

Guidance on submitting your views

This consultation sets out proposed priorities for the 2017/18 regulatory work programme in three parts:

1. **For information:** Those major projects that the Office for Statistics Regulation is already committed to undertake during 2017/18, many of which are already underway. We have not listed every project of this type, just the major ones for context.
2. **For consultation:** A list of projects that we have attached priority to, and on which we would welcome your views. We are not committing at this point to undertake all of these projects, and decisions on the final work programme will be dependent on the balance of our views on potential impact and available resources, taking into account what you have told us.
3. **Your proposals:** We invite your proposals for our regulatory work programme and will consider them alongside the priority projects identified for consultation

How to respond

We would welcome your engagement in whatever way is most convenient to you. [The template](#) sets out the priorities and requests your views. Please feel free to discuss your proposals with your usual contacts within the Office for Statistics Regulation, or if you prefer, complete and return the template to assessment@statistics.gov.uk. We welcome individual and group input. If you have any questions, please email assessment@statistics.gov.uk or call Donna Livesey (01633 455814) or Georgia Trewick (01633 651530).

Some key points to note

1. This work programme does not reflect all aspects of the work that the Office for Statistics Regulation will undertake. It focuses on our regulatory activity. For example, a key project for us in 2017/18 will be [delivering the refreshed Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#). Details of these other projects will be set out in our published Business Plan in April. Also, the investigatory work that we undertake on a day-to-day basis in response to immediate public concerns does not feature here.
2. Some of the potential assessments listed have been discussed with officials from the relevant departments, but remain subject to ministerial approval.
3. We will not fully commit our resources for 2017/18 from the start of the year. We will allow scope to take on new work in-year to respond to emerging issues.
4. Intelligence gathered from this consultation exercise, and from continuous engagement, will also inform planning for future years. We are also launching today [a template](#) that you can complete at any time to submit ideas for our work programme.

How we have arrived at our priorities

In restating the [purpose and values of the Office for Statistics Regulation](#) in November 2016, we expressed our ambition to focus increasingly on the public value and quality of statistics. This ambition has influenced our priorities. Working with our new Theme Leads, who are building on our engagement with stakeholders and our horizon scanning in respect of specific themes like the economy and health and social care, we have identified and prioritised potential projects, using our judgement based on the three criteria shown

below. The list presented for consultation represents a cut of those with the strongest alignment with our overall purpose and those specific criteria:

Overall purpose: We provide independent regulation of all official statistics produced in the UK. Statistics are an essential public asset. We aim to enhance public confidence in the trustworthiness, quality and value of statistics produced by government.

Criteria

- Must do - project with an existing strong commitment; projects that if not undertaken could damage the [National Statistics brand](#)
- Public value - the outcomes of the project will lead to the increased public value of statistics. Statistics that are considered valuable provide insight, support decision-making and inform debate
- Evidencing the Annual Review - for the first time in 2017/18 the Office for Statistics Regulation will publish an annual review of the UK statistical system. It is critical that we have a strong evidence base for this review - to celebrate when standards are met and challenge publicly when they are not