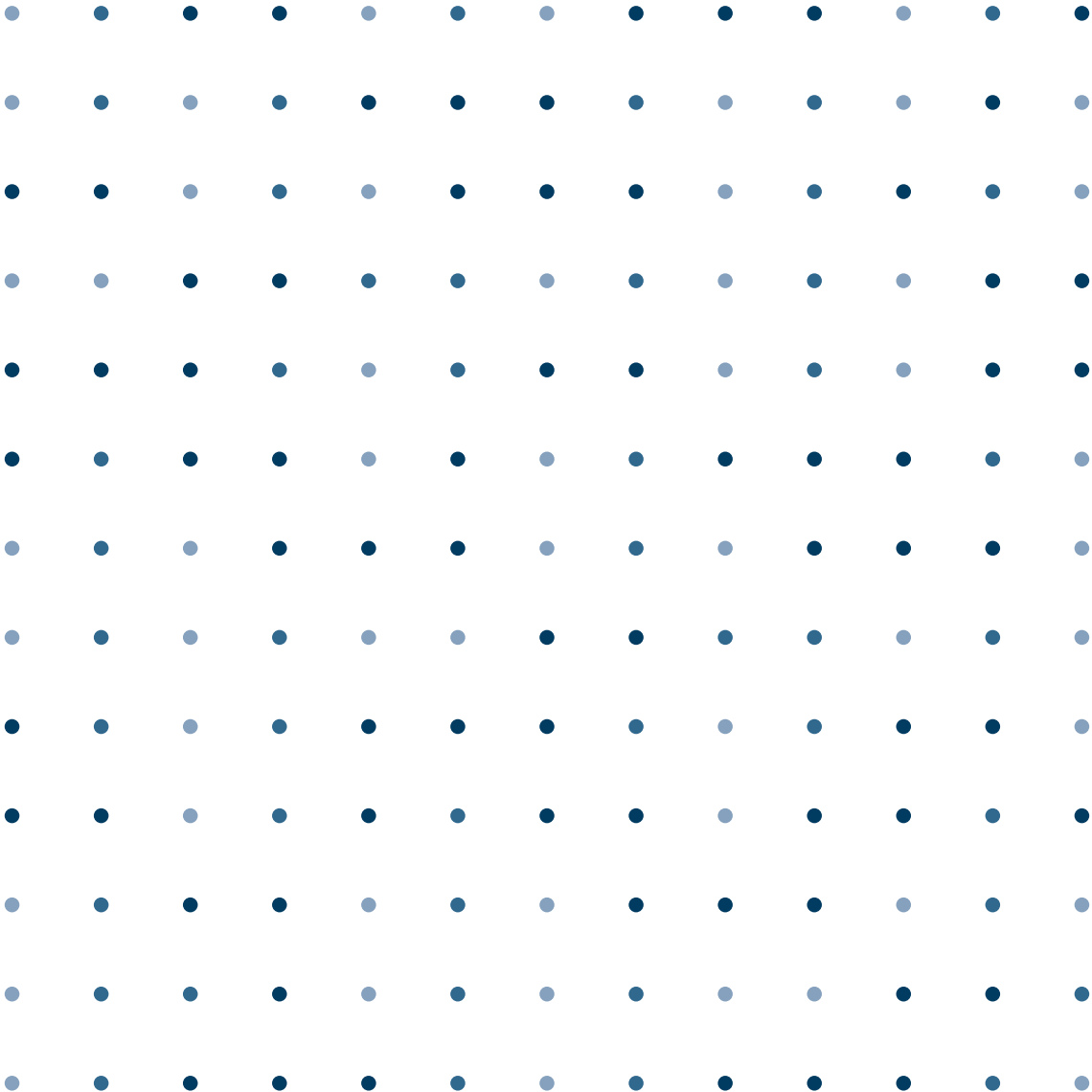
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Chair's foreword

This is our Annual Report and Accounts for the year 2022/23, covering a period of continued transformation. In my first full year as Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, I have seen colleagues work hard to advance and protect our statistical system in myriad ways; I am enormously proud of the many achievements described herein and in the National Statistician's report.

Turbulent economic conditions gave our executive arms, the Office for National Statistics and Office for Statistics Regulation, no respite in demand for their expertise. The ONS has responded quickly and carefully to track cost of living pressures on households, businesses, and the public sector, introducing new methods to refine prices data and a new survey to examine the reasons for over 50s leaving the labour market. Our leadership team has confidently demonstrated to Parliament, Ministers, and Civil Service colleagues that the ONS has not wasted a moment in providing insight on trade, investment, productivity, industrial relations, and more during unprecedented economic circumstances. The National Statistician will follow with more detail about that.

OSR meanwhile continues to work in determined fashion to engage with the public's sustained high demand for statistics that serve the public good. It has supported colleagues across the Government Statistical Service with its campaign for Intelligent Transparency, and has intervened where necessary to safeguard the trustworthiness and proper use of official statistics. And the regulator continues to deliver careful scrutiny of ONS in areas such as excess deaths and the operation of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey. Looking ahead, it has established its principled stewardship of the statistical system with research on statistical literacy and the nature of public good in statistics.

Keeping up with, and running ahead to meet, the challenges facing broader society required us to pursue the principles of our five-year strategy even more closely as we passed the halfway mark earlier this year. To mark this milestone, we gathered a wide range of stakeholders to discuss where the strategy is delivering well and where there is more to do. Openness and responsiveness are vital for trust in the system and ONS and OSR have shown commendable willingness to reflect on their own work and bring in outside expertise when users have concerns.

In addition to the many Radical and Ambitious achievements you will read about, I am pleased to see the Authority recognised for its dedication to being Inclusive and Sustainable in all that we do:



winning praise and awards for a supportive working environment, and already implementing many recommendations of our Inclusive Data Taskforce within a year. The report also describes how our physical footprint has evolved, with a new presence in Manchester, an office move in London, and ONS experts now spread out across many local areas in England and Wales to bring better data to decision-makers at all levels.

As in many areas of the public and private sector, upward pressure on prices and pay have squeezed resources and this has required careful prioritisation among the many things that we would like the statistical system to do and deliver. This will be a continuing challenge through the current financial year as well as the last.

At the Board this year we said goodbye to four non-executive directors whose counsel has been invaluable in recent years: Professor Jonathan Haskel, Professor Anne Trefethen, Helen Boaden, and Richard Dobbs. I thank them all warmly for their contribution to the Authority over many years and of course their help in getting me up to speed. Replacing them are Dr Jacob Abboud, Professor Dame Carol Propper, and Penny Young, who we welcomed in February and have already begun to lend their wealth of experience to the delivery of our strategy.

Sam Beckett, our Second Permanent Secretary, also left the Authority at the end of May. She has been an effective leader, a knowledgeable expert, and a steady hand during extraordinary times. We are very grateful for the many things she achieved here, and we look forward to continuing to work with Sam in her new role as Chief Economic Adviser at the Treasury.



Sir Robert Chote
Chair, UK Statistics Authority
July 2023

Chief Executive's report

I am proud to present the UK Statistics Authority's Annual Report and Accounts for the financial year ending in March 2023. While this document meets statutory obligations, providing transparency and accountability for the use of public resource, it crucially gives us an opportunity to reflect on the past 12 months and the achievements of the organisation during that period. Overall, we continue to make good progress against our radical, ambitious, inclusive and sustainable strategic aims whilst maintaining our commitment to build resource sustainability and efficiency across both the ONS and broader statistical system.

Central to this success has been our agile and flexible response to both urgent and emergent policy needs, utilising novel sources of data in collaboration with those in government and beyond to enable evidence-informed decisions. This has included insight and analysis on Ukrainian refugees, the rising cost of living, the participation of over 50s in the UK labour market, and wider economic and social impacts of industrial action.

In response to questions around the impacts of the pandemic on the labour market, the Over 50s Lifestyle Survey of 20,000 workless 50 - 70-year-olds was stood up in just 11 days to explore the reasons people have left work and motivations and barriers to returning to work. Similarly, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, we coordinated data, analysis and insight including impacts on the UK economy, census data on the Ukrainian diaspora, and new survey of refugees. For the first time, we have also conducted a veteran's survey in collaboration with the Office for Veteran's Affairs. This has helped us better understand the experiences, needs and well-being of veterans with over 24,000 responses directly informing policy development.

On the rising cost of living, we invited a range of stakeholder organisations to an event which showcased how ONS statistics have helped make sense of the situation. This was attended by over 650 people representing citizens, policymakers, businesses, academia, local authorities and charities with an interest in using data to inform policy. Our personal inflation calculator, which allows people to assess their own personal inflation rate, has also been hosted on the BBC website and received over a million views so far, enhancing the reach and accessibility of our statistics and data.



Following the record 97% response rate to the 2021 Census, the past year has seen Census Outputs released starting with population and household estimates for England and Wales at local authority level. These were designated as National Statistics meeting the highest standard of trustworthiness, quality, and value once again. This was followed by several topic releases including on migration, veterans, ethnicity, identity, labour market, language, religion, and travel to work. For the first time, these were visualised in interactive Census Maps down to granular local geographies. We have also been keenly focused on the upcoming consultation around the future of population statistics.

There has also been substantial progress on subnational statistics and analysis in the past year, such as the release of hyper local Gross Value Added (GVA) data providing an essential input to support evaluations of local economic interventions across government. This has aligned with the growing reputation and impact of our analytical advisory service for local leaders and analysts - ONS Local - over the past year, with ONS colleagues based in every region of England and every nation of the UK. Being based in-area allows us to really understand the priorities and needs of local areas, and support them in their evidence-based decision making, helping navigate our vast subnational offer available and in development.

Our economics statistics transformation work also continues at pace. In March this year, we included new data, methods and systems for the rail fares category in our headline consumer inflation statistics for the first time. While the direct impact of transforming rail fares on headline measures was small, the new data (around 70 million rows of data every month) gives us better information as to what is driving rail fare inflation. The development work has also allowed us to re-plan the next steps on transforming data on used cars, rents and groceries more accurately.

Quality has been central to our work in the past year improving the responsiveness of economic statistics, focusing especially on improvements to the measurement of Research and Development (R&D). We have engaged widely on our transformation, including a well-attended forum where the British Academy, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Go-Science and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy spoke. Mike Keoghan (Deputy National Statistician) and Darren Morgan (Director of Economic Statistics) also appeared at the Science and Technology Committee to explain these improvements already delivered and our future plans, especially around automation and work to move more surveys online.

The Integrated Data Service (IDS) continues to make strong progress towards being fully operational and is finalising the evidence required for accreditation under the Digital Economy Act. A group of 'super early adopters' have been

onboarded onto the system over the past year to test its systems and begin a series of analytical and data linkage projects. We have also built on our work to ensure that data is being shared across government for the public good - an area which will remain a key focus of the coming year.

The recommendations of the Inclusive Data Taskforce (IDTF) have continued to inform new inclusive ONS work, now overseen by the National Statistician's Advisory Committee on Inclusive Data. An important recommendation of the IDTF was that ONS make greater use of qualitative research. Over the past year, this approach has borne fruit, generating evidence in areas where there were data gaps. In July we published on disabled adults' experiences of accessing services, which included an easy read report. Research conducted with external partners on the lived experiences of children with special educational needs, and gypsies and travellers has also been published.

On our estates strategy, we have made excellent progress with successful transition for our London colleagues from 1 Drummond Gate into 2 Marsham Street. The new space was been welcomed by colleagues and the co-location with other departments already providing several opportunities for collaboration. We have also now opened office space in Manchester to broaden our reach and attraction of talent. With the continued success of Darlington, this sets us up well across the country.

As a strong indication of progress against our People Plan, ONS became the first Civil Service department to make it onto the annual Glassdoor Employees Choice Awards, placing twenty first in the UK's Top 50 Best Places to Work 2023. In addition, ONS won the 'Beyond Smarter Working' award at the Smarter Working Live awards. A strong set of People Survey results this year reinforced this.

It is once again a privilege to highlight some of the incredible work across the ONS and the wider UK Statistical Authority, supporting our collective mission to deliver statistics for the public good. In the context of spending constraint, we must be sustainable but continue to be creative in finding ways to be ambitious, inclusive and radical.

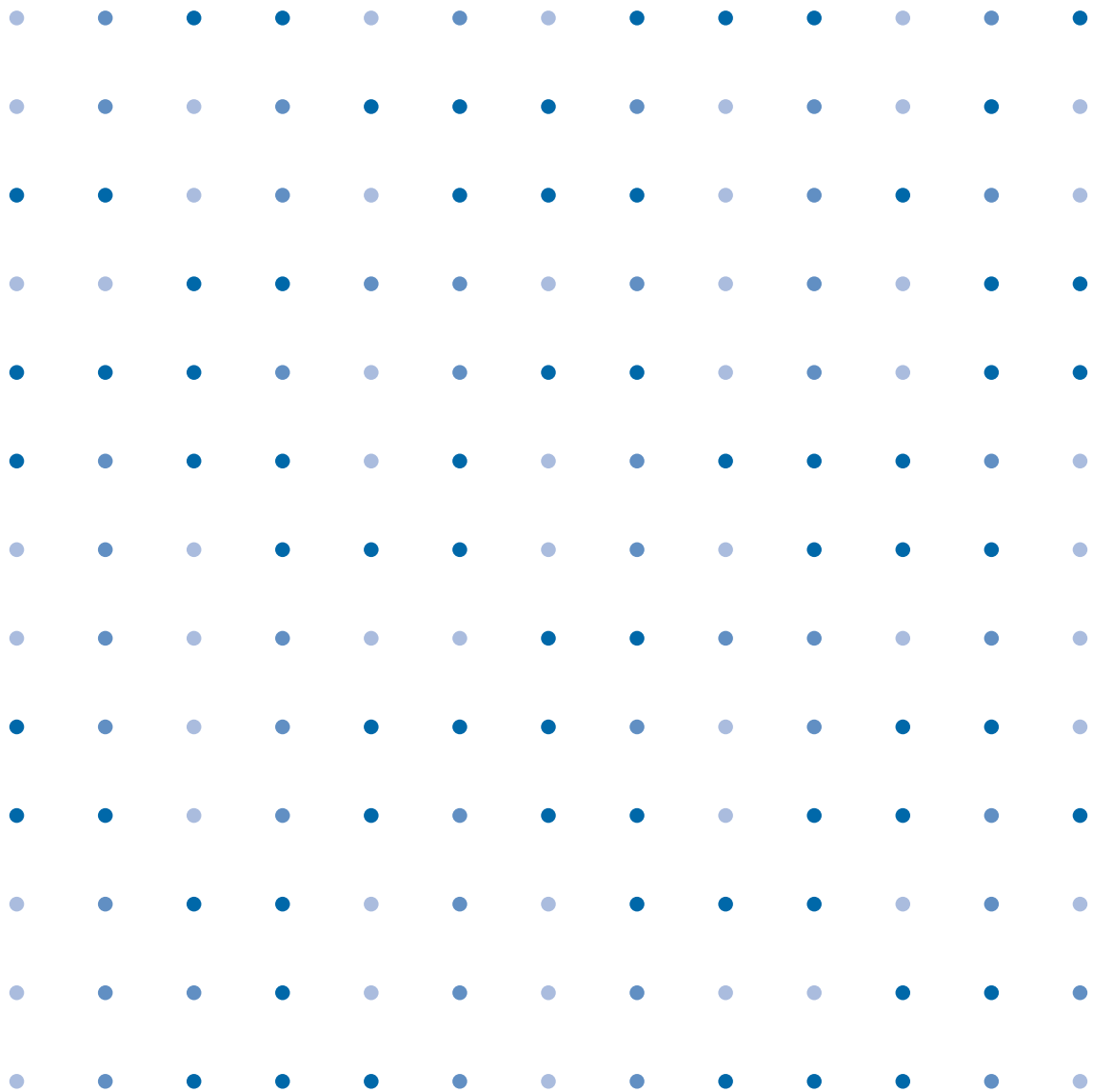


Professor Sir Ian Diamond

National Statistician

UK Statistics Authority

July 2023



87%

Public confidence
in official statistics

995

Statistical releases
from ONS in 2022/23

196,803

National print stories
informed by ONS and its
statistical outputs

11.2 Million

ONS website sessions
in 2022/23
(11.9 million in 2021/22)

**Retail Price
Index (RPI)**

**Most searched for
statistical theme**
on ONS website

523

**Number of Census
outputs published**

861,172

**Number of website
sessions** viewing Census
outputs

34

Number of datasets
in Integrated Data Service
(IDS) beta

56

Number of users
in IDS beta

445,201

Members of public
participating in COVID
Infection Survey (at time of
reporting)

68%

Staff engagement score
in 2022/23
(70% in 2021/22)

56,675 hours

Hours of training delivered
by Data Science Campus
faculty team

163

Parliamentary questions
answered

988

Freedom of information
requests answered

1,462,104

Online data collection
responses received
(excluding the 2021 Census)

288

New analysts
recruited to ONS



Purposes and activity

Statutory framework

The Statistics Board, operating as the UK Statistics Authority (the Authority) was established under the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 (the Act) and formally assumed its powers on 1 April 2008. The Authority is an independent statutory body. It operates at arm's length from government as a non-ministerial department and reports directly to the UK Parliament, the Scottish Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales and the Northern Ireland Assembly.

The work of the Authority is further defined under the secondary legislation made under the Act by the UK Parliament or devolved legislatures.

Statutory objective

The Authority has a statutory objective of promoting and safeguarding the production and publication of official statistics that 'serve the public good'. The public good includes:

- informing the public about social and economic matters
- assisting in the development and evaluation of public policy
- regulating quality and publicly challenging the misuse of statistics

Official statistics are for the benefit of society and the economy as a whole; not only in government policy making and the evaluation of government performance, but also informing the direction of economic and commercial activities. Statistics provide valuable data and evidence for analysts, researchers, public and voluntary bodies, enabling the public to hold to account all organisations that spend public money, and informing wider public debate. The Authority is committed to official statistics enabling sound policy, decisions and providing a firm evidence base for decision-making both inside and outside of government.

Statistics for the Public Good

On 16 July 2020, the Authority launched its strategy for the UK official statistics system for the five years 2020 to 2025. The strategy can be found in full on the Authority's website ¹.

The collective mission of our official statistics system is:

High quality data and analysis to **inform** the UK, **improve** lives and **build** the future.

¹ <https://uksa.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/statistics-for-the-public-good/>

Functions

The Statistics for the Public Good 5-year strategy launched in 2020 covers the principle elements of the UK official statistics system for which the Authority has oversight. The Authority provides professional oversight of the Government Statistical Service (GSS), and has exclusive responsibility for its two executive arms, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR). The National Statistician also leads the cross-government Analysis Function.

The Government Statistical Service (GSS)

The GSS is a UK network, spread across a whole range of public bodies, including the devolved administrations and UK government departments which produces and analyses statistics. It includes professional statisticians, data scientists, geographers, researchers, economists, analysts, operational delivery staff, IT specialists and other supporting roles. The GSS is also a part of the cross-government Analysis Function, which has built a community of analysts of various professional backgrounds working to provide the evidence base for understanding the biggest challenges of the day. Both the Analysis Function and the GSS are led by the National Statistician.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS)

The ONS is the Authority's statistical production function and is part of the GSS. Led by the National Statistician, the ONS is the UK's internationally recognised National Statistical Institute and largest producer of official statistics. The ONS produces data, statistics and analysis on a range of key economic, social and demographic topics.

Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR)

The OSR is the Authority's independent statutory regulator. Led by the Director General for Regulation, OSR ensures that statistics are produced and disseminated in the public good and aims to increase public confidence in the trustworthiness, quality and value of statistics produced by governments. OSR also reports publicly on system-wide issues and on the way that statistics are being used, celebrating when the standards are upheld and challenging publicly when they are not.

The legislation which established the UK Statistics Authority requires strict separation of the functions of production and regulation, where those involved in the production of statistics are not involved in the assessment of statistics against the Code. The Director General for Regulation reports directly to the Chair of the Authority and produces a separate annual performance report. More detail about OSR, including its approach, its governance and an assessment of its effectiveness is set out in the Annex to this document.

Overview

The UKSA strategy

The UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) strategy – Statistics for the Public Good² – sets the direction for the UK official statistics system with its overarching mission to deliver:

High quality data and analysis to **inform** the UK, **improve** lives and **build** for the future

The strategy describes four strategic drivers that underpin the mission statement – UKSA must be:

Radical in taking opportunities to innovate and collaborate, using data for the public good

Ambitious in setting out to answer the critical research questions the public needs the Government to answer, and informing the decisions that citizens, businesses and civil society take

Inclusive in its approach to workforce, talent management, and the design of data, statistics and analysis

Sustainable in delivering a unique service in a way which delivers value for money with lasting benefits and minimises impact on the environment, all through partnership and collaboration

The UKSA strategy is supported by business plans produced by each constituent part of the statistical system.

² <https://uksa.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/UKSA-2020-1.png>

The ONS strategic business plan

The ONS strategic business plan, originally published alongside the UKSA strategy in July 2020³, and subsequently updated annually, sets out how ONS will contribute towards delivery of the UKSA strategy. The strategic business plan includes our responses to external challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the cost of living challenge, and the war in Ukraine plus our outputs to inform on issues such as net-zero, levelling up economic opportunity across the country, social mobility, and an ageing population.

The strategic business plan sets out how the ONS will deliver in line with the four strategic drivers - radical, ambitious, sustainable and inclusive - as set out in the UKSA strategy, working in partnership with the GSS, data providers and the analytical and research community.

The plan also sets out the structure through which we deliver against our commitments. It presents the eight Strategic Objectives – owned by the ONS senior leadership team. This is further supported by delivery tiers made up of our Accountability Framework Objectives (AFOs) and our five transformation programmes:

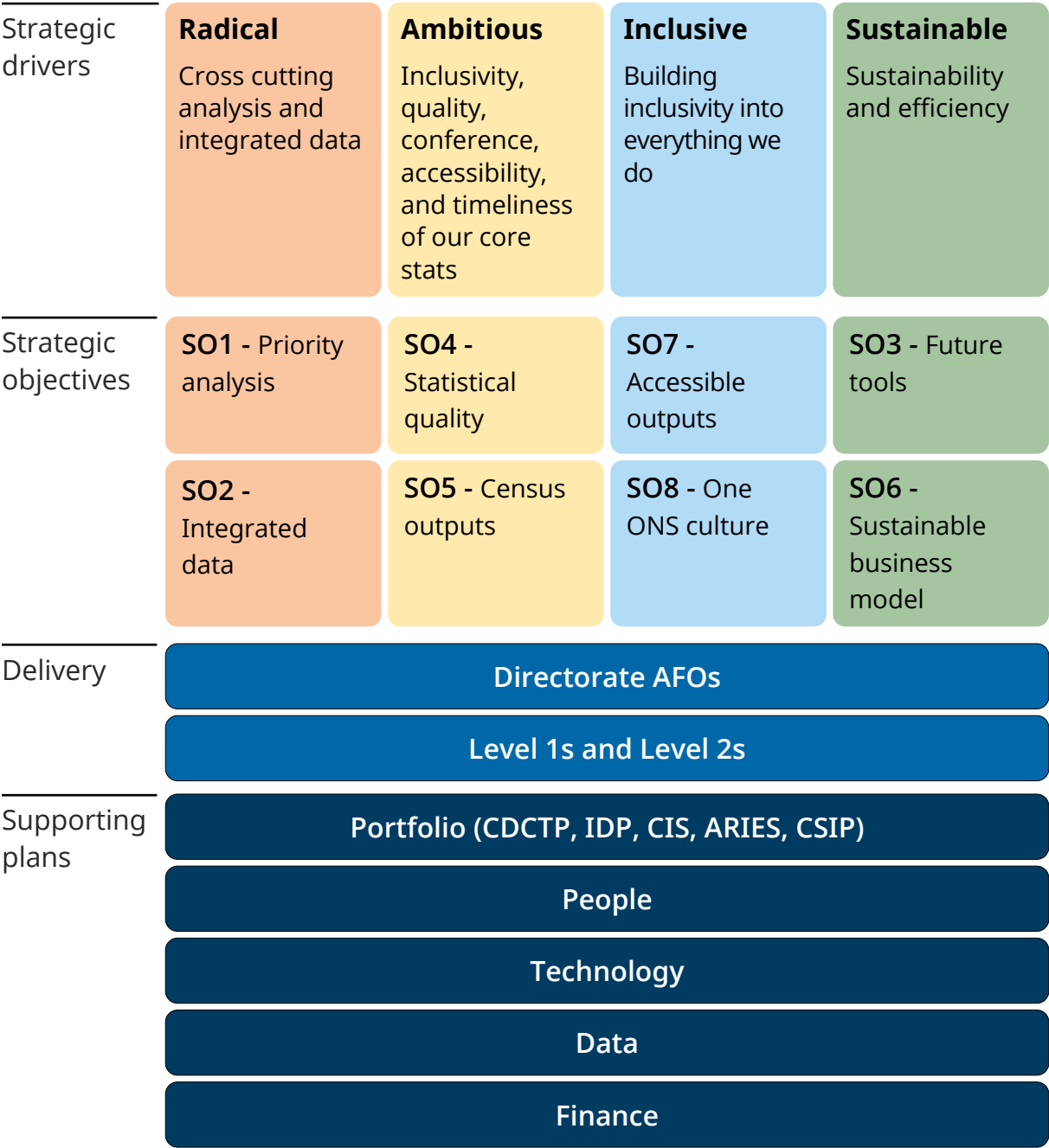
- Census and Data Collection Transformation Programme (CDCTP)
- Integrated Data Services Programme (IDSP)
- COVID19 Infection Survey (CIS)
- Ambitious, Radical and Inclusive Economic Statistics (ARIES)
- Corporate Services Improvement Programme (CSIP)

Figure 1 provides a visual representation of the structure showing the alignment from the Strategic Drivers through to delivery.



³ <https://uksa.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ONS-Business-Plan-2020.pdf>

Figure 1: ONS strategic business plan taxonomy



Please note these strategic objectives have been updated for the financial year 2023-2024 to ensure they remain future-facing and relevant to the organisational context. These updated objectives are presented in the FY23/24 Strategic Business Plan ⁴.

⁴ <https://uksa.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/2023-24-strategic-business-plan/pages/1/>

Statement about the use of Government Functional Standards

The National Statistician leads the Analysis Function which supports a 17,000 strong community of analysts. The work of the Analysis Function is overseen by the Analysis Function Board (AFB) and the Departmental Directors of Analysis (DDANs), who represent Departments and our wider stakeholders. An Analysis Function People Board subcommittee has also been established in recent years to further strengthen the delivery of people specific priorities.

This governance structure ensures the Function addresses cross-cutting challenges, drawing on the strengths of the analytical professions, and ensures a consistent approach to delivering expert analytical advice across government.

The Analysis Function also plays a key role in delivering the Cabinet Office's and Ministers' civil service reform agenda. Over the next three years, the ONS plan for the Analysis Function will support integrated, informed decision-making and efficient service delivery by putting world class analysis in the hands of decision makers. A Functional approach is needed for analysis to pool knowledge, skills and techniques and to ensure that government analysts apply common standards and approaches when this is the right thing to do.

In addition to the Analysis Function, the ONS aligns to other functional standards such as Finance, Project Delivery, Human Resources, Communications, Property, Digital, Data and Technology, Security, Commercial and Internal Audit, as per the Dear Accounting Office (DAO) Letter dated 30/09/2021. The Letter sets out that all central government departments and their arm's length bodies should have a plan in place by March 2022 to comply with each functional standard in a way that meets its business needs and priorities.

The OSR business plan

OSR also published its Business Plan in May 2022. This set out the independent role, governance, vision, and priority outcomes and activities for OSR. Performance against this business plan for 2022/23 is set out in the Annex to this document.

Performance analysis

We have continued to make significant progress against our radical, ambitious, inclusive and sustainable drivers during 2022/23 – the third year of our five-year strategy. We have achieved a great deal, as set out in more detail below, while maintaining our commitment to a sustainable business model. We have embedded learning from our response to the Covid-19 pandemic, incorporating agile and flexible resource alongside our change programmes and quality outputs.

Throughout 2022/23 ONS has continued to demonstrate its crucial role in informing Government and the public on priority topics including Covid-19, inflation, migration, economic growth, employment.

As with all parts of government we worked with HM Treasury colleagues through the Spending Review 2021 (SR21) exercise which settled budgets for the period 2022/23 to 2024/25. The exercise was vitally important in securing ongoing support, placing the organisation on a sustainable footing and facilitating the delivery of our strategy for the next three financial years.

The following sections provide an overall summary assessment of performance against our strategic objectives and key milestones for 2022/23 as set out in our Strategic Business Plan. We also provide a more detailed narrative highlighting the key achievements in the period by each strategic driver and Strategic Objective (SO) on pages 25 - 35.

Summary assessment of performance by strategic objective

The Strategic Objectives (SOs) were developed as part of the ONS's initial Strategic Business Plan published in July 2020. They have been reviewed annually and as a result have been iterated and rationalised, to maintain relevance to current and expected future operational context, and to support clarity of accountability. Each SO contributes to all four Strategic Drivers, with the strongest association shown in more detail below.

Performance against the SOs is monitored monthly through internal governance using the mapping of the underpinning Accountability Framework Objectives (AFOs) to each SO as a mechanism to track progress and flag issues. The table below provides an assessment of the status of each of the eight SOs in March 2023. The Green rating indicates that the majority of the AFOs that align to that SO were reporting either "complete" or "on track" at the time of reporting.

This end of year position is the same as the previous year, 2021/22.

1



Priority analysis

Priority deliverables: ARIES, Covid Infection Survey

Main strategic contribution: Radical

2022/23 rating: Green

Working with new and existing partnerships to deliver inclusive, engaging and timely data, statistics and analysis on priority economic, social and environmental issues including on the impacts of the pandemic and the lives of those missing from our existing data sources.

2



Integrated data

Priority deliverables: Delivery of IDSP data services

Main strategic contribution: Radical

2022/23 rating: Green

In collaboration with the GSS, Government Analysis Function and wider government, deliver a ground-breaking, safe, secure and trusted integrated data service with associated data governance that drives the integration of Government data and the provision of cross-cutting analysis for the public good, and facilitates the evaluation of policy effectiveness.

3



Future tools

Priority deliverables: IDSP platform, Prioritised legacy replacement

Main strategic contribution: Sustainable

2022/23 rating: Green

To develop and future-proof the ONS's statistical, analytical and data management tools, technologies and policies to meet the changing requirements of the business, at pace and with innovation to the fore.

4



Statistical quality

Priority deliverables: Labour market transformation, Prices transformation, GDP, Crime, Inclusive data task force

Main strategic contribution: Ambitious

2022/23 rating: Green

Drive improvements in the inclusiveness, quality, coherence, accessibility and timeliness of our priority statistics and outputs and set best practice for the development of UK statistical frameworks.

5



Census outputs

Priority deliverables: Census outputs, Transformation of population and migration statistics, to support 2023 Recommendation

Main strategic contribution: Ambitious

2022/23 rating: Green

To deliver outputs from the 2021 Census and a revised system of population and migration statistics, working towards a robust recommendation on the future of the Census in 2023.

6



Sustainable business model

Priority deliverables: Efficiencies framework

Main strategic contribution: Sustainable

2022/23 rating: Green

To implement a sustainable and ambitious business model that enables ONS to deliver against the ambitions in the UKSA strategy using resources (people, funding & infrastructure) effectively and efficiently, while continuously improving ONS's corporate services and systems so they are fit for the future.

7



Accessible outputs

Priority deliverables: IDSP dissemination capacity

Main strategic contribution: Inclusive

2022/23 rating: Green

To deliver an efficient, targeted, accessible, inclusive and flexible publication and two-way engagement model that promotes understanding, provides information that our key stakeholders, users and the wider UK public need, and informs organisational delivery.

8



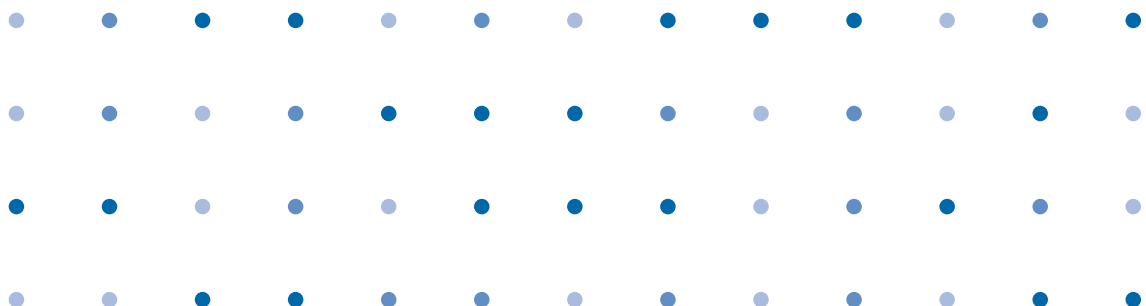
One ONS culture

Priority deliverables: People plan

Main strategic contribution: Inclusive

2022/23 rating: Green

To create an inclusive, collaborative, engaged and healthy working environment and a 'One ONS' culture where employees of different backgrounds, grades, characteristics and ways of thinking are consistently empowered and inspired to innovate, share learning and deliver their best work.



Key deliverables

Our Strategic Business Plan also set out a high-level timeline of key deliverables. The table below gives the milestones for the 2022/23 financial year and their status in March 2023.

Strategic objective 1: Priority analysis (Radical)

Key deliverable: Publish ONS Subnational Work Plan.

Directorate: Economic, Social and Environmental statistics Group (ESEG)

Due date: May 2022 **Status:** Completed

Key deliverable: Produce and publish quarterly crime in England and Wales estimates, alongside focused analytical articles on topics including domestic abuse, homicide.

Directorate: ESEG

Due date: Apr 2022 **Status:** Completed
July 2022 Completed
October 2022 Completed
January 2023 Completed

Key deliverable: Analytical capability review of policy officials completed and launched.

Directorate: ESEG

Due date: May 2022 **Status:** Completed

Key deliverable: Develop strategy implementation plan, following stakeholder engagement.

Directorate: ESEG

Due date: July 2022 **Status:** Completed

Key deliverable: COVID-19 Infection Survey (CIS) - digital implementation complete.

Directorate: CIS

Due date: August 2022 **Status:** Completed

Key deliverable: Stakeholders consulted and requirements included in future crime survey design.

Directorate: ESEG

Due date: October 2022 **Status:** Completed

Key deliverable: CIS – digital benefits realised.

Directorate: CIS

Due date: October 2022 **Status:** Completed

Strategic objective 2: Integrated data (Radical)

Key deliverable: Integrated Data Service Platform (IDSP) – initial public beta.

Directorate: IDSP

Due date: July 2022 **Status:** Completed
(originally due June 2022)

Key deliverable: IDSP – full public beta.

Directorate: Digital Services and Technology (DST)

Due date: March 2023 **Status:** Completed

Key deliverable: Live / Basic Integrated Data Service (full operating capability) complete.

Directorate: IDSP

Due date: March 2023 **Status:** Completed
(originally due December 2022)

Strategic objective 3: Future tools (Sustainable)

Key deliverable: Delivery of Prices Alternative Data sources system.

Directorate: DST

Due date: June 2022 **Status:** Completed

Key deliverable: Development of the Statistical production Platform to support legacy (Ingres) reduction.

Directorate: DST

Due date: September 2022 **Status:** Completed

Strategic objective 4: Statistical quality (Ambitious)

Key deliverable: GDP / (Gross National Income) GNI - Publication of the UK's annual Blue Book and Pink Book, including comprehensive measures and performance of the UK economy.

Directorate: ESEG

Due date: October 2022 **Status:** Completed

Key deliverable: Completion of initiation and discovery phase on the scope for RTI data to transform the Labour Market and development of delivery plan.

Directorate: ESEG

Due date: December 2022 **Status:** Completed

Key deliverable: GDP / GNI – Verification of outstanding actions are implemented into the ONS National Accounts.

Directorate: ESEG

Due date: March 2023 **Status:** Completed

Key deliverable: Publish a range of supplementary analysis, including a Least Cost Index and inflation calculator, to inform the debate on the cost of living.

Directorate: ESEG

Due date: March 2023 **Status:** Completed

Key deliverable: Fiscal Statistics: New public sector balance sheet and research into central government expenditure metrics published in a new-style Public Sector Finance release.

Directorate: ESEG

Due date: **Status:** Rebaselined to 2023/24

Strategic objective 5: Census outputs (Ambitious)

Key deliverable: Supply evidence on population, migration and social statistics to inform the National Statistician 23 Recommendations future approach.

Directorate: Population Statistics Division (PSD)

Due date: February 2023 **Status:** Completed

Key deliverable: Publish all Census outputs and analysis by end March 2023. This includes achieving National Statistics accreditation by end May 2022 and publishing the First Release from Census by end June 2022.

Directorate: PSD

Due date: March 2023 **Status:** Completed

Strategic objective 6: Sustainable business model (Sustainable)

Key deliverable: ONS London office moved to Marsham Street.

Directorate: People, Business and Services (PBS)

Due date: December 2022 **Status:** Completed

Key deliverable: Deliver the 22/23 Efficiency Target of £5.5m through the ONS Efficiency Framework and the various projects and initiatives.

Directorate: Finance, Planning and Performance (FPP)

Due date: March 2023 **Status:** Completed

Key deliverable: Efficiencies / legacy - move all surveys online.

Directorate: Surveys

Due date: **Status:** Rebaselined to 2023/24

Strategic objective 7: Accessible outputs (Inclusive)

Key deliverable: Publish and promote the statistics and analysis of the ONS and ensure user needs are met.

Directorate: Communications and Digital Publishing (CDP)

Due date: March 2023 **Status:** Completed

Key deliverable: Deliver dissemination services for the IDSP and Census and build a future-facing publishing and content system.

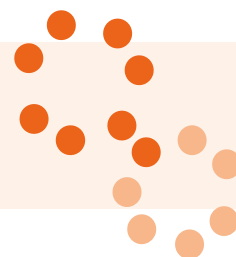
Directorate: CDP

Due date: March 2023 **Status:** Completed

Overall performance narrative by strategic objective

Radical

Cross cutting analysis and integrated data



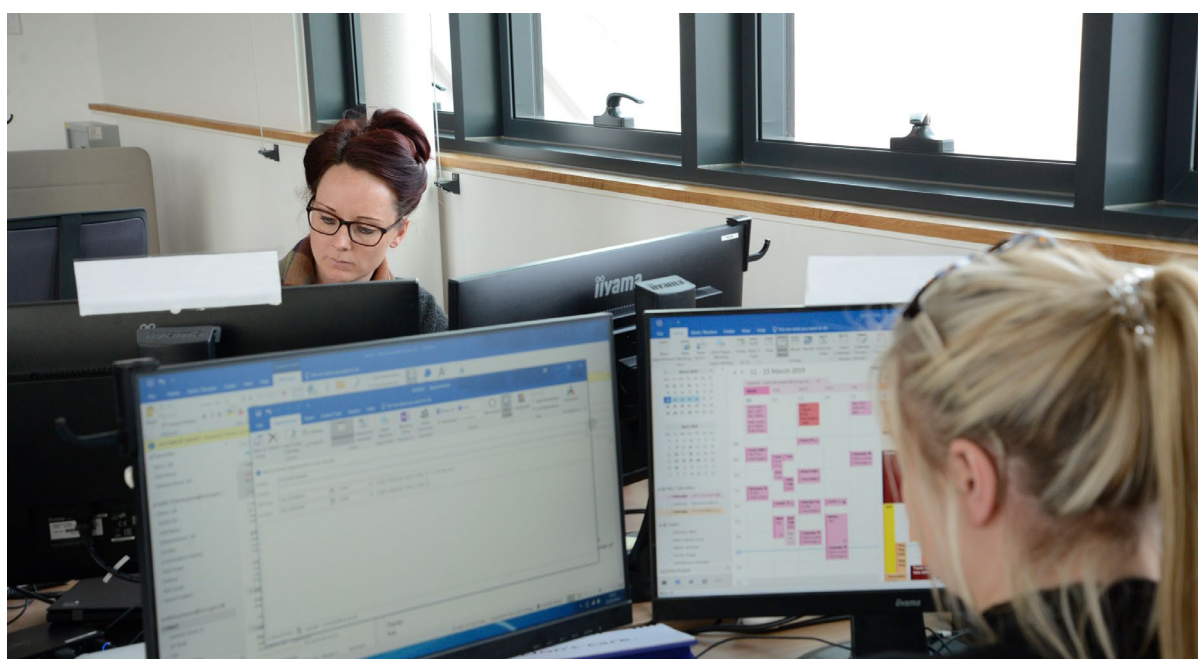
Strategic objective 1 – Priority analysis

A key strategic objective which is intrinsically linked to our mission as an organisation is to provide time-critical analysis and statistics on priority economic, social and environmental issues. We have developed our capacity to respond at pace, using our relationships across government and with other partners to provide the data and analysis needed to aid decision makers – whatever the question. Central to the achievement of this objective is the need to develop and maintain the necessary structures, capability and capacity to deliver.

Our Analytical Hub continues to work in tandem with our Data Science Campus and cross-Government partners including the Cabinet Office Joint Data and Analysis Centre to aid in our response to urgent priorities. During the year we have been able to respond quickly to provide data and insights across a range of socio-economic themes detailed below.

Significant work was completed in response to a widespread increase in the cost of living, including:

- data and analysis on energy, health, supply chains, labour market and cost of living, including experimental analysis that tracked the online price of 30 lowest-cost grocery items, used to inform and monitor winter risks preparedness helping to evaluate government policies and packages of support; a new survey on the impacts on higher education students, and a Cost-of-Living Insights Tool that helped users access the latest insights, interpret complex trends and personalise the data to their region and personal characteristics;
- the “Understanding the cost of living through statistics” event considered how the UK economy was being affected and what it meant for different households; and
- a Winter Panel of 5,000 households was set up to answer questions on cost of living, housing, energy, heating homes, impact on health, access to treatment and impact on work, caring and life



In response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent humanitarian response, the Ukraine Humanitarian Response Insight Survey was set up in collaboration the Cabinet Office, Home Office and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. This survey was used to inform policy responses and charted the experience of Ukrainian refugees arriving in the UK, highlighting where they were staying, how they were accessing services, what support they required and their intentions for staying in the country. A follow-up survey revealed the experiences and intentions of hosts to provide ongoing support including help settling into UK life, and access to private rented accommodation.

Our Covid-19 Infection Survey (CIS) won the 2022 Champion Award for Excellence in Official Statistics, while our work on Long Covid was highly commended. The award, run by the Royal Statistical Society, recognised outstanding innovations or developments in the production of UK statistics that improve the service to users. CIS moved to a new digital operating model in 2022 and in March 2023 celebrated over 11.5m swabs to monitor for Covid-19 infection, and 3.3m tests for antibodies. A total of 280 publications related to Covid-19 have been released that have informed policy decisions, with the Covid insights tool and data visualisations being used for both public information and policy decisions. Analytical outputs on priority topics covered new variants, regional and characteristic analysis, long covid rates, and more recently for wider respiratory pathogens.

We published the cross-GSS subnational data strategy which is being driven across government through a senior subnational data group, led by the National Statistician and including devolved administrations and representatives from local government. In January 2023, ONS hosted an event in collaboration with Core Cities and Birmingham City Council to celebrate the launch of the strategy and highlight our achievements to date which include:

- New subnational experimental statistics on energy efficiency of housing, UK house building and private rental affordability
- Experimental subnational data on local businesses that carry out international trade in services and goods and international trade in UK nations, regions and cities
- New detailed indicators and analysis of job quality within the UK
- A Health Index tool to help people to understand the health of their local populations, by combining data from over fifty data sources to produce a single independent measure of health
- Publication of annual gross value added (GVA) estimates for the UK broken down to the smallest geographic areas possible, so they can be used as “building blocks” to create tailored data for any area of interest across the UK.
- New analysis of towns and out of towns locations, that portrays the local employment growth happening outside of town and city centres, and of the night time economy, shining a light on how the economy operates across different sectors and locations during the night, from healthcare to pubs and clubs.

Strategic objective 2 – Integrated data

ONS has been leading the drive to provide faster and wider collaborative analysis of complex data for the public good through delivery of the Integrated Data Services Programme (IDSP). Led by ONS, this programme is a collaborative initiative with the GSS, Government Analysis Function and wider Government, and will build a comprehensive data service, underpinned by a secure and trusted infrastructure that will enable government to make best use of its data

assets and unlock the potential of linked data. The IDSP will accelerate our progress in data sharing and analysis and provide a model that is fit for purpose to tackle the Government's priorities now and in the future; one of the key ambitions of the National Data Strategy.

The IDSP launched its first private beta in May 2022 with an improved cloud platform and service enhancements for a new tranche of users. The next release, an initial public beta followed quickly in July 2022 and the next iteration of public beta was released in March 2023. A group of super early adopters received access to Census 2021 data with the ability to join to other ONS data and run exploratory analytical projects in the IDS environment, and to provide the programme team with early user feedback, critical to ongoing development.

Significant progress has been made acquiring priority alternative data for use in our statistical and analytical outputs during 2022/23, reducing the burden on contributors. Highlights include:

- Signing a revised agreement with NHS Digital allowing the use of COVID-19 health datasets for wider research projects.
- HMRC approved the supply of PAYE data in the clear for use in the construction of our Demographic Index. This was a major milestone in terms of progress towards admin-based population estimates.
- A Memorandum of Understanding to access Exit Check data from Home Office was agreed and data is now being used in the admin-based transformation of migration and population statistics, as part of Census 2023 recommendation.
- One of the UK big four supermarkets, delivered test data ahead of signing a data sharing agreement. Regular data deliveries will mean ONS will have more than 60 per cent market coverage for the grocery sector, improving our inflation estimates.
- Securing access to a very granular dataset from one of our current card payment providers, greatly improving our insights and real time indicators of economic activity.

Ambitious

Inclusive, quality, coherence, accessibility and timeliness of our core statistics

Strategic objective 4 – Statistical quality

Delivering high quality and timely statistics sits at the heart of what we do. The Ambitious, Radical, Inclusive Economic Statistics (ARIES) programme will support our relentless drive for improved quality and granularity of our statistics, as will improvements to the core national accounts, trade and investment and the faster indicators suite.

As part of our plans for “Beyond Gross Domestic Product (GDP)”, we published an ‘inclusive income’ workplan to bring the missing capital such as human and natural capital into a single measure, new quarterly climate change insights, and a proposal for an approach to estimating quarterly greenhouse gas emissions.

A new system to improve and modernise our headline measures of consumer price inflation was developed that is capable of processing billions of price points as part of the monthly publication round. In addition, research was published detailing the impact of using new data sources in Consumer Prices Index (CPI) and Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers’ housing costs (CPIH).



We have continued to make significant progress on the Transformation of the Labour Force Survey (TLFS). The survey is now collecting data across multiple modes: on-line, telephone and face to face. We are now analysing the data with all 3 modes active and developing appropriate methodologies such as weighting, imputation and discontinuity analysis. Alongside this we are shortly due to share early access data to our core external stakeholders for additional analysis and QA support. User guidance and regular transformation updates have been published throughout the year and will continue throughout 2023. It is the intention to begin transitioning regular published outputs from using the Labour Force Survey (LFS) to the new TLFS from early 2024.

We have continued to develop our international presence with the first year of meetings concluding for the new National Statistician’s Committee for Advice on Standards for Economic Statistics (NSCASE) . The committee, chaired by Professor Martin Weale, plays an important role supporting decisions around guidance for economic statistics, particularly as we approach the revision of the United Nation’s System of National Accounts in 2025. Meetings have laid productive groundwork for the workplans of topics such as industrial classifications, non-monetary gold, conceptual methods in prices and volume,

quality adjustment, and implementation of the Manual on Government Deficit and Debt (MGDD), 2022 Edition.

Through our strategy we aim to embed inclusivity as a concept across everything that we do, including the data we use and statistics we publish. Linked inherently to the “inclusive” driver as well as quality of our outputs, delivery of the Inclusive Data Taskforce Implementation Plan is progressing well. Dame Julia Cleverdon has been appointed as the Chair of a new National Statistician’s Advisory Committee on Inclusive Data and the inaugural meeting was held in October; with the Committee providing transparent, external scrutiny and advice on our delivery. The Committee includes a diverse group of senior leaders with experience from academia, civil society, local government, and business. The Committee’s agenda covered how to evaluate progress towards greater inclusiveness of UK data and evidence, and how to create and embed an environment of trust and trustworthiness allowing everyone to count in UK data. Delivery highlights include the publication of qualitative research on disabled adults’ experiences of accessing services, which included an easy read report.

The latest admin-based ethnicity research covering 2016-2020 was published and ONS provided local authorities with mid-2022 estimates from the Dynamic Population Model that provides timely access to changes in demographic behaviour.

On crime statistics, prevalence estimates of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault for the whole of the adult population were produced and published for the first time in July 2022, in the latest Crime in England and Wales release. March saw the launch in beta of the Prototype 1.1 of the [Violence Against Women and Girls Dashboard](#). The aim of the dashboard is to have all the relevant information pertaining to Violence Against Women and Girls to be used by citizens and policymakers in one place, prototype is being used to seek views from users and stakeholders on design and future content.

Strategic objective 5 – Census outputs

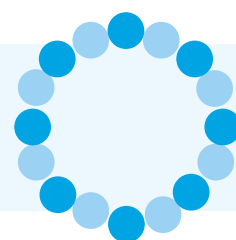
Census 21 was the first census completed primarily through an electronic questionnaire. Return rates at the end of census collection phase surpassed 97% of households with 88.9% of responses made electronically, and more than 90% in every local authority across England and Wales. Since the completion of the census, we are producing more data more quickly than any previous census, and published the last of nine Census 2021 topic summaries in January 2022 with widespread reach including events such as the ‘Let’s Count’ campaign in English and Welsh schools, over 5,100 media pieces (including in 28 new minority/specialist media outlets), 82 million social media impressions, and over 5.2 million views of the Census Maps product. The International Census Forum (ICF) in Brighton, brought together census senior leaders from eight English-speaking National Statistical Institutes to discuss the successes and challenges of Census.

In addition to the topic summaries we have provided innovative tools to allow users to explore the data themselves including the 'create a custom dataset' tool launched in March 2023. This tool allows users to select a population type, change the area type or coverage and add multiple variables either by searching or choosing from a list. The tool runs statistical disclosure rules automatically in the background and is designed to return as much data as possible, and even suggests how users can improve their query to return the maximum amount of data.

To support the 2023/24 recommendation on the future of the Census we have published new research and data on population and migration to demonstrate the use of administrative data-based ways of measuring migration and population that will help to build the most accurate picture of our society.

Inclusive

Building inclusivity into everything we do



Strategic objective 7 – Accessible outputs

The demand for statistics and data from the ONS continues to be high, along with public prominence and scrutiny. This is illustrated by an increased number of engagements with the media, data users and our stakeholders, as well as the extent of usage of our products through our website and beyond. This year we've been driving changes to make sure ONS information is embedded in search results and used in voice search, as well as having our products embedded by partner organisations to extend their reach and impact.

To meet our commitment to deliver publications, communications and engagement activity that are accessible, inclusive and flexible to promote understanding our data, we have developed a range of innovative products, including our Statistically Speaking podcast and the bite-sized content on our Instagram channel. We have developed new interactive content and tools to drive citizen engagement with our statistics, help users see themselves in our data and improve accessibility. As part of our census outputs, we have created [interactive maps](#) that have allowed millions of citizens to find out what people's lives were like across England and Wales in March 2021, and we have published a [flexible table builder](#) that allows people to use Census data to answer the questions that matter to them. Through our [personal inflation calculator](#) and our [shopping prices comparison tool](#), we have enabled citizens to understand how the changes to inflation impact them. In readiness for COP27, we updated the [Climate Change portal](#) that brings together a range of disparate climate change data from multiple agencies and enables users to self-serve the insights they need. This technology was additionally used to produce a prototype [Violence Against Women and Girls portal](#).

We continually look to expand our engagement to reach as wide a set of users as possible to increase the inclusivity of our statistics and fully reflect diverse needs. As part of this we have created the ONS Assembly to support regular dialogue on delivering inclusive data with charities and bodies representing the interests of underrepresented groups of the population. At a working level, we have established our Engagement Hub to enable us to work more closely with stakeholders, and to broaden our reach especially with local users and communities. Our stakeholder event in March to mark the midpoint of the UKSA strategy 'Statistics for the public good' brought together a range of views and feedback on our direction ahead. We also continue to support a series of theme-based forums that allow producers of statistics and a broad range of users to regularly collaborate on work plans and discuss continual improvement. Overall, this engagement helps ensure we bring the user and citizen voice into our decisions, so that our statistics fully reflect society and that they inform all groups of the population.

Strategic objective 8 – One ONS culture

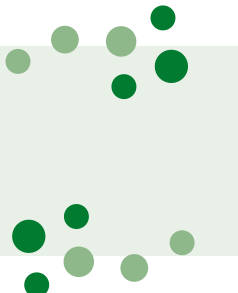
Our pursuit of an inclusive, collaborative, engaged and healthy working environment resulted in ONS being recognised in the Civil Service Commission’s first Mark of Excellence Awards. The Civil Service Commission named the ONS as Highly Commended for the inclusion initiatives built into our recruitment process to improve accessibility to the Civil Service for under-represented communities. ONS also received a gold award from Mind for the second year. This recognised the support we gave to colleagues to manage their mental health and ensuring healthy working environments and practices.

Our success has also been recognised externally through a number of awards received including two Glassdoor awards: Top 50 Best Places to Work in 2023; and ONS being ranked the top employer in the UK for work-life balance for the second consecutive year.



The results of the 2022 People Survey show a continuation of the record high levels of staff engagement from 2021, with overall engagement levels well above the Civil Service average and higher than the Civil Service benchmark against six of the nine themes.

Sustainable
Building a sustainable and efficient business model



Strategic objective 3 – Future tools

Keeping pace with the ever-growing demand for faster, and more granular outputs means ensuring that our statistical, analytical and data management tools, technologies and policies are constantly updated to meet the changing requirements of the business and our users.

Moving Surveys Online continues to make progress moving ONS business surveys off paper to online collection, increasing ONS digital survey capability. As of March 2023, approximately 2.1 million of the 2.6 million questionnaires ONS dispatches annually are online, delivering a flexible and more efficient data collection approach for UK businesses. The agile development of the Statistical Business Register continues and is on track for its end March 24 completion.

As part of the Ambitious, Radical, Inclusive Economic Statistics (ARIES) programme, the Prices Alternative Data Sources Project is progressing the use of new sources of alternative data such as web-scraping and scanner data, improving and modernising our headline measures of consumer price inflation. A key milestone included the delivery of an end-to-end system on a new cloud-based platform capable of processing billions of price points as part of the monthly publication round. The next phase will focus on research functionality to allow continuous improvement of these statistics.

In December 2022, we published an impact analysis of including new alternative data and methods in our headline consumer price statistics – this first edition is for rail fares and second-hand cars, expected to be included in headline measure in the future.

The ONS Data Science Campus celebrated its 5th birthday with successes to date including the completion of 87 data science projects, publishing some of the world’s first ever faster indicators, developing a COVID-19 community-level risk model, training more than 4,000 people in data science (against a target of 500 in the national data strategy) and working with and influencing multiple UK public sector organisations and other statistical agencies through partnerships and collaboration. In addition, the Campus held the Government Data Science Festival bringing together data scientists across government to share learning, consider what the future of data science in government will look like, and to build capability.

The Data Science Campus was awarded first place as part of a cross-government hackathon with Number 10 and the Department of Health and Social Care on optimising ambulance services, building a tool that can simulate trips from ambulance stations to the postcodes they service. They also provided daily rail network analysis to the National Situation Centre during strike disruption to help insight and understanding for Ministers.

On cost of living, ONS used a novel data source, 76,000 prices scraped weekly from supermarket websites and data science methods supported by the Data Science Campus to compile a new 'Least Cost Index' that captured changes in supermarket prices for lower price items.

Strategic objective 6 – Sustainable business model

In 2022/23, we completed the formal review into our corporate enabling functions – Building Ambitious Sustainable Enablers (BASE) – and delivered on its recommendations ensuring our supporting functions were set up to deliver in a sustainable way. The resulting new organisational model across six core functions has rationalised and streamlined key back-office structures, generating significant benefits including a contribution towards our efficiency targets.

As part of our Spending Review negotiations, we committed to deliver at least 10% or £21m of sustainable cost savings against our baseline resource expenditure by the final year of the SR (2024/25). In negotiation with HM Treasury, we have retained the ability to re-invest the savings generated, back into our core organisational priorities.

At the Autumn Statement November 2022 HM Treasury announced an Efficiency Savings Review whereby all government departments were asked to set out how they aimed to live within their current means in light of wider fiscal constraints. In response to this, we will amalgamate our original Spending Review commitments into a combined organisational Efficiency Savings Plan v2.0 for delivery throughout the remainder of the SR period. This new plan will enable us to achieve the original re-investment objectives set out as part of the Spending Review 2021 settlement; and allow us to meet our inevitable further cost increases through an additional targeted round of savings in 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Our Corporate Systems Improvement Programme (CSIP) is a multi-year programme but has delivered further incremental benefits and enhancements during 2022/23. These include the development of a pilot work force planning solution; implementation of a cloud-based data archiving solution; process reviews across our commercial, finance and human resources functions; and prototype solutions to feed a roadmap of priority projects aimed at more cost effective and enhanced corporate services.

ONS has now established office space in the Darlington Economic Campus (DEC), a new presence in Manchester, and re-located its London office as part of the Government Property Agency (GPA) strategy. Our Sustainable Offices project has

reduced the office space we occupy in both our Newport HQ and Titchfield as well as continuing to fund lifecycle replacement and Net Zero projects to ensure they remain well maintained, safe, sustainable and as efficient as possible.

Summary

2022/23 was the third year of our five-year Strategy. We have continued to deliver and improve our core outputs and build the foundations for our future while responding to priority demands to inform key policy decisions across government. The success of Census 21 demonstrated our commitment to transforming how we collect data without compromising on quality, and significant progress in the delivery of the Integrated Data Programme has solidified the cross-Government drive to release the potential of shared data. We have secured commitment from across government to the transformation of our Economic and Public Policy statistics and analysis which enables us to progress at pace, and we have put in place the building blocks for an inclusive and sustainable business model.

Our ambitions over the year have required us to think collectively as 'One ONS'. The front-line successes have only been possible through the hard work of those involved in the process from end to end – survey collection, data ingest and processing through our data architecture and technical infrastructure, analysis and dissemination. All supported by our back-office functions – our procurement, human resource, finance and planning capabilities.

Challenges and external impacts

This section highlights our response to some of the challenges and external factors we have faced in order to continue delivering against the radical, ambitious, inclusive and sustainable drivers set out in the UKSA strategy.

Our response to the Covid-19 pandemic demonstrated our ability to function in a new way that incorporates a hybrid approach of home working and using a transformed office space adapted for collaborative working. This move to hybrid working has necessitated a review of how we use the office space to best effect, including rationalising open areas to ensure optimal energy usage.

We have responded to the shift in the economic context including the rising cost of inflation, cost of living challenge, and the need for Government efficiencies in various ways:

- An extensive review of ONS delivery plans to identify efficiencies and savings and to ensure a sharp focus on our priorities, supported by a refreshed organisational prioritisation framework and flexible resourcing process;
- Using our flexible Analytical Hub to pivot resource to provide support to both evidence-based policies and to the public. Some examples are provided in page 26 [cost of living challenge under SO1];

- We have continued to provide support to our staff through a new wellbeing hub that includes financial and mental health support, guidance and contacts.

Our Census data has helped government respond to the war in Ukraine, providing early data to help plan for the arrival of refugees. Through our flexible resourcing approach and collaborations with the Cabinet Office, Home Office and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, we launched two new surveys to chart the experience of Ukrainian refugees arriving in the UK and the experiences and intentions of hosts to provide ongoing support including help settling into UK life, and access to private rented accommodation.

The accessibility of government data is pivotal to our ambition to deliver ever more accessible, timely, high-quality outputs and to make best use of government data. Access to these data sources continues to require strong engagement and relationships with other government departments, Devolved Administrations and wider users and producers of data. This year has seen these relationships embedded into the way we work across government with support from HM-Treasury and Cabinet Office. Despite this, challenges have remained in accessing data sources from other government departments for a variety of reasons which has impacted the extent of research we have been able to achieve on embedding administrative data into statistical products.

Our People Plan clearly sets out the importance of our staff to the delivery of the UKSA strategy and ONS business plan. The challenge to attract and retain critical skillsets continues to be a priority for ONS and others across government, with national labour market supply issues, in particular for the DDaT profession, but also analytical and project delivery disciplines. We have established more innovative flexible resourcing models and an approach to growing our own talent during the period to ensure we can continue to deliver our ambitions. However, we have encountered challenges in getting the right capabilities in the right numbers in 2022/23.

Associated with the above, the risk of industrial action has required careful monitoring to assess impact on delivery. Our business continuity plans have been pivotal in ensuring that industrial action has had limited impact on our operations and delivery of ambitions.

Our ongoing risks are described in the Governance Statement on pages 53-70.

Looking ahead

Our 2023/24 Key Milestones can be found in our 2023/24 Strategic Business Plan. They continue to reflect our drive to deliver our highest priorities aligned to the Strategic Objectives and UKSA Strategy.

To ensure that our Strategy remains relevant, we are holding a mid-term Strategy Review involving key stakeholders and consultation across the statistical system. A summary of findings and the Review itself will be published later this summer. The outcome will help drive our future priorities and planning.

Key performance indicators (KPIs)

We developed a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in 2020/21 that we have iterated during 2022/23 to ensure that we maintain their ongoing fitness for purpose and relevance to organisational activity as it evolves. There is an intention to review these KPIs in 2023/24 to ensure they remain reflective of our ambitions. The KPIs are disaggregated by Strategic Driver and complement the progress reporting against our strategic objectives (as set out in on pages 17-25) through our internal governance. Our performance against the KPIs for 2022/23 is set out below.

Radical

Indicator: GDP / GNI – Verification of outstanding actions are implemented into the ONS National Accounts

Target: $\geq 30\%$

Performance (2022-2023): 36% of projects are in the 'Explore' category as of March 2023

Performance (2021-2022): n/a

The Data Science Campus has three categories for projects it is involved in: Explore, Embed, and Enable. This KPI measures how much of their time is spent on the 'Explore' category which covers experimental research projects aligned to the Radical pillar of the ONS strategy. The methodology for measuring this has changed since last year so no comparable data is available.

Indicator: Secure Research Service - number of users

Target: 5,271

Performance (2022-2023): 5,043 users as of 31 March 2023

Performance (2021-2022): 5,270 users as of 31 March 2022

The goal is to increase the number of users Year on Year. The target is set at the figure as of 31 March 2022 plus one.

Indicator: Secure Research Service - number of projects

Target: 582

Performance (2022-2023): 639 projects as of 31 March 2023

Performance (2021-2022): 581 live projects as of 31 March 2022

The goal is to increase the number of projects Year on Year. The target is set at the figure as of 31 March 2022 plus one.

Indicator: Data Acquisition Priorities

Target: n/a

Performance (2022-2023): 35% were rated Green 'On track' and 27% were Complete in the quarter ending 31 March 2023

Performance (2021-2022): n/a

This KPI was established to provide an indication of how we are performing against a key enabler for this strategic driver. No target has been set for this KPI currently although significant progress has been made. No comparison against last year is possible due to a change in methodology.

Indicator: Media Coverage

Target: n/a

Performance (2022-2023): 20,793 media mentions in the month ending 31 March 2023 and 10% of these featured an ONS spokesperson

Performance (2021-2022): n/a

This figure shows the total mentions of ONS and its outputs in the media landscape. Percentage shows what proportion of these mentions featured a comment from an ONS spokesperson. There is no target set for media coverage. This measurement of this indicator has changed since last year so is not comparable to data from 2021-22.

Ambitious

Indicator: Major Errors

Target: 0

Performance (2022-2023): 6 major errors reported between April 2022 and March 2023

Performance (2021-2022): 7 major errors reported between April 2021 and March 2022

The Major Errors indicator helps to measure the quality of our outputs. The errors reported represent less than one per cent of our total statistical releases in the period. For context these errors are defined as those which, for example, could affect an important aspect of a release, or lead a user to misinterpret the statistics. As set out in the Governance Statement we are improving our approach to managing quality risks and strengthening the assurance system that operates to manage them. All errors were swiftly corrected and communicated to users.

Indicator: Statistical Concerns escalated to the OSR & National Statistician

Target: 0

Performance (2022-2023): 4 statistical concerns that required escalation between April 2022 and March 2023

Performance (2021-2022): 0 statistical concerns that required escalation between January 2022 and March 2022

Statistical Concerns refers to 'Reporting concerns under the code of practice'. The deputy Head of Profession will decide if a concern needs to be escalated to the Office for Statistics Regulation and the National Statistician. Comparable data is only available from January 2022.

Indicator: Social Surveys

Target: n/a

Performance (2022-2023): 2,724 Monthly responses for Mar 23 Labour Force Survey Wave 1

Performance (2021-2022): 2,560 Monthly responses for Mar 22 Labour Force Survey Wave 1

Monthly responses are monitored to reflect the level of engagement with our key social surveys. We are yet to establish a target level for this KPI.

Indicator: COVID19 Infection Survey

Target: Swabs within range 256,847 to 276,180
Bloods within range 102,739 to 110,472

Performance (2022-2023): 228,076 Monthly UK Swabs as of March 2023
95,873 Monthly UK Bloods as of March 2023

Performance (2021-2022): 179,555 Monthly UK Swabs as of March 2022
156,225 Monthly UK Bloods as of March 2022

Measures the number of Monthly UK Swabs and Monthly UK Bloods under the COVID19 Infection Survey – these are counts of results, including void tests, in the preceding 28 day period. The target range over the life of the survey has varied and variation in the number of swabs and bloods collected compared with 2022 is expected. Swabs and bloods for March 2023 were slightly outside the target range and this was an expected part of the closing down of the survey across March 2023.

Inclusive

Indicator: ONS staff diversity - ethnicity

Target: By 2025 – 11% of ONS staff are from an ethnic minority

Performance (2022-2023): As of March 2023, 9.4% of ONS staff are from an ethnic minority

Performance (2021-2022): As of March 2022, 7.9% of ONS staff are from an ethnic minority

Figures on ethnicity are calculated using data from declarations from ONS staff. The straight-line trend to our 2025 target gives us a target of 9.1% in March 2023 - 0.3 percentage points lower than the current figure.

Indicator: ONS staff diversity - sex

Target: By 2025 - 50% of staff at each grade, and 50% of staff overall are female

Performance (2022-2023): As of March 2023, 56% of ONS staff are female. At least 50% of staff at all grades, except for Grade 6 (49%) and SCS (42%), are female.

Performance (2021-2022): As of March 2022, 57% of ONS staff are female. At least 50% of staff at all grades, except for Grade 6 (43%) and SCS (41%), are female.

Figures on sex are calculated using data from declarations from ONS staff.

Indicator: Inclusive data commitments

Target: n/a

Performance (2022-2023): 76% of commitments are either Green 'On Track' or Completed as of 31 March 2023

Performance (2021-2022): n/a

This KPI shows the progress of ONS and the wider Government Statistical Service to deliver on key commitments to improve the inclusivity of the UK statistical system. No data is available for 2021-22 as the commitments had not been finalised at that point.

Sustainable

Indicator: Greening government commitments

Target: Achieve 7 of 7 targets

Performance (2022-2023): Achieved 6 of 7 targets (we failed to achieve the 'International Flights' target)

Performance (2021-2022): Achieved 6 of 7 targets (we failed to achieve the 'Water usage' target)

Data detailed in this report cover the period April 2021 to March 2022. The seven targets are direct building emissions-tCO2e, paper purchased, water consumption, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, waste produced, international flights and domestic flights.

Indicator: ONS staff levels

Target: n/a

Performance (2022-2023): Staff increased by 245 FTE compared to 2021/22

Performance (2021-2022): Staff increased by 315 FTE compared to 2020/21

Staff increases largely relate to the increase in activity associated with programs in our portfolio.

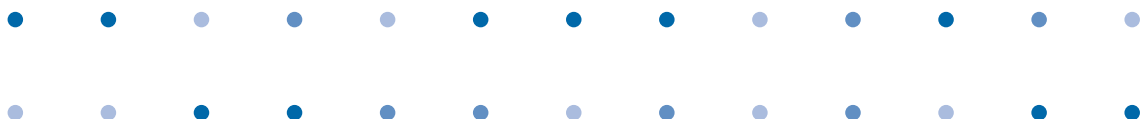
Indicator: ONS financial position

Target: Remain within key control totals

Performance (2022-2023): All financial control total targets met

Performance (2021-2022): All financial control total targets met

See Statement of Parliamentary Supply on pages 102-107.



Resources and organisation

Financial management

We have complied with all HM Treasury expenditure control approvals processes, and managed the standard annual fiscal events within the required timescales. Moreover, we have successfully managed within our financial control totals as set by Parliament for 2022/23.

Spending Review 2021 (SR21) provided us with a multi-year settlement over the three financial years 2022-23 through to 2024-25. The settlement provides funding certainty and supports the ongoing delivery of our strategy through a continuation of baseline funding plus specific programme funding allocations. We have set ourselves a challenging efficiency delivery agenda for the SR21 period which includes a need for all of our business areas to absorb the impacts of inflation and deliver sustained cost savings associated with discrete efficiency driving projects. We will use the efficiencies delivered to resolve inherent operational cost pressures and to progress wider organisational priorities that were not funded through the SR21 settlement. We have delivered total operational cost savings of £11.4m during 2022-23 of which at least £7.5m are sustainable.

The Office for Statistics Regulation's (OSR's) budget forms part of the Authority's wider accounts and whilst it is not disclosed separately in this report, defined parameters are applied in internal reporting.

Financial outcome

Total Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) for resource expenditure reduced from £448.9m in 2021/22 to 2022/23 £352.4m. This figure is net of income and includes ring-fenced resource expenditure (depreciation). The reduction is due to a combination of offsetting movements with noteworthy items including the CDCTP Programme with expenditure decreasing in line with the programme business case. These net resource expenditure reductions were partly offset with additional funding approved by HM Treasury for expenditure on IDSP and ARIES Programmes.

Taking the position gross of income receipts (resource and depreciation) the expenditure figures decreased from £902.1m in 2021/22 to £576.9m in 2022/23. These decreases relate to lower COVID-19 Infection Survey (CIS) costs following a move to CIS Digital, and lower CDCTP costs in line with the ramp down of the programme.

Our income has decreased from £453.2m in 2021/22 to £224.6m in 2022/23 primarily due to CIS (in line with the reduction of expenditure) income received from UKHSA, which is an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care.

Capital expenditure during the year increased from £25.3m in 2021/22 to £35.7m in 2022/23. Our capital expenditure is made up of £24.4m investment in development of assets and in IFRS16 treatments, with £11.3m of expenditure classified as capital expenditure under the European System of National and Regional Accounts (ESA10). The latter is not classified as capital expenditure under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The £10.4m increase in capital expenditure is mostly due to IFRS 16, where new leases starting in 2022/23 have been capitalised, and fit out costs related to the relocation of the London office.

Further information on our financial outturn is provided in the Financial Summary section on page 71 and in our Accounts in chapter 4.

People capability

The People Plan accompanies and underpins the Authority's strategy, frames the areas of strategic people focus and evolves with the changing context and progress made. In 2022, the Strategic Resourcing Framework was agreed, which sets out the process by which the Authority will Define the need, before moving to Attract, Develop and Deploy. With accelerated implementation towards the end of 2022/23, this approach is the driving force in ensuring we have the right people, with the right skills, in the right place to deliver our Strategy.

In 2022, the Authority launched Skills that Count; a document that highlights the organisational shift from learning being something you do, to skills being something that you develop over a lifetime. The Authority's focus is therefore on not just ensuring that we have provision for the skills needed for today but that the organisation "horizon scans" to ensure we know what skills are needed for the future.

We continue to build and mature our development and talent management approach for the Government Analysis Function, upskilling analysts across government using a OneAnalysis approach. The talent approach was matured during 2022; and now includes a view of the SCS1 analysts across government. In addition, the Authority continues to support the government's apprenticeship initiatives by identifying roles within the organisation that can be filled by an apprentice, and for AO to EO roles the Authority is taking an "apprentice first" approach.

Corporate responsibility

Anti-corruption and anti-bribery measures

The Authority is committed to upholding high standards of honesty and integrity in all its activities and continues to work on its commitments regarding counter-fraud, bribery and corruption. All staff are required to act with honesty, integrity and to safeguard the public resources they are responsible for, with mandatory training (provided by Civil Service Learning) on counter fraud, bribery, and corruption. The Authority operates a zero-tolerance approach to fraud, with all cases of irregularity investigated and dealt with appropriately.

The Authority Counter Fraud Team maintains a Fraud, Bribery and Corruption policy available to all staff via the internal intranet. The policy establishes clear expectations in terms of roles and responsibilities and what processes they need to follow to report any concerns regarding fraud, bribery, and corruption. The team undertakes a fraud risk assessment, involving fraud workshops and training sessions, to identify where the Authority may be susceptible to fraud and to ensure proportionate controls are in place. The team also carry out an assessment against the Government Functional Standards – GovS 013: Counter Fraud. These assessments are reviewed at least annually and contribute to the counter fraud workplan and supports the identification of proactive fraud work led by the Counter Fraud Officer. Counter fraud reports are provided at least twice a year to the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee. The Counter Fraud Team has not identified any material fraud for the reporting period.

All senior leaders in the organisation – interpreted here as members of the Senior Civil Service – are required to sign a declaration of interests and confirm a statement on related parties. In addition, all members of the procurement profession who hold contractual delegation are also required to sign the declaration.

An ongoing register is maintained of all hospitality and gifts offered to Authority staff. All staff are made aware of the civil service rules and the internal policy around acceptance of hospitality or gifts including the requirement to declare any offer. This register is periodically reviewed by the Authority's Audit and Risk Assurance Committee to ensure adherence to policy; the last review took place in June 2023.

Other information in the public interest

Responding to members of the public

There have been zero complaints in 2022/23 (2021/22 zero) about the Authority by the Parliamentary Ombudsmen. All complaints have been resolved internally.

Whistleblowing arrangements

It is important that the Authority's work environment offers a safe, inclusive and supportive place to work; where everyone feels comfortable to speak up if they experience or witness anything that concerns them at work. The Authority's Whistleblowing and Raising a Concern policy provides assurance on the visibility, accessibility and understanding of the approach to 'speaking up'. The Speak Up Framework enables navigation between the Resolution Policy for concerns related to inappropriate behaviour and unfair treatment, and the Whistleblowing policy for concerns related to breaches of the Civil Service Code, suspected illegal activity, or fraud. People & Business Services provide information on Speaking Up, Whistleblowing and the Civil Service Code as part of the new managers learning pathway.

Respect for human rights

UKSA fully complies with the Human Rights Act 1998.

The realisation of human rights correlates with the availability of sound official statistics. Statisticians play a critical role in supporting evidence-based policy and measuring civil, economic, political, and social rights. In accordance with internationally accepted standards, starting with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the dissemination of relevant information is essential to meet peoples' right to information and delivering on related entitlements to trustworthy statistics. Upholding rights, such as the rights to privacy and to be registered as well as the rights of statisticians themselves is vital to ensure robustness and independence in official statistical systems.

The Authority recognises these challenges and has established a clear Statement of Principles to ensure that we:

- exercise our statutory responsibilities in a fair, proportionate and accountable way, with due regard for principles of privacy and appropriate degrees of internal and external scrutiny;
- work in a collaborative, transparent and fair manner with data suppliers, civil society, and the public, responding to any concerns or opportunities as they arise; and
- reinforce our full accountability to the UK Parliament and the devolved legislatures in exercising our statutory responsibilities.

Researchers, statisticians and data scientists should demonstrate compliance with the UK Statistics Authority's ethical principles through use of the Ethics Self-Assessment Tool and/or consultation with the National Statistician's Data Ethics Advisory Committee. The UK Statistics Authority's Centre for Applied Data Ethics was established in February 2021 with the aim of being a world leader in the field of applied data ethics. The Centre has developed an ethics self-assessment tool

that enables staff to quickly assess their use of data against the UKSA's ethical principles and identify and mitigate ethical risk.

The Authority also recognises the ways in which internationally accepted and domestic legislation provide further effects to the human rights, protections, and freedoms guaranteed to its workforce. The Authority is committed to upholding the key human rights that intersect with the employment relationship through workplace policies and practices developed in collaboration with its workforce and official consultation channels to maintain the principles of dignity, fairness, respect, and equality. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- maintaining the confidentiality and privacy of colleagues' voluntarily-disclosed personal information, as per General Data Protection Regulation principles
- ensuring colleagues are aware of their right to join one of our formally recognised unions
- underpinning our work with the commitments outlined in our Inclusion and Diversity Plan that extend over the Authority's remit as an employer and leader within the statistics profession within government
- identifying and overcoming perceived biases and disadvantages through the completion of an Equality Impact Assessment where required.

As an employer, our inclusion and diversity plan, recruitment practices, and wider employment policies all fully comply with the Human Rights Act. Inclusion is a strategic priority for the Authority, and further information on our policies and practice in this space can be found in the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion section.

Sustainable development

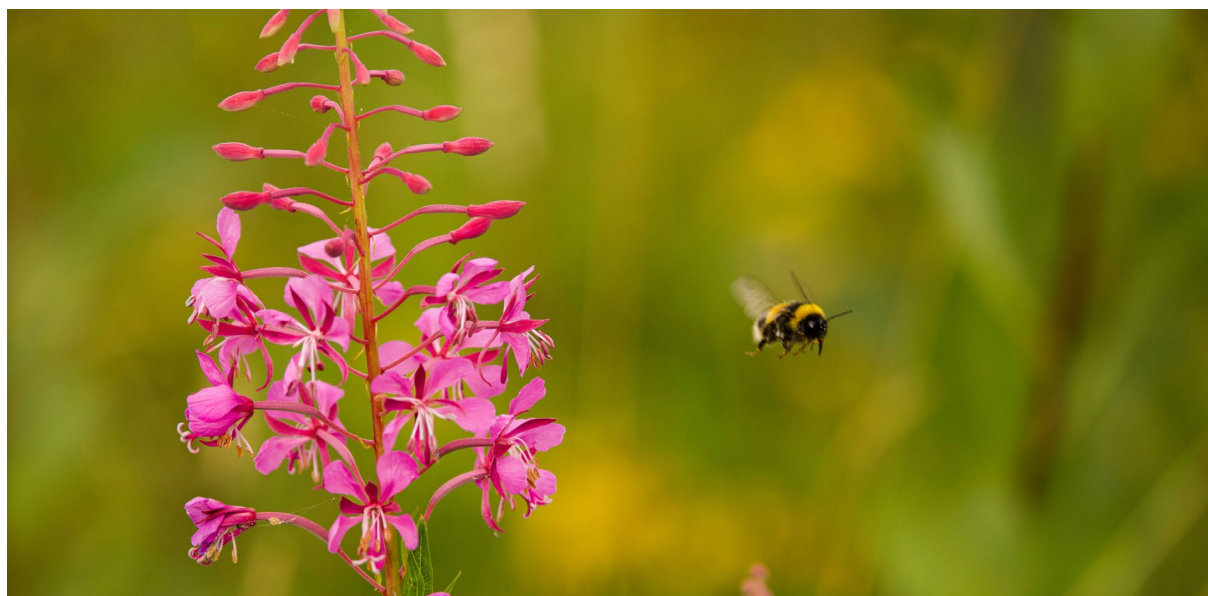
It is the policy of the UK Statistics Authority (including the Office for National Statistics, its Executive Office) to conduct its operations in a manner that reflects a commitment to the protection of the environment, embeds the principles and priorities of the Government's sustainable development strategy and complies with environmental laws and regulations.

Our Sustainable Development Policy states this will be met by:

- achieving continual improvement in environmental performance;
- considering the environmental impact of our operations and prevent pollution and reduce carbon emissions;
- aiming to meet the targets (KPIs) established by the Greening Government Commitments;
- meeting all environmental legislative requirements; and
- complying with sustainable reporting requirements.

Environmental performance

The Government's Greening Commitments (GGC) have challenged us to reduce the environmental impact of our estate and operations. This section and table below presents our progress against these KPIs and targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, such as carbon and waste, on a yearly basis with the goal of net zero by 2050. Please note the current GGC period is 2021 to 2025, with our baseline period set from 2017/2018.



There was a change to flight data requirements in 2022-23, from number of flights to kilometres travelled on international flights. To ensure accurate comparison, we have converted the baseline figure into kilometres to allow tracking through the period.

Summary for 2022-23

Annual performance - 2022-23	Whole estate								
	GHG emissions	Direct building emissions	Waste		Water	Paper purchased	Domestic flights	International flights	
	tCO2e	tCO2e	Total tonnes	% sent to landfill	% waste recycled	Total m3	Reams A4 equivalent	tCO2e	km travelled
2022-23	1,854	224	160	6.60%	59.00%	13,449	18,550	32	2,887,820
Baseline	4,878	605	359	4.30%	69.20%	15,037	34,860	100	2,308,438

Reduce our emissions

The Authority has been tasked with reducing its overall emissions by 38% and direct emissions by 43%, as part of the GGC commitments. We can confirm that during the period 2022/23, our overall emissions reduced by 62% and our direct building emissions reduced by 63%.

The GGC also challenges the Authority to reduce domestic flights by 30% against the new baseline figures from 2017/2018. The Authority has a travel policy which mandates that the cheapest method of transport be employed for any journey, which could encourage domestic air travel between the South East, North East and Scotland and Northern Ireland. During the Covid-19 pandemic most flights were not operating, resulting in much lower figures. Since flights have recommenced in mid-2021 there has been a slow increase in domestic flights, however these remain well within target. In 2022/23 our domestic flights were down 68% against baseline. GGC reporting records the number of kilometres travelled for international flights, which does show some increase. It should be noted that a significant proportion of this increase relates to a change in the practice of accounting for international flight mileage between the ONS and other government departments.

Improve our waste management

All information communication technology (ICT) equipment is disposed of via an established contract which helps ensure that all redundant ICT equipment is re-used or recycled responsibly.

The Authority has successfully reduced its overall waste by 55% against the baseline figures which target a reduction of 15%. The Authority has also reduced paper use by 47% which is slightly over the target set by GGC, however the Authority is working closely with social surveys to manage this.

Water Use

In 2022/2023, water consumption has been reduced by 11% against the baseline figures, exceeding the target of an 8% reduction.

Sustainable procurement

The Authority's standard Terms and Conditions requires all suppliers to comply with our Sustainable Development Policy, which includes, but is not limited to, the conservation of energy, water, wood, paper and other resources, a reduction in waste, the phasing out of the use of ozone depleting substances and the minimisation of the release of greenhouse gases, volatile organic compounds and other substances damaging to health and the environment.

Building on changes to procurement policy, the Authority has been able to fully embrace social value within a tender, placing it as a significant, mandated element of any evaluation. Key to the success of the implementation of social value is the ongoing work with our supply base to develop specifications and requirements that have sustainability at their heart.

The Authority extensively uses Public Sector Framework arrangements collaboratively managed by government organisations such as the Crown Commercial Service (CCS) and the Government Digital Services' (GDS). The CCS and GDS frameworks aim to encourage small and medium sized enterprises and local businesses to bid for work with support available to them if required. The Authority continues to support the engagement of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across our contract base.

The requirements of the Government Buying Standards (GBS) are issued to the Commercial Services team on a quarterly basis via the Commercial Update, which is a comprehensive review of all Procurement news and legislation. The quarterly updates also provide information from across the Commercial Team such as data from the Cabinet Office approved Commercial Pipeline as these assist the Team in reviewing opportunities that may be of interest to smaller or local business, ensuring appropriate timetables and market engagement are utilised.

Food and catering

All contractors are required to adhere to our Sustainable Development Policy, but Covid Secure arrangements have impacted this with the re-introduction of packaging that had previously been eradicated from the service. We have worked with the catering providers to eradicate single use plastics, where possible as the controls in place during the pandemic are removed from the Authority offices.

Sustainable construction

The Authority's refurbishment and construction works are designed and built with the objective of improving the performance of the estate, and in so doing contribute to achievement of Greening Government Commitments target. For example, this includes the installation of LED sensor light fittings as standard, low flow taps and carpets with recycled backing. All contractors are required to complete a sustainability questionnaire used as part of the tender process and are required to source materials in line with the GBS.

Our Evolving the Workplace programme has reused existing furniture where possible, and any surplus has been given to community organisations and charities with any residual items planned for sustainable recycling through specialist vendors.

Biodiversity

The Authority complies with The Environment (Wales) Act 2016, Section 6 on Biodiversity. It does not have any responsibility for Sites of Special Scientific Interest but takes such action as it can, to promote, conserve and enhance biodiversity for example by specification of environmentally friendly measures in its grounds maintenance contract.

Climate change adaptation

The Authority's Sustainable Development Action Plan considers the long-term implications of its operations in relation to climate change. This Action Plan is updated yearly and assesses any risks of climate change, how the estate may require necessary adaptation, is robust in the face of changing weather, extreme events and sea level rises from climate change. Business Continuity uses scenario-based exercises to plan for events including any potential effects of extreme weather on our estate.

Sustainable governance and decision making

Our Sustainable Development Policy and Action Plan are embedded within our overall governance and decision making. Since 2017/18, when our Environmental Champions' Group was initiated, many improvement projects have been identified, elevated and presented to senior management for approval.

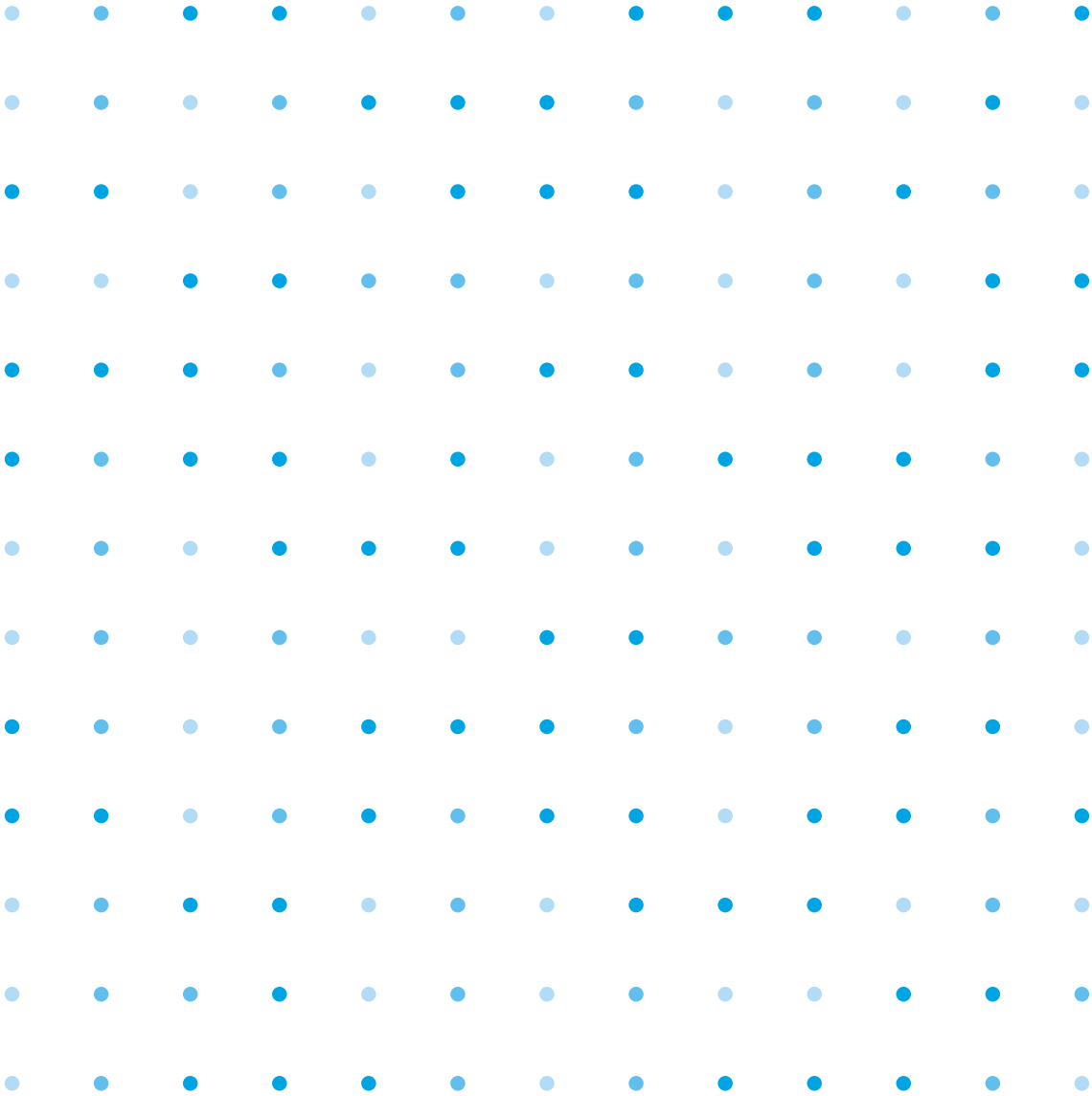
Rural proofing

Our estate is not positioned in rural areas, nor do the estate's operational policies affect rural areas.



Professor Sir Ian Diamond

National Statistician
UK Statistics Authority
07 July 2023



Statement of Accounting Officer's responsibilities

Under the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000, HM Treasury has directed the Authority to prepare for each financial year resource accounts detailing the resources acquired, held or disposed of during the year and the use of resources by the Authority during the year

The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and must give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Authority and of its income and expenditure, Statement of Financial Position and cash flows for the financial year.

In preparing the accounts, the Accounting Officer is required to comply with the requirements of the Government Financial Reporting Manual and in particular to:

- observe the Accounts Direction issued by HM Treasury, including the relevant accounting and disclosure requirements, and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis;
- make judgements and estimates on a reasonable basis;
- state whether applicable accounting standards as set out in the Government Financial Reporting Manual have been followed, and disclose and explain any material departures in the accounts;
- prepare the accounts on a going concern basis;
- confirm that the Annual Report and Accounts as a whole is fair, balanced and understandable and take personal responsibility for the Annual Report and Accounts and the judgements required for determining that it is fair, balanced and understandable.

HM Treasury has appointed the Permanent Secretary of the Authority as Accounting Officer of the Authority.

The responsibilities of an Accounting Officer, including responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which the Accounting Officer is answerable, for keeping proper records and for safeguarding the Authority's assets, are set out in Managing Public Money published by the HM Treasury.

As the Accounting Officer, I have taken all the steps that I ought to have taken to make myself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Authority's auditors are aware of that information. So far as I am aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware.



Governance statement

Responsibilities

As Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for maintaining effective governance and a sound system of internal control to support the achievement of the Authority's policies, aims and objectives. As part of this role I safeguard the public funds and assets for which I am personally responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to me. I confirm that the Annual Report and Accounts as a whole is fair, balanced and understandable and I take personal responsibility for the Annual Report and Accounts and the judgments required for determining that it is fair, balanced and understandable. This statement sets out the key challenges faced by the UK Statistics Authority (the Authority), the issues which have arisen, the remaining risks, and the system of control to manage these risks. Our Governance Statement supports the description of our performance provided in the Annual Report (Chapter 2) which sets out our strategy and the progress we have made towards delivery.

In line with commitments made by the Authority to the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee, I appointed Mr Ed Humpherson as an additional Accounting Officer, with responsibility for the OSR budget, from 1 June 2020. The appointment was made at my discretion under the terms of Managing Public Money policy, whereby additional accounting officers for defined parts of the department's business can be appointed by the principal Accounting Officer. The position carries with it the responsibility for ensuring that resources approved by the UK Statistics Authority Board for the Office for Statistics Regulation are used for the purposes intended.

Compliance with the Corporate Governance Code

I have assessed the Authority's compliance with the Corporate Governance in the Central Government Departments' Code of Good Practice 2017. The code focuses on governance arrangements for ministerial departments, Section 1.1 ministerial chairmanship of the Board is not directly relevant to the Authority due to our statutory framework and status as a non-ministerial department. However, in all other areas we comply with the spirit and principles of the code.

Role of the Authority Board during 2022/23

The UK Statistics Authority Board (Authority Board) has the statutory objective of promoting and safeguarding the production and publication of official statistics that 'serve the public good'. In accordance with the 2007 Act, the Authority Board is comprised of a majority of non-executive directors (including a Chair) appointed through open competition, and three executive members, as set out in the 2022/23 Governance and Committees of the Board table.

The post of Chair of the UK Statistics Authority is a Crown appointment. Sir Robert Chote was appointed following an open competition and subject to a pre-appointment hearing by the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee and a formal debate on the floor of the House of Commons. Sir Robert took up his post on 1 June 2022 and his term of appointment, for a five year term. Sian Jones was the interim Chair from 1 April 2022 to 30 May 2022.

Governance and Committees of the Authority Board during 2022/23

During 2022/23 sub-committees, which supported the Authority Board in its work and reported to it, met as follows:

Audit and Risk Assurance Committee

Chaired by Nora Nanayakkara and met six times.

Purpose: To support the Authority Board and the Authority's Accounting Officer in their responsibilities for risk management, control and governance, finance oversight and scrutiny.

Regulation Committee

Chaired by Professor Anne Trefethen / Sir Robert Chote and met five times.

Purpose: To oversee the programme of assessment of sets of official statistics against the Code of Practice plus other work related to assessment and regulation.

Remuneration Committee

Chaired by Sir Robert Chote and met two times.

Purpose: To determine 2021/22 performance bonuses for the members of the Senior Civil Service employed by the Authority and to consider other staff pay issues.

Topics covered by each committee

Authority Board

Strategy and Business planning; Board effectiveness; Census 2021; Future of Population and migration statistics; COVID-19 Infection Survey (CIS) and Surveillance Studies; Digital CIS; Economic Statistics transformation; Inclusive Data Taskforce; Integrated Data Service Programme; National Statistics Designation; Strategic Risks; UK Humanitarian Response Insight Survey; Policy Liaison Unit; Public Confidence in Official Statistics; Field Data Strategy; Data Assets; People Plan; UK Labour Market; Subnational Statistics/ONS Local; Business Survey Transformation.

Audit and Risk Assurance Committee

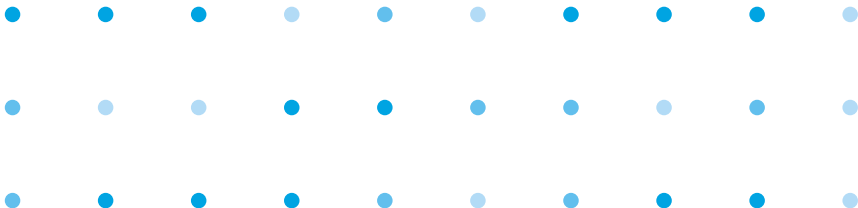
Annual Report and Accounts; Business planning; Risk and Assurance (including risk management); Census and Data Collection Transformation Programme; COVID-19 Infection Survey; Committee effectiveness; Corporate Governance Assurance; External Audit; Finances; Fraud; Integrated Data Service Programme; Whistleblowing; Data Acquisition; GDPR; Office for Statistics Regulation annual update; Internal Audits: Legacy transformation; Security and Data Protection; Statistical Quality, Economic statistics transformation.

Regulation Committee

Annual Business Plan and Regulatory Programme; Annual Review of Casework; National Statistics Designation Review; OSR Maturity Model; Risk Management; Horizon Scanning; Annual Review of Committee Effectiveness; Transparency; UK Standard Industrial Classification; Data Linkage; Statistical Literacy; Guidance for Models; Assessments: 2021 Censuses in England and Wales and Northern Ireland and the Census in Scotland; Population and Migration; Police Recorded Crime; Climate Change; Economic Classifications; State of the Statistical System; Systemic Reviews: COVID-19 and Lessons Learned.

Remuneration Committee

Senior Civil Service performance moderation (base pay and non-consolidated performance related award).



Attendance at the Authority Board and its sub-committees

Members	Authority Board	Audit and Risk Assurance Committee	Regulation Committee	Remuneration Committee
Non-executive members				
Sir Robert Chote Chair	9/9		4/4	2/2
Ms Sian Jones Deputy Chair	8/10	5/6	1/1	1/2
Dr Jacob Abboud	2/2	1/1		
Professor Sir John Aston	8/8	4/4		
Ms Helen Boaden	6/7		2/4	
Mr Richard Dobbs	10/10		5/5	
Professor Jonathan Haskel	5/7		4/4	
Nora Nanayakkara	8/10	5/6		
Professor Dame Carol Propper	2/2			
Professor Sir David Spiegelhalter	10/10		5/5	
Professor Ann Trefethen	5/7		4/4	2/2
Ms Penny Young	2/2			
Executive members				
Professor Sir Ian Diamond Chief Executive and National Statistician	10/10	6/6		2/2
Mr Ed Humpherson Director General for Regulation	10/10		5/5	
Ms Sam Beckett Deputy Chief Executive and Second Permanent Secretary	8/10			

Board effectiveness review

This year's board effectiveness review was overseen by the Chair of the Authority Board. A survey was undertaken that sought members' views on:

- processes for agreeing business plans
- adequacy of information provided to the Board, to allow it to monitor performance and progress
- board composition and culture
- support for members
- areas of focus for the coming year

The outcome of the survey was discussed at the board meeting in July 2022. The responses indicated an improvement in the operation of the Board in a number of areas including business planning and risk discussions. The Chair continued to provide an open and supportive culture to allow an inclusive, open and challenging environment for discussion. The Board considered important strategic issues focusing on the delivery of the strategy, Statistics for the Public Good. Members indicated that in the coming year, delivery of the strategy should continue to be the area of focus including the Integrated Data Service, the Digital COVID-19 Infection Survey, dissemination of Census outputs, statistics transformation, people issues and the trustworthy communication of quality statistics.

Assurance over the quality of information

The Authority Board recognised the need to ensure it receives sound advice and information to enable informed decisions to be made.

The Secretariat works with teams to ensure the information provided is of a good quality, with a template used for committee papers, structured to ensure risks and resource implications are highlighted and to ensure sufficient engagement and challenge during discussions.

The structure and information contained in regular agenda items are reviewed annually as part of the board effectiveness review.

An Integrated Performance and Finance Report is provided to the Authority Board in each meeting to aid decision making and the Strategic Risk framework has been discussed throughout 2022/23. Overall, the Authority Board has been content with the quality of the data it has been provided with during the year.

Executive Committees during 2022/23

I chair the National Statistics Executive Group (NSEG). The role of NSEG is to support the National Statistician in the exercise of my functions as the Head of the Government Statistics Service (GSS) and Analysis Function, and as Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority and ONS, so as to achieve the collective mission and strategic objectives of the official statistics system.

This group met on 6 occasions during 2022/23.

Management of risk



Financial year 2022/23 has seen continued focus and investment in embedding the Authority's risk and assurance approach, ensuring clear ownership and accountability. Colleagues have become more aware of their responsibility in relation to risk management, and of the organisation's appetite for risk, leading to more challenging and mature leadership conversations related to the risks to strategic delivery across the Governance Framework.

Risk management approach

The Risk and Assurance Framework provides our mechanism for the identification and analysis of risk across the ONS. It also ensures we can provide assurance that risks to the delivery of the Authority's Strategy are being managed within risk appetite.

The Authority Board has ultimate accountability for risk management, with responsibility for agreeing our Strategic Risk profile and the associated risk appetite. Updates on the Strategic Risk profile are provided to the Board on a bi-annual basis.

The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee has responsibility for advising the Board on the effectiveness of governance, risk management and the system of internal control. Updates are provided to each ARAC meeting on the evolving Strategic Risk profile, as well as other relevant risk and assurance activities. ARAC provides scrutiny over the management of the strategic risks in order to satisfy itself that major risks are identified, that mitigation strategies and appropriate levels of assurance are in place, and regularly challenge and hold the Risk and Assurance team and Strategic Risk Owners to account.

Executive accountability for risk management resides with the National Statistician (the Accounting Officer), with executive oversight residing with the National Statistician's Executive Group (NSEG) and its sub-committee the Projects and Investment Committee (PIC). NSEG receives updates on the Strategic Risks at each meeting through the monthly Integrated Performance Report, and more in-depth analysis of the emerging risk environment and Strategic Risk profile on a quarterly basis through the Strategic Risk & Assurance Report. Risk owners are accountable for providing their updates to the relevant sub committees with the Risk and Assurance team providing independent assessment of progress.

The Authority operates a 'Three Lines of Defence' model to distinguish the different executive responsibilities for risk and assurance:

1. First line

Owns and manages risk including implementation of controls and have primary responsibility for establishing effective governance and control frameworks. Undertaken by our senior leaders and Directors.

2. Second Line

Functions that set risk and assurance policy and frameworks to enable risk and compliance to be managed in the first line. They provide independent (of management chain) oversight and constructive challenge, advice and review of the first line to support the management of risks and achievement of objectives.

3. Third line

Provides assurance to the Accounting Officer, ARAC and the Authority Board that risk management and controls are appropriate and effective through independently and objectively evaluating internal controls, risk management

and governance processes. This is undertaken by Internal Audit. For programmes on the Government Major Projects Portfolio, third line assurance is also provided by the Infrastructure and Projects Authority.

The Authority Risk Management and Assurance Framework complies with the Government Finance Function's Orange Book principles for risk management.

In 2022/23 the Authority's Risk & Assurance team undertook its annual risk maturity assessment which noted an increase in maturity compared to the prior year and slightly above the benchmark score across other government organisations.

UK Statistics Authority strategic risks

The Strategic Risk profile (Figure 1) demonstrates the most significant risks to the successful delivery of the UKSA Strategy and its statutory objectives, owned by the UKSA senior leadership. The profile is agreed by the Authority Board on an annual basis, with reference to the UKSA Strategy, the ONS Business Plan and the external environment. There have been no newly identified risks during 2022/23.

UK Statistics Authority strategic risks summary

Independence and trustworthiness

The risk that the statutory independence of the UK Statistics Authority is, or is perceived to be, compromised by political interests or commercial relationships.

Mitigation includes – clear internal governance and oversight of strategy delivery and income streams; regular engagement with Parliament (including through the National Statistician appearing before the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Select Committee) and responding to public enquiries; intervening when statistics are misused; fair and open recruitment processes for the Authority Chair, National Statistician and Non-Executive Directors; safeguards to ensure funding does not compromise independence and clear separation of roles within the Authority (e.g. the role of OSR).

Keeping pace with the analytical priorities of society

The risk that the UKSA does not identify or prioritise answering the key analytical questions to respond with agility and pace in and provide timely and relevant data and/or does not take opportunities to collaborate on analysis across Government, devolved regions, local authorities, data providers and data users.

Mitigation includes – regular and ongoing stakeholder engagement with the centre of government; cross-ONS and GSS horizon scanning; the evolving workplan of the Analytical Hub; improving the availability, dissemination and range of statistics and analysis providing insight at subnational level of geography (ONS Local); ensuring preparedness for crisis response; collation of insight from external non-government users to inform analytical priorities.

Delivery of strategic ambition

The risk that the UKSA is unable to ensure that appropriate investment and/or resource is allocated to the key activities that impact on the strategy, and/or is unable to respond with agility to new/emerging priorities.

Mitigation includes – regular engagement with HMT including submission of fiscal returns and investment cases; ongoing financial management; Efficiencies Programme and framework for facilitating and managing delivery of efficiencies; prioritisation framework informing decision making, supported by end to end cost and resource plans; quarterly assessments to understand capacity to deliver priorities; maintenance of robust, agile and forward-facing business plan alongside scrutiny of delivery of business plan, objectives and programmes.

Quality statistics

The risk that the quality (and/or perception of quality) of UKSA outputs diminishes due to the scope, nature and focus of statistics changing, in addition to the use of wider data sources, the streamlining of processes, legacy technology and updated methodological approaches.

Mitigation includes – the Statistical Quality Maturity Model (SQMM) to assess process, methods, and systems in output areas; divisional Quality Improvement Plans; training and guidance; scrutiny of errors and near misses; implementation of reproducible analytical pipelines and automation to reduce errors, increase reproducibility and transparency; delivery of legacy transformation programmes; Quality Deep Dives to review the quality of sets of statistics; development of data quality culture and divisional Quality Champions building capability.

Security, legal and ethical

The risk of an accidental information loss and/or a successful cyber or physical attack resulting in service disruption and/or a data breach or legal non-compliance.

Mitigation includes – a suite of physical, technical, data, information management, people and process security controls, underpinned by the Security and Information Strategy and organisational security framework; risk-based compliance and audit activity to validate the correct build and operation of services and the access that users have to data; a business continuity framework maintaining high level of resilience and; security training and internal awareness campaigns to raise awareness and to reinforce behavioral expectations.

Our people

The risk that the UKSA is unable to attract, develop, retain and deploy individuals with the best analytical and professional skills; we are unable to build a diverse and inclusive pool of talent; we are unable to build a workforce that is agile and adaptable to change; and/or we are unable to enhance the sustainability and wellbeing of our workforce.

Mitigation includes – strategic resourcing framework which includes prioritisation led deployment; skills strategy; inclusion and diversity (I&D) plan including mandatory I&D goals and training, targeted leadership programs; a suite of retention controls including health and wellbeing and; Digital, Data and Technology (DDaT) pay framework, all contributing to building an agile, sustainable and diverse workforce.

Our communications

The risk that the UKSA is not open, accessible, coherent and timely, is not seen as transparent, is misunderstood or misused and is unable to respond with agility.

Mitigation includes – proactive communications with stakeholders and the public through the Engagement Hub to build awareness, understanding and acceptance of the ONS'(s) use of data; regular monitoring focused on the accuracy and timeliness of statistical outputs and; contingency plans, social media policy, publishing improvement plan to ensure consistency and reduce the risk of publishing failures, corrections and errors.

Inclusivity in our statistics and analysis

The risk that UKSA's presentation of society is not inclusive and reflective of all aspects of the UK's rapidly changing economy, demographics, and policy priorities.

Mitigation includes – addressing the recommendations of the Inclusive Data Taskforce (delivering commitments owned within ONS and monitoring progress of externally owned commitments); providing updates to National Statistician's Inclusive Data Advisory Committee; establishment of cross-GSS sub-committee on Inclusive Data to support GSS analysis.

Ability to transform and accurately measure population and migration

The risk that the UKSA fails to i) accurately produce its core population and migration statistics offering and/or does not deliver the transformation required for it to be fit for the future and ii) fails to provide a credible evidence base for the acceptance of the 2023 recommendation by Parliament.

Mitigation includes – the creation and implementation of a roadmap for establishing and delivering a robust set of evidence required to support the 2023 Recommendation, publication of the outcomes of the 2023 Recommendation Consultation, delivery of the Future of Population Migration and Social Statistics outline business case, development of a transition plan for embedding research into official Statistics and ensuring the supply of Administrative Data to support the transformation of population and migration statistics.

Public health monitoring, reporting and analysis

The risk that the UKSA is unable to deliver its remit and strategic aims in the health policy space and respond at pace to key health policy questions.

Mitigation includes – development of the Longitudinal COVID-19 study; contract management procedures to ensure delivery of the covid infection survey; delivering the ONS Health Outline Strategy; developing public acceptability of government use of data; developing a broader stakeholder engagement strategy that incorporates collaboration with academia and the emerging public health policy authorities for post 2023; developing an approach to future population health monitoring that provides the agility for future scale up and delivery; and ensuring support from the Analytical Hub to enable agile and flexible responses required to deliver priority outputs.

Data access and usability

The risk that the UKSA does not have or is unable to obtain regular and sustainable access to administrative data (admin and survey) that is useable and of sufficient quality to deliver on its commitments and ambitions including the Integrated Data Service (IDS).

Mitigation includes – supporting the building of the Integrated Data Service to support cross-government sharing of data and efficient access to datasets; the Data Pipeline Service Design project to optimise data acquisition requests and efficiencies in data processes; effective account management of key data stakeholders to ensure relationships are nurtured and; established Data Principles, policies and standards to ensure data integrity and security.

Technological resilience

The risk that the UKSA technology estate (inc. third party suppliers, software, systems, services, and platforms) is unreliable, obsolescent, or no longer supported.

Mitigation includes – an ongoing programme of upgrades and patching across the ONS IT estate to address identified flaws and vulnerabilities in applications and software; delivery of the ONS Digital and Technology Strategy which contains a strategic roadmap that identifies the reduction in reliance on Legacy systems, and migration to Cloud native technologies; continuous improvement of the IT disaster recovery capability; and management of third party contracts.

Data and security management

The overall security of our systems, in particular our key data management environment, the Data Access Platform (DAP), remains vitally important. The security and data assurance of the Integrated Data Service (IDS), a new platform approach for the secure sharing and use of Government data for analysis and research, was a key programme throughout 2022/23. Substantial focused work has supported the launch and operation of a range of beta versions. Transforming the security of DAP and IDS using modern techniques and technology supports the Authority and wider Government transformation of statistics, and our ongoing success in operating these.

Over the last year our security and information management provision has matured and is operating well, as a result of the implementation and operation of the revised Security and Information Strategy – Evolving A Resilient ONS 2021 – 2023. The key objectives continues to provide substantial security measures that protect the organisation and its data – secure ONS business transformation; build stronger internal security understanding and relationships; empower business areas to make more security decisions within an overarching framework of protection; highlight security risk more clearly with appropriate mitigation choices; demonstrate ongoing security assurance and increase maturity through resilience.

Important elements this year have been improvements in security risk management and support for the rollout of new technologies underpinned by public cloud platforms. We now provide UKSA-wide visibility of security risk through the corporate risk register. This enhances our collective understanding of risk and enables focused snapshots to be presented to business areas for increased awareness and management to within the agreed corporate risk appetite. Mitigation plans to reduce risk ensure that the risk owner knows who is actioning a particular mitigation and when this should be completed by. The security approach also utilises new capabilities offered by our cloud partners that ensure services are appropriately protected. We have provisioned dedicated security resources covering all cloud environments alongside a mature service support model to supply security resources to business areas. There is on-going work to advance the ONS cloud assurance approach through a matured third-party supplier assessment. This includes close working with business areas to identify risks through our secure-by-design methodology, provide suitable mitigations and manage these through to maturity in the live operational environment. This provisioning has also included 24 hour, 7 days a week protective monitoring response to assess, alert and respond to anomalous events within our services.

Following the full rollout last year of an office wide, modern Business Continuity Management System (BCMS) that created a single organisation view of business priority outputs and their underpinning technology, substantial effort has been made to maintain the capability within business areas. This year has seen a whole-office refresh of every business area impact assessment, business continuity plan and comprehensive testing to ensure the BCMS remains current and responsive for service resilience.

Our support to the Digital Economy Act continues through the security assessment of potential data processors under Act and Code of Practice. Maintaining high levels of security protection for public data used in research is a key requirement for the Authority. Our experts have assessed organisations for accreditation this year to ensure strong security controls are in place to host and process data, with the Research Accreditation Panel making a determination

on the formal accreditation. In addition, several annual assessments have been performed on accredited organisations to ensure that their security environment remains strong, with appropriate improvements being implemented.

Public confidence and support for the provision of data is critical, including the acceptability of legislation such as the Digital Economy Act. We recognise that a data or cyber breach in the management of data could impact this significantly. To support our approach to managing these areas, we have made significant investment in protective technology, monitoring services and vulnerability testing together with staff training and development. This has included extensive engagement with the National Cyber Security Centre and with key Government department security teams. Enhanced security training is now a mandatory requirement for all staff, with substantial effort being put into behavioural security to provide staff with the awareness needed so they play a stronger part in the defence of the Authority.

Information management

With significant levels of confidential data collected and acquired for use in official statistics, information management and confidentiality are critical considerations where people, processes and systems interface with the external world. Staff working in some parts of the Authority have access to a range of business and personal data to produce high quality, accurate statistics. There is a recognised, strong cultural understanding that information must be handled lawfully, accurately and securely, supported by strong legal, technological, and business processes.

Management of the Authority's documents and records throughout their lifecycle and according to information legislation remains a core activity. Technical enhancements to the corporate document management system has enabled increased collaboration. This has also focused attention on ensuring information is labelled using native automation tooling for heightened monitoring purposes.

The migration of the Information Asset Register to a modern platform has enabled improved metadata collection for the data sources that the Authority continues to acquire as an aid to supporting the Authority's use of data.

The data protection auditing, and compliance monitoring service continues to report on all activities across the Authority from a data protection perspective, also supporting the work of the Data Protection Officer in providing guidance, training and awareness of data protection requirements.

I am required to report any significant breaches relating to personal data to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). There have been no such incidents during 2022/2023.

Developments in the control environment

Maintaining and improving an effective system of internal controls and governance within the Authority remains a key priority. The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to an acceptable level and within our agreed risk appetite, rather than to eliminate all risk. A strong internal control environment facilitates the Authority's effective and efficient operation. Additionally, an effective system of internal control helps us to ensure the quality of both internal and external reporting. It also serves to ensure compliance with applicable law and regulations, as well as our internal policies.

During 2022/23 we made significant improvements to the internal control environment. These include:

- The continued embedding of the governance framework and structure of the sub-committees below the National Statistician's Executive Group which places the Strategic Objectives and Strategic Risks at the core of their Terms of Reference to provide robust oversight and challenge.
- Continued maturity in the oversight of organisational Risk and Assurance management, with the release of a Risk and Assurance Framework; an integrated approach to reporting; and assurance over our strategic business plan, objectives, risks and finances.
- A particular focus on risks related to statistical quality, security and data access and usability. In all cases to identify the controls required, ensure they are operating effectively and monitoring key metrics to assure ourselves risks are well managed.
- The creation of qualitative risk appetite statements alongside further enhancements and reporting of risk appetite metrics and assurance maps across the Authority's priority strategic risk profile.
- An enhanced focus on the investigation of incidents and control failures, as well as addressing assurance gaps identified by undertaking targeted reviews.
- An updated prioritisation framework that includes Strategic Risk mitigation and has been fully embedded in the planning and resource management processes

These developments have provided organisational stability to manage the ongoing and changing demands placed upon us. We will continue to focus in this area to maintain the confidence and integrity of our internal control framework.

A revised corporate governance assurance statement (CGAS) was developed to ensure and maintain focus on core areas of internal control, including people; risk; governance; security; statistical quality; portfolio management; commercial and finance management. This provided clearer articulation of questions, expected evidence (including management information (MI)) to inform responses, and validation of responses by subject matter experts. The outcomes

of this exercise have broadly confirmed adequacy of the control environment. Nonetheless, an assurance support plan has been created, focusing on the limited areas where improvement is required over the next twelve months.

Assurances from Internal Audit

The Internal Audit function provides the National Statistician and the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee with a clearer view on any emerging risks. The internal audit programme is closely linked to the key risks of the Authority. Arrangements are in place to ensure that the National Statistician is made aware of any significant issues which indicate that key risks are not being effectively managed. The Internal Audit service complies with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

Opinion of the Head of Internal Audit

The role of internal audit is to provide management and ARAC members with an objective assessment of the adequacy and effectiveness of the internal control, risk management and governance arrangements as part of the Authority's assurance cycle. We help to inform and update the organisation's risk profile and are one of the key sources of assurance available to the Accounting Officer, Board and Committee.

My annual opinion recognises the wider control and operating environment within the Authority, the level and extent of change, and the way in which the organisation is managing and responding to its key risks. The opinion I provide reflects the status of the risk, control and governance environment at the date of this report and reflects the evidence available.

I conclude that overall, the UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) has maintained sound systems of governance, internal control and risk management. But there is scope for improvement, and this is reflected in my overall level of assurance which is Moderate.

When formulating my opinion, I have reflected upon results of the Internal Audit programme of reviews, progress by management in implementing agreed actions to address controls gaps, the status of strategic risks, and the outputs of first and second- line assurance providers.

Risk Management

I have recognised the positive assurance of second line functions, in particular Risk Management, where following a number of years of continuous improvement, all strategic risks are now reporting within risk appetite, reflecting improvements in the control framework and in control implementation for each risk. Successful initiatives include identification of Risk & Assurance leads to support active risk management, progress with assurance mapping, and

introduction of a new risk management tool. Some gaps across first and second lines remain which we expect to be addressed via the establishment of a cross functional Assurance Group.

Corporate Assurance & Governance

We are pleased to note that no major control weaknesses have been identified via the revised Corporate Governance Assurance Statement (CGAS), or the recently completed fraud risk assessment.

Internal Audit Assurance Programme Results

Turning to our own programme of work, we noted areas of good practice across UKSA from our work on key financial controls and the results of the financial efficiencies programme, which evidenced sound financial controls at both strategic and operational levels. We also recognise good practice in recruitment and onboarding, and the progress made in designing and implementing the Corporate Systems Improvement Programme (CSIP) initiatives.

We note that the majority of programmes reviewed exhibited Moderate assurance, acknowledging the challenging resourcing position. We also recognise continuous improvements in risk management, (described above), alongside the introduction of governance improvements which should embed in FY 23/24.

Notwithstanding this good practice, there are two areas where our work highlights opportunities for improvement:

Firstly, under the Technology / Information Security theme, we raised issues with Legacy Technology, Cyber Security, and Shared Drives. We noted that longstanding issues with legacy technology replacement were addressed more slowly than planned. We recommended improvements to controls covering information assets, and cyber security arrangements. We viewed that lack of management oversight on shared drives left risks outside of appetite.

We are pleased to note that the majority of these issues have either been addressed by management, and/or plans are in place to close more challenging actions which depend on replacing technology assets. These include creating a Legacy Hub to develop and implement the organisational strategy for legacy and automation.

Secondly, under the Programme/Operations risk themes, we raised issues in our reviews of Statistical Quality improvements (RAP), and the ARIES programmes. We viewed that initiatives to improve statistical quality, while well-conceived, lacked capacity and capability to match the organisations' ambition, while the ARIES programme would benefit from more clarity and communication of programme coverage, benefits, and governance arrangements once funding

is established. More generally across the programmes we reviewed, we noted a challenging environment in securing resourcing, in prioritisation, in ensuring timely programme implementation, exacerbated by congestion across the change and operational landscape.

Trend / Direction of Travel

I have reflected on the drivers underpinning the rise in Limited opinion reviews in FY 22/23.

The Authority alongside the rest of government is now operating in a tight fiscal environment. While facing some financial challenges in year, we note that the Authority achieved optimal financial outcomes at year end. However, the pivoting of the organisation from a position of extraordinarily high funding back to a 'steadier state' continues to require careful management.

Future budget constraints may result in some business activities being paused, reduced, or stopped, and careful consideration will need to be given by management to any impacts on overall risk profiles. Given this environment, we will review financial efficiency and resource management in the FY 23/24 Audit Programme, as management's performance in these important control areas could be key mitigations to some of the risks that may come with a tight fiscal environment.

When formulating my Opinion, I have recognised that Management have already taken steps to address any of the issues raised to bring the control framework back in line with good practice, via a concerted effort to address outstanding management actions. Looking ahead, embedding these improvements alongside adapting to the funding environment should be a key focus for FY 23/24.

Resourcing and Performance

During FY 23/24 the Audit Team experienced rapid turnover of staff and leadership, which made delivery challenging. I am pleased to note that the inhouse Team members supported by our co-sourced partners, delivered 100% of planned assignments, and that our customer satisfaction scores remain high throughout. I consulted and informed the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee about all proposed changes to the audit plan to take account of changes in the risk landscape.

Scope and Limitations of the Annual Audit Opinion

There are no limitations on the scope of my opinion.

Opinion of the Chair of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee

Based on the work of the Committee during the year and the assurance work carried out by the External and Internal Auditors, it is my opinion that the Authority's governance and control framework is generally effective.

The Committee accepts the overall moderate opinion from the Head of Internal Audit. The effective management of the year-end position was achieved as a result of the commitment by the Accounting Officer and the Senior Leadership Team to mitigate the financial risk of over-expenditure at year end. The significant development in risk and assurance was underpinned by the executive governance framework which has a critical role in the oversight challenge and cross organisational management of risk.

This is the third year of a moderate opinion from the Head of Internal Audit, which builds upon the successes achieved over the last two years in the three areas below. Despite significant resourcing challenges in key areas such as Internal Audit, Finance and Risk and Assurance, improvements were sustained with continued development this year in the following areas:

1. Strengthening Risk and Oversight Functions
2. Developing the culture of ownership and accountability
3. Strengthening Governance

In the coming year, the Committee will want to see a strengthening in the first line of defence with improvement needed in the management of delegated budgets and commercial capability.

Overall conclusion

In conclusion, the UK Statistics Authority's approach to governance, risk management and control is generally effective (with systems in place for 2022/23 and up to the point of approval). We have developed our approach across each of these areas during the year and I am pleased that this progress has been reflected in the assurance work that has been delivered through the year.

During 2023/24 we will continue to embed the improvements in our approach and focus on further developing our assurance activities to match the ambitions we have for the organisation and ensure that we keep pace with these activities.



Professor Sir Ian Diamond

Accounting Officer

07 July 2023

Summary financial information

Key Financial Outturns

The key financial outturns for 2022/23 are shown below:

Resources	2022/23 Estimate £'000	2022/23 Outturn £'000	Variance £'000
Departmental Expenditure Limit – Resource	363,823	352,376	11,447

The Authority has utilised 97% of its Resource funds throughout the year in progressing its strategic and operational objectives. The above figures include both ring-fenced and non-ring-fenced resources. Within this, the Authority utilised:

- 99% of its non-ring-fenced Resource funding; and
- 66% of its ring-fenced funding (Depreciation and Amortisation).

Departmental Expenditure Limit – Capital

	2022/23 Estimate £'000	2022/23 Outturn £'000	Variance £'000
Capital	38,208	35,678	2,530

The Authority has been able to utilise 93% of its Capital funds throughout the year using this funding to continue to transform our IT systems, capitalise research where appropriate in the context of ESA10, and to ensure our estate reflects our hybrid working requirements.

Depreciation and Amortisation

	2022/23 Estimate £'000	2022/23 Outturn £'000	Variance £'000
Depreciation	11,268	6,983	4,285
Amortisation	7,079	5,163	1,916
Total	18,347	12,146	6,201

The Authority has robust financial controls in place for asset management and we have been able to plan effectively for the utilisation of our assets. During the year we have continued to review our assets which verified the continued useful economic life.

Annually Managed Expenditure

	2022/23 Estimate £'000	2022/23 Outturn £'000	Variance £'000
Annually Managed Expenditure – Resource	8,400	(3,928)	12,328

The Annually Managed Expenditure saving is attributed to a reduction in the level of provisions created during the period compared to that anticipated during the Estimate process.

The Authority had planned to create provisions which did not materialise at year end. These included a potential voluntary exit scheme which was not needed due to a successful redeployment policy and levels of resource staff attrition, unredeemed survey voucher incentives which were of less value than initially anticipated and also contractual disputes not concluded within the year end period. Further details on the movements within Provisions can be found in note 12 of the Accounts chapter.

Included within the resource expenditure are staff costs which are analysed in the staff report. This shows the number of full-time equivalent staff (FTEs) and their costs, which include wages, social security and pension costs. Employees are Civil Servants to whom the conditions of the Superannuation Acts of 1965 and 1972 and subsequent amendments apply.

The Remuneration Report (pages 78 - 90) provides further information on the relevant schemes.

To support compliance with IAS24 Related Party Disclosures, all executive directors, non-executive directors and deputy directors are required to complete declarations that they have not entered into agreements or undertaken any material transactions with a related party during the year. Further information is in Note 17 of the accounts.

The accounts of the Authority are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General and his Certificate and Report to the House of Commons is presented in the Annual Accounts on pages 108 - 114.

The financial statements are audited in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) issued by the Accounting Practices Board, and in accordance with the Government Resource and Accounts Act 2000.

Audit fees charged in the accounts amount to £129,000 (2021/22 £111,600).

Core tables

	2018/19 Outturn £'000	2019/20 Outturn £'000	2020/21 Outturn £'000	2021/22 Outturn £'000	2022/23 Outturn £'000	2023/24 Forecast £'000
Resource DEL						
Programme expenditure	280,124	307,999	458,851	448,889	352,375	322,349
Total resource DEL	280,124	307,999	458,851	448,889	352,375	322,349
<i>Of which:</i>						
Staff costs ¹	167,311	188,809	252,780	298,541	263,164	274,898
Purchases	116,592	135,652	602,696	592,702	301,593	55,034
Income	(25,493)	(30,311)	(408,204)	(453,190)	(224,528)	(26,100)
Depreciation ²	10,480	7,576	7,603	5,606	6,983	18,517
Amortisation	11,234	6,273	3,976	5,230	5,163	-
Resource AME						
Provisions	3,215	(787)	10,221	5,382	5,837	(2,000)
Utilised provisions	(765)	(1,078)	(250)	(11,217)	(9,765)	-
Total resource AME	2,450	(1,865)	9,971	(5,835)	(3,928)	(2,000)
<i>Of which:</i>						
Take up of provisions	3,215	2,348	10,791	5,435	5,984	(2,000)
Release of provisions	-	(3,135)	(570)	(53)	(147)	-
Utilisation of Provisions	(765)	(1,078)	(250)	(11,217)	(9,765)	-
Total resource budget	282,574	306,134	468,822	443,054	348,448	320,349
<i>Of which:</i>						
Depreciation and Amortisation ²	21,714	13,849	11,579	10,836	12,146	18,517
Capital DEL						
Programme expenditure	17,556	6,835	12,525	25,278	35,678	23,827
Total capital DEL	17,556	6,835	12,525	25,278	35,678	23,827
<i>Of which:</i>						
Purchase of assets	17,556	6,835	13,177	25,401	35,678	23,827
Capital Grants Received	-	-	(652)	(123)	-	-
Capital AME	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total capital budget	17,556	6,835	12,525	25,278	35,678	23,827
Total departmental spending³	278,416	299,120	469,768	457,496	371,981	325,659
<i>Of which:</i>						
Total DEL	275,966	300,985	459,797	463,331	375,909	327,659
Total AME	2,450	(1,865)	9,971	(5,835)	(3,928)	(2,000)

The Statistics Board Total departmental spending, 2018/19 to 2023/24

Notes

1. £11,326,000 of staff costs in 2022/23 associated with research and development have been analysed as capital expenditure in the Core Tables in accordance with European System of Accounts 2010 Assets and Liabilities (ESA10).
2. Includes impairments.
3. Total departmental spending is the sum of the resource, AME and the capital budget excluding depreciation. Similarly total DEL is the sum of resource and capital DEL less depreciation. AME covers the cost of provisions.

	2018/19 Outturn £'000	2019/20 Outturn £'000	2020/21 Outturn £'000	2021/22 Outturn £'000	2022/23 Outturn £'000	2023/24 Forecast £'000
Assets of which:						
Non-current assets	16	50	52	96	84	72
Current assets	21,878	24,723	132,310	90,260	53,958	25,000
Intangible assets:						
Software licences	2,539	1,892	1,570	3,562	8,004	8,532
In-house development and applications under construction	12,397	9,646	10,006	7,311	8,376	8,928
Tangible assets:						
Property plant and equipment	52,811	47,190	46,820	15,141	47,064	49,385
	89,641	83,501	190,758	116,370	117,486	91,917
Current liabilities	(44,281)	(46,212)	(163,265)	(93,576)	(76,784)	(46,000)
Non-current liabilities	(4,148)	(2,556)	(2,390)	(511)	(27,826)	(23,872)
Capital employed	41,212	34,733	25,103	22,283	12,876	22,045

Note

Capital employed is a measure of the value of the assets that add to the Authority's ability to support its future business activities. It represents the Authority's investment in its continuing operation. The significant increase in the Authority's current assets and liabilities in 2021/22 and 2020/21 is attributed to receivables and payables relating to the delivery of the Covid Infection Survey. The increase in non-current liabilities and Property plant and equipment in 2022/23 relates to adoption of IFRS16 Leases.

Prompt payment target

The Authority is committed to both the Chartered Institute of Credit Management and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's prompt payment code. The policy sets out that all invoices should be paid in accordance with contractual conditions.

Where no conditions exist, payment will be made within 30 working days of the receipt of goods or services, or the presentation of a valid invoice, whichever is the later. We made payments in accordance with this policy in 92% of transactions for the year ended 31 March 2023 (93% in 2021/22). The performance is measured in accordance with HM Treasury guidelines.

In addition to the 30 days target we endeavour to pay small and medium sized enterprises within five days. We achieved payment in accordance with this policy in 82% of transactions for the year, (85% in 2021/22) compared to a target of 80%.

Directors' report

The requirements of the Directors' report are covered by the following:

The Statistics Board, operating as The UK Statistics Authority is a non-ministerial department, operating at arm's length from Government and reporting directly to Parliament and the devolved legislatures. The Cabinet Office retains residual ministerial responsibilities for the UK Statistics Authority.

The composition of the Authority Board and its sub-committees is set out in the Governance Statement (pages 53 - 70).

The Executive Directors of the UK Statistics Authority are set out in the Remuneration Report (pages 78 - 90).

The Authority maintains a Register of Interests of its Board members. The Register of Interests is maintained on the UK Statistics Authority website at: <https://uksa.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/the-authority-board/>

It is updated at least annually. The onus is on individual members of the Authority to determine other interests that should be disclosed and to make known to the Chair and Secretariat any subsequent changes in those interests. At the start of every meeting of the Authority Board, members will be asked to declare any interests in the business on the agenda. Members should similarly make an interest known should it arise during the business of the meeting.

Personal data related incidents are described in the Governance Statement (page 65).

Other disclosures are promulgated by HM Treasury through Public Expenditure System papers.

Financial reporting to Parliament

This report forms part of the annual reporting process to Parliament. Further, and as part of the reporting process the Authority also prepares estimates of its expenditure with the Main Estimate in the early part of the financial year, and the Supplementary Estimate normally published in February. Details can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hmt-main-estimates>

Engagement and transparency

The Authority believes that transparency is a key condition and driver for the delivery of our services. As a publicly funded organisation, we have a duty to our stakeholders to be transparent about our business operations and outcome.

To provide transparency across its operations the Authority published information which is regularly updated on its own website and /or the UKSA website.

This includes:

- expenses and hospitality received by board members and senior directors
- organisation charts
- details of senior and junior posts and senior staff salaries
- details of payments to suppliers each month over £25,000
- monthly prompt payment information
- exception reporting

The Authority has a central email enquiry point, authority.enquiries@statistics.gov.uk. Enquiry handling is managed by the Secretariat. There is also a central telephone enquiry line **0845 604 1857**.

The Authority operates transparently and openly. It publishes the minutes and papers of its meetings, and correspondence regarding issues of public concern and information about other aspects of its work on its website www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk.

Contractual arrangements

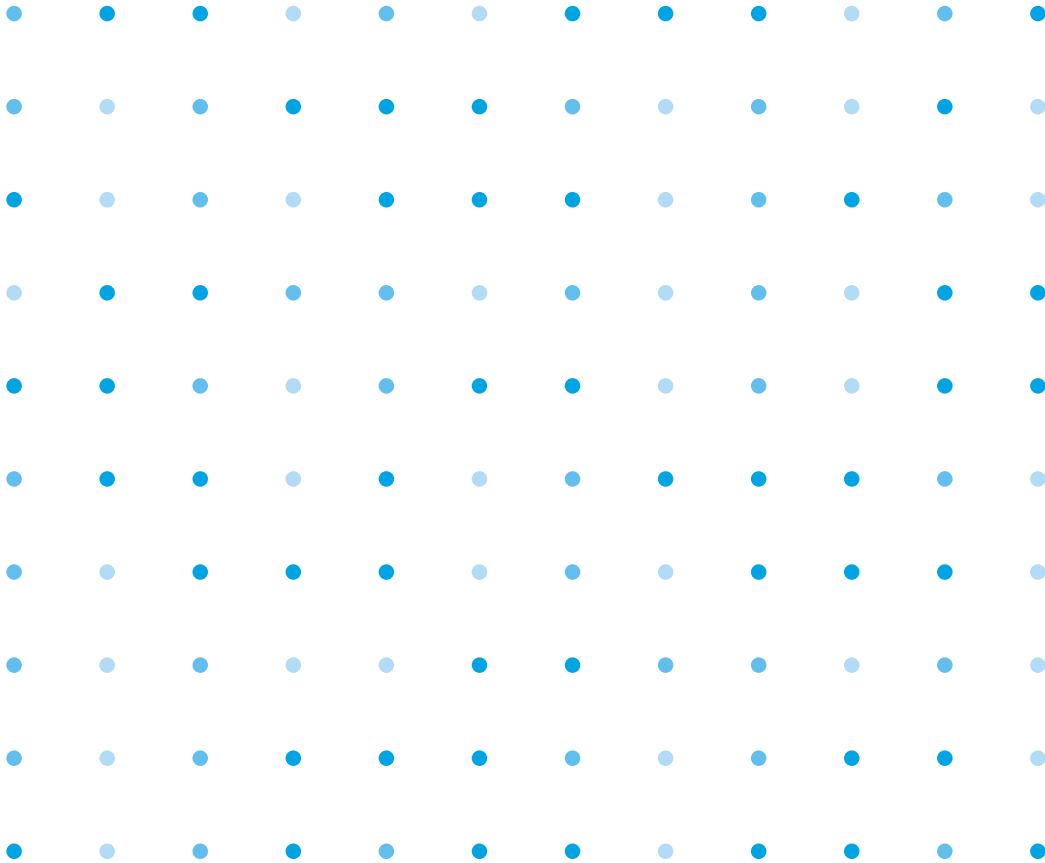
The Authority works across circa. 250 3rd party agreements to deliver its business. All contracts are tiered using a segregation tool that follows Government Commercial Operating Standards (GCOS) best practice and this allows the Authority to determine the level of engagement to successfully deliver the required contractual outcomes.

The contract segregation tool was re-imagined throughout the last year to more closely align to Cabinet Office standard practice. This new approach created at ONS combines two well respected contract management tools, and with Cabinet Office looking to roll it out across government allows more accurate contract management in the areas that provide best value. It categorises contracts into 3 tiers: Gold; Silver; and Bronze, where Gold receives the highest level of input and scrutiny from commercial contract managers, as they are considered key to delivering our operational goals. It also maps to a risk vs complexity matrix so that contract management techniques are applied most effectively.

Supplier performance is reviewed in accordance with Government Procurement Guidelines including monthly reviews to strategically monitor the financial stability of the business, Key Performance Indicators, and to share lessons learned to improve delivery across the whole portfolio.

Social value continues to be key in evaluating 3rd parties and our focus on social value produces contracts that have additional benefits for the local communities they serve. For example, producing a more inclusive and accessible recruitment procedure to improve opportunities for groups in under-represented areas.

Compliance and value is driven throughout the commercial cycle and traditional procurement roles are supported by the Commercial Insights team. Going forward, new roles for commercial business partners allow for new and radical approaches to traditional ONS contractual arrangements and engaging the market will continue to be key in managing supply chain risk through a difficult geo-political period.



Remuneration report

The remuneration report is presented in accordance with Civil Service Employer Pension Notice guidance.

Service contracts

The Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 requires Civil Service appointments to be made on merit on the basis of fair and open competition. The Recruitment Principles published by the Civil Service Commission specify the circumstances when appointments may be made otherwise.

Unless otherwise stated below, the officials covered by this report hold appointments which are open-ended. Early termination, other than for misconduct, would result in the individual receiving compensation as set out in the Civil Service Compensation Scheme.

Further information about the work of the Civil Service Commission can be found at www.civilservicecommission.org.uk

Remuneration policy

The Remuneration Committee concluded the pay arrangements for the UK Statistics Authority's Senior Civil Servants. The committee's membership is set out in the Governance Statement.

The UK Statistics Authority Senior Civil Service (SCS) salary arrangements follow the guidance set out by the Cabinet Office in response to the Senior Salaries Review Body. SCS pay consists of two elements: a consolidated increase to base pay and a non-consolidated bonus payment. Both elements are performance-related and determined by an individual's performance in the previous appraisal year.

The remuneration for the National Statistician is not agreed by the Authority's Remuneration Committee but is determined independently.

Remuneration (including salary) and pension entitlements

The following sections provide details of the remuneration and pension interests of the Executive and Non-Executive Directors of the UK Statistics Authority and the Office for National Statistics.

Remuneration (including salary) and pension entitlements

The following sections provide details of the remuneration and pension interests of the Executive and Non-Executive Directors of the UK Statistics Authority and the Office for National Statistics.

Remuneration of Executive Directors for the UK Statistics Authority and the Office for National Statistics, 2022/23 and 2021/22 (audited)

Senior directors Name and title	2022/23 Salary £'000	2021/22 Salary £'000	2022/23 Pension benefits £'000	2021/22 Pension benefits £'000	2022/23 Total £'000	2021/22 Total £'000
Professor Sir Ian Diamond National Statistician Statistics Authority Fixed-term contract 22 Oct 2019 to 31 Mar 2028	165-170	160-165 + bonus 15-20	71	65	235-240	245-250
Ms Sam Beckett Second Permanent Secretary and Deputy Chief Executive Statistics Authority	150-155	150-155	4	25	155-160	175-180
Alison Pritchard Deputy National Statistician for Data Capability	125-130 + bonus 10-15	125-130 + bonus 10-15	5	44	145-150	180-185
Michael Keoghan Deputy National Statistician for Economic and Social Statistics From 17 Jan 2022	135-140 + bonus 0-5	25-30 (FYE 130-135)	24	7	165-170	30-35
Ed Humpherson Director General for Regulation	155-160	150-155 + bonus 10-15	-34	30	120-125	190-195
Peter Benton Deputy National Statistician and Director General for Health, Population and Methods from Jan 2022 Director Population and Public Policy Operations to Dec 2021	110-115 (FYE 125-130)	100-105 + bonus 10-15	104	18	215-220	125-130
Simon Sandford-Taylor Director Digital Services and Technology	95-100 + bonus 0-5	95-100	19	29	115-120	125-130
Jennet Woolford Director of Population Statistics From 14 March 2022	95-100 + bonus 0-5	0-5 (FYE 90-95)	93	-	185-190	0-5
Peter Stokes Interim Director Integrated Data Programme To 30 Sep 2022	45-50 (FYE 95-100) + bonus 5-10	90-95 + bonus 5-10	-4	91	45-50	190-195
Sarah Henry Director Methods, Data and Research	100-105	95-100	40	39	140-145	135-140

Senior directors Name and title	2022/23 Salary £'000	2021/22 Salary £'000	2022/23 Pension benefits £'000	2021/22 Pension benefits £'000	2022/23 Total £'000	2021/22 Total £'000
Emma Rourke Director Health Analysis and Pandemic Insights to 30 Jun 2022 Director General for Health, Population and Methods from 1 Jul 2022	100-105 (FYE 115-120) + bonus 10-15 Taxable expenses 0-5	75-80 (FYE 95-100) + bonus 10-15 Taxable expenses 0-5	39	31	150-155	120-125
Owen Brace Director Communications and Digital Publishing	100-105	95-100	39	38	135-140	135-140
Nick Bateson Director Finance, Planning and Performance To 27 Sep 2022	65-70 (FYE 120-125) + bonus 10-15	120-125 + bonus 10-15	2	34	80-85	165-170
Elizabeth McKeown Director Public Policy Analysis	95-100 + bonus 0-5	95-100 + bonus 5-10	8	25	105-110	125-130
Philippa Bonay Director People and Business Services	110-115 + bonus 10-15	105-110 + bonus 5-10	44	42	165-170	155-160
Grant Fitzner Chief Economist and Director Macroeconomic Statistics and Analysis	110-115	105-110	49	48	160-165	155-160
Darren Morgan Director Economic Statistics Production & Analysis	95 -100 + bonus 10-15	95 -100 + bonus 5-10	-28	17	80-85	115-120
Alex Lambert Director of Surveys	90 -95 (FYE 95-100) + bonus 5-10	90 -95 + bonus 5-10	-2	79	100-105	175-180
Donna Leong Director of Economic Statistics Change From 19 Apr 2021 to 5 Jun 2022	15-20 (FYE 95-100) + bonus 0-5	90-95 (fte 95-100)	3	34	20-25	125-130
Fiona James Director Data Growth and Operations From 21 Feb 2022	95-100	5-10 (FYE 90-95)	64	9	155-160	15-20

Senior directors Name and title	2022/23 Salary £'000	2021/22 Salary £'000	2022/23 Pension benefits £'000	2021/22 Pension benefits £'000	2022/23 Total £'000	2021/22 Total £'000
Arthur Turrell Interim Director Data Science Campus From 4 Apr 2022 to 31 Oct 2022	50-55 (FYE 95-100) + bonus 5-10	-	21	-	80-85	-
Khondker Rahman Director Data Science Campus From 19 Sep 2022	50-55 (FYE 100-105)	-	-13	-	40-45	-
Ruth Studley Interim Director of Health Analysis & Pandemic Insights and Director of CDCTPE From 25 Jul 2022	65 -70 (FYE 95-100) + bonus 5-10	-	24	-	95-100	-
Jason Yaxley Director Integrated Data Services Programme From 1 Sep 2022	55 -60 (FYE 95-100)	-	71	-	125-130	-
Jason Zawadzki Director Economic Statistics Change From 12 Sep 2022	60 -65 (FYE 105-110)	-	-	-	60-65	-
Thomas Taylor Director Finance, Planning and Performance From 13 Feb 2023	15-20 (FYE 130-135)	-	-1	-	15-20	-

Notes

No directors had significant interests that would have influenced their decision making.

Notes to the remuneration tables (current and previous board members)

Where a member of the Board served for only a part of a year, the full year equivalent (FYE) figure is also shown in brackets.

The value of pension benefits accrued during the year is calculated as (the real increase in pension multiplied by 20) less (the contributions made by the individual). The real increase excludes increases due to inflation or any increase or decrease due to a transfer of pension rights.

Salary

Non-Executive Directors are paid a fee, plus expenses, and have no pension entitlement.

'Salary' includes gross salary; overtime; reserved rights to London weighting or London allowances; recruitment and retention allowances; private office allowances and any other allowance to the extent that it is subject to UK taxation. This report is based on accrued payments made by the Department and thus recorded in these accounts.

Benefits in kind

None of the above received benefits in kind.

Bonus payments

Bonuses are based on performance levels attained and are made as part of the appraisal process. Bonuses relate to the performance in the previous appraisal year in which they become payable to the individual. The bonuses reported in 2022-23 relate to performance in 2021-22 and the comparative bonuses reported for 2021-22 relate to the performance in 2020-2021.

Remuneration of Non-Executive Directors of the UK Statistics Authority 2022/23 and 2021/22 (audited)

Senior directors Name and title	2022/23 Salary £'000	2021/22 Salary £'000
Sir Robert Chote Chair of UK Statistics Authority Fixed contract From 1 June 2022 to 31 May 2027	55-60 (FYE 70-75)	-
Ms Sian Jones Deputy Chair Fixed Contract From 12 December 2018 to 1 July 2024	30-35	30-35
Mr Richard Dobbs Non-Executive Director Fixed Contract From 27 May 2020 to 26 May 2023	15-20	15-20
Professor Sir David Spiegelhalter Non-Executive Director Fixed Contract From 27 May 2020 to 26 May 2026	15-20	15-20
Professor Jonathan Haskel Non-Executive Director Fixed Contract From 1 February 2016 to 31 January 2023	-	-
Ms Nora Nanayakkara Non-Executive Director Fixed Contract From 1 July 2016 to 1 July 2024	15-20	15-20

Senior directors Name and title	2022/23 Salary £'000	2021/22 Salary £'000
Professor Anne Trefethen FBCS FREng Non-Executive Director Fixed Contract From 7 June 2018 to 31st December 2022	10-15 (FYE 15-20)	15-20
Ms Helen Boaden Non-Executive Director Fixed Contract From 30 May 2019 to 31 December 2022	10-15 (FYE 15-20)	15-20
Professor John Aston Non-Executive Director Fixed Contract From 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2024	15-20	10-15 (FYE 15-20)
Dr Jacob Abboud Non-Executive Director Fixed Contract From 13 February 2023 to 12 February 2027	0-5 (FYE 15-20)	-
Professor Dame Carol Propper Non-Executive Director Fixed Contract From 13 February 2023 to 12 February 2027	0-5 (FYE 15-20)	-
Penny Young Non-Executive Director Fixed Contract From 13 February 2023 to 12 February 2027	0-5 (FYE 15-20)	-
Dr Julia Mundy Independent Member Fixed Contract From 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2024	0-5	0-5
Tim Watkinson Independent Member Fixed Contract From 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2024	0-5	0-5

Note

Professor Jonathan Haskel provides his services free of charge since September 2018.

Fair pay (audited)

Reporting bodies are required to disclose the relationship between the remuneration of the highest-paid director in their organisation and the lower quartile, median and upper quartile remuneration of the organisation's workforce.

	2022/23			2021/22		
	25th percentile pay ratio	Median pay ratio	75th percentile pay ratio	25th percentile pay ratio	Median pay ratio	75th percentile pay ratio
Salary component	24,836	31,661	40,282	23,880	30,705	38,338
Total pay and benefits	24,836	31,811	40,432	23,880	30,855	38,888
Pay ratio	6.74:1.00	5.27:1.00	4.14:1.00	7.64:1.00	5.91:1.00	4.69:1.00

The mid-point banded remuneration of the highest-paid director in the Authority in the financial year 2022/23 was £167,500 (2021/22: £182,500). This was 5.27 times (2021/22: 5.91 times) the median remuneration of the workforce, which was £31,811 (2021/22: £30,855).

No employees received remuneration in excess of the highest-paid director in either 2022/23 or 2021/22. The lowest staff remuneration in 2022/23 was £20,148 (2021/22: £18,833).

Percentage change in total salary and bonuses for the highest paid director and the staff average (audited)

	2022/23		2021/22	
	Total salary and allowances	Bonus payments	Total salary and allowances	Bonus payments
Staff average	4.7%	(6.6)%	*4.1%	*16.9%
Highest paid director	3.1%	(100.0)%	0.0%	40.0%

* Figures amended from those previously published due to an error in the methodology applied.

The percentage change from previous financial year in respect of the highest paid director is based on the mid-point of their banded total salary and bonus payments. The percentage change in the staff average figures, is calculated as total salary and bonus payments in the period, divided by the FTE number of employees (excluding the highest paid director).

Total remuneration includes salary, non-consolidated performance-related pay and benefits-in-kind. It does not include severance payments, employer pension contributions and the cash equivalent transfer value of pensions.

The Authority implemented the August 2022 pay award in 2022/23 which increased the average staff remuneration. The increase in ratios between highest paid director and the staff lower/upper and median remuneration categories is attributed in part to the 2022 pay award as well as the highest paid director not receiving a bonus in 2022/23.

Pension benefits (audited)

The following table identifies pension benefits for Executive Directors of the UK Statistics Authority and the Office for National Statistics.

Details of the Civil Service Pensions Scheme can be found on pages 87 - 89.

Senior Directors Name and title	Real increase in pension and related lump sum at pension age £'000	Accrued pension at pension age as at 31 March 2023 and related lump sum £'000	Cash equivalent transfer value at 31 March 2022 £'000	Cash equivalent transfer value at 31 March 2023 £'000	Real increase in cash equivalent transfer value £'000
Professor Sir Ian Diamond National Statistician Statistics Authority Fixed-term contract 22 Oct 2019 to 31 Mar 2028	2.5 - 5	10 - 15	0	0	* -13
Ms Sam Beckett Second Permanent Secretary and Deputy Chief Executive Statistics Authority	0 - 2.5 plus a lump sum of 0	70 - 75 plus a lump sum of 140 - 145	1325	1369	* -5
Alison Pritchard Deputy National Statistician for Data Capability	0 - 2.5	45 - 50	724	796	* -13
Michael Keoghan Deputy National Statistician for Economic and Social Statistics From 17 Jan 2022	0 - 2.5 plus a lump sum of 0	50 - 55 plus a lump sum of 85 - 90	747	838	3
Ed Humpherson Director General for Regulation	0 plus a lump sum of 0	80 - 85 plus a lump sum of 55 - 60	1251	1350	* -50
Peter Benton Deputy National Statistician and Director General for Health, Population and Methods from Jan 2022 Director Population and Public Policy Operations to Dec 2021	5 - 7.5 plus a lump sum of 5 - 7.5	50 - 55 plus a lump sum of 100 - 105	751	918	77
Simon Sandford-Taylor Director Digital Services and Technology	0 - 2.5	30 - 35	412	462	4
Sarah Henry Director Methods, Data and Research	0 - 2.5	10 - 15	150	190	24
Emma Rourke Director Health Analysis and Pandemic Insights to 30 Jun 2022 Director General for Health, Population and Methods from 1 Jul 2022	0 - 2.5	10 - 15	108	141	20
Owen Brace Director Communications and Digital Publishing	0 - 2.5	20 - 25	238	276	18

Senior Directors Name and title	Real increase in pension and related lump sum at pension age £'000	Accrued pension at pension age as at 31 March 2023 and related lump sum £'000	Cash equivalent transfer value at 31 March 2022 £'000	Cash equivalent transfer value at 31 March 2023 £'000	Real increase in cash equivalent transfer value £'000
Nick Bateson Director Finance, Planning and Performance To 27 Sep 2022	0 - 2.5 plus a lump sum of 0	40 - 45 plus a lump sum of 55 - 60	511	527	* -7
Elizabeth McKeown Director Public Policy Analysis	0 - 2.5 plus a lump sum of 0	30 - 35 plus a lump sum of 50 - 55	415	458	* -7
Philippa Bonay Director People and Business Services	2.5 - 5	20 - 25	240	283	22
Grant Fitzner Chief Economist and Director Macroeconomic Statistics and Analysis	2.5 - 5	10 - 15	131	182	36
Darren Morgan Director Economic Statistics Production & Analysis	0 plus a lump sum of 0	45 - 50 plus a lump sum of 85 - 90	727	776	* -37
Peter Stokes Interim Director Integrated Data Programme To 30 Sep 2022	0 - 2.5 plus a lump sum of 0	30 - 35 plus a lump sum of 55 - 60	455	481	* -8
Alex Lambert Director of Surveys	0 - 2.5 plus a lump sum of 0	30 - 35 plus a lump sum of 45 - 50	441	479	* -13
Donna Leong Director of Economic Statistics Change From 19 Apr 2021 to 5 Jun 2022	0 - 2.5 plus a lump sum of 0	30 - 35 plus a lump sum of 40 - 45	543	554	0
Fiona James Director Data Growth and Operations From 21 Feb 2022	2.5 - 5	26 - 30	261	332	36
Jennet Woolford Director of Population Statistics From 14 March 2022	2.5 - 5 plus a lump sum of 5 - 7.5	30 - 35 plus a lump sum of 55 - 60	443	562	69
Arthur Turrell Interim Director Data Science Campus From 4 Apr 2022 to 31 Oct 2022	0 - 2.5	0 - 5	18	29	7
Khondker Rahman Director Data Science Campus From 19 Sep 2022	0	50 - 55	817	857	* -20

Senior Directors Name and title	Real increase in pension and related lump sum at pension age £'000	Accrued pension at pension age as at 31 March 2023 and related lump sum £'000	Cash equivalent transfer value at 31 March 2022 £'000	Cash equivalent transfer value at 31 March 2023 £'000	Real increase in cash equivalent transfer value £'000
Ruth Studley Interim Director of Health Analysis & Pandemic Insights and Director of CDCTPE From 25 Jul 2022	0 - 2.5 plus a lump sum of 0	35 - 40 plus a lump sum of 65 - 70	561	622	12
Jason Yaxley Director Integrated Data Services Programme From 1 Sep 2022	2.5 - 5 plus a lump sum of 5 - 7.5	40 - 45 plus a lump sum of 85 - 90	678	791	58
Jason Zawadzki Director Economic Statistics Change From 12 Sep 2022	0	0	0	0	0
Thomas Taylor Director Finance, Planning and Performance From 13 Feb 2023	0 - 2.5 plus a lump sum of 0	55 - 60 plus a lump sum of 100 - 105	988	994	* -3

Note

The posts held by the non-executive Directors of the UK Statistics Authority are non-pensionable.

* Taking account of inflation, the CETV funded by the employer has decreased in real terms

Notes to the pension benefits tables (Cash Equivalent Transfer Values (CETV))

CETV figures are calculated using the guidance on discount rates for calculating unfunded public service pension contribution rates that was extant at 31 March 2023. HM Treasury published updated guidance on 27 April 2023; this guidance will be used in the calculation of 2023-24 CETV figures.

Civil Service pensions

Pension benefits are provided through the Civil Service pension arrangements. From 1 April 2015 a new pension scheme for civil servants was introduced – the Civil Servants and Others Pension Scheme or alpha, which provides benefits on a career average basis with a normal pension age equal to the member's State Pension Age (or 65 if higher). From that date all newly appointed civil servants and the majority of those already in service joined alpha. Prior to that date, civil servants participated in the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS). The PCSPS has four sections: 3 providing benefits on a final salary basis (classic, premium or classic plus) with a normal pension age of 60; and one providing benefits on a whole career basis (nuvos) with a normal pension age of 65.

These statutory arrangements are unfunded with the cost of benefits met by monies voted by Parliament each year. Pensions payable under classic, premium, classic plus, nuvos and alpha are increased annually in line with Pensions Increase legislation. Existing members of the PCSPS who were within 10 years of their normal pension age on 1 April 2012 remained in the PCSPS after 1 April 2015. Those who were between 10 years and 13 years and 5 months from their normal pension age on 1 April 2012 switch into alpha sometime between 1 June 2015 and 1 February 2022. Because the Government plans to remove discrimination identified by the courts in the way that the 2015 pension reforms were introduced for some members, eligible members with relevant service between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2022 may be entitled to different pension benefits in relation to that period (and this may affect the Cash Equivalent Transfer Values shown in this report – see below). All members who switch to alpha have their PCSPS benefits ‘banked’, with those with earlier benefits in one of the final salary sections of the PCSPS having those benefits based on their final salary when they leave alpha. (The pension figures quoted for officials show pension earned in PCSPS or alpha – as appropriate. Where the official has benefits in both the PCSPS and alpha the figure quoted is the combined value of their benefits in the two schemes.) Members joining from October 2002 may opt for either the appropriate defined benefit arrangement or a defined contribution (money purchase) pension with an employer contribution (partnership pension account).

Employee contributions are salary-related and range between 4.6% and 8.05% for members of classic, premium, classic plus, nuvos and alpha. Benefits in classic accrue at the rate of 1/80th of final pensionable earnings for each year of service. In addition, a lump sum equivalent to three years initial pension is payable on retirement. For premium, benefits accrue at the rate of 1/60th of final pensionable earnings for each year of service. Unlike classic, there is no automatic lump sum. classic plus is essentially a hybrid with benefits for service before 1 October 2002 calculated broadly as per classic and benefits for service from October 2002 worked out as in premium. In nuvos a member builds up a pension based on their pensionable earnings during their period of scheme membership. At the end of the scheme year (31 March) the member’s earned pension account is credited with 2.3% of their pensionable earnings in that scheme year and the accrued pension is uprated in line with Pensions Increase legislation. Benefits in alpha build up in a similar way to nuvos, except that the accrual rate is 2.32%. In all cases members may opt to give up (commute) pension for a lump sum up to the limits set by the Finance Act 2004.

The partnership pension account is an occupational defined contribution pension arrangement which is part of the Legal & General Mastertrust. The employer makes a basic contribution of between 8% and 14.75% (depending on the age of the member). The employee does not have to contribute, but where they do make contributions, the employer will match these up to a limit of 3% of

pensionable salary (in addition to the employer's basic contribution). Employers also contribute a further 0.5% of pensionable salary to cover the cost of centrally-provided risk benefit cover (death in service and ill health retirement).

The accrued pension quoted is the pension the member is entitled to receive when they reach pension age, or immediately on ceasing to be an active member of the scheme if they are already at or over pension age. Pension age is 60 for members of classic, premium and classic plus, 65 for members of nuvos, and the higher of 65 or State Pension Age for members of alpha. (The pension figures quoted for officials show pension earned in PCSPS or alpha – as appropriate. Where the official has benefits in both the PCSPS and alpha the figure quoted is the combined value of their benefits in the two schemes, but note that part of that pension may be payable from different ages.)

Further details about the Civil Service pension arrangements can be found at the website www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk

Cash equivalent transfer values

A Cash Equivalent Transfer Value (CETV) is the actuarially assessed capitalised value of the pension scheme benefits accrued by a member at a particular point in time. The benefits valued are the member's accrued benefits and any contingent spouse's pension payable from the scheme. A CETV is a payment made by a pension scheme or arrangement to secure pension benefits in another pension scheme or arrangement when the member leaves a scheme and chooses to transfer the benefits accrued in their former scheme. The pension figures shown relate to the benefits that the individual has accrued as a consequence of their total membership of the pension scheme, not just their service in a senior capacity to which disclosure applies.

The figures include the value of any pension benefit in another scheme or arrangement which the member has transferred to the Civil Service pension arrangements. They also include any additional pension benefit accrued to the member as a result of their buying additional pension benefits at their own cost. CETVs are worked out in accordance with The Occupational Pension Schemes (Transfer Values) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 and do not take account of any actual or potential reduction to benefits resulting from Lifetime Allowance Tax which may be due when pension benefits are taken.

Real increase in CETV

This reflects the increase in CETV that is funded by the employer. It does not include the increase in accrued pension due to inflation, contributions paid by the employee (including the value of any benefits transferred from another pension scheme or arrangement) and uses common market valuation factors for the start and end of the period.

Board member and senior official off-payroll engagements

The following table identifies off-payroll engagements of board members, and/or, Senior officials with significant financial responsibility, between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023.

	2022/23 Number of engagements
Number of off-payroll engagements of board members, and/or, senior officials with significant financial responsibility, during the financial year.	-
Total number of individuals off-payroll that have been deemed “board members, and/or, senior officials with significant financial responsibility”, during the financial year.	-

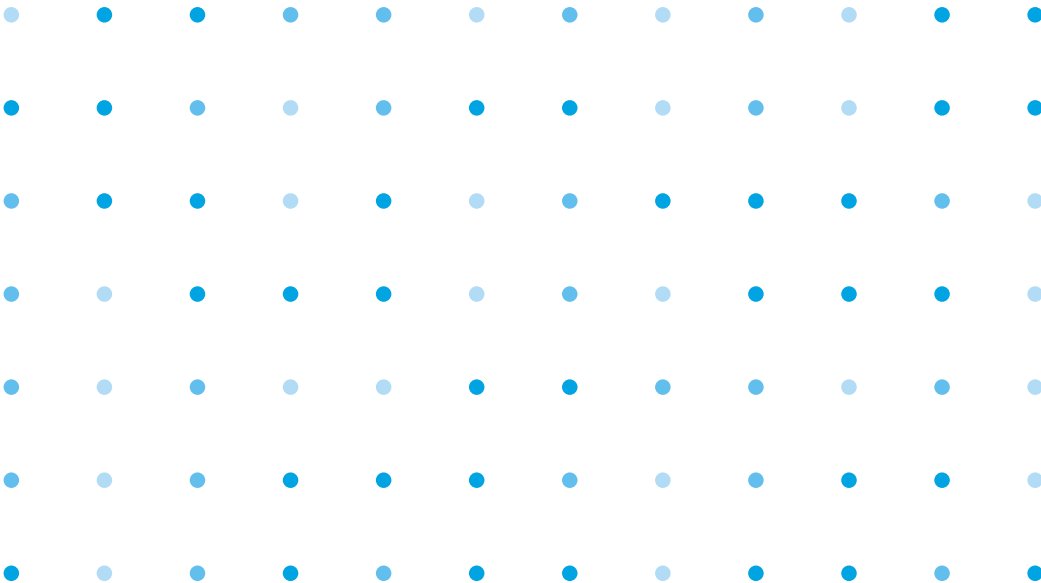
Other information

Compensation for loss of office (audited)

No Director received compensation for loss of office during 2022/23.

Payments to past directors (audited)

No payments were made to past directors other than in respect of employment or other contractual service for the company other than as a director.



Staff report

Staffing structure

Staff numbers (audited)

	2022/23 Total FTE	Permanently employed FTE	Others FTE	2021/22 Total FTE
Objective statistical services	5,363	5,069	294	5,126

Note

Statistical Staff numbers are calculated using the average number of staff on the payroll each month rather than at year end.

Staff costs (audited)

	2022/23 Total £'000	Permanently employed Staff £'000	Others £'000	2021/22 Total £'000
Statistical services staff costs	201,334	197,603	3,731	193,669
Census field staff costs	-	-	-	43,964
Social security costs	20,340	20,340	-	18,407
Census field staff social security costs	-	-	-	3,180
Other pension costs	51,853	51,853	-	48,273
Census field staff other pension costs	-	-	-	1,655
Tax and levies	963	963	-	904
Census tax and levies	-	-	-	233
Total	274,490	270,759	3,731	310,285
Less recoveries in respect of outward secondments	(316)	(316)	-	(197)
Total net costs	274,174	270,443	3,731	310,088

Notes

Statistical Services staff costs include £11,327,000 of research and development costs which are analysed as capital expenditure in the Statement of Outturn against Parliamentary Supply.

The 2022/23 salary figure reflect a net yearly credit of £42k of accrued holiday/flexi pay, and PRP of £692k. In addition to the £270,443k reported net costs, £739k of salary costs were capitalised as capital expenditure (£8k 2021/22) and not included in the operating costs statement

Capitalised staff costs (audited)

	2022/23 Cost £'000	FTE	2021/22 Cost £'000	FTE
Platform Delivery (IDSP)	496	18	-	-
Core Service Design and Architecture (IDSP)	234	12	-	-
Data Management and SBR	9	1	-	-
Clerical Matching	-	-	8	1
Total	739	31	8	1

Staff numbers as at 31 March 2023 (audited)

Contract type	2022/23 Headcount	FTE	2021/22 Headcount	FTE
Permanent employment contract	5,707	5,170	5,628	5,026
Fixed term employment contract	421	335	241	231
Paid secondment or loan in	4	4	15	15
Total	6,132	5,509	5,884	5,272

Staff loaned as at 31 March 2023

Grade	2022/23 <12 months	>12 months	Total	2021/22 Total
SCS1	-	-	-	-
Grade 6	-	1	1	1
Grade 7	1	-	1	2
SEO	1	-	1	2
SRO	-	-	-	1
HEO	-	-	-	3
Total	2	1	3	9

Staff hosted as at 31 March 2023

Grade	2022/23 <12 months	>12 months	Total	2021/22 Total
SCS 1	-	-	-	-
Grade 6	-	1	1	1
Grade 7	-	1	1	2
HEO	-	-	-	2
EO	-	-	-	1
Total	-	2	2	6

Staff turnover

	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21
Civil Service Turnover	12%	10%	6%
Departmental Turnover	16%	14%	9%

Note

Civil Service Turnover captures staff leaving the Civil Service from the Authority. Departmental Turnover captures both staff leaving the Civil Service from the Authority and staff leaving the Authority but staying within the Civil Service. Turnover percentages are calculated as the number of leavers within that period divided by the average number of staff in post over the period. Staff turnover percentages in 2021/22 have been revised from those previously published due to a transposition error.

Contingent workers as at 31 March 2023

Contingent worker type	2022/23 Headcount	2021/22 Headcount
Agency worker	99	119
Contractor	86	227
Consultant	19	25
Service worker	163	134
Total	367	505

Staff composition as at 31 March 2023

Grade	Headcount		FTE	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
AA/AO	869	643	607.5	468.9
EO	449	265	410.5	252.1
HEO	746	556	707.2	546.4
SEO	715	570	677.6	562.1
Grade 7	515	458	488.7	451.1
Grade 6	119	121	113.0	119.5
SCS Pay Band 1 (Deputy Director)	30	41	29.7	40.5
SCS Pay Band 2 (Director)	6	9	6.0	9.0
SCS Pay Band 3 (Director General)	2	3	2.0	2.5
Second Permanent Secretary	1	-	1.0	-
Permanent Secretary	-	1	-	1.0
Total	3,452	2,667	3,043.2	2,453.1

Note

13 employees (12.9 FTE) have no data recorded under gender on our system and are not included in the Staff Composition table above. Full Headcount figure is 6132 and FTE 5509. The Permanent Secretary is Sir Ian Diamond and Second Permanent Secretary is Sam Beckett.

Number of Senior Civil Service staff by SCS pay band (average for the year)

SCS Pay Band	2022/23		2021/22	
	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE
SCS Pay Band 1 (Deputy Director)	65	65	61	60
SCS Pay Band 2 (Director)	14	14	14	14
SCS Pay Band 3 (Director General)	5	5	4	4
Second Permanent Secretary	1	1	1	1
Permanent Secretary	1	1	1	1
Total	86	86	81	80

Off payroll engagements

The following table identifies all off-payroll engagements as at 31 March 2023 for more than £245 per day for a period longer than six months.

	Number of existing engagements as at 31st March 2023
Number of existing engagements as of 31 March 2023	79
<i>Of which:</i>	
Number that have existed for less than one year at the time of reporting	20
Number that have existed between one – two years at the time of reporting	15
Number that have existed between two – three years at the time of reporting	24
Number that have existed between three – four years at the time of reporting	6
Number that have existed for four years or more at the time of reporting	14

The following table details the total number of off-payroll engagements in excess of £245 per day for a period longer than six months (between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023).

	Number 2022/23
Number of new engagements, or those that reached six months in duration, between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023	198
<i>Of which:</i>	
Number assessed as inside the scope of IR35	156
Number assessed as outside the scope of IR35	42
Number engaged directly (via PSC contracted to department) and are on the departmental payroll	-
Number of engagements reassessed for consistency/assurance purposes during the year.	-
Number of engagements that saw a change to IR35 status following the consistency review	-

Sickness absence

Average working days lost during 2022/23 is 6.9 (2021/22 was 5.6).



Reporting compensations for employee departures (audited)

Exit package cost band	Total number of compulsory redundancies agreed within the year		Total number of other departures agreed within the year		Total value of exit packages agreed within the year by cost band £'000	
	2022/23	2021/22	2022/23	2021/22	2022/23	2021/22
< £10,000	-	-	1	4	3.9	24
£10,000 – £25,000	-	-	6	14	106.2	194
£25,000 – £50,000	-	-	-	20	-	748
£50,000 – £100,000	-	-	6	35	419.2	2,253
Total number of exit packages by type (total cost)	-	-	13	73	529.3	3,219

During the financial year 2022/23 we ran a targeted Voluntary Exit Scheme which resulted in 13 applicants accepting offers of exit.

All offers were accepted in July 2022, therefore costs will be attributed to financial year 2022/23. The last day of service for leavers was 31 October 2022.

Redundancy and other departure costs have been paid in accordance with the provision of the Civil Service Compensation Scheme, a statutory scheme under the Superannuation Act 1972. Exit costs are accounted for in full for the year of departure. Where the department has agreed early retirements, the additional costs are met by the department and not the Civil Service pension scheme.

Ill-health retirement costs are met by the Pension Scheme and are not included in the table.

Employee matters

Employment, training and support for people with disabilities

The Authority is committed to being an equal opportunities employer. As part of this commitment, the Authority gives full and fair consideration to the employment, training, support and progression of colleagues with a disability.

The Authority applies the Recruitment Principles of the Civil Service Commission, appointing candidates on merit through fair and open competition.

Recruitment and selection training is provided to all interviewers. The Authority has achieved the highest-level accreditation Level 3 Disability Confident Leader status and offers an interview to all those who declare a disability and meet the minimum selection criteria.

The Authority's policies require that managers must consider and make workplace adjustments to enable an employee with a disability to attend work and carry out their role effectively. Such adjustments are recorded on a

Workplace Adjustments Passport and are kept under regular review. There is an active Disability Network, supported by senior champions, focused on removing any barriers within the workplace, and celebrating key disability awareness days throughout the year across the organisation.

The Authority promotes several cross-government talent schemes that seek to attract colleagues with disabilities, as well as those from other underrepresented groups. These include the Future Leaders Scheme (FLS) and Senior Leaders Scheme (SLS). The bespoke Disability Empowers Leadership Talent scheme, also known as DELTA, is available to anyone with a disability or long-term health condition who gains a place on the cross-government FLS. As part of our Diversity into Leadership programme, we also offer a specific development route called disABILITY into Leadership, focused on supporting the career development of colleagues with disabilities. In addition, our learning offer supports working with those who are neurodivergent. Our learning interventions meet all legal requirement accessibility requirements.

Monitoring spending on consultancy and temporary staff

Professional services external resources can generally be split into two broad categories. Temporary staff includes temporary workers and specialist contractors who are used to cover business-as-usual or service delivery activities within the Authority. Consultancy includes staff who provide objective advice relating to strategy, structure, management or operations of the Authority and may include the identification of options with recommendations.

Expenditure on consultancy increased from £10.3m in 2021-22 to £16.5m in 2022-23 and expenditure on contractors decreased from £36.1m in 2021-22 to £18.5m in 2022-23. Further information can be found in Note 4 to the accounts.

Spend on consultancy and the need for temporary staff is largely dependent on the nature of projects being undertaken and the expertise required. The beginning of 2021-22 saw an increase to Census Field activities following Census Day on 21 March 2021. The lack of demand on this type of role was the primary contributor to a decrease in temporary staff costs this year as disclosed in Note 3 to the accounts.

Workplace health, safety and welfare

All activities required under the Health and Safety (H&S) framework of governance, risk management and control for the Authority were completed during this period. This ensures workplace H&S performance is audited and reviewed on an annual basis and reported to the Departmental H&S Committee and the People Committee. The Authority has published an up-to-date H&S Policy, which has been amended as necessary to ensure it remains current with legislation and takes account of organisational changes. All necessary risk assessments, inspections, maintenance, cleaning and testing regimes were in place.

During this period, the Authority has introduced new H&S management arrangements to support hybrid working with a new digital display screen assessment and training tool, and new fire evacuation arrangements deployed at its premises.

We approach wellbeing as an underlying priority that wraps around our People Survey and engagement activity, and our wider management approach. The 2022 People Survey saw positive responses to all wellbeing-related questions maintained for another year. Our overall Positive Emotion, Engagement, Relationship, Meaning and Accomplishment (PERMA) score, a holistic measure of positive wellbeing, remained high at 73%.

Our wellbeing offer is wide-ranging and dynamic across the organisation. In 2023 our Wellbeing activities will be shaped by our new Wellbeing Plan, which outlines our strategic approach to Wellbeing, based on the principles of being proactive, empowering and flexible, with a focus on five wellbeing pillars: Workplace, Mental, Physical, Social, and Financial.

Equality, diversity and inclusion overview

Our strategic purpose is to create ‘Statistics for the Public Good’, and to deliver effectively it is vital that we continue to build a working environment in which equality and inclusion are instinctive; with a workforce that reflects the public it serves.

Compliance with the Equality Act 2010 remains a core tenet, as we align policies, processes, and infrastructure to its principles. Our Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) play a key role in helping us ensure that inclusion is hardwired into all our practices. Further information on our commitment to the Public Sector Equality Duty is available on the Authority’s website.

‘Inclusion’ is also a central pillar of our People Plan, which is reflected in our Strategy and Strategic Business Plan. Our ambition is to drive an inclusive culture in which everyone feels valued, that they belong, and have an equal opportunity to contribute to the organisation’s purpose.

Our more detailed Inclusion Plan outlines our intention to:

- build a coordinated approach to Inclusion and Diversity across the organisation
- hardwire Inclusion and Diversity into everything we do
- build representation of underrepresented groups and support their career progression
- continue to build the Authority’s reputation as an inclusive employer
- improve and develop our evidence base.

This plan was launched in November 2020, and we have made significant progress to date; notably in the development of our evidence base, strengthening our

governance and coordination, and being recognised for our practices by external benchmarking experts. More information about recognition in this space can be found within the benchmarking and collaborating section below.

Equality, diversity and inclusion infrastructure

Governance

Our Inclusion & Diversity Steering Group (IDSG) leads on evaluating new initiatives, and progress against existing commitments and issues. The Group consists of colleagues from across our employee diversity networks and other key stakeholders. IDSG reports to our People Committee (PC), the governance body responsible for people matters, and over the past year, the relationship between IDSG and PC has been further strengthened. PC is attended by key senior leaders, chaired by our Second Permanent Secretary, and includes non-executive colleagues to represent diverse viewpoints from across the organisation.

Diversity networks

Our employee diversity networks continue to add essential value and insight to our inclusion agenda and play a key role in supporting the organisation to improve our processes and policies. Each recognised diversity network is led by a team of colleagues who volunteer their time to undertake dedicated roles, and a sponsor from the senior leadership cadre. To ensure our colleagues have the capacity and support to undertake network activities, leading network members can dedicate up to 10% of their working time to the completion of their network role. The networks also play an active role in raising awareness and creating a learning environment around inclusion. This includes expert guest panels, sharing blogs on lived experience, identifying and sharing best practice, organising recognition for key calendar events and linking with other government departments' networks.

Benchmarking and collaborating

In line with the Civil Service Diversity and Inclusion Strategy (2022-2025) guidance, the Authority continues to identify opportunities to engage with independent, external organisations. This helps us to ensure that our policies and practices are robust and in line with leading industry standards by participating in objective benchmarking exercises and benefitting from expert support and advice.

The Authority maintained its Gold Award in the MIND Workplace Wellbeing Index 2022, as well as being recognised in Glassdoor's annual Employee Choice Awards as one of the UK's Top 50 Best Places to Work. The Authority have also ranked number one in Glassdoor's highest ranking UK companies for Work-

Life balance for the second year in a row in 2022, with our CEO receiving a 96% approval rating. We also hold Leader status through the Disability Confident scheme. Further recognition throughout the year includes being awarded Highly Commended in the Commissioners' Mark of Excellence in the category of Excellence in Monitoring Outcomes, for our work on inclusive recruitment practices, as well as being rated as 'mature' across all four pillars of the Smarter Working Maturity Assessment: Culture and People, Leadership, Workspace and Technology. Most recently the Authority won the overarching 'Beyond Smarter Working' award at Smarter Working Live, a cross public sector event. Of particular recognition was the actions on wellbeing, the office environment, hybrid working, enhanced tech support and leadership.

We continue to identify opportunities for more collaboration and shared initiatives with the Cabinet Office and other government departments, and to work with other expert organisations such as Business in the Community to improve our inclusive practices.

Measuring progress

Workforce diversity data is monitored at both business and organisational level, with progress measured on a regular basis via an interactive dashboard. Declaration rates are steadily increasing, and colleagues are continuously encouraged to contribute information to support a stronger evidence base that drives our interventions.

In addition to our workforce demographic data, progress is measured through a combination of sources including new people dashboards, insights from our employee diversity networks, listening groups, internal targeted pulse surveys and the annual Civil Service People Survey. Of particular note is our Inclusion, Culture and Wellbeing Dashboard which was launched in 2022, and is utilised to measure progress and hold senior leaders accountable for their data.

The People Survey provides an overall score for Inclusion and Fair Treatment, for which the Authority has maintained a high score of 85% in 2022.

With the publication of the revised Civil Service Inclusion & Diversity strategy, we continue to closely align our approach to measuring and evaluating our success with the wider Civil Service set of standards.

Workforce diversity data and progress against targets as at 31 March 2023

Whilst all employees in the Authority are strongly encouraged to make a positive declaration within each of these diversity measures there is no obligation to do so. The percentage of employees who have declared is 87.8%. The following data is collated from those who have made a declaration.

UK Statistics Authority (all grades)	Mar-23	Mar-22	Mar-21
Females	56.4%	57.2%	56.7%
Ethnic minority groups	9.4%	7.9%	7.1%
Employees with disabilities	16.9%	16.7%	16.9%
LBGO*	7.3%	5.9%	5.4%

*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and 'Other'

Senior Civil Service Measures (SCS)	Mar-23	Mar-22	Mar-21
Females in SCS Pay Band 2	40.0%	45.0%	35.0%
All SCS			
Female	41.9%	42.0%	40.5%
Ethnic minority groups	5.9%	4.2%	2.7%
Employees with disabilities	14.7%	13.8%	12.0%

Feeder grade measures	Mar-23	Mar-22	Mar-21
Grade 6			
Female	49.6%	42.7%	39.9%
Ethnic minority groups	2.4%	3.6%	2.5%
Employees with disability	8.6%	9.5%	7.9%
Grade 7			
Female	52.9%	52.3%	50.7%
Ethnic minority groups	8.8%	7.3%	5.0%
Employees with disability	11.8%	12.1%	11.0%

The Authority has a long-term ambition to be representative of the society we serve. We have set a headline workforce representation target to increase ethnic minority representation by 1 percentage point a year, with an ambition to reach 11% by 2025. The annual target for the workforce overall has not been achieved for March 2023, although targets around the diversity of our new starters have. This reflects our efforts to increase the diversity of the applicant base for our vacancies and to minimise any bias within our recruitment and selection processes, which continues to be a priority focus to ensure positive progress continues. We are proud to have achieved Gender parity at Grade 6, with a 50% split with rounding (49.6% and 50.4%) across female and male. This now means we have at least 50% female representation at our feeder grades to SCS as well as across our managerial and administrative grades.

Trade union facility time

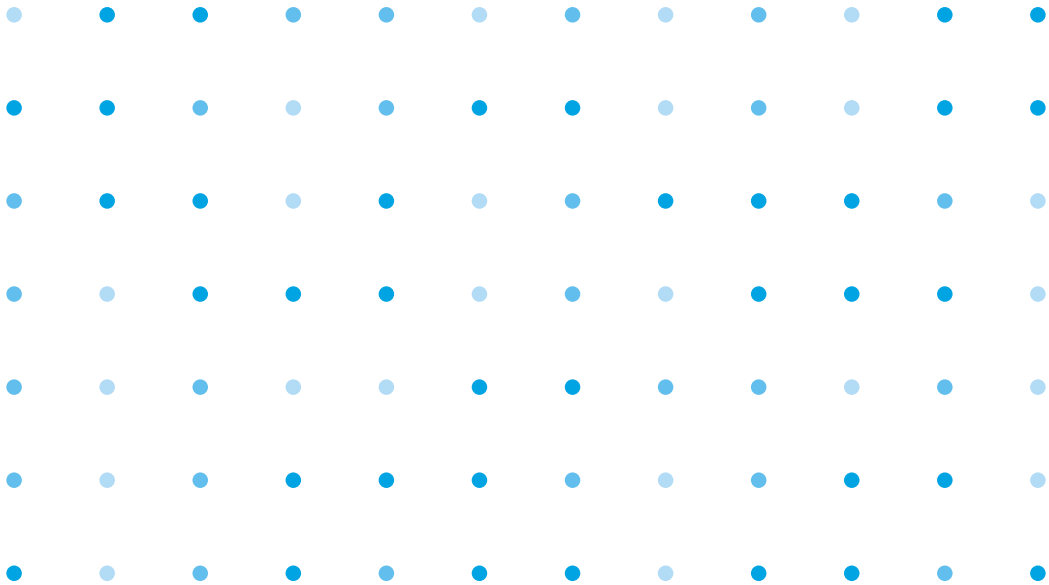
Organisations are required to publish trade union facility time data. Trade union facility time is a legal entitlement and is allocated by the Authority. Total time spent on union activities should equate to no more than 0.1% of the total pay bill and no-one should spend more than 50% of their time on such activities.

The total number of employees who were trade union representatives during the year was 53.

Percentage of time	2022/23 Number of employees	2021/22 Number of employees	2020/21 Number of employees
0%	-	-	-
1-50%	53	50	49
51%-99%	-	-	-
100%	-	-	-

The cost to the Authority of trade union facility time represents 0.04% of the pay bill of £274,490,000 (2021/22 0.03% of the pay bill £310,285,000).

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours is 0%.



Parliamentary Accountability Report

Statement of Outturn against Parliamentary Supply

In addition to the primary statements prepared under IFRS, the Government Financial Reporting Manual (FReM) requires the Authority to prepare a Statement of Outturn against Parliamentary Supply (SOPS) and supporting notes.

The SOPS and related notes are subject to audit, as detailed in the Certificate and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General to the House of Commons.

The SOPS is a key accountability statement that shows, in detail, how an entity has spent against their Supply Estimate. Supply is the monetary provision (for resource and capital purposes) and cash (drawn primarily from the Consolidated fund), that Parliament gives statutory authority for entities to utilise. The Estimate details supply and is voted on by Parliament at the start of the financial year.

Should an entity exceed the limits set by their Supply Estimate, called control limits, their accounts will receive a qualified opinion.

The format of the SOPS mirrors the Supply Estimates, published on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk), to enable comparability between what Parliament approves and the final outturn.

The SOPS contain a summary table, detailing performance against the control limits that Parliament have voted on, cash spent (budgets are compiled on an accruals basis and so outturn won't exactly tie to cash spent) and administration.

The supporting notes detail the following: Outturn by Estimate line, providing a more detailed breakdown (note 1); a reconciliation of outturn to net operating expenditure in the SOCNE, to tie the SOPS to the financial statements (note 2); a reconciliation of outturn to net cash requirement (note 3); and, an analysis of income payable to the Consolidated Fund (note 4).

The SOPS and Estimates are compiled against the budgeting framework, which is similar to, but different to, IFRS. An understanding of the budgeting framework and an explanation of key terms is provided on page 42, in the financial review section of the performance report. Further information on the Public Spending Framework and the 6 reasons why budgeting rules are different to IFRS can also be found in chapter 1 of the Consolidated Budgeting Guidance, available on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

The SOPS provides a detailed view of financial performance, in a form that is voted on and recognised by Parliament. The financial review, in the Performance Report, provides a summarised discussion of outturn against estimate and functions as an introduction to the SOPS disclosures.

Summary tables (audited)

Summary table 2022-23, all figures presented in £000's

Type of Spend	SoPS Note	Outturn			Estimate			Outturn vs Estimate, saving/(excess)		Prior Year Outturn Total 2021-22
		Voted	Non-Voted	Total	Voted	Non-Voted	Total	Voted	Total	
Departmental Expenditure Limit										
Resource	1.1	352,376	-	352,376	363,823	-	363,823	11,447	11,447	448,889
Capital	1.2	35,678	-	35,678	38,208	-	38,208	2,530	2,530	25,278
Total		388,054	-	388,054	402,031	-	402,031	13,977	13,977	474,167
Annually Managed Expenditure										
Resource	1.1	(3,928)	-	(3,928)	8,400	-	8,400	12,328	12,328	(5,835)
Capital	1.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		(3,928)	-	(3,928)	8,400	-	8,400	12,328	12,328	(5,835)
Total Budget										
Total Resource	1.1	348,448	-	348,448	372,223	-	372,223	23,775	23,775	443,054
Total Capital	1.2	35,678	-	35,678	38,208	-	38,208	2,530	2,530	25,278
Total Budget Expenditure		384,126	-	384,126	410,431	-	410,431	26,305	26,305	468,332
Non - Budget Expenditure	1.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Budget and Non Budget		384,126	-	384,126	410,431	-	410,431	26,305	26,305	468,332

Note

Figures in the areas outlined in thick line cover the voted control limits voted by Parliament. Refer to the Supply Estimates guidance manual, available on gov.uk, for detail on the control limits voted by Parliament.

Net Cash Requirement 2022/23 (audited)

All figures presented in £000's

Item	SoPS Note	Outturn	Estimate	Outturn vs Estimate, saving/(excess)	Prior Year Outturn Total 2021-22
Net Cash requirement	3	352,540	383,684	31,144	486,195

Notes

Although not a separate voted limit, any breach of the administration budget will also result in an excess vote. The Authority's net expenditure is classed as programme costs. There are no administration costs. Explanations of variances between estimates and outturn are given in the Management Commentary on pages 71 -72.

The notes on pages 104 - 107 form part of these accounts.

Notes to the parliamentary supply, 2022/23

(£000's) (audited)

SOPS 1 – Outturn detail by Estimate Line

For the period ending 31 March 2023. All figures presented in £000's.

SOPS 1.1 Analysis of resource outturn by estimate line

Type of Spend	Outturn				Estimate			Outturn vs Estimate, saving/ (excess)	Prior Year Outturn Total 2021-22
	Gross	Income	Net	Total	Total	Virements	Total inc Virements		
Spending in Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL)									
Voted expenditure									
A. Programme Expenditure	576,904	(224,528)	352,376	352,376	363,823	-	363,823	11,447	448,889
Total voted DEL	576,904	(224,528)	352,376	352,376	363,823	-	363,823	11,447	448,889
Total spending in DEL	576,904	(224,528)	352,376	352,376	363,823	-	363,823	11,447	448,889
Spending in Annually Managed Expenditure (AME)									
Voted expenditure									
Provisions	(3,928)	-	(3,928)	(3,928)	8,400	-	8,400	12,328	(5,835)
Total voted AME	(3,928)	-	(3,928)	(3,928)	8,400	-	8,400	12,328	(5,835)
Total spending in AME	(3,928)	-	(3,928)	(3,928)	8,400	-	8,400	12,328	(5,835)
Total resource	572,976	(224,528)	348,448	348,448	372,223	-	372,223	23,775	443,054

Note

The programme costs within the annually managed expenditure reflect the utilisation of provisions and impairments charged to Annually Managed Expenditure (AME).



SOPS 1.2 Analysis of capital outturn by estimate line

All figures presented in £000's.

Type of spend (Capital)	Outturn			Estimate			Outturn vs Estimate, saving/ (excess)	Prior Year Outturn Total 2021-22
	Gross	Income	Net total	Total	Virements	Total inc virements		
Spending in Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL)								
Voted expenditure								
A. Programme Expenditure	35,678	-	35,678	38,208	-	38,208	2,530	25,278
Total voted DEL	35,678	-	35,678	38,208	-	38,208	2,530	25,278
Total spending in DEL	35,678	-	35,678	38,208	-	38,208	2,530	25,278
Spending in Annually Managed Expenditure (AME)								
Voted expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total voted AME	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total spending in AME	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total capital	35,678	-	35,678	38,208	-	38,208	2,530	25,278

Note

The total Estimate columns include virements. Virements are the reallocation of provision in the Estimates that do not require parliamentary authority (because Parliament does not vote to that level of detail and delegates to HM Treasury). Further information on virements is provided in the Supply Estimates Manual, available on gov.uk. The outturn vs estimate column is based on the total including virements. The estimate total before virements have been made is included so that users can tie the estimate back to the Estimates laid before Parliament.



SOPS 2 – Reconciliation of outturn to net operating expenditure

All figures presented in £000's.

Item	Reference	Outturn Total	Prior Year Outturn Total 2021-22
Total resource outturn	SOPS 1.1	348,448	443,054
Add			
Expenditure which meets the European Statement of Accounts 2015 definition of research and development: Staff Costs (permanent)		11,326	11,745
Capital Grants Expense		3,724	30,200
Less			
Capital Grants Received		-	(123)
Total		15,050	41,822
Net operating expenditure in Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure	SOCNE	363,498	484,876

Note

As noted in the introduction to the SoPS above, outturn and the Estimates are compiled against the budgeting framework, which is similar to, but different from, IFRS. Therefore, this reconciliation bridges the resource outturn to net operating expenditure, linking the SoPS to the financial statements. Capital grants received and capital grants expense are budgeted for as CDEL, but accounted for as income and expenditure on the face of the SOCNE, and therefore function as reconciling items between Resource and Net Operating Expenditure. £3,724k of capital grants expense relate to the transfer of the Authority's capitalised property developments, which were transferred off balance sheet to the GPA during 2022/23.

SOPS 3 – Reconciliation of net resource outturn to net cash requirement

For the period ending 31 March 2023. All figures presented in £000's.

Item	Reference	Outturn Total	Estimate	Outturn vs Estimate, saving/ (excess)
Total Resource outturn	SOPS 1.1	348,448	372,223	23,775
Total Capital outturn	SOPS 1.2	35,678	38,208	2,530
Adjustments to remove non-cash items:				
Depreciation and amortisation	4	(12,146)	(18,347)	(6,201)
New provisions and adjustments to previous provisions	4	(5,837)	(8,400)	(2,563)
Other non-cash items	4	(196)	-	196
Adjustments to reflect movements in working balances:				
Increase/(decrease) in receivables	9	(42,211)	-	42,211
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	11	16,241	-	(16,241)
Increase/(decrease) in other financial liabilities	14	(3,185)	-	3,185
Other movements in working capital not reflected in operating costs		5,983	-	(5,983)
Use of provisions	12	9,765	-	(9,765)
Total		(31,586)	(26,747)	4,839
Net cash requirement		352,540	383,684	31,144

Note

As noted in the introduction to the SOPS above, outturn and the Estimates are compiled against the budgeting framework, not on a cash basis. Therefore, this reconciliation bridges the resource and capital outturn to the net cash requirement. Included within the decrease in receivables is an £85k non-cash adjustment required for transition to IFRS16 Leases.

SoPS 4 Amounts of income to the consolidated fund**SoPS 4.1 Analysis of income payable to the consolidated fund**

There is no income payable to the consolidated fund.

SoPS 4.2 Consolidated fund income

The Authority does not collect income as an agent of the consolidated fund.

Parliamentary Accountability Disclosure (audited)**Special payment and losses**

For the period ending 31 March 2023

	Number	2022/23 £'000	Number	2021/22 £'000
Ex-gratia claims	23	3	25	3

There are no individual cases of special payments or losses over £300,000 (2021/22: No cases) which need separate disclosure as required by Managing Public Money.

Fees and charges

The Authority is not subject to statutory fees and charges.

Remote contingent liabilities

None identified.

Disclosure of information to the auditors

The responsibilities of an Accounting Officer include confirming that as far as he is aware there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware and that he has taken steps he ought to have taken to make himself aware of any relevant audit information, and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.


Professor Sir Ian Diamond

Accounting Officer

07 July 2023

The Certificate and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General to the House of Commons

Opinion on financial statements

I certify that I have audited the financial statements of the Statistics Board (referred to as the UK Statistics Authority) for the year ended 31 March 2023 under the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000. The financial statements comprise: the UK Statistics Authority's

- Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2023;
- Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure, Statement of Cash Flows and Statement of Changes in Taxpayers' Equity for the year then ended; and
- the related notes including the significant accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in the preparation of the financial statements is applicable law and UK adopted international accounting standards.

In my opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the UK Statistics Authority's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and its net expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000 and HM Treasury directions issued thereunder.

Opinion on regularity

In my opinion, in all material respects:

- the Statement of Outturn against Parliamentary Supply properly presents the outturn against voted Parliamentary control totals for the year ended 31 March 2023 and shows that those totals have not been exceeded; and
- the income and expenditure recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

Basis for opinions

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs UK), applicable law and Practice Note 10 Audit of Financial Statements and Regularity of Public Sector Bodies in the United Kingdom (2022). My

responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my certificate.

Those standards require me and my staff to comply with the Financial Reporting Council's Revised Ethical Standard 2019. I am independent of the UK Statistics Authority in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK. My staff and I have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, I have concluded that the UK Statistics Authority's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work I have performed, I have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the UK Statistics Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

My responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Accounting Officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this certificate.

The going concern basis of accounting for the UK Statistics Authority is adopted in consideration of the requirements set out in HM Treasury's Government Financial Reporting Manual, which requires entities to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements where it is anticipated that the services which they provide will continue into the future.

Other information

The other information comprises information included in the Annual Report, but does not include the financial statements and my auditor's certificate and report thereon. The Accounting Officer is responsible for the other information.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in my certificate, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

My responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion the part of the Remuneration and Staff Report to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with HM Treasury directions made under the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000.

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the parts of the Accountability Report subject to audit have been properly prepared in accordance with HM Treasury directions made under the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000;
- the information given in the Performance and Accountability Reports for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and is in accordance with the applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which I report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the UK Statistics Authority and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, I have not identified material misstatements in the Performance and Accountability Reports.

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters which I report to you if, in my opinion:

- Adequate accounting records have not been kept by the UK Statistics Authority or returns adequate for my audit have not been received from branches not visited by my staff; or
- I have not received all of the information and explanations I require for my audit; or
- the financial statements and the parts of the Accountability Report subject to audit are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of remuneration specified by HM Treasury's Government Financial Reporting Manual have not been made or parts of the Remuneration and Staff Report to be audited is not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- the Governance Statement does not reflect compliance with HM Treasury's guidance.

Responsibilities of the Accounting Officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Accounting Officer's Responsibilities, the Accounting Officer is responsible for:

- maintaining proper accounting records;
- providing the C&AG with access to all information of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters;
- providing the C&AG with additional information and explanations needed for his audit;
- providing the C&AG with unrestricted access to persons within the UK Statistics Authority from whom the auditor determines it necessary to obtain audit evidence;
- ensuring such internal controls are in place as deemed necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements to be free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error;
- ensuring that the financial statements give a true and fair view and are prepared in accordance with HM Treasury directions made under the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000;
- ensuring that the annual report, which includes the Remuneration and Staff Report, is prepared in accordance with HM Treasury directions made under the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000; and
- assessing the UK Statistics Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Accounting Officer anticipates that the services provided by the UK Statistics Authority will not continue to be provided in the future.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My responsibility is to audit, certify and report on the financial statements in accordance with the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000.

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a certificate that includes my opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting non-compliance with laws and regulations including fraud

I design procedures in line with my responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud. The extent to which my procedures are capable of detecting non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud is detailed below.

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, I:

- considered the nature of the sector, control environment and operational performance including the design of the UK Statistics Authority's accounting policies, key performance indicators and performance incentives.
- inquired of management, the UK Statistics Authority's internal auditors and those charged with governance, including obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation relating to the UK Statistics Authority's policies and procedures on:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud; and
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations including the UK Statistics Authority's controls relating to the UK Statistics Authority's compliance with the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000, Managing Public Money and the Supply and Appropriation (Main Estimates) Act 2022.
- inquired of management, the UK Statistics Authority's internal auditors and those charged with governance whether:
 - they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
 - they had knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud,
- discussed with the engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, I considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the UK Statistics Authority for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas: revenue recognition, posting of unusual journals, complex transactions and bias in management estimates. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), I am required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override of controls.

I obtained an understanding of the UK Statistics Authority's framework of authority and other legal and regulatory frameworks in which the UK Statistics Authority operates. I focused on those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the UK Statistics Authority. The key laws and regulations I considered in this context included Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000, Managing Public Money, Supply, Appropriation (Main Estimates) Act 2022 and employment law.

Audit response to identified risk

To respond to the identified risks resulting from the above procedures:

- I reviewed the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described above as having direct effect on the financial statements;
- I enquired of management and the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- I reviewed minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and the Board; and internal audit reports;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, I tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessed whether the judgements on estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluated the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business; and
- I inspected transactions in the period prior to and following 31 March 2023 to verify revenue had been recognised in the correct accounting period.

I also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential risks of fraud to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of my certificate.

Other auditor's responsibilities

I am required to obtain appropriate evidence sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the Statement of Outturn against Parliamentary Supply properly presents the outturn against voted Parliamentary control totals and that those totals have not been exceeded. The voted Parliamentary control totals are Departmental Expenditure Limits (Resource and Capital), Annually Managed Expenditure (Resource and Capital), Non-Budget (Resource) and Net Cash Requirement.

I am required to obtain evidence sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the expenditure and income recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control I identify during my audit.

Report

I have no observations to make on these financial statements.

Gareth Davies

Comptroller and Auditor General

National Audit Office

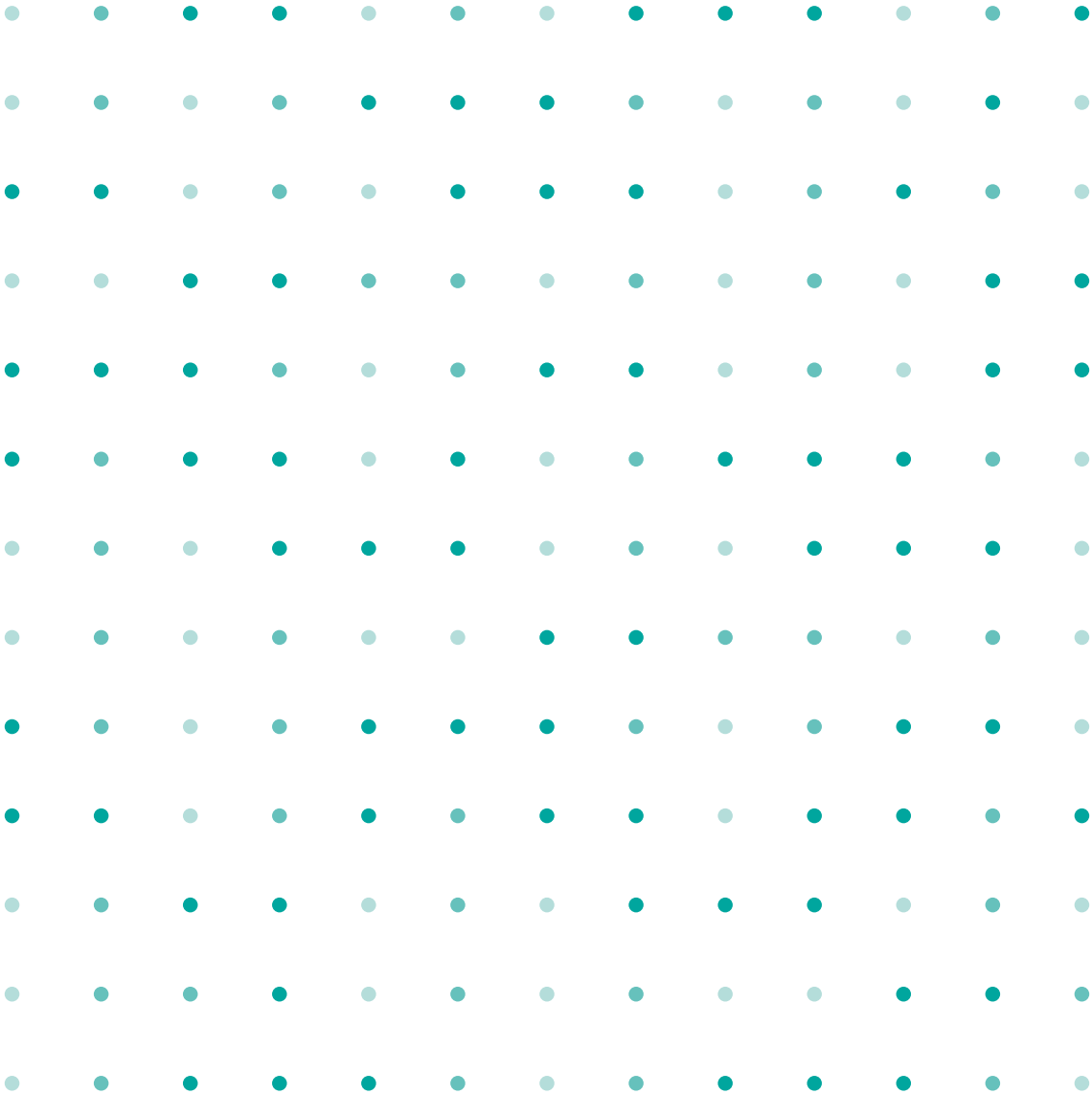
07 July 2023

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Victoria

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SW1W 9SP



Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure

This account summarises the expenditure and income generated and consumed on an accruals basis. It also includes other comprehensive income and expenditure, which include changes to the values of non-current assets and other financial instruments that cannot yet be recognised as income or expenditure.

For the Year to 31 March 2023

	Note	2022/23 £'000	2021/22 £'000
Revenue from contracts with customers	5	(218,120)	(446,442)
Other operating income	5	(6,408)	(6,748)
Capital grants received	5	-	(123)
Total operating income		(224,528)	(453,313)
Staff costs	3	274,490	310,285
Purchase of goods and services	4	291,414	580,544
Depreciation and impairment charges	4	12,146	10,836
Provision expense	4	5,837	5,382
Other operating expenditure	4	3,920	31,142
Total operating expenditure		587,807	938,189
Net operating expenditure		363,279	484,876
Finance Expense	4	219	-
Net expenditure for the year		363,498	484,876
Other comprehensive net expenditure			
Net (gain)/loss on revaluation of property, plant and equipment		(854)	4,647
Net (gain)/loss on revaluation of intangible assets		(622)	(473)
Comprehensive net expenditure for the year		362,022	489,050

Note

The notes on pages 120 - 153 form part of these accounts.

Statement of Financial Position

This statement presents the financial position of the department. It comprises three main components: assets owned or controlled; liabilities owed to other bodies; and equity, the remaining value of the entity.

as at 31 March 2023

	Note	2022/23 £'000	2021/22 £'000
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	6	13,629	14,782
Right of Use assets	14	33,435	359
Intangible assets	7	16,380	10,873
Financial assets	9	84	96
Total non-current assets		63,528	26,110
Current assets			
Trade and other receivables	9	14,863	47,480
Other current assets	9	18,944	28,611
Cash and cash equivalents	10	20,151	14,169
Total current assets		53,958	90,260
Total assets		117,486	116,370
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	11	(69,985)	(86,225)
Provisions	12	(3,401)	(7,240)
Lease liabilities	14	(3,398)	(111)
Total current liabilities		(76,784)	(93,576)
Total assets less current liabilities		40,702	22,794
Non-current liabilities:			
Provisions	12	(202)	(291)
Lease liabilities	14	(27,624)	(220)
Total non-current liabilities		(27,826)	(511)
Assets less liabilities		12,876	22,283
Taxpayers' equity and other reserves:			
General Fund		9,205	19,437
Revaluation Reserve		3,671	2,846
Total equity		12,876	22,283

Note

The notes on pages 120 - 153 form part of these accounts.



Professor Sir Ian Diamond

Accounting Officer, UK Statistics Authority

07 July 2023

Statement of Cash Flows

The Statement of Cash Flows shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the department during the reporting period. The statement shows how the department generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities. The amount of net cash flows arising from operating activities is a key indicator of service costs and the extent to which these operations are funded by way of income from the recipients of services provided by the department. Investing activities represent the extent to which cash inflows and outflows have been made for resources which are intended to contribute to the departments' future public service delivery.

For the period ending 31 March 2023

	Note	2022/23 £'000	2021/22 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net operating expenditure		(363,498)	(484,876)
Adjustment for non-cash transactions	4,14	9,400	47,360
Decrease/(Increase) in trade and other receivables	9	42,296	34,909
(Decrease)/Increase in trade payables		(25,982)	(58,528)
(Decrease)/Increase in lease liabilities	14	35,241	(108)
Movements in Current Assets - Initial adoption of IFRS 16		(85)	-
Movements in Financial Liabilities - Initial adoption of IFRS 16		(27,508)	-
Change in working capital			
Use of provisions	12	(9,765)	(11,217)
Write-off of GPA funded AUC		-	(75)
Other movements in working capital		-	(2)
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities		(339,901)	(472,537)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	6	(5,471)	(9,603)
Purchase of intangible assets	7	(6,411)	(4,053)
Proceeds from disposal of PPE	6	3,793	-
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from investing activities		(8,089)	(13,656)
Cash flows from financing activities			
From the Consolidated Fund (Supply) – current year		358,522	479,096
Payment of lease Liability		(4,331)	-
Interest payment of lease liability		(219)	-
Net Financing		353,972	479,096
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the period before adjustments from payments to the Consolidated Fund		5,982	(7,097)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the period after adjustment for receipts and payments to the Consolidated Fund		5,982	(7,097)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		14,169	21,266
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period		20,151	14,169

Note

The notes on pages 120 - 153 form part of these accounts

Statement of Changes in Taxpayers' Equity

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Department, analysed into 'general fund reserves' (i.e. those reserves that reflect a contribution from the Consolidated Fund). The Revaluation Reserve reflects the change in asset values that have not been recognised as income or expenditure. The General Fund represents the total assets less liabilities of a department, to the extent that the total is not represented by other reserves and financing items.

For the period ending 31 March 2023

	Note	General Fund £'000	Revaluation Reserve £'000	Total Reserves £'000
Balance at 1 April 2021		13,820	11,283	25,103
Net Parliamentary Funding		479,096	-	479,096
Comprehensive net expenditure for the year	SoCNE	(484,876)	-	(484,876)
Auditor's Remuneration	4	112	-	112
Write-off of GPA funded AUC		(75)	-	(75)
Transfers between reserves		4,263	(4,263)	-
Net (loss) on revaluation of property, plant and equipment	6	-	(4,647)	(4,647)
Net gain on revaluation of intangible assets	7	-	473	473
Amounts issued from the Consolidated Fund for supply but not spent at year end		(14,169)	-	(14,169)
Deemed supply	10	21,266	-	21,266
Balance at 31 March 2022		19,437	2,846	22,283
Net Parliamentary Funding		358,522	-	358,522
Comprehensive net expenditure for the year		(363,498)	-	(363,498)
Auditor's Remuneration	4	129	-	129
Initial adoption of IFRS 16		(54)	-	(54)
Transfers between reserves		651	(651)	-
Net loss on revaluation of property, plant and equipment	6	-	854	854
Net gain on revaluation of intangible assets	7	-	622	622
Amounts issued from the Consolidated Fund for supply but not spent at month end	10	(20,151)	-	(20,151)
Deemed supply	10	14,169	-	14,169
Balance at 31 March 2023		9,205	3,671	12,876

Note

The General Fund is used to account for all financial resources, except for capitalised assets. In 22/23 there was a £54k adjustment for initial adoption of IFRS16; this relates to outstanding operating lease prepayments, which debited the General Fund when these leases transitioned to IFRS16.

The Revaluation Reserve records unrealised gains and losses on revaluation of assets. The notes on pages 120 - 153 form part of these accounts.

Notes to the Accounts

1. Statement of Accounting Policies and Accounting Convention

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in the preparation of the financial statements is applicable law and UK adopted international accounting standards.

The 2022/23 Government Financial Reporting Manual (FReM) applies International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), adapted or interpreted for the public sector. Where the FReM permits a choice of accounting policy, the accounting policy which is judged to be most appropriate to the particular circumstances of the UK Statistics Authority for the purpose of giving a true and fair view has been selected. The particular policies adopted by the Authority are described below. They have been applied consistently in dealing with items that are considered material to the accounts.

In addition to the primary statements prepared under IFRS, the FReM also requires the Authority to prepare additional primary statements. The Statement of Parliamentary Supply and supporting notes show outturn against Estimate in terms of the net resource requirement and the Net Cash Requirement.

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention modified to account for the revaluation of property, plant and equipment and in-house software.

The Authority is primarily resourced by funds approved by the House of Commons through the annual Appropriation Act. Resources are drawn down each month to meet expenditure requirements and are credited to the General Fund. The functional currency for the UK Statistics Authority is pounds sterling; the Authority keeps a small balance of sterling and euros as well as shopping vouchers and postage stamps.

Going concern

The Authority anticipates continued funding to promote and safeguard the production of official statistics that serve the public good, as evidenced by the inclusion of financial provision for that service in the SR21 settlement agreement with HM Treasury. This is sufficient evidence that the Authority remains a going concern in accordance with the continuity of service principle outlined within the FReM.

Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment (PPE) assets include computers, and associated equipment, office machinery, and furniture and fittings.

Civil Estate property is occupied in Newport, Titchfield and Christchurch. Ownership of the land and buildings was transferred to the Government Property Agency on 30th September 2021 at current market value using professional valuations.

Expenditure on the short-term property lease at Drummond Gate was stated at current cost by using indices taken from the Authority's publication "Price Index Numbers for Current Cost Accounting". The Authority has now served notice on this property lease with the lease break date of 4th January 2023 when we vacated the property.

All other PPE assets are re-valued from the beginning of the quarter of acquisition. These assets are stated at current costs by using indices taken from the Authority's publication Price Index Numbers for Current Cost Accounting.

PPE assets must exceed the capitalisation threshold of £5,000 (excluding VAT) and have a life greater than one year.

The Authority adopted IFRS 16 Leases in April 2022. Therefore, PPE previously classified as a Finance Lease, will now be recognised under Right of Use Asset. Please see Lease note.

Intangible assets

Intangible assets consist of software licenses and in-house developed software. Software licenses are not re-valued and are included at depreciated historical cost.

In-house developed software is stated at current costs by using indices developed by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) National Accounts Division.

In House Developed Software assets must exceed a capitalisation threshold of £50,000 (excluding VAT) and have a life greater than one year.

Software Licences must exceed a capitalisation threshold of £5,000 (excluding VAT) and have a life greater than one year.

Statistical records

Statistical information has built up over many years and is stored for reference purposes. No attempt is made to value this data, as there is no realistic way of doing so that would arrive at a meaningful valuation. The cost of storing and maintaining the data is charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure as incurred.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the re-valued cost of assets over the estimated useful economic life on a straight-line basis (except where otherwise indicated), as follows:

Classification	Depreciation/Amortisation methodology
Right of Use Asset	Over the term of the lease
Building refurbishments	Over the term of the lease
Computer assets	Between three and seven years
Office machinery	Between four and seven years
Furniture and fittings	Between four and ten years
In-house developed software	Between two and six years
Software licenses	Between two and six years

Note

In-house developed software is assigned a useful economic life (UEL) of between two and six years at the time of capitalisation. Technical circumstances can change for an asset during its life, resulting in the UEL being extended and therefore exceeding six years on occasion.

For property, plant and equipment a full year's depreciation is charged in the year of acquisition with the exception of fixed assets that are associated with building refurbishments where depreciation is charged from the quarter in which the assets are completed.

In-house developed software and applications are amortised between a range of two and six years, (subject to an annual review), charged from the quarter in which the assets are completed.

Perpetual software licenses are amortised on a straight line basis over a life of four years. Where software licenses are over a specific period they are depreciated over this useful life.

All intangible assets are reviewed annually for impairment.

Assets in the course of construction

Assets under construction are capitalised as appropriate where meeting the requirements of IAS 16 or IAS 38 and transferred out of assets under construction into the relevant category of PPE or intangibles on completion.

Research and development

The Authority undertakes certain research into statistical and survey methodology. Costs are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure as they arise.

As required under European System of Accounts (ESA) 10 Research and Development costs are charged to Capital within the Statement of Parliamentary Supply. The reconciliation between the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure and the Statement of Parliamentary Supply is shown at SOPS Note 2.

Assets held for sale

Assets held for sale comprise properties, plant and equipment that are no longer in operational use and are available for immediate sale in their present condition and are being actively marketed. The assets are classified from non-current to current assets at sales prices less costs to sell. Assets held for sale are not depreciated.

Revenue from contracts with customers

Under IFRS 15, key judgements in determining the recognition and timing of revenue recognition are identified at the point when:

- control of goods and services is transferred under contractual arrangements and services to the customer, and
- performance obligations are satisfied, whether at a point in time or over time.

Most of the Authority's performance obligations relate to services satisfied over time.

The Authority applies the five-stage model for the recognition of revenue from contracts with customers:

Step 1 – Identify the contract(s) with a customer.

Step 2 – Identify the performance obligations in the contract.

Step 3 – Determine the transaction price.

Step 4 – Allocate the transaction price to the performance obligations in the contract.

Step 5 – Recognise revenue when the Authority satisfies a performance obligation.

The application of the model depends on the facts and circumstances presented in a contract with a customer and requires the exercise of judgement. Revenue related to performance obligations recognised over time as the service is rendered is measured by reference to the input (resources consumed in satisfying a performance obligation) method.

The Authority recognises revenue using an input method based on overheads incurred. Revenue is calculated by reference to reliable estimates and total expected costs. Revenue and associated margin are therefore recognised progressively as costs are incurred. The Authority has determined this method faithfully depicts the Authority's performance in transferring control of the services to the customer.

The new COVID-19 Infection Survey (CIS) Digital delivery model and programme continued in 2022/23 but at a markedly reduced cost and a corresponding lower income. The CIS work is funded via the UK Health Security Agency and is based on a cost plus agreed overhead rate and recognised progressively as costs are incurred.

If the over time criteria for revenue recognition are not met, revenue is recognised at the point in time that control is transferred to the customer, when the Authority has right to payment on delivery.

Prices charged to customers are calculated in accordance with Managing Public Money (published by the Treasury).

Foreign exchange

The Authority conducts a small number of transactions which are denominated in a foreign currency which are reviewed in accordance with IAS 21 and 39 (derivatives).

Transactions, other than Euros, are translated into sterling at the exchange rate ruling on the date of each transaction. Assets and liabilities denominated in Euros are translated into sterling at the exchange rate ruling at the date of the Statement of Financial Position.

Leases

IFRS 16 “Leases” has been implemented from 1 April 2022; this introduces a single lessee accounting model that requires a lessee to recognise assets and liabilities for all leases (apart from the exemptions included below).

For government bodies reporting under the FReM, IFRS16 was brought into effect on 1 April 2022 and replaces IAS 17 (Leases).

In respect of lessees, IFRS 16 removes the distinction between operating and finance leases and introduces a single accounting model that requires a lessee to recognise (‘right of use’) assets and lease liabilities.

The definition of a lease has been updated under IFRS 16, there is more emphasis on being able to control the use of an asset identified in a contract.

Implementation and Assumptions

The Authority has applied IFRS 16 using the modified retrospective approach and therefore the comparative information has not been restated and continues to be reported under IAS 17 Leases. IAS 17 operating leases are included within the Statement of Financial Position as a lease liability and right of use asset for the first time in 2022/23.

The option to reassess whether a contract is, or contains, a lease at the date of initial application has not been used, the Authority has used the practical expedient detailed in IFRS 16(C3).a.

The definition of a contract is expanded to include intra-UK government agreements where non-performance may not be enforceable by law. This includes, for example, Memorandum of Terms of Occupation (MOTO) agreements.

The Authority has elected not to recognise right of use assets and lease liabilities for the following leases:

- intangible assets;
- non-lease components of contracts where applicable;
- low value assets (these are determined to be in line with capitalisation thresholds on Property, Plant and Equipment)
- leases with a lease term of 12 months or less.

Previous treatment

In the comparative period, Leases were reviewed in accordance with IAS 17. As a lessee the Authority classified leases that transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership as finance leases. The leased assets were measured at an amount equal to lower of the fair value or the present value of minimum lease payments. This fair value cap has been removed under IFRS 16 and has resulted in re-measurement of finance leased assets within 22/23 if they meet the re-measurement criteria mentioned below.

Leases other than finance leases are classified as operating leases. Assets previously held as operating leases were not recognised in the Authority's Statement of Financial Position. Payments were recognised in the SoCNE on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease. Any lease incentives were recognised as an integral part of the total lease expense, over the term of the lease.

Policy applicable from 1 April 2022

At inception of a contract, the Authority assesses whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. A contract is, or contains a lease if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time. This includes assets for which there is no consideration. To assess whether a contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset, the Authority assesses whether:

- The contract involves the use of an identified asset;
- The Authority has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefit from the use of the asset throughout the period of use; and
- The Authority has the right to direct the use of the asset.

The policy is applied to contracts entered into, or changed, on or after 1 April 2022.

At inception or on reassessment of a contract that contains a lease component, the Authority allocates the consideration in the contract to each lease component on the basis of the relative standalone prices.

The Authority assesses whether it is reasonably certain to exercise extension options or not to exercise break options at the lease commencement date. The Authority reassesses this if there are significant events or changes in circumstances that were not anticipated. This is evident in the Authority's

application of the IFRS16 hindsight methodology whereby the event of serving notice on segments of its leased properties in March 2023 led to the Right of Use Assets and corresponding lease liabilities being re-measured as at recognition date of 1st April 2022.

Right of use assets

The Authority recognises a right of use asset and lease liability at the commencement date. The right of use asset is initially measured at cost, which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability adjusted for initial direct costs, prepayments or incentives, and costs related to restoration at the end of a lease.

The right of use assets are subsequently measured at either fair value or current value in existing use in line with property, plant and equipment assets. The cost measurement model in IFRS 16 is used as an appropriate proxy for current value in existing use or fair value for the majority of leases (consistent with the principles for subsequent measurement of property, plant and equipment) except for those which meet one of the following:

- A longer-term lease that has no provisions to update lease payments for market conditions or if there is a significant period of time between those updates; and
- The fair value or current value in existing use of the underlying asset is likely to fluctuate significantly due to changes in market prices.

The right of use asset is depreciated using the straight line method from the commencement date to the end of the lease term. The estimated useful lives of the right of use assets are determined on the same basis as those of property plant and equipment assets.

The Authority applies IAS 36 Impairment of Assets to determine whether the right of use asset is impaired and to account for any impairment loss identified.

Lease liabilities

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments that are not paid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease, or if that cannot be readily determined, the rate provided by HM Treasury (HMT). The HMT discount rates were 0.95% for leases entered into prior to 31 December 2022, or 3.51% after 1 January 2023.

The lease payment is measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. It is re-measured when there is a change in future lease payments arising from a change in the index or rate, if there is a change in the Authority's estimates of the amount expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee, or if the Authority changes its assessment of whether it will exercise a purchase, extension, or termination option.

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability comprise the following:

- Fixed payments, including in-substance fixed payments;
- Variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate, initially measured using the index rate as at the commencement date;
- Amounts expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee;
- The exercise price under a purchase option that the Authority is reasonably certain to exercise, lease payments in an optional renewal period if the Authority is reasonably certain to exercise an extension option, and penalties for early termination of a lease unless the Authority is reasonably certain not to terminate early.

When the lease liability is re-measured a corresponding adjustment is made to the right of use asset or recorded in the SoCNE if the carrying amount of the right of use asset is zero.

The table below reconciles the operating lease commitments under IAS 17 as presented in the Annual Report and Accounts 2021/22 to the lease liability calculated under IFRS 16 on 1 April 2022:

Operating Leases 2021-22	51,700
Commitments under Operating Leases classified as a 2022/23 Addition under IFRS16	(5,779)
Commitments under Operating Leases, not in scope of IFR16 (no control)	(211)
Commitments under Operating Leases, not in scope of IFR16 (< 12 months)	(747)
Commitments under Operating Leases, not in scope of IFR16 (< £5k threshold)	(25)
Adjustment to opening balance in 2022-23	* (14,659)
Change in methodology for calculation of future payments	14
	(21,407)
Current Finance Lease	562
IFRS16 Total Lease Payments	30,855
IFRS16 Total Lease Payments - Discounting	(2,765)
Present Value of IFRS16 Opening Balances	28,090

Note

* Of the £14.7m total adjustment to the opening balance in 22-23, £15.3m relates to properties leased from the GPA. The £15.3m has been valued by applying the hindsight methodology within IFRS16, whereby segments of the property due to be surrendered have been removed from the Right of Use Asset valuation and corresponding lease liabilities at transition date (01/04/2023) to reflect the 18-month break notice given on 31/03/2022. The remainder of the balance is made up of a combination of immaterial other adjustments.

Financial instruments

The Authority does not hold any complex financial instruments.

Provisions and early departure costs

The Authority provides for legal or constructive obligations which are of uncertain timing or amount at the Statement of Financial Position date on the basis of best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of time value is significant, provisions are discounted using the discount rates published by HM Treasury. These provisions are reviewed each year in accordance with IAS 37.

The Authority meets the responsibility of additional costs of employees who take voluntary early severance or who retire early by paying the amounts required over the period between early departure and normal retirement date. The Authority provides for this in full when the early retirement programme becomes binding.

The Authority recognises a liability for early departure costs where an obligation to pay employees exists.

The Authority recognises the obligation as a provision in the financial statements when:

- the scheme has been announced
- it has created a valid expectation that it will fulfil the obligations of the scheme.

The Authority recognises the obligation as an accrued liability in the financial statements when:

- a formal signed agreement with the member of staff is in place
- the member of staff has agreed a specified leaving date.

In the circumstances where we have not met the criteria listed above the exit costs will be recognised in the following financial years.

Trade receivables

Trade receivables are recognised at their amortised cost less expected credit losses in accordance with IFRS 9. Expected credit losses are based on the Authority's expectation of recovery at the year end.

Staff costs

Under IAS19 Employee Benefits, all staff costs must be recorded as an expense as soon as the organisation is obliged to pay them. This includes the cost of any untaken leave at the year end.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Authority holds balances of cash and cash equivalents in a readily realised form; these include cash balances, shopping vouchers and postage stamps.

VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is charged to the relevant expenditure category or included in the capitalised purchase cost of assets. Where output VAT is charged or input VAT is recoverable, the amounts are stated net of VAT.

Programme Expenditure

Net expenditure for the year is analysed in the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure between income and operating costs. The classification of expenditure and income as programme follows the definition of programme costs set out in HM Treasury Consolidated Budgeting Guidance, and as voted by Parliament in the Treasury's Supply Estimate.

Pensions

Past and present employees are covered by the provisions of the Principal Civil Service Pension Schemes as described in notes to the accounts and in the Authority's Remuneration Report. The Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) and the Civil Servant and Other Pension Scheme (CSOPS) are unfunded, except in respect of death in service or ill health retirement. Employees can opt to open partnership pension accounts, a stakeholder pension with employer contributions ranging from 8% to 14.75% depending on the employee's age. The Authority recognises the expected costs of these elements on a systematic and rational basis over a period during which it benefits from employees' services by payment to the Principal Civil Service Pension Schemes (PCSPS) of amounts calculated on an accruing basis. Liability for payment of future benefits is a charge on the PCSPS. In respect of the defined contribution elements of the schemes, the Authority recognises the contribution payable for the year.

Contingent liabilities

In addition to contingent liabilities disclosed in accordance with IAS 37, the Authority discloses for parliamentary reporting and accountability purposes certain statutory and non-statutory contingent liabilities where the likelihood of a transfer of economic benefit is remote, but which have been reported to Parliament in accordance with the requirements of Managing Public Money.

Where the time value of money is material, contingent liabilities which are required to be disclosed under IAS 37 are stated at discounted amounts and the amount reported to Parliament separately noted. Contingent liabilities that are not required to be disclosed by IAS 37 are stated at the amounts reported to Parliament.

Accounting Estimates and Judgements

In preparation of the Authority's financial statements, management has made estimates and judgements that impact the amounts being reported for assets and liabilities as at the date of the Statement of Financial Position and amounts

reported against income and expenditure during the year. Uncertainties are inherent in business activities, and as such, some elements of financial statements cannot be measured precisely and therefore can only be estimated. Estimation involves judgements based on the latest available, reliable information.

Definitions

Estimate

A tentative evaluation and rough calculation, of value, quantity or size. These would include:

- Depreciation
- Revaluations
- Provisions
- Accruals

Judgement

The capacity to assess situations or circumstances shrewdly and to draw sound conclusions. These would include:

- Revenue from contracts with customers
- Useful Economic Life and Impairment of In-house Software Intangible Assets
Useful Economic Life
- Leases

Revenue from contracts with customers

Judgements are applied to measurement and timing of revenue recognition and related balances for contract assets, trade receivables and accrued and deferred income in the context of satisfaction of performance obligations over time or at a point in time.

The Authority has several income streams where the level of revenue is based on levels of expenditure; judgements are applied to ensure the costs associated with specific projects are reliable and accurately reflect the level of expenditure of the project.

Judgements are applied to calculate a corporate overhead rate which is used to derive the charge out rate when charging for staff time. The level of overheads associated with each revenue stream are agreed with the customer prior to contract commencement.

Depreciation

Class of asset	Estimated life of asset (depreciation)
Office machinery	Between four and seven years
Computer hardware	Between three and seven years
Furniture and fittings	Between four and ten years
In-house developed software (intangible asset)	Between two and six years
Software licences (intangible asset)	Between two and six years
Assets under construction	Not depreciated

Note

In-house developed software is assigned a useful economic life (UEL) of between two and six years at the time of capitalisation. Technical circumstances can change for an asset during its life, resulting in the UEL being extended and therefore exceeding six years on occasion. Freehold buildings were depreciated up to September 2021, after which they were transferred to the Government Property Agency.

Intangible Assets Useful Economic Life

Applicable expenditure incurred in the development of internally created software is capitalised and recognised as an intangible asset if the criteria set out in the relevant accounting standards are met. The Authority has made judgements and assumptions when assessing whether a project meets these criteria and recognises an intangible asset, whether purchased or built in-house (at cost) if, and only if:

- the Authority intends to complete the asset and bring it into use
- the Authority has the ability to use the asset
- there are adequate technical, financial and other resources to complete the development and use the asset
- it is probable that the future economic benefits that are attributable to the asset will flow to the entity
- the cost of the asset can be measured reliably.

Having recognised the costs and determined the economic life attributable to an intangible asset by applying IAS38, the Authority undertakes an annual review of in-house developed software by applying IAS 36, adapted by HM Treasury for the public sector. The software does not generate future cash flows; its purpose is the support of future service potential and where an asset is not held for the purpose of generating cash flow, the value of the asset is assumed to equal the cost of replacing the asset, unless there has been a reduction in the service level.

The Authority gauges the continued service potential of each in-house developed software asset by referring to the following factors:

- management information from the in-house software, including usage statistics where available
- future plans highlighted by the ONS Strategic Roadmap and the Digital, Technology and Methodology transformation plan
- information technology reviews
- business area expectations and intelligence of ongoing requirements
- the estimated remaining useful economic life of the asset.

The remaining economic lives for intangible assets are estimated at between two and six years for internal projects.

A reduction in the value of in-house developed software or impairment of assets in the course of construction, resulting from decisions undertaken by the Authority in the course of normal business operations is charged to Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL). Normal business operation covers all loss and damage to assets that result from management or staff action and the actions of third parties.

Provisions

IAS 37 defines and specifies the accounting for and disclosure of provisions, contingent liabilities, and contingent assets.

A provision is a liability of uncertain timing or amount. The liability may be a legal obligation or a constructive obligation. A constructive obligation arises from the Authority's actions, through which it has indicated to others that it will accept certain responsibilities, and as a result has created an expectation that it will discharge those responsibilities.

The Authority recognises a provision if it is probable that an outflow of cash or other economic resources will be required to settle the provision. If an outflow is not probable, the item is treated as a contingent liability.

A provision is measured at the amount that the Authority would rationally pay to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period. Risks and uncertainties are considered in measuring a provision which is discounted to its present value.

Provision for Unredeemed Survey Incentive Vouchers

The Authority issues shopping vouchers to survey respondents as an incentive to complete certain surveys and is billed for the cost of these vouchers once the voucher has been redeemed by the recipient. Vouchers issued to survey respondents have a three-month expiry date so an estimated judgement is made, based on redeemed rates during the year, of the probable value of unredeemed vouchers at year end that will be redeemed before expiring. As the expenditure relates to the past event of issuing the vouchers and the cash

outflow is not certain, the estimated value of vouchers redeemed before expiring are accounted for as a provision.

Estates Dilapidations

The terms of a specific lease that the Authority had entered states that the building should be returned in a fit state to the landlord. At any such time the Authority should consider whether there is any liability to return the property to its original state and commence discussion with the landlord. We have now vacated the premises and negotiations with the landlord are ongoing. Any provision will be based on the estimated cost of returning the property back to its original state.

As this lease has not been recognised under IFRS16, the accounting treatment for Potential Claims and Dilapidations is to charge the costs to the Statement of Net Comprehensive Expenditure in the accounting period they arise, along with increasing the provision balances held on the Statement of Financial Position. When an actual payment is made relating to these specific entries, the actual payment is made against the provision with no charge to the Statement of Net Comprehensive Expenditure.

Accruals

Accruals are an accounting methodology that records income and expenditure when they occur; ensuring costs are recorded in the same period as the activity regardless of when cash is exchanged. The term accrual refers to any individual entry recording income and expense in the absence of a cash transaction. These occur throughout the year to ensure monthly reporting is as complete as possible, but its primary purpose is to ensure the Annual Accounts represent a true and fair view of the Authority's financial position.

When goods or services are received prior to the financial year end but the invoice is not expected until the following financial year, an accrual is made to ensure that the charge is recognised in the correct accounting period. Other goods and services will require a quote previously provided such as a capital item to be delivered or calculation, such as a timesheet multiplied by the hourly rate for an employment agency accrual.

Holiday and flexi leave pre-payments and accruals are calculated by comparing the expected year-end balance against the actual balance at 31 March. The expected balance is calculated by spreading the entitlement evenly over the year taking into consideration the leave year start date for each member of staff. This is compared to the actual balance held; the balance is valued by grade using staff planning rates.

The Authority is currently compliant in meeting its reporting requirements relating to estimates and judgements and where these estimates change, they are amended within the guidelines of accounting standard IAS 8.

Leases

The valuation of right of use assets at IFRS 16 adoption has accounted for the Authority's intention to reduce occupancy at sites leased from the GPA by serving notice on elements of the properties. The notice period applied to elements being surrendered is 18 months from 31st March 2023 in line with the break clauses in the lease agreement. The subsequent remeasurement of these assets has been applied as per the standard's hindsight methodology, because of intentions to reduce occupancy being made known following initial asset recognition. The Authority's interpretation of hindsight is that the decisions made during 2022-23 should be applied at the IFRS16 transition date of 01/04/2022.

The Authority is reasonably certain not to exercise the full termination options within its property lease agreements and have therefore recognised the right of use asset and corresponding liability across the full 15-year term of the lease agreement for the segments of its assets that it wishes to retain. There are several reasons why this judgement has been made one of which is the significant economic incentive to remain at the current sites for the full term of the lease.

As the lease liability and the right-of-use asset is based on unadjusted lease payments as known at the commencement date, no uplifts for inflation or RPI have been factored into the calculations. Therefore, when the lease payments change because of inflation or RPI the Authority will account for the remeasurement of the lease by recalculating the new lease liability by discounting adjusted lease payments with the original discount rate. The difference will be a right-of-use asset adjustment.

Standards Not Yet Adopted

IFRS17 Insurance Contracts

IFRS 17 Insurance Contracts, which replaces IFRS 4 Insurance Contracts, will be adopted in the UK from 1 January 2023. HM Treasury have agreed with the Financial Reporting Advisory Board (FRAB) to delay the implementation of IFRS 17 in central government by 2 years to 1 April 2025.

The headline of the new standard is that the scope of an insurance contract will change from that under IFRS 4 Insurance Contracts, meaning that some contracts issued by organisations and not previously considered to fall within an insurance category could now be classified as an insurance contract. e.g. product breakdown contracts or warranties. The standard only applies to insurance contracts issued and not those held.

Following a review, the Authority does not believe it issues any contracts that fall within the scope of IFRS17 and therefore will continue to apply IFRS 15 Revenue Recognition to the Authority's income generation.

2. Segmental Information of Expenditure and Income

The following information is regularly provided in order to inform the decision making by the National Statistician's Executive Group and the primary Chief Operating Decision Maker (CODM) of the UK Statistics Authority to make decisions regarding planning, resource allocation and income, as well as performance monitoring.

	2022/23					2021/22				
	Gross Expenditure £'000	Customer Contracts Income £'000	Other Income £'000	Total Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000	Gross Expenditure £'000	Customer Contracts Income £'000	Other Income £'000	Total Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000
Reportable segments										
Corporate support	59,967	(22,089)	(2,133)	(24,222)	35,745	50,373	(24,383)	(2,387)	(26,770)	23,603
Data growth and operations	21,381	-	-	-	21,381	19,900	(147)	(3)	(150)	19,750
Data science campus	5,985	(77)	(50)	(127)	5,858	5,620	(76)	(12)	(88)	5,532
Digital services and technology	77,553	-	-	-	77,553	89,936	-	-	-	89,936
Economic Statistics	28,896	(186)	(859)	(1,045)	27,851	25,615	(155)	(1,146)	(1,301)	24,314
Health analysis and pandemic insight	194,100	(175,857)	(1,521)	(177,378)	16,722	416,000	(398,291)	(801)	(399,092)	16,908
Health population and methods transformation	23,236	(98)	(131)	(229)	23,007	129,828	(95)	(86)	(181)	129,647
Integrated data programme and service	17,829	(5,370)	(22)	(5,392)	12,437	12,234	(5,862)	(54)	(5,916)	6,318
Leadership	2,393	-	-	-	2,393	1,838	-	-	-	1,838
Macroeconomic statistics and analysis	27,516	(38)	(242)	(280)	27,236	24,256	-	(975)	(975)	23,281
Methodology and quality	13,185	-	(14)	(14)	13,171	14,199	-	(51)	(51)	14,148
Public policy analysis	23,160	(324)	(1,115)	(1,439)	21,721	20,656	(3,434)	(572)	(4,006)	16,650
Surveys	71,572	(14,081)	(321)	(14,402)	57,170	77,625	(13,999)	(784)	(14,783)	62,842
UK Statistics Authority	2,717	-	-	-	2,717	2,613	-	-	-	2,613
Total	569,490	(218,120)	(6,408)	(224,528)	344,962	890,693	(446,442)	(6,871)	(453,313)	437,380

Census related expenditure and income reported in the Segmental Information Table

	2022/23			2021/22		
	Gross Expenditure £'000	Total Income £'000	Net Expenditure £000	Gross Expenditure £'000	Total Income £'000	Net Expenditure £000
Reportable segments						
Corporate support	334	-	334	18,923	-	18,923
Data growth and operations	47	-	47	4,762	-	4,762
Digital services and technology	242	-	242	30,418	-	30,418
Economic statistics	-	-	-	1,200	-	1,200
Health analysis and pandemic insight	38	-	38	673	-	673
Health population and methods transformation	1,536	-	1,536	124,665	-	124,665
Integrated data programme and service	-	-	-	1	-	1
Leadership	-	-	-	-	-	-
Macroeconomic statistics and analysis	-	-	-	170	-	170
Methodology and quality	307	-	307	4,326	-	4,326
Public policy analysis	104	-	104	2,416	-	2,416
Surveys	748	-	748	21,159	-	21,159
Total	3,356	-	3,356	208,713	-	208,713



Reconciliation between segment information and net operating cost in the statement of comprehensive net expenditure.

		2022/23			2021/22		
	Note	Gross Expenditure £'000	Total Income £'000	Net Expenditure £000	Gross Expenditure £'000	Total Income £'000	Net Expenditure £000
Total reported by segment		569,490	(224,528)	344,962	890,693	(453,313)	437,380
Reconciling items							
Depreciation	4	12,146	-	12,146	10,836	-	10,836
Provisions created in year	12	5,984	-	5,984	5,435	-	5,435
Provisions not required in year	12	(142)	-	(142)	-	-	-
Unwinding discount on provisions	4	(5)	-	(5)	(53)	-	(53)
Performance related pay year end accrual	3	528	-	528	80	-	80
Loss on disposal of equipment	4	67	-	67	830	-	830
Land and buildings transfer to GPA	-	-	-	-	30,200	-	30,200
Movement in holiday pay	9,11	(42)	-	(42)	168	-	168
Statement of comprehensive net expenditure		588,026	(224,528)	363,498	938,189	(453,313)	484,876

Note

Net assets are not reported separately to the CODM.

3. Staff Numbers and related Costs

For the period ending 31 March 2023

	Permanently employment Staff £'000	Others £'000	2022/23		2021/22
			Total £'000	Total £'000	
Statistical services staff costs	197,603	3,731	201,334		193,669
Census field staff costs	-	-	-		43,964
Social security costs	20,340	-	20,340		18,407
Census field staff social security costs	-	-	-		3,180
Other pension costs	51,853	-	51,853		48,273
Census field staff other pension costs	-	-	-		1,655
Tax and Levies	963	-	963		904
Census tax and levies	-	-	-		233
Total	270,759	3,731	274,490		310,285
Less recoveries in respect of outward secondments	(316)	-	(316)		(197)
Total net costs	270,443	3,731	274,174		310,088

Note

Statistical Services Staff Costs includes £11,326,000 of research and development costs which are analysed as capital expenditure in the Statement of Outturn Against Parliamentary Supply. The 2022/23 salary figures reflect a net yearly cost reduction of £42,000 of accrued holiday and flexi pay, and PRP of £528,000. In addition to the £270,443,000 reported total net costs, £739,000 of salary costs were categorised as capital expenditure (£8,000 2021/22) and not included in the operating cost statement.

Staff numbers

	Permanently employment Staff FTE	Others FTE	2022/23		2021/22
			Total FTE	Total FTE	
Objective statistical services	5,069	294	5,363		5,126
Census Field	-	-	-		1,521
Total	5,069	294	5,363		6,647

Note

Statistical services staff numbers are calculated using the average number of staff on the payroll each month rather than at year end. Census Field staff numbers are calculated using the average number of staff on the payroll each week.

Capitalised staff costs

	Cost £'000	2022/23		Cost £'000	2021/22 FTE's
		FTE's	FTE's		
IDSP Platform Delivery	496	18		-	-
IDSP Core Service Design and Architecture	234	12		-	-
Data Management and SBR	9	1		-	-
Clerical matching	-	-		8	1
Total	739	31		8	1

4. Programme costs

For the period ending 31 March 2023

	2022/23			2021/22		
	Census £'000	Other £'000	Total £000	Census £'000	Other £'000	Total £000
Non-cash items						
Depreciation	672	6,311	6,983	551	5,055	5,606
Amortisation	752	4,411	5,163	850	4,380	5,230
Impairment of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net release of provisions	-	5,842	5,842	-	5,435	5,435
Unwinding and rewinding of discount on provisions	-	(5)	(5)	-	(53)	(53)
Grant Expense	-	3,724	3,724	-	30,200	30,200
External audit fee *	-	129	129	-	112	112
Loss on disposal of equipment	-	67	67	-	830	830
Non Cash Provision Utilisation	-	(9,742)	(9,742)	-	(11,187)	(11,187)
	1,424	10,737	12,161	1,401	34,772	36,173
Payments for carrying out surveys	257	130,041	130,298	557	288,042	288,599
Survey Incentives	-	62,817	62,817	1,382	122,135	123,517
Other expenditure	100	7,353	7,453	41,759	9,095	50,854
Information technology	4,388	38,690	43,078	15,842	30,864	46,706
Contractors	2,855	15,604	18,459	17,141	18,950	36,091
Consultancy	3,746	12,712	16,458	6,114	4,223	10,337
Miscellaneous fees	385	1,911	2,296	3,025	4,359	7,384
Travel and subsistence	211	3,731	3,942	3,133	1,819	4,952
Telecommunications	2	2,373	2,375	2,441	1,552	3,993
Accommodation	-	4,989	4,989	30	3,800	3,830
Postage	6	3,556	3,562	180	2,769	2,949
External training	137	2,198	2,335	448	2,356	2,804
Marketing and media	30	966	996	2,054	(171)	1,883
Hospitality	7	509	516	398	252	650
Stationery	3	493	496	62	231	293
Other leases	-	797	797	31	2,450	2,481
Hire of plant and machinery	-	288	288	4,196	198	4,394
Exchange rate (gains)/losses	-	(2)	(2)	-	10	10
Ex-gratia payments	-	3	3	1	3	4
Interest Expense	-	219	219	-	-	-
	12,127	289,248	301,375	98,794	492,937	591,731
Total programme costs	13,551	299,985	313,536	100,195	527,709	627,904

Note

* There were no non-audit fees incurred in 2022/23 (2021/22 nil).

Presentation of 2021/22 numbers amended for comparability.

The new CIS Digital delivery model and programme continued in 2022/23 but at a markedly reduced cost and a corresponding lower income. The CIS work is funded via the UK Health Security Agency

5. Income

For the period ending 31 March 2023

	2022/23 £'000	2021/22 £'000
Customer contracts	218,120	446,442
Other	6,316	6,753
Capital grants received	0	123
EU income	92	(5)
Total	224,528	453,313

An analysis of income from services provided external and public sector customers is as follows:

	2021/22			2020/21		
	External £'000	Public sector £'000	Total £'000	External £'000	Public sector £'000	Total £'000
Customer contracts	4,331	213,789	218,120	7,506	438,936	446,442
Other	1,115	5,201	6,316	558	6,195	6,753
Capital grants received	-	-	-	-	123	123
EU income	92	-	92	(5)	-	(5)
Total	5,538	218,990	224,528	8,059	445,254	453,313

Note

The new CIS Digital delivery model and programme continued in 2022/23 but at a markedly reduced cost and a corresponding lower income. The CIS work is funded via the UK Health Security Agency.

6. Property, plant and equipment

For the period ending 31 March 2023

	Land £'000	Building £'000	Computers £'000	Office machinery £'000	Furniture and fittings £'000	Assets Under Construction £'000	Total £'000
Cost or Valuation							
At April 2021	9,245	25,199	24,198	1,622	5,784	2,235	68,283
Additions	-	-	1,809	71	4,860	2,863	9,603
Transfers	-	1,830	-	-	-	(1,830)	-
Disposals	(9,060)	(21,140)	-	(7)	(1,390)	-	(31,597)
Revaluations	(185)	(5,781)	(237)	(26)	883	-	(5,346)
At 31 March 2022	-	108	25,770	1,660	10,137	3,268	40,943
Depreciation							
At April 2021	-	54	18,560	732	2,117	-	21,463
Charged in year	-	842	3,578	346	840	-	5,606
Disposals	-	-	-	(7)	(560)	-	(567)
Revaluations	-	(814)	(160)	(19)	293	-	(700)
At 31 March 2022	-	82	21,978	1,052	2,690	-	25,802
Cost or Valuation							
At April 2022	-	108	25,770	1,108	10,137	3,268	40,391
Additions	-	-	4,644	35	332	584	5,595
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	(112)	(3,441)	(489)	(220)	(3,724)	(7,986)
Revaluations	-	4	340	30	1,033	-	1,407
At 31 March 2023	-	-	27,313	684	11,282	128	39,407
Depreciation							
At April 2022	-	82	21,978	859	2,690	-	25,609
Charged in year	-	17	2,656	113	1,023	-	3,809
Disposals	-	(102)	(3,441)	(489)	(161)	-	(4,193)
Revaluations	-	3	214	17	319	-	553
At 31 March 2023	-	-	21,407	500	3,871	-	25,778
Net Book Value							
At 31 March 2022	-	26	3,792	608	7,447	3,268	15,141
At 31 March 2023	-	-	5,906	184	7,411	128	13,629
Asset Financing							
Owned	-	-	5,906	184	7,411	128	13,629
Leased	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net book value at 31 March 2023	-	-	5,906	184	7,411	128	13,629

Note

Included in the £5,595,000 of additions are £124k of capital creditors. The total amount of capital creditors brought forwards from 2021/22 was £1,849,000. The £3.7m disposal of AUC relates to the transfer of property project related assets to GPA.

Office Machinery opening balance adjustment to reflect IFRS16 movement to Right of Use Asset. See note 14 leases

7. Intangible Fixed Assets

For the period ending 31 March 2023

	In house software £'000	Software Licenses £'000	Assets under construction £'000	Total £'000
Valuation				
At April 2021	41,185	8,717	1,262	51,164
Additions	-	3,778	275	4,053
Transfers from assets under construction	1,285	-	(1,285)	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	2,449	-	-	2,449
At 31 March 2022	44,919	12,495	252	57,666
Amortisation				
At April 2021	32,441	7,147	-	39,588
Charged in year	3,447	1,783	-	5,230
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	1,975	-	-	1,975
At 31 March 2022	37,863	8,930	-	46,793
Valuation				
At April 2022	44,919	12,495	252	57,666
Additions	-	6,235	3,811	10,046
Transfers from assets under construction	910	-	(910)	-
Disposals	-	7,075	-	(7,075)
Revaluations	4,544	-	-	4,544
At 31 March 2023	50,373	11,655	3,153	65,181
Amortisation				
At April 2022	37,863	8,930	-	46,793
Charged in year	3,368	1,795	-	5,163
Disposals	-	(7,075)	-	(7,075)
Revaluations	3,920	-	-	3,920
At 31 March 2023	45,151	3,650	-	48,801
Net book value 31 March 2022	7,056	3,565	252	10,873
Net book value 31 March 2023	5,222	8,005	3,153	16,380

Notes

The net book value of in-house developed software would be £4,539,000 if historic cost accounting had been applied. The Authority calculates indicies to value in-house developed software assets on a quarterly basis. The Authority does not revalue software licensees. Included in the £10,046,000 of capital additions are £5,000 of capital creditors and the amount brought forward from 2021/22 is £261,000.

Intangible Fixed Assets – In-house developed software applications

For the period ending 31 March 2023

	CORD £'000	CASPA £'000	Electronic Data Collection £'000	Business Prices £'000	Life Events £'000	Data Access Platform £'000	DCTP Business Registers £'000	Clerical Matching £'000	ARIES Prices £'000	Total in-house software £'000
Valuation										
At April 2021	9,254	17,917	6,187	137	5,779	1,187	724	-	-	41,185
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers from AUC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,285	-	1,285
Revaluations	535	1,037	358	-	334	69	42	74	-	2,449
At 31 March 2022	9,789	18,954	6,545	137	6,113	1,256	766	1,359	-	44,919
Amortisation										
At April 2021	8,518	17,250	888	137	4,523	781	344	-	-	32,441
Charged in year	211	343	1,461	-	656	417	188	171	-	3,447
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	499	1,009	97	-	282	58	26	4	-	1,975
At 31 March 2022	9,228	18,602	2,446	137	5,461	1,256	558	175	-	37,863
Valuation										
At April 2022	9,789	18,954	6,545	137	6,113	1,256	766	1,359	-	44,919
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers from AUC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	407	503	910
Revaluations	1,011	1,958	677	-	632	-	79	182	5	4,544
At 31 March 2023	10,800	20,912	7,222	137	6,745	1,256	845	1,948	508	50,373
Amortisation										
At April 2022	9,228	18,602	2,446	137	5,461	1,256	558	175	-	37,863
Charged in year	230	373	1,590	-	688	-	203	264	20	3,368
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	966	1,937	326	-	596	-	67	28	-	3,920
At 31 March 2023	10,424	20,912	4,362	137	6,745	1,256	828	467	20	45,151
Net book value 31 March 2022	561	352	4,099	-	652	-	208	1,184	-	7,056
Net book value 31 March 2023	376	-	2,860	-	-	-	17	1,481	488	5,222
Remaining useful economic life	2	-	2	-	-	-	1	5	5	

Notes for Intangible Fixed Assets – In-house developed software applications table on page 143

CORD (Central ONS Repository for Data) is the primary system used to compile the National Accounts including Quarterly National Accounts, Retail Sales Index and Trade (Goods and Services). The CORD platform capability is currently being enhanced to support the processing requirements to deliver the National Accounts in-line with the European System of Accounts 2012 Programme. This will be achieved through progressive improvements in statistical methods, data and system performance.

The Social Survey Repository replaced the Annual Population Survey/ Labour Force Survey re-weighting and Scientific Information Retrieval 2002 systems based in Newport, which currently weight, re-weight, impute, produce derived variables, attach geographies and store the APS and LFS data. It is built on the CASPA platform (Common Architecture for Statistical Processing and Analysis). In March 2023 the useful economic life has been fully realised, and the asset fully written down. As we move to a replacement platform some operational activities may continue during the transition with no further inputs or outputs to this current platform with no further economic benefit to the Authority.

The Electronic Data Collection programme (EDC) aims to develop systems, methods and processes to improve the collection, integration and processing of data in relation to the UK's economy and society.

The software is part of an ongoing Data Collection Transformation Programme to modernise antiquated data collection modes, such as paper-based questionnaires, with a range of electronic data collection channels, making further use of the Web and administrative sources.

The Business Prices programme provides additional functionality to include more respondents in line with Prices Surveys. The useful economic life has been fully realised, and the asset fully written down. The asset has no further economic benefit to the Authority.

The Life Events software replaces the legacy system for processing and quality assuring life events registrations. The data held relates to registrations of Births, Deaths, Abortions, and Birth Notifications.

The software itself is an interim step towards the inclusion of Life Events on a corporate platform in 12 months time. Due to the short time period until the transfer onto Corporate Platforms. In March 2023 the useful economic life has been fully realised, and the asset fully written down. As we move to a replacement corporate platform some operational activities may continue during the transition with no further economic benefit to the Authority.

DCTP Business Registers is a result of a Project Review in 2017-18, where three separate components, the Address Index, the Business Index and the Statistical Business register were reviewed and combined within one project. The development provides a new capability for ONS, increases efficiency, joins up across ONS and government, and puts ONS at the forefront of data management in government. This project will create high quality statistics, where discontinuities between the current and future system can be explained to an appropriate level of granularity. It will enable the ONS milestone of making short-term surveys integrated and online.

Data Access Platform (DAP) - The ONS Strategy is to utilise new data sources and processing techniques to enable us deliver "Better Statistics, Better Decisions" this means utilising Big Data, bringing in data from other departments and companies, being able to explore that data and link it together to gain new insights. DAP is an enabler for that strategy, giving the ONS the tools and technology it needs to securely store all our data and the processing power to make use of it. The useful economic life has been fully realised, and the asset fully written down. The asset has no further economic benefit to the Authority.

Clerical Matching - The ONS requires a capability to match records from multiple datasets and assure that the quality of the matches meet strict targets. The immediate need relating to successful delivery of the 2021 Census. The ONS has an additional requirement that gives the option to re-use the capability for wider business needs beyond the Census with other datasets and to support the overall linking of datasets. This will require the flexibility to build on the existing capability of the tool to potentially meet emerging business need, for example, adding extra fields to the tool as required.

ARIES Prices - ONS collects and analyses prices data for goods and services in the UK. A high-profile use of this data is calculation of the rate of inflation. The wider uses of the data include fiscal and political decision making, commercial planning in the public and private sectors, and uses in academic settings. With observable impacts on currency exchange rates, credit interest rates and political discourse the reliability and security of prices and inflation data is of critical importance. Methods and sources used by ONS for analysis of prices have changed in the past. A further need for Alternative Data Sources (ADS) in price statistics to address current and near-term requirements has become clear through high profile independent reviews such as the 'Independent Review of UK Economic Statistics' by Professor Sir Charles Bean and 'UK Consumer Price Statistics: A Review' by Paul Johnson.

Intangible Fixed Assets

For the period ending 31 March 2023

In-house developed software applications – Assets Under Construction

	Integrated Data Platform – Core Design Service and Architecture £'000	Integrated Data Platform – Platform Delivery £'000	ARIES Prices £'000	Data Management and SBR £'000	Survey Data Collection £'000	Clerical Matching £'000	Total Assets Under construction £'000
Valuation							
At April 2021	-	-	-	-	1	1,261	1,262
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	275	275
Transfers from AUC	-	-	-	-	-	(1,285)	(1,285)
At 31 March 2022	-	-	-	-	1	251	252
Valuation							
At April 2022	-	-	-	-	-	251	251
Additions	380	2,194	503	578	-	156	3,811
Transfers from AUC	-	-	(503)	-	-	(407)	(910)
At 31 March 2023	380	2,194	-	578	-	-	3,152

Note

Assets under construction are not revalued or depreciated. Survey Data Collection opening balance adjusted to reflect an historic immaterial rounding error.

8. Financial Instruments

For the period ending 31 March 2023

As the cash requirements of the Authority are met through the Estimates process, financial instruments play a more limited role in creating and managing risk than would apply to a non-Public Sector body of a similar size. The majority of financial instruments relate to contracts for non-financial items in line with the Authority's expected purchase and usage requirements. The Authority is, therefore, exposed to little credit, liquidity or market risk. The Authority revalues outstanding Euro transactions at year end.

Currency risk

	2022/23 Non-interest bearing financial assets £'000	2022/23 Non-interest bearing financial liabilities £'000	2021/22 Non-interest bearing financial assets £'000	2021/22 Non-interest bearing financial liabilities £'000
Gross financial assets / liabilities Euro	0	23	1	8

9. Trade Receivables and Other Assets

as at 31 March 2023

	2022/23 £'000	2021/22 £'000
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade receivables	3,883	4,007
Contract receivables	10,980	43,473
Prepayments and accrued income	12,883	8,786
Contract Assets	6,061	19,825
	33,807	76,091
Amounts falling after more than one year:		
Deposits and advances	84	96
	33,891	76,187

Total Trade Receivables Outstanding

	2022/23 £'000	2021/22 £'000
1-30 days	14,611	47,444
31-60 days	252	36
	14,863	47,480

Note

2022/23 figures reflect a net yearly increase of £324,000 in the value of pre-paid holiday and flexi pay. The Authority calculates the holiday and flexi prepayment at the year end with the figure being reflected in the category of prepayments and accrued income. 2022/23

In accordance with IFRS 9 the Authority has reviewed its activities and concluded as a standalone non-ministerial body it does not hold complex financial instruments.

The only financial instruments included in the accounts are receivables and payables.

Trade receivables are recognised at their amortised cost less credit loss. The Authority primarily transacts with public sector bodies, historically outstanding debts are recovered.

The Authority's payment terms are thirty days. At 31 March 2023 £252,000 debt is outstanding over thirty but less than 60 days, all of which is allocated to public sector bodies which it does not consider a credit risk.

Re-presentation of 2021/22 showing a full disclosure of contract assets within the table rather than in the note.

10. Cash and Cash Equivalents

For the period ending 31 March 2023

	2022/23 £'000	2021/22 £'000
Balance at 1 April	14,169	21,266
Net change in cash and cash equivalent balances	5982	(7,097)
Balance at 31 March 2022	20,151	14,169
The following balances at 31 March were held at:		
Government Banking Service accounts	17,021	12,588
Commercial banks and cash in hand	-	5
Cash equivalents	3,130	1,576
Balance at 31 March 2023	20,151	14,169

11. Trade Payables and Other Current Liabilities

For the period ending 31 March 2023

	2022/23 £'000	2021/22 £'000
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other taxation and social security	5,272	4,857
Trade payables	2,888	6,861
Other payables	3,816	3,750
Accruals and deferred income	35,586	41,734
Contract Liabilities	2,272	14,855
Amounts issued from Consolidated Fund for supply but not spent at year end	20,151	14,169
Total	69,985	86,226

Note

2022/23 figures reflect a net yearly decrease of £366,000 of accrued holiday and flexi pay. The Authority calculates the holiday and flexi accrual at year end with the figure being reflected in the category of accruals and deferred income.

In accordance with IFRS 9 the Authority has reviewed its activities and concluded as a standalone non-ministerial body it does not hold complex financial instruments.

The only financial instruments included in the accounts are receivables and payables.

The Authority's standard contractual payment terms are 30 days, creditors are recognised on receipt of goods or services.

The Authority is not in receipt of loans.

Re-presentation of 2021/22 showing a full disclosure of contract liabilities within the table rather than in the note.

12. Provisions for Liabilities and Charges

For the period ending 31 March 2023

	Property Dilapidations £'000	Survey Incentives £'000	Other Provisions £'000	Total £'000
Balance at 1 April 2021	1,751	9,158	2,457	13,366
Provided in year	-	5,435	-	5,435
Provisions not required written back	-	-	-	-
Provisions utilised in the year	-	(9,158)	(2,059)	(11,217)
Unwinding of discount	(115)	-	-	(115)
Rewinding of discount	57	-	5	62
Balance at 31 March 2022	1,693	5,435	403	7,531
Balance at 1 April 2022	1,693	5,435	403	7,531
Provided in year	-	5,257	727	5,984
Provisions not required written back	-	-	(142)	(142)
Provisions utilised in the year	(401)	(9,292)	(72)	(9,765)
Unwinding of discount	-	-	-	-
Rewinding of discount	-	-	(5)	(5)
Balance at 31 March 2023	1,292	1,400	911	3,603

Analysis of expected timing of discounted flows

	Property Dilapidations £'000	Survey Incentives £'000	Other Provisions £'000	Total £'000
up to 31 March 2024	1,292	1,400	709	3,401
Between 2025 and 2027	-	-	77	77
Between 2028 and 2033	-	-	125	125
Between 2034 and 2039	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31 March 2023	1,292	1,400	911	3,603

Notes

Property Dilapidations

The Authority opted to trigger the break clause to vacate the single floor at the Drummond Gate building in January 2023. As part of the lease agreement, the Authority took on a repairing obligation for the externals of the building and part of the dilapidation. The UK Statistics Authority is in negotiations with the Landlord in respect of dilapidations due under the Terms of the Lease.

Survey Incentives

The Authority issues shopping vouchers to survey respondents as an incentive to complete certain surveys and is billed for the cost of these vouchers once the voucher has been redeemed by the recipient. Vouchers issued to survey respondents have a three-month expiry date and the Authority will incur expenditure on the element that will be redeemed.

Other Provisions

Ongoing contractual obligations and pending employment tribunals.

13. Capital Commitments

For the period ending 31 March 2023

	2022/23 £'000	2021/22 £'000
Contracted capital commitments	149	436
Total commitments as at 31 March 2023 not otherwise included on these financial statements	149	436

14. Leases

Right of Use Assets

For the period ending 31 March 2023

	Buildings £'000	Office machinery £'000	Total £'000
Cost or Valuation			
At 31 March 2022	0	551	551
IFRS 16 Adjustment on adoption	27,494	45	27,539
At 1 April 2022	27,494	596	28,090
Additions	8,518	193	8,711
At 31 March 2023	36,012	789	36,801
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022	-	192	192
Charged in year	3,048	126	3,174
At 31 March 2023	3,048	318	3,366
Net Book Value			
At 31 March 2022	-	359	359
At 31 March 2023	32,964	471	33,435

Note

The Authority exercises judgement and estimation in the valuation of Right of Use Assets when considering indexation linked increase/decreases and break and extension clauses within contracts. This may include the application of IFRS16 hindsight methodology when re-measuring Right of Use Asset values. Further information can be found in the Notes to the Accounts on pages 120 -134.

Included in the £8,518k of additions are £901k of capital creditors. The total amount of capital creditors brought forwards from 2021/22 was £nil. Included within the £27,539k adjustment for IFRS16 adoption is £31k of invoices paid prior to the transition date. These have therefore been recognised within the Right of Use Asset but excluded from the opening lease liability.

Included within the £27,539k adjustment for IFRS16 adoption is £31k of invoices paid prior to the transition date. These have therefore been recognised within the Right of Use Asset but excluded from the opening lease liability.

Maturity analysis Lease Liability

	Buildings £'000	Office machinery £'000	Total £'000
Amounts Falling Due:			
Not later than one year	3,244	305	3,549
Later than one year and not later than five years	11,147	141	11,288
More than five years	17,880	-	17,880
Discounted using the incremental borrowing rate	(1,685)	(10)	(1,695)
Balance as at 31st March 2023	30,586	436	31,022
Current	3,101	297	3,398
Non Current	27,485	139	27,624

Note

Darlington Lease - A formal financial commitment has been signed by the authority for the future occupation of the Darlington Economic Campus (DEC), a central hub for seven government departments and agencies. The lease has been agreed over a 30 year term and is forecasted to be ready for occupation by Spring 2026. The lease has therefore not been recognised because the commencement date is in the future.

GPA Leased Properties - The valuation of right of use assets at IFRS 16 adoption has accounted for the Authority's intention to reduce occupancy at sites leased from the GPA by serving notice on elements of the properties. The subsequent remeasurement of these assets has been applied as per the standard's hindsight methodology, because of intentions to reduce occupancy being made known following initial asset recognition. The Authority's application of the hindsight methodology is that decisions made to reduce occupancy during 2022-23 is accounted for at the IFRS16 transition date of 1st April 2022.

Amounts recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure

	2022/23 £'000	2021/22 £'000
Buildings:		
Depreciation	3,048	-
Interest Expense	214	-
Low value and short term leases	797	-
	4,059	-
Other:		
Depreciation	126	-
Interest Expense	5	-
Low value and short term leases	288	-
	419	-

Amounts recognised in the Statement of Cash Flows

	2022/23 £'000	2021/22 £'000
Buildings:		
Interest Expense	214	-
Repayments of principal on leases	3,954	-
	4,168	-
Other:		
Interest Expense	5	-
Repayments of principal on leases	377	-
	382	-

Commitments under Low Value and Short Term leases

The total future minimum lease payments are detailed in the table below.

	2022/23 £'000	2021/22 £'000
Buildings:		
Not later than one year	41	4,715
Later than one year and not later than five years	11	11,715
More than five years	-	35,169
	52	51,599
Other:		
Not later than one year	-	63
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	38
Total	-	101

Note

2021/22 figures relate to commitments under operating leases as per IAS 17 prior to IFRS 16 adoption in April 2023.

15. Other Financial Commitments

For the period ending 31 March 2023

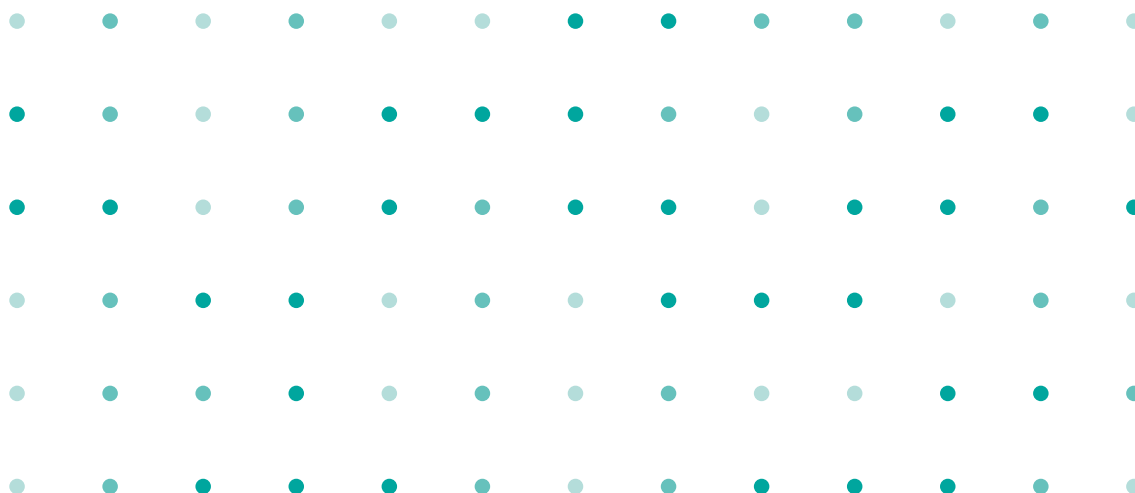
The Authority entered into non-cancellable contracts (which are not Leases or PFI contracts) for Information Management Services, Statistical Services and Facilities Management. As a result the Authority is committed to the following payments.

	2022/23			2021/22		
	Census	Other	£'000	Census	Other	£'000
Not later than one year	370	26,786	27,156	1,887	27,618	29,505
Later than one year and not later than five years	9	11,054	11,063	35	2,370	2,405
Total	379	37,840	38,219	1,922	29,988	31,910

16. Contingent Liabilities

For the period ending 31 March 2023

None.



17. Related Party Transactions

For the period ending 31 March 2023

The Authority has had various material transactions with other Government Departments and other Central Government bodies.

The table below shows all Government Department and other Central Government bodies with whom we had total transactions in excess of £1m during the year. The figures below are net of VAT.

	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Receivable £'000	Payable £'000
Cabinet Office	516	2042	30	264
NISRA	394	665	230	-
Department for Work and Pensions	12,317	-	2,200	-
Government Property Agency	5,446	3,550	3,157	751
HMRC	237	804	213	241
HM Treasury	561	294	250	408
UK Health Security Agency	207,216	53	4,505	1,546
Intellectual Property Office	1,147	218	-	-
Scottish Government	1,555	-	407	-
Welsh Government	3,276	-	3	20
Economic and Social Research Council	5,457	-	-	-

Note

Board Member and Director remunerations are shown in the remuneration report.

No Board Member, Key Manager, or other related parties have undertaken any further material transactions with the Authority during the financial year 2022/23

The Authority has not identified any further related parties.

18. Events Arising after the Reporting Date

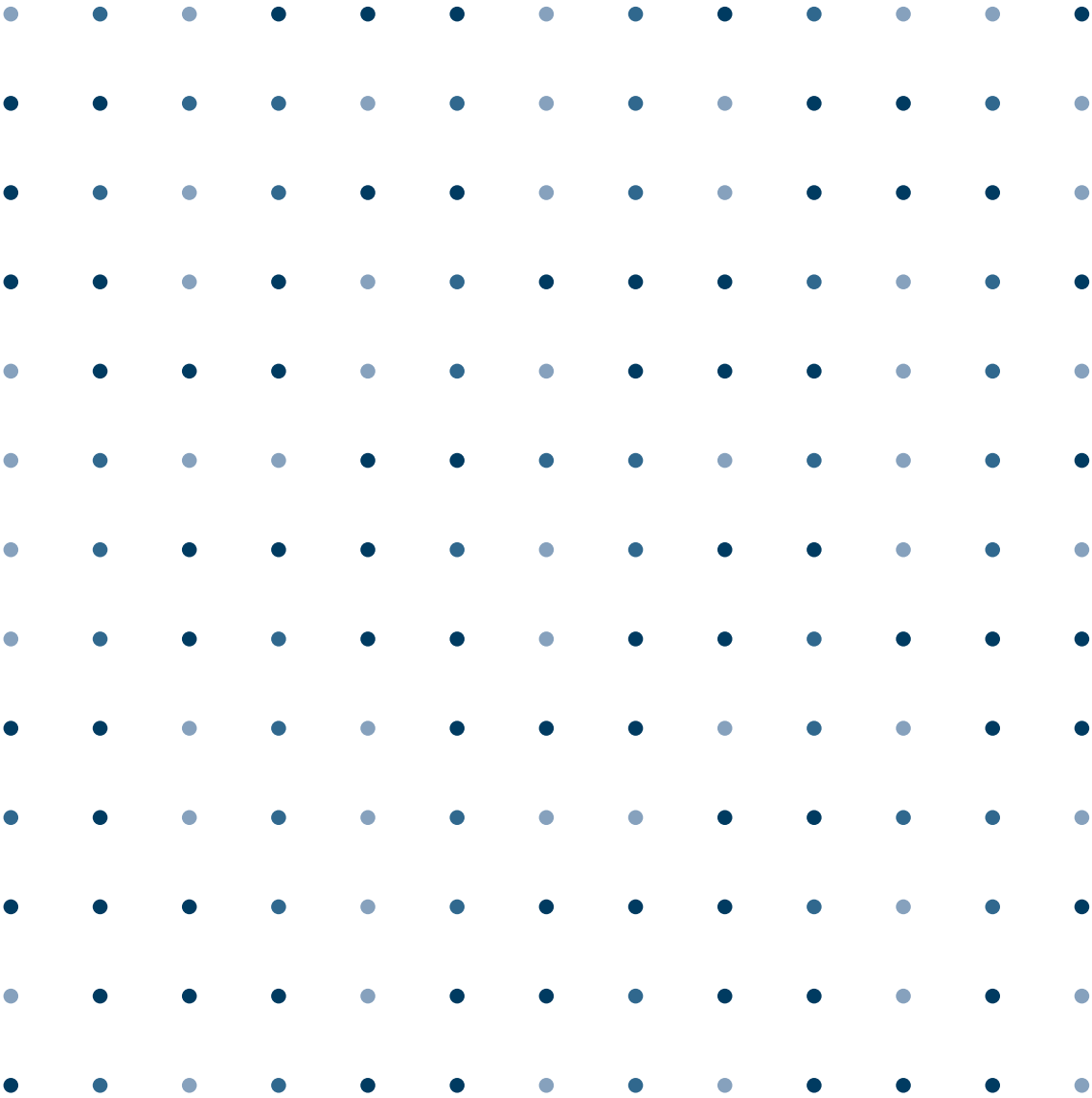
None

19. Date of Authorisation of the Accounts

The Accounts were authorised for issue on the date of the Comptroller and Auditor General's certification.

Annex

Office for Statistics Regulation Annual Report 2022/23



Director General for Regulation's Report

I look at our 2022/23 report in two quite different ways. Firstly, I see it as a demonstration of the progress we have made in ensuring that statistics serve the public good in the UK. The report shows lots of deliveries – 9 assessments reports, for example; 8 systemic reviews; 372 cases investigated; and many other deliveries. It outlines an impressive range of outcomes. As you read it, it is worth bearing in mind that this range of deliveries is achieved by a small team of around 40 people. They are a wonderful team and I hope you are as impressed by what they do as I am.

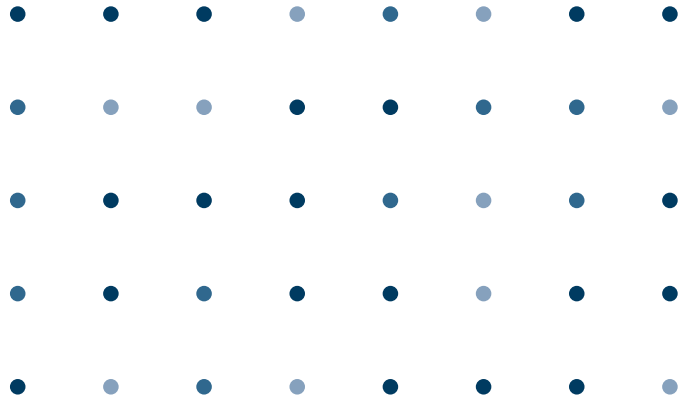
Secondly, and as the flip side of the coin, we are ambitious: there is more we can do to support the public good of statistics. We are not operating at the top end of our maturity model: we could be even more systemic and public-focused, and can secure more impact. And though the team here is brilliant, we can do more to provide opportunities for staff development and to make our work easier to access.

So as I look back on 2022/23, I am very proud of what we've done; and ambitious to do more, and do better, in 2023/24.



Ed Humpherson

Director General for Regulation



Our purpose and vision

The Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) is the Authority's independent regulatory function, established by the Statistics and Registration Service Act (2007).

With offices in England, Scotland and Wales, we provide independent regulation of all official statistics produced in the UK, and aim to enhance public confidence in the trustworthiness, quality and value of statistics produced by government.

We do this by setting the standards official statistics must meet in the Code of Practice for Statistics. We ensure that producers of official statistics uphold these standards by conducting assessments against the Code. Where our assessments conclude that the statistics comply in full with the Code of Practice, we accredit them as National Statistics. We also report publicly on system wide issues and on the way that statistics are being used, celebrating when the standards are upheld and challenging publicly when they are not.

Our vision is simple:

**Statistics should serve
the public good.**

Delivering the Authority priorities for 2020-25

The Authority Strategy set out four priorities for the statistical system for 2020-25:

- build public trust in evidence
- make greater data available in a secure way for research and evaluation
- enhance understanding of social and economic matters
- improve clarity and coherence of communication for maximum impact

As the independent regulator, we work through three delivery channels:



These channels map to the Authority priorities:

	We uphold trustworthiness, quality and value of statistics and data used as evidence	We protect the role of statistics in public debate	We develop a better understanding of the public good of statistics
Build public trust in evidence	✓	✓	✓
Make greater data available in a secure way for research and evaluation	✓		✓
Enhance understanding of social and economic matters	✓	✓	✓
Improve clarity and coherence of communication for maximum impact	✓		✓

Delivering on the 2020-25 Strategy – Mid-Point Review

This year, we passed the half-way mark of the UK Statistics Authority strategy, *Statistics for the Public Good*. Here we reflect on how OSR has contributed to the Authority strategy and what this means for our plans as we work towards 2025.

We are delivering our core regulatory programme – which shows we are meeting the basic level of maturity – delivering a wide range of assessments and other compliance reports during the year. We are also responsive to emerging user concerns. For example, about ONS's excess deaths statistics; or the exam algorithms in 2020; or about the population estimates, a set of concerns that first arose around the city of Coventry. But we can be more ambitious. There is a way to go to be better at anticipating these sorts of user concerns and being more skilled at doing deep dives into specific issues that are raising questions.

We are also increasingly systemic – addressing the ability of the system to meet user needs more widely; for example through our State of the Statistics System report and through our campaign on Intelligent Transparency. And some of this work edges into the wide space of a public culture of data and evidence use, for example, our recent work on statistical literacy. This is the start of a direction we are keen to develop further: it's hugely important.

Feedback collated for a recent mid-term review of the Authority Strategy point to us needing to focus at the upper end of our maturity range – to be systemic and outwards focused. Themes raised in relation to our role included: supporting society's key information needs; effective communication; innovation and collaboration; mis- and dis- information; widening our reach beyond official statistics; data sharing; and coherence for users.

Direct feedback we have had highlight similar themes. Stakeholders said we should; continue to do deep dives (done properly); challenge poor practice; increase our visibility; champion effective communication; and build partnerships with other organisations.

There is a strong appetite for us to continue to be more effective and impactful in our role.

Our performance

Delivery of the key commitments set out in our 2022/23 Business Plan.

How statistics are produced

We uphold trustworthiness, quality and value of statistics and data used as evidence

2022/23 Highlights

- We confirmed National Statistics designation for the [2021 Census in Northern Ireland](#) and the [2021 Census in England and Wales](#) (May/June 2022)
- Institute Of Chartered Accountants In England And Wales published an [Insights podcast](#) with our Director General for Regulation about the importance of data for the Levelling Up agenda. (May 2022)
- The Government Analysis Function published its [Reproducible Analytical Pipelines \(RAP\)](#) strategy, drawing on [our 2021 RAP report](#) and addressing our recommendation for a system-wide strategic direction for RAP.
- We published findings of our [assessment of Key Stage 4 performance statistics](#) for England, produced by Department for Education, identifying a range of strengths but requiring improvement in how the statistics are presented and explained (July 2022)
- Our [State of the Statistical System 2021/22 report](#) drew together the findings from our regulatory work to celebrate where the system consistently performs well and highlight areas for improvement – over 100 people attended the launch event. (July 2022)
- We published [Guidance for Models](#) on how the principles in the Code of Practice can help in designing, developing and using models to improve their Trustworthiness, Quality and Value (TQV) (August 2022)
- In our [follow up to our lessons learned for health and social care statistics from the COVID-19 pandemic](#) we identified four areas which support the production of statistics which serve the public good (November 2022)
- Our Head of Development and Impact explored in a blog [ways the Code of Practice for Statistics can assist producers of statistics and analysis increase their efficiency](#) while facing pressure on resources. (November 2022)
- Our [Review of Excess Deaths Reporting](#) identified recommendations for improvements to support users. (February 2023)
- In [Quality and statistics: an OSR perspective](#) we set out how we think about quality, the challenges producers face when communicating quality, and the environment and behaviours within organisations that support quality. (February 2023).

Outputs

	Year ending 31 March 2023
Assessment Reports	9 reports published
Assessments closed*	10 closed
Designations as National Statistics	12 designations, of which: 3 confirmations of existing statistics and 9 new
De-designations	National Statistics status was temporarily suspended for 6 sets of statistics at the request of producers
Compliance Checks and Rapid Reviews	38 closed
Strategic Reviews including Systemic Reviews	8 reviews published

Note

*An Assessment is closed once we have reached a final decision on designation; the publication of the Assessment report is an interim stage.

Outcomes

Prioritise projects which improve public understanding of matters of greatest public interest

Focus on regulatory projects which are best placed to improve understanding and support society's information needs

Fully delivered: This year we've demonstrated an increased maturity in adapting in-year the program that we specified at the start of the year to be demonstrably more focused on the really key issues:

- On the Scottish Census where we adapted our assessment plans during summer 2022 to provide a stronger and more-timely intervention in order to facilitate better progress from NRS.
- In response to concerns about assurances on economic statistics following the UK's departure from the EU, we developed and are rolling out a new form of assessment focusing on quality.
- We responded rapidly and decisively to concerns raised about ONS' excess deaths statistics through a short review.

Other key topics covered have included: fuel poverty, covid infection survey, modern slavery, LFS transformation, regional GDP.

Promote data sharing and linkage in a secure manner

Highlight potential for, and positive examples of, data sharing and linkage in regulatory work

Fully delivered: Data sharing and linkage has become more embedded as a standard consideration in each of our regulatory projects and we have both championed and challenged producers. Key examples include: considering BEIS' alternate ways to use wide range of data in fuel poverty statistics, engaging with ONS on new data sources for inflation measures, promoting benefits of merging data in production of Key Stage 4 statistics, and DfE's onward sharing of data for analysis; assessment of Scottish Census drawing out aspects of using alternative administrative sources; recognition of good work on data sharing as part of compliance check of Welsh school workforce statistics.

Widen our reach and influence

Use regulatory work to affect wider improvements, drawing insights from regulatory outputs to drive improvement across the statistical system and beyond

Fully delivered: Our work on Intelligent Transparency, Uncertainty, the role of Evaluation in Policy, and State of the Statistics System (SoSS) report have resonated and informed improvements by producers. We need to do more to capitalise on SoSS in 2023/24 and the project team is already well established to deliver this, informed by our Insight Committee (advisory group of producers). OSR's international reach has also grown this year with requests to share our team's expertise, for example, around the Code and Analytical Leadership.

How statistics are used

We protect the role of statistics in public debate

2022/23 Highlights

- We wrote to Department for Education (DfE) about [concerns with the evidence document that was being used for a White Paper on trust-led school systems](#). DfE published additional data and further methodological details in support of the new analysis presented in the White Paper annex. (May 2022)
- We published [Intelligent Transparency FAQs](#) in support of our regulatory guidance on for the transparent release and use of statistics and data (September 2022)
- Ensuring that uncertainty around estimates is communicated well is an important part of ensuring the appropriate use and interpretation of statistics.

We shared our initial findings on [approaches to presenting uncertainty in the statistical system](#) (September 2022)

- We published our [Annual Review of UK Statistics Authority casework in 2021/22](#) (October 2022)
- We wrote publicly to the Home Office Permanent Secretary on a number of [concerns we had about the transparency of Home Office statistics](#) and followed up these interventions with meetings with the Permanent Secretary, Chief Scientific Advisor, and senior analysts in the Department to secure commitments to improved data practices. (November 2022)
- Our think piece [Statistical Literacy – it’s all in the communication](#) and the accompanying research review cemented our position that how information is communicated is very important. (February 2023)

Outputs

	Year ending 31 March 2023
Cases opened	372* (compares with 241 the previous year)
Time to close a case (days – median)	27** (compares with 11 the previous year)
Time to close a case (days – mean)	26 (compares with 20 the previous year)
Cases still open at year end	10 (equal to the previous year)

Note

* Included in this number are 187 duplicate cases opened with us and managed together from June-September 2022, concerning a twitter campaign on a BEIS consultation about weights and measures.

** The increase in the median time to close a case from 11 days in 2021/22 to 27 days in 2022/23 largely reflects the more varied case topic areas that we dealt with. With COVID-19 we could often reuse or update responses to previous cases, with the more varied case load we have to build knowledge afresh. The high number of duplicate cases for the BEIS consultation also impacted the median time to close a case.

Outcomes

Prioritise projects which improve public understanding of matters of greatest public interest

Improve our understanding of how public consume information

Partially delivered: Through the year, we have gleaned some direct insight into how the public find and consume information from the survey of Public Confidences in Official Statistics. We published our first specific reports on the topic of Statistical Literacy and made recommendations on how to improve communication. We have also steadily built our knowledge of work going on outside of OSR, which focusses on public understanding and trust in statistics, such as by ESCoE and the Winton Centre. We are scoping research work on how the public use statistics for 2023/24.

Intervene where there is greatest potential for misunderstanding and misuse

Fully delivered: We have shown that we are more than willing to step in publicly when we have concerns. We have also written and published statements on a number of high-profile topics such as the ONS excess death reporting, the differences between an asylum seeker and migrant, and financial sanctions after the Russian invasion on Ukraine.

Promote data sharing and linkage in a secure manner

Make statements about data sharing and its contribution to public debate

Partially delivered: We are preparing a report into data sharing and linkage across the public sector for publication in early Summer 2023.

Widen our reach and influence

Consolidate our position to support any public use of data and analysis by UK governments. Focus on system-wide change

Fully delivered: We have had great engagement from the analytical community and other stakeholders around our work on uncertainty and intelligent transparency. We published our report on approaches to presenting uncertainty, highlighting that this can be a challenge for producers but that showing uncertainty was essential in improving the interpretation of statistics. On intelligent transparency, we have held a series of engaging round table meetings, the latest focusing on the 4 biggest operational producers. The purpose was to find out if they experienced similar barriers to Intelligent Transparency and to gather any feedback to inform our ongoing campaign. We have hosted several successful analytical seminars, bringing together analysts from different areas to discuss topics such as RAP, data linkage, uncertainty, and intelligent transparency. These sessions were well attended with over 150 attendees at each session and 450 attendees at our RAP session, The audience were engaged throughout, and these sessions are proving an effective way to increase awareness of the core principles of Trustworthiness, Quality and Value.



How statistics are valued

We develop a better understanding of the public good of statistics

2022/23 highlights

- In a blog [Exploring the value of statistics for the public](#) we explore the findings of the Public Confidence in Official Statistics (PCOS) survey. (April 2022)
- Our [policy for granting alternative release times in line with the Code](#) supported producers having some flexibility in the timing of the release of statistics where that would enable the statistics to better serve the public good. (May 2022)
- [Championing a statistical system that serves the public good](#): Sir Robert reflects on the State of the Statistics System report (July 2022)
- Our regulators blog about the [role of statistics in the Cost of Living Crisis debate](#). (July 2022)
- ADR UK and OSR, supported by independent researchers Kohlrabi Consulting, undertook a [deliberative dialogue exploring public perceptions of ‘public good’ use of data for research and statistics](#), engaging 68 members of the public in a series of UK-wide deliberative workshops (September 2022)

Outputs

Our National Statistics designation refresh project has developed and tested ways to reframe the designation to enable clearer messaging and the greater accountability in the production of official statistics – the recommendations have been submitted to the Authority Board in May 2023. We are piloting material to support producers to effectively communicate quality and to develop a ‘Code culture’, and we are refreshing our assessment process.

Outcomes

Prioritise projects which improve public understanding of matters of greatest public interest

Understand what “public good” looks like

Fully delivered: We have taken big steps in developing our understanding of public good of statistics. We are now finalising a first-draft definition of the public good provided by statistics.

Develop OSR work to identify and evaluate our impact

Partially delivered: We are at the stage where we have gathered a lot of evidence of impact but more robust recording systems will improve confidence that we are capturing and capitalising effectively the knowledge we have. We

have made gains this year in respect of the OSR culture around identification and evaluation of our outcomes and impact. We are in the final build phase of our new workflow system which will pose questions from 2023/24 at scoping and initiation of how outcomes and impacts will be measured and evaluated, with reporting at closure. We made good headway in developing an organisational Theory of Change in the first part of the year but that work has developed more slowly, reflecting limited resources. Our new Insight and Evaluation Manager is now in place and structuring our evidence base for evaluation.

Promote data sharing and linkage in a secure manner

Understand value of data linkage and sharing and share this within and beyond OSR

Partially delivered: As part of the data sharing and linkage review, we have engaged with a wide number of stakeholders. We will be following the publication of our report in Summer 2023 to engage and share what we have learned with our regulators and the statistical system.

Widen our reach and influence

Improve understanding of our impact and influence

Partially delivered: We have used social media metrics (Twitter and LinkedIn) to identify the audience that our work reaches. We have also seen our public good work referenced in the Scottish Government Health and Social Care Data Strategy, and voluntary adoption recommended for charities in the recent Pro Bono Economics report on civil society.

Encourage voluntary adoption of the Code of Practice for Statistics

Fully delivered: Awareness and support for voluntary adoption seems to be steadily gathering momentum. We have launched the 2023 TQV award and we continue to support analysts in adopting TQV, giving advice to new organisations considering adoption. We most recently added Fable Data – a private company – to the VA list.

Use our understanding of public good to influence beyond official statistics

Fully delivered: We have been accepted to two conferences (PERITIA conference on policy, expertise and trust as well as International Statistical Institute world conference), allowing us to widely spread our message about the public good. We also organised a government analysts event on the public good with speakers including the National Data Guardian and Data Science Campus.

Our reflections on the state of official statistics

On 28 June 2023, we published the latest in our annual series of reports that set out the Office for Statistics Regulation's view on the current state of government statistics. The State of the UK's Statistical System 2022/23¹ highlights examples of statistical producers doing things well which we would like to see continue into the future, and the improvements we would like to see to ensure statistics and data better serve society's needs. Key themes include: public demand for relevant data and statistics; quality risks; producer resource challenges; communication and misuse; intelligent transparency; and UK comparability.

We also reflect on progress on the areas raised in last year's report.

Our capability as a regulator

Our maturity as a regulator is at the heart of determining our success. To deliver the outcomes and impact we want to have we must be ambitious and continuously improve our capability – of our people; our processes and systems; our strategic approach; and our intelligence. We identified priority activities for 2022/23:

Prioritise making our opinions and judgements transparent and easy to find and improve the public's access to OSR

Partially met: Publishing updates to our website has continued, our focus in recent months has been facilitating the transition to a new platform, which has limited other web development. Transparency, accessibility and smoother user experience are key goals for the new site and remain as priorities for 2023/24.

Develop our people to have the confidence and skills to drive improvement autonomously

Partially met: Our focus this year has been on the OSR induction process, but we have not been able to make all the progress we planned in our other priority development areas - feedback, confidence to challenge, and line manager support. We rated strongly as an organisation in many aspects of the 2022 People Survey with an overall 74 per cent employee engagement score but for learning and development we understand there is more to do (64 per cent). A strong focus on building team capability will continue in 23/24.

Focus on embedding a culture and infrastructure for gathering and sharing insight

Partially met: Already covered above.

¹ <https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/state-of-the-statistical-system-2022-23/>

Resourcing

In 2022/23, we delivered an underspend of around 10 per cent on our £3.1m budget. This can broadly be attributed to vacancies. In autumn 2022, we escalated the difficulties in recruiting to key posts to be managed closely by our senior leadership team as part of our strategic risk profile. We made a number of innovations in how we manage our recruitment and promote our vacancies, which has led to a good number of posts being filled. Recruitment remains challenging, with a competitive labour market for the skills we are seeking, and we will need to continue to invest time in attracting the right people. As the same time, moving into 2023/24 we will need to absorb inflationary pressures within our baseline budget and live within our means, and so vacancy rates will need to be managed closely.

Managing risk

Our corporate risks are focused in four areas that are critical to our strategic intention as an independent regulator to best serve the public good:

- Our relevance
- Our voice
- Our independence
- Our capability

Our relevance

Risk: We do not have credibility as a regulator.

Status: Green. Robust mitigations in place. We have good evidence of how we have retained our relevance as a regulator in the last year – for example, with work around excess deaths, fuel poverty, modern slavery and statistical literacy. We identified that we needed to do more to engage strategically to support our scrutiny of the statistics system and broader landscape which requires horizon scanning and networking. Our Director General for Regulation is leading an engagement strategy and our engagement around our business planning cycle this year has been more extensive than in previous years.

Maintaining our voice

Risk: We do not say the right thing at the right time.

Status: Amber. Robust mitigations in place but less than optimum. Overall, we are in a good position - our judgements are well received and we are calibrating our voice well. We would like to achieve greater visibility of our blogs, increase

the pace of our casework responses and develop a consistent OSR position and voice on the communication of statistics – we have a programme planned for 2023/24.

Maintaining our independence

Risk: We are perceived by stakeholders not to be able to operate independently as a regulator.

Status: Amber. Robust mitigations in place but less than optimum. We have good evidence of increasing visibility and public confidence in our role as the statistics ‘watchdog’. We will inevitably be making sensitive judgements that leave us vulnerable to our independence being questioned but we are confident in our evidence-led approach grounded in the Code. There are current pieces of work that review aspects of ONS’s statistics that may lead stakeholders to be interested in, and seek assurance on, the degree of separation between the Authority’s production role (ONS) and us as the regulation arm (OSR). We are looking at how we describe and evidence separation, which will be useful in the light of the proposed Cabinet Office review of the Authority. And we are also ensuring our recruitment policy is consistent with our independence, in particular so we can be sure we remain able to recruit from a range of backgrounds.

Building our capability

Risk: We do not have the skills, tools and resources to regulate and uphold the Code.

Status: Amber. Robust mitigations in place but less than optimum. We have made good progress in many areas. Main area of concern is building capability through effective management and training due to various constraints on the team in the last year. The appointment of our new Deputy Director in April 2023 provides us with the leadership we need to prioritise developing a clear programme around our capability. While within the Authority we received a ‘green’ status for our financial management in 2022/23 we have zero appetite to spend beyond our budget and we are mindful of closely managing our expenditure to absorb inflationary pressures in the coming year.

The work of OSR has not been the subject of the Authority’s internal audit programme in 2022/23. We value the insights of Internal Audit and our Senior Leadership Team met with the Head of Internal Audit (IA) for the Authority early in 2023 and we have agreed that IA will consider how OSR could be better covered in their programme so that relevant planned cross-Authority audits are widened to cover OSR rather than just relying on one planned audit a year – for example, on topics such as human resource management or statistical quality. IA will also consider if there will be a stand-alone audit of OSR in 2023/24 with the topic and scope linked to our strategic risk profile.

Looking ahead

In preparing our business plan for 2023/24 we engaged with stakeholders a lot, probably more than we have for previous business plans.

We want to support the ongoing transformation of the statistical system. We also want to set higher expectations for the way statistical producers communicate publicly. And we want to build partnerships with other organisations that focus on how statistics and data are used in public debate, supported by wider voluntary application of our Code pillars beyond official statistics.

Our conclusion from the engagement we have undertaken is that stakeholders support our vision for OSR but want to see more from us, in particular as a fully outward-focused organisation.

Our business plan therefore has a much greater outward focus than past business plans. We want to move beyond supporting good statistical production. We want to address a wider range of factors that support public confidence in statistics: defining the public good of statistics; understanding statistical literacy; better communication of statistics; supporting user engagement; and continuing to step into public debate to clarify how statistics should be interpreted.

Further Information

Our vision and our OSR Strategic Business Plan 2020 to 2025 set the context for what we aimed to achieve in 2022/23: <https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/office-for-statistics-regulation-strategic-business-plan/>

Our focus for the year was set out in our [OSR Annual Business Plan 2022/23](#) Our [OSR Annual Business Plan 2023/24](#) provides more information about what we want to achieve in the coming year.

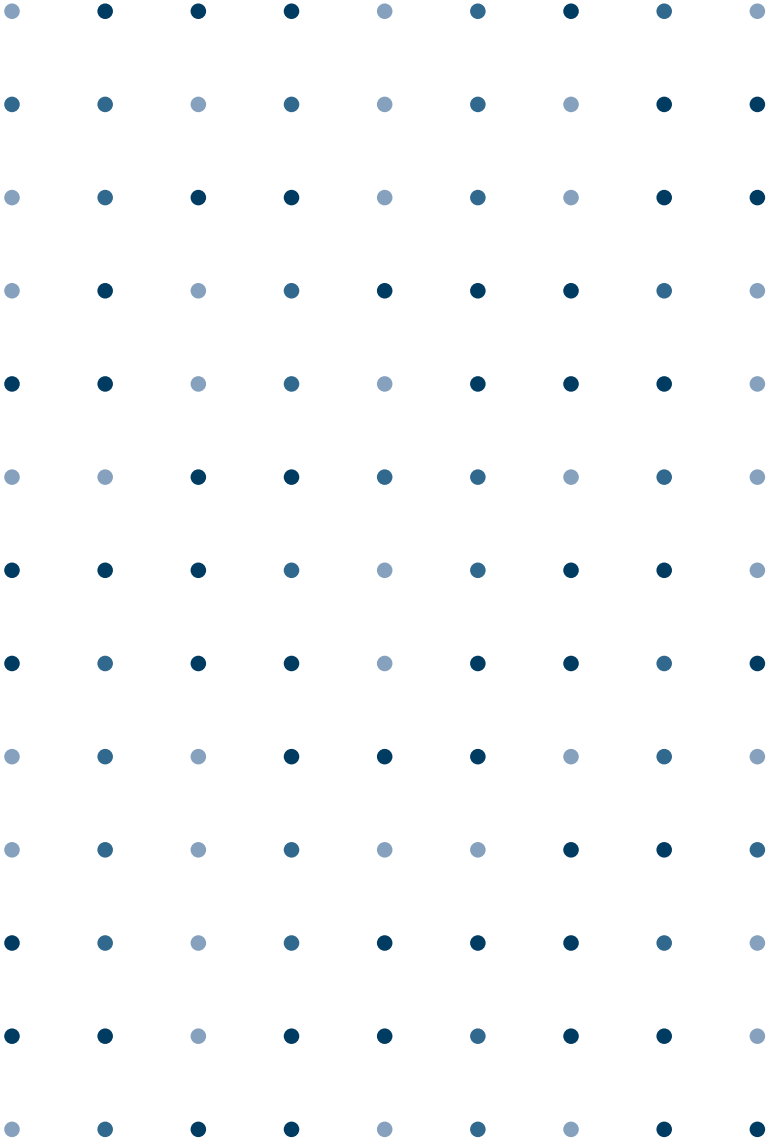
The legislation which established the UK Statistics Authority requires strict separation of the functions of production and regulation, where those involved in the production of statistics are not involved in the assessment of statistics against the Code.

Our work is overseen by the Authority's Regulation Committee. The Committee is chaired by Penny Young, Non-Executive Director, Statistics Authority. Other members are also non-executive members of that Board, together with the Director General for Regulation. No producers of statistics, including ONS executives, are members of the Regulation Committee.

The Regulation Committee reviews and approves our strategy, annual business plan, and budget, and approves all key regulatory decisions on assessment against the Code of Practice for Statistics.

For more information about our organisation: what we do and why; how we work and the tools we use; and our broad ambitions for future development, please refer to our published vision statement:

www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/osr-vision/



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