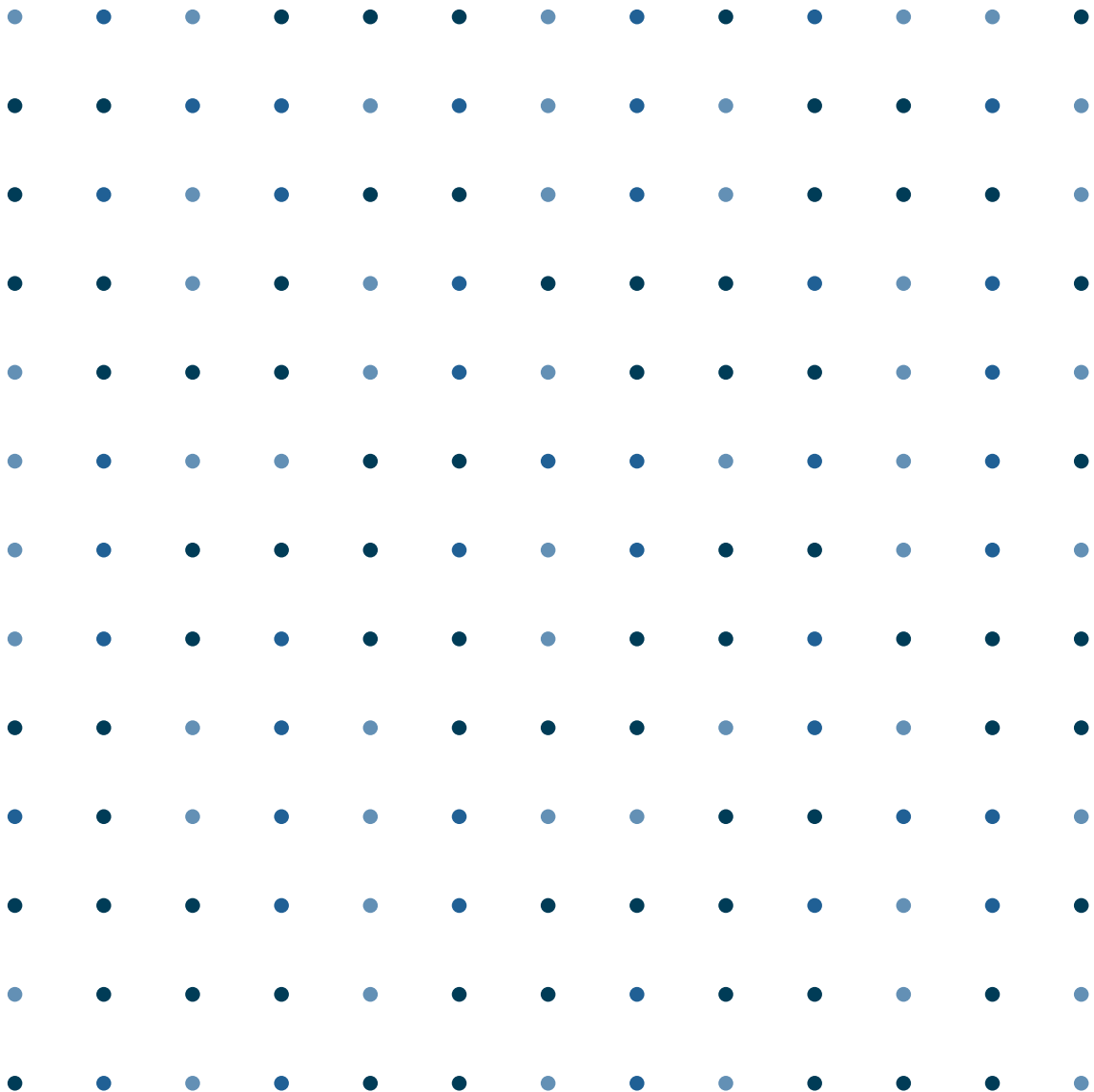




Office for  
Statistics Regulation

# Office for Statistics Regulation Annual Report 2024/25



# Foreword

It is clear to anyone who follows the UK's statistics system that the last year has been a difficult one. It has included challenges to the quality of ONS's economic statistics, and a more general concern about the decline of response rates to household surveys. These challenges culminated in the announcement of the review undertaken by Sir Robert Devereux into the ONS's performance and culture. [Sir Robert's review](#) was published on 26 June 2025.

In this context, the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) has continued to carry out our core roles of assessing the extent to which statistics comply with the Code of Practice, and supporting the appropriate use of statistics in the public domain. This report demonstrates the breadth of our work in pursuit of these goals, including 15 de-accreditations of statistics, reflecting the quality issues that have affected ONS statistics. Just after the end of the financial year reported on in this report, we published a comprehensive review of ONS's economic statistics. This review highlighted the decline in stakeholder confidence in the ONS's statistics. We set urgent requirements for the ONS to publish a [survey recovery plan](#) and a [strategy for economic statistics](#), both of which were also published on 26 June 2025.

But OSR's work extends much further than looking at ONS's economic statistics. Our remit covers all statistics produced across the UK, and we have met this remit in full. We have published important reviews of population statistics in England & Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland; a review of data sharing and linkage across the UK; guidance on sex and gender; and our annual state of the statistics system report. In total we undertook 21 compliance reviews and dealt with 219 cases surrounding the use of statistics.

Our most important intervention for the benefit of statistics in the UK remains the Code of Practice for Statistics. The Code acts as the glue which holds the disparate range of organisations that produce statistics together. It sets common standards, a common framework and, in TQV (trustworthiness, quality and value), sets a common philosophy for statistics that serve the public good. During 2024/5 we developed our thinking on a refreshed Code of Practice, which will lead later this year to a new version. This new version will be more direct, more accessible and, crucially, will include firm standards on intelligent transparency for the use of data and statistics in public communications by Ministers and Departments. The principles of intelligent transparency are already showing their value. They underpinned our work to support the use of statistics during the UK's 2024 General Election campaign, and they have been taken up with genuine enthusiasm by the analytical functions across government departments.

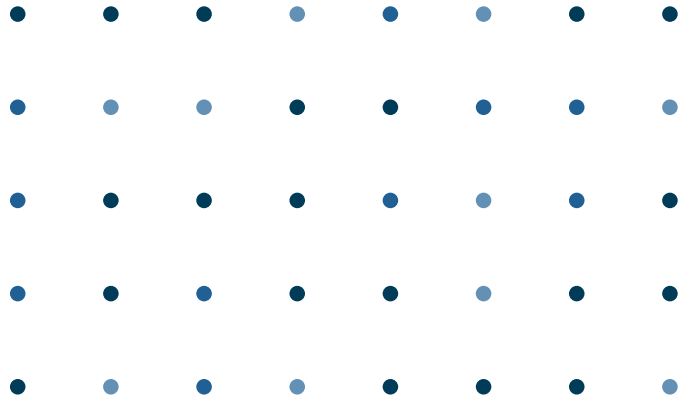
I am very proud of the work of my team, as outlined in this report. They are dedicated professionals who are committed to the vision of statistics serving the public good, and the report demonstrates that, through their work, OSR continues to be a crucial bedrock for statistics and data in the UK.



**Ed Humpherson**

Director General, Office for Statistics  
Regulation





## Our vision

**Statistics should serve the public good.**

What do we mean by serving the public good? Statistics published by public sector bodies should be produced in a trustworthy way, be of high quality and provide value by answering people's questions. In this way, they promote accountability, help people make choices and inform policy.

Statistics should therefore serve a wide range of users. When they meet the needs of these users, they serve the public good. But they do not always fulfil these ambitions. Their value can be harmed through poor production, a lack of relevance and coherence and misuse. It is our role as a regulator to minimise these problems.

# What we do

The Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) provides independent regulation of all official statistics produced in the UK and aims to enhance public confidence in the trustworthiness, quality and value of statistics produced by government.

We are the regulatory arm of the UK Statistics Authority, being independent from government ministers and separate from producers of statistics, including the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

We set the standards that 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. Statistics which meet the standards are given Accredited Official Statistics status, indicating that they meet the highest standards of Trustworthiness, Quality and Value. We also report publicly on systemwide issues and on the way that statistics are being used.

# Our governance

Our Director General reports directly to the Chair of the UK Statistics Authority. To ensure independence from ONS, the Director General has no reporting line to the National Statistician and is an Additional Accounting Officer with budgetary responsibility for the OSR.

OSR's strategy and business plans are agreed by the [Regulation Committee](#), which comprises the Director General and a number of Non-Executive Directors from the UK Statistics Authority. The Committee recommends OSR's plans and budgets for approval by the main Authority Board.

The 2024 Independent Review of the UK Statistics Authority highlighted the critical role of the OSR in monitoring the use of statistics in public debate and intervening where necessary. The review endorsed the Authority's approach of operating with two distinct executive offices (ONS and OSR), and in October 2024 we published a [statement](#) which set out clearly and transparently how the separation of OSR from ONS is achieved in practice.



## Longer-term outcomes that we seek

### How statistics are produced

We uphold the trustworthiness, quality and value of statistics and data used as evidence.

### How statistics are used

We protect the role of statistics in public debate.

### How statistics are valued

We develop a better understanding of the public good of statistics.

## Our 2024/25 priorities

Our 5-year strategic plan is crystallised into annual priorities and deliverables. This allows us to take a flexible approach to emerging challenges facing the statistics system. Our priorities for 2024/25 were:

- Support and challenge producers to innovate, collaborate and build resilience
- Champion the effective communication of statistics to support society's key information needs
- Build partnerships to champion good practice principles for data and analysis that inform the public

Within these priorities we identified some important areas that would influence our year:

- The UK General Election, and our intention to emphasise the principles of intelligent transparency to the political parties
- Our review and refresh of the Code of Practice for Statistics, building on a hugely engaging call for evidence around the Code and our core principles of Trustworthiness, Quality and Value – which are now well embedded within official statistics and increasingly being used across other forms of evidence
- Our intention to focus on the quality of economic and labour market statistics, and other areas where we are seeing significant transformation, especially population and migration statistics.



# Our story of 2024/25 in numbers

Support and challenge producers to innovate, collaborate and build resilience

## 9 Assessment Reports published

including a series of Spotlight on Quality assessments for economic statistics.

## 29 Accreditations decisions

made this year including 5 new accreditations and 15 suspensions of accreditation.

## 12 Compliance Checks

completed this year: 8 confirming continued OS accreditation and 4 informing developments of statistics by the producers.

## 6 strategic reviews

were published this year including The Quality of Police Recorded Crime statistics for England and Wales and progress updates on Labour Market estimates from the Labour Force Survey. We also completed our Systemic Review of ONS Economic Statistics which was published in early April 2025.

## Champion the effective communication of statistics to support society's key information needs

### **219 casework cases considered**

by OSR and the UK Statistics Authority in 2024/25 compared with 231 in 2023/24.

### **Just under 60% of cases were generated by members of the public**

up from 53% in 2023/24. We had the same number of cases raised by Parliamentarians as the previous year (17 cases) and internally generated cases were down from 18% to 11%.

### **Of the 131 cases raised with us by a member of the public, we recorded 39 as being duplicate concerns**

primarily relating to Election leaflets and polling data during the General Election, and a smaller group relating to Bovine Tuberculosis reporting. We had a cluster of cases relating to harms associated with problem gambling, these resulted in further regulatory work and increased our closure times while this work was completed.

## **Average time to close a case reduced again this year**

compared with the previous year- median 10 days (-4) and mean 19 days (-3).

## **Our Election response team considered 70 cases related to the election**

and over 100 campaign claims. We published our judgements on 5 occasions, across topic areas including party spending claims, disability, child poverty and polling statistics.

4.6k views of the Election pages on our website, including guidance and the 'What to Look out for' page, with the news piece calling for transparency in election claims the most viewed.

## **Build partnerships to champion good practice principles for data and analysis that inform the public**

## **Our Code website had 15,000 engaged sessions**

with 4,300 page views of the Code consultation which launched in October 2024. During the consultation period, we held 20 Code sessions with official statistics producer organisations and attended 5 analyst cross-department group meetings. We spoke at 4 stakeholder committees and held 9 stakeholder bilateral meetings. We received 61 formal responses to the consultation.

## **27 Official Statistics producers**

have now published statements of voluntary compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics for non-Official Statistics outputs. 17 non-Official Statistics producers have published statements, the latest being Cardiff University for their National Violence Surveillance Network Data.

## **Our 5th annual award**

for Statistical Excellence in Trustworthiness, Quality and Value was given out, in partnership with the Royal Statistical Society – the 2024 Award was to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) for what is thought to be the first dashboard of its kind on fertility treatments and outcomes. The UK Health Security Agency was also highly commended for its dashboard on respiratory viruses.

## **12 pieces of regulatory research, development and guidance published**

including a series of research pieces on Statistics for the Public Good.

## **32 blogs published**

including 12 guest blogs - resulting in 15,700 views. The most popular blogs were Data in the debate: The Role of Statistics in Elections and Whose line is it anyway? Why the misleading presentation of statistics cannot be dismissed as just a matter of opinion.

# Reviewing the Code of Practice

Following a review of the Code of Practice for Statistics in 2023, we launched a consultation seeking feedback on OSR's proposals for a new edition of the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#) in October 2024 and will use this information to develop a final proposal for Code 3.0, which we plan to publish in autumn 2025. The consultation ran until February 2025. During this time, we engaged in just under forty stakeholder events and meetings, including an online session jointly hosted with the Royal Statistics Society, and we received 61 formal written responses. We [reported our findings](#) in May 2025.

The Code sets the standards for the production of Official Statistics and when these standards are implemented by producers, they support the public good and inspire public confidence. In refreshing the Code our aim is to ensure the universality of the Code is clear to a wide range of audiences – producers of official statistics, other analysts within and beyond government, users of statistics and members of the public – and to set out even more clearly the principles of Trustworthiness, Quality and Value (TQV).

Code 3.0 will preserve the core concepts of TQV while making material improvements to the content and presentation, for example incorporating our work on intelligent transparency in the use of statistics in public communication.

## Our performance

### Support and challenge producers to innovate, collaborate and build resilience

#### The change we want to see

We want to see producers maximising public good in the context of constrained resources. Where producers are delivering change, we want to see transformation that responds to emerging areas of user need and to challenges to resilience and to the quality of statistics.

Recognising the immense value of data sharing and linkage for decision makers and the wider public, we want to see this becoming the norm across the UK statistical system.

#### Delivering impact in key areas of statistics

##### Economic Statistics

Following the end of the UK's membership of the European Statistical System we have developed our approach to provide continued assurance that the UK statistical system produces high quality internationally comparable economic statistics.

Our Spotlight on Quality programme has significantly enhanced what we deliver in this area and has provided good quality assurance. In 2024-5 we published:

- our Spotlight on Quality assessment framework, as well as
- assessments of ONS' Business Enterprise Research and Development statistics and NISRA's Northern Ireland Business Expenditure on Research and Development statistics.
- assessments of ONS's Price Index of Private Rents (PIPR) and Business Investment statistics.
- our plans for assuring confidence in consumer and household price statistics.

In the light of our emerging concerns about quality of economic statistics, in July 2024 we initiated a Systemic Review of ONS Economic Statistics and published our [interim report](#) on 7 April 2025. We highlighted an urgent need to restore confidence and drew three main conclusions:

- ONS must fully acknowledge and address declining data quality;
- making progress with administrative data is difficult; and
- greater strategic clarity of purpose and transparency on prioritisation would help reassure external stakeholders.

We set out a series of requirements and requested a response from ONS by July 2025. We will publish a follow-up on progress in Autumn 2025 having considered [ONS's response to the review](#) announced by the Authority of ONS's performance and culture conducted by Sir Robert Devereux.

### **Labour Market Statistics**

We removed the accredited Official Statistics status from 13 statistical outputs where there are quality concerns based on Labour Force Survey (LFS) data and associated Annual Population Survey (APS) data. We have set out requirements for ONS to improve its communication and engagement, and to consider the lessons that can be learnt from the LFS and reviewing ONS's work to develop an online replacement for the LFS, the Transformed Labour Force Survey (TLFS).

### **Population Statistics**

#### **ONS Admin-based population estimates (ABPE's) for England and Wales:**

Our phased assessment approach for these statistics aims to provide reassurance to users on the new methods by ONS for producing population estimates in England and Wales. We published our [phase one assessment](#) of these statistics in July 2024. Our assessment identified 11 requirements for ONS to act on that will help to enhance the public value, quality and trustworthiness of these statistics. These covered areas such as governance, data quality, methods, revisions, user engagement, and communication. In October 2024 ONS published an [action plan](#) for how it will develop population statistics.

This sets out that the work to address and build on the requirements and recommendations from the assessment will be iterative.

### **Population Statistics: Phase 3 Census assessments:**

We published our [phase 3 assessment report](#) of the 2021 Census in Northern Ireland in February 2025. This final report confirmed that the 2021 Census statistics in Northern Ireland are produced in compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, meaning that these official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value. Our phase 3 assessment of the 2021 Census in England and Wales is ongoing with a projected summer 2025 publication date. Our phase 3 assessment of the Scotland Census will be undertaken in 2025/26. Work also continues on other aspects of population statistics. This includes monitoring progress on ONS's work following the consultation on the future of population statistics in England and Wales, on migration statistics and on the population statistics transformation plans in the Devolved Administrations. OSR's population statistics programme board supports this work, enabling us to share information across OSR, coordinate activities, and identify any cross-cutting issues that we need to look in to.

### **Review of gender identity in the ONS 2021 England and Wales Census:**

Following the first release of census statistics on gender identity in England and Wales in January 2023, concerns were raised about the published estimates of the trans population. As additional census data were published, these concerns extended to the relationship between gender identity and proficiency in English. OSR undertook a review of these statistics and published a [final report](#) in September 2024. Learning from new evidence in Scotland's Census, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) [wrote to us](#) on 5 September 2024 to request that the gender identity estimates from Census 2021 should no longer be accredited official statistics, and should instead be classified as official statistics in development. We [supported ONS's proposal](#), finding that the issues were unique to the statistics on gender identity, and therefore all other outputs from the Census 2021 in England and Wales are unaffected and remained as accredited official statistics.

Our final report shared our recommendations on the steps ONS must take to help users of the census gender identity statistics understand their strengths and limitations and set out the development work we consider is required on the Government Statistical Service (GSS) gender identity harmonised standard. ONS [wrote to us](#) in December 2024 updating on their progress towards meeting the recommendations. This included publishing a [workplan](#) for developing harmonised standards for sex and gender identity data collection and new [Gender Identity Data Harmonisation interim guidance](#) for statistics producers. Following these publications we updated our existing [guidance on collecting and reporting data about sex and gender identity in official statistics](#) in December 2024 to include these new publications.

## Crime statistics:

### ONS Police recorded crime in England and Wales:

These statistics are published as official statistics and not [accredited official statistics](#) following the removal of the accreditation status (then referred to as National Statistics designation) in 2014 due to data quality concerns. [Our review](#), which was published in May 2024, set out the recommendations that we deemed as critical for ONS to address before we would undertake a reassessment of compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics. In February 2025 ONS published a comprehensive [work plan](#) in collaboration with the Home Office and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services which sets out its work to address the recommendations in the review.

## Data sharing and linkage

OSR continues to advocate for data sharing and linkage for research and statistics. In July we published a [follow up report](#) to our [review of data sharing and linkage across government](#). This follow-up report assesses the progress that has been made towards the 16 recommendations in our 2023 review. The report concluded that despite welcome pockets of innovation, there continues to be a failure to deliver on data sharing and linkage across government, with many persisting barriers to progress. Linking datasets for research, statistics and evaluation – both across government and among external researchers – is not yet the norm in the UK statistical system. The report outlined the actionable steps that can be taken and highlighted examples of good practice in data sharing, access and linkage. We reasserted our view on what is needed in 2025 to advance data sharing, access and linkage across government in a [recent statement](#).

## Research into statistics and personal decision making

This research opens up a new aspect of thinking about official statistics: how often do official statistics influence the personal decisions of individuals in their everyday lives? Understanding this is central to the vision of OSR and the wider legislative basis for the UK Statistics Authority – to ensure that statistics serve the public good, by making them relevant, accessible and impactful for everyone. The Policy Institute at King’s College London and the Behavioural Insights Team were commissioned by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) to conduct research exploring whether, and how, people in the UK use official statistics for personal decision-making. We published [a report](#) in March 2025, which included recommendations for statistics producers to help make official statistics suitable for everyday decision-making by members of the public.

## State of the Statistics System (SoSS) 2024

We published [this report](#) in July 2024, drawing from across all our work as the UK’s statistics regulator to share our views on the performance of the statistical system and the challenges facing it, highlights areas of progress and innovation,

and setting out our recommendations for advancing the system. The report made recommendations around three broad themes: ensuring quality including addressing the long-standing challenges with household survey response rates and the broader need to ensure suitable data sources; improvement and innovation and the need for joined-up approaches to transformation and developments, and to overcome the barriers to data sharing and linkage; and effective communication and the need for an open, clear and accessible approach to the release and communication of statistics and data.

## **Champion the effective communication of statistics to support society's key information needs**

### **The change we want to see**

Our primary focus this year was to protect the use of statistics and data ahead of the General Election and through the campaigning period. More broadly, we promoted the principles of intelligent transparency, the communication of uncertainty and addressing misinformation.

### **Delivering impact**

#### **General Election:**

The UK General Election was announced on 22 May and held on 4 July 2024. Prior to the election being called, OSR launched an [Election 2024 hub](#) which brought together new and existing guidance to help users navigate statistical claims. This included specific [guidance on the use of statistics in a pre-election period](#) and [a blog](#) outlining OSR's role to promote and safeguard statistics during the election period.

On 7 June, having preannounced their publication, OSR published a series of [election explainer statements](#) covering statistics on key topics and what to look out for when they are used publicly. The statements enabled OSR to close cases quickly where multiple concerns are raised on the same issue. During the election period, OSR handled 70 cases related to the election and over 100 campaign claims. Compared with previous elections, we found that the debates in the 2024 election campaign tended to make less use of statistics on the past performance of public services and the economy. Instead, the claims largely concerned the transparency of party spending commitments.

We intervened publicly on five occasions – publishing a [statement](#) and [letter](#) on party spending claims, a statement on claims regarding [disability benefits and out of work statistics](#), a [letter on child poverty statistics in Scotland](#), and a [statement on the presentation of political polling support statistics](#) in campaign materials.

## Other key interventions:

### Health and Wellbeing Census in Scotland:

In 2022, we were contacted by several individuals who raised concerns with us regarding multiple aspects of the new Health and Wellbeing Census, which had been taking place in schools in Scotland during the 2021/22 academic year. Our initial casework investigation promoted us to undertake a more comprehensive compliance check of the survey, the results of which were [shared with the Scottish Government](#) in July 2022. We made several recommendations and requested that the Scottish Government review its approach to developing questions for the survey and publish the outcomes of the review.

On 13 February 2025, [we wrote](#) again to the Scottish Government to highlight that, 30 months later, the outcomes of the review had still not been made public. We also requested assurance on the processes and governance within the Scottish Government regarding the independence of Scotland's Chief Statistician, in line with our expectations under the Code of Practice for Statistics. On 28 February, the Scottish Government published its [background report](#) into the Health and Wellbeing Census. The Chief Statistician [subsequently wrote to us](#) on 3 March to reassure OSR that the importance of independent decision making around statistics is fully recognised across Scottish Government.

### DWP claims on Universal Credit:

Following the government's announcement of its intention to make changes to the benefits system in early 2025, we received several complaints about a press release published by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) entitled 'Almost two million people on Universal Credit not supported to look for work' on 13 March 2025. The press release included a claim that the number of people on the disability element of Universal Credit with no requirement to look for work had seen a 383% rise in less than five years.

After we initially raised concerns with DWP, the press release was amended to add greater context, but we considered these additions did not go far enough to explain the numbers in a way that the public would understand. We determined that the claim presented an entirely misleading picture to the public. This was due to the claim not recognising that the majority of the increase was due to the process of migrating people from legacy benefits, such as Employment and Support Allowance, to Universal Credit over the last few years. When these people were accounted for, we found that the actual increase in the number of people claiming disability elements of Universal Credit was 50% between February 2020 and August 2024.

In a [public letter](#) to Peter Scofield, DWP Permanent Secretary, we requested that the press release was amended to remove the reference to the 383% figure and that this was not used going forward. In addition, we emphasised that it is vital that statisticians are included in the drafting process for communications using

official statistics, including press releases, to ensure that such an issue is not repeated in the future. Peter Scofield subsequently responded to us confirming that the press release had been updated and that DWP was reviewing the process to make sure that all colleagues involved are aware of the need to include lead statisticians and analysts and follow the agreed approach.

## **Intelligent transparency**

We have worked closely with the Heads of Profession for Statistics network across government departments to deliver training and raise awareness of intelligent transparency. We have had considerable successful engaging with civil servants including statisticians, analysts, and communication professions. Our focus is now turning to work with Private Offices and Special Advisors to positively influence Ministerial use of statistics. A report from the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee (PACAC) on [Transforming the UK's Evidence Base](#) in May 2024, commended our work on intelligent transparency and recommended that OSR publish an annual report card of departments' compliance with this guidance so that 'Parliament and external bodies might support OSR in holding departments to account and making the case for well-informed policy'. We are currently exploring options for what annual reporting could look like in this space. In late 2024, Sir Robert Chote wrote to all Secretaries of State and devolved nations in part setting out the importance of adhering to intelligent transparency. Since this letter, OSR has initiated a review of ministerial departments and devolved administrations to gather information on how the principles of intelligent transparency are being embedded.

## **Build partnerships to champion good practice principles for data and analysis that inform the public**

### **The change we want to see**

We want to build on and develop new relationships beyond official statistics that enable OSR to improve the ability of statistics, data and analysis to serve the public good.

The concepts of Trustworthiness, Quality and Value (TQV) are universal and can be useful in all kinds of situations for producing information that is not official statistics. The application of TQV can enhance public confidence in the use of evidence in the public domain.

### **Delivering impact**

#### **Partnership working in OSR**

We have developed the nature of and structure around OSR's partnership working in 2024/5. Significant steps forward have included establishing a

programme board to oversee partnership working in OSR and introducing a toolkit to support everyone in OSR to feel confident and capable in identifying and developing potential partnerships. Our current partnerships span the breadth of OSR's work, operating across areas including intelligent transparency, data sharing and linkage, evaluation, public good research and misleadingness.

### **Evaluation Registry**

The Evaluation Task Force (ETF) - a joint Cabinet Office-HM Treasury unit providing specialist support to ensure evidence and evaluation across government - has asked OSR help ensure compliance with the now public [Evaluation Registry](#). The Registry acts as a home for all Government evaluations, for improved accessibility and transparency.

### **Public engagement**

OSR's work on data sharing and linkage has repeatedly recognised the importance of ongoing, meaningful engagement with the public about the use of data and statistics. Reflecting the importance of enabling more work in this area, in the autumn of 2024, OSR joined the governing board of [The Public Engagement in Data Research Initiative \(PEDRI\)](#). OSR is also starting to incorporate [public involvement and engagement in its own work](#), facilitated by [ADR UK \(Administrative Data Research UK\)](#) - another organisation with which we have an ongoing partnership, aimed at delivering data-driven outcomes that benefit society. Finally, we have been working with [Connected by Data](#) to consider the role of public engagement and involvement in official statistics.

### **General Election**

During the 2024 General Election we worked with a range of organisations whose values and purposes are aligned with our own such as, the [Royal Statistical Society](#), [Full Fact](#), and [Sense about Science](#). We also participated in the [Electoral Commission's](#) Strategic Roundtables. In the lead up to the Election, these partnerships enabled us to identify potential areas of risk that we could look to mitigate in advance. During the Election period, this network ensured that our interventions were supported and shared through their own channels, helping us to reach a wider audience.

### **Voluntary application of the Code, beyond official statistics**

We are seeing an ever-growing [list of organisations](#) who are [voluntarily applying the Code of Practice](#), and we have announced the latest winners of the [Statistical Excellence in Trustworthiness, Quality and Value Award](#) (run in a partnership with the Royal Statistical Society and Civil Service World). OSR will continue to promote the use of the Code of Practice for Statistics for data and evidence, drawing on ideas and feedback gathered as part of our [Code consultation](#).

# OSR outputs in 2024/25

## Assessments

### Assessment reports published

- Higher Education Graduate Outcomes Data and Statistics
- Spotlight on Quality Assessment: Statistics on UK Business Enterprise Research and Development (BERD)
- Spotlight on Quality Assessment: Statistics on Northern Ireland's Business Expenditure on Research and Development (NI BERD)
- Admin-Based Population Estimates for England and Wales
- Review of Statistics on Gender Identity based on Data Collected as part of the 2021 England and Wales Census: Final Report
- Spotlight on Quality Assessment: Price Index of Private Rents (PIPR)
- Spotlight on Quality Assessment: Statistics on Business Investment
- Workforce Employed by Adult Social Services Departments in England
- 2021 Census in Northern Ireland

### Assessments closed

- Statistics from the Annual Business Survey
- Statistics about Butterflies, England and UK
- Personal Independence Payment statistics
- Higher Education Graduate Outcomes Data and Statistics
- Workforce Employed by Adult Social Services Departments in England

## Accreditations and suspensions

### New OS accreditations

- Statistics about Butterflies, England and UK
- Workforce Employed by Adult Social Services Departments in England
- Personal Independence Payment statistics
- Higher Education Graduate Outcomes Data and Statistics
- Workforce Employed by Adult Social Services Departments in England

### Confirmations of OS accreditation

- Statistics from the Annual Business Survey
- Statistics on Council Tax in Wales
- Social Housing Lettings in England
- Higher Education Student Statistics
- Police Powers and Procedures: Stop and Search and Arrests in England and Wales

- Individual Insolvency and Company Insolvency Statistics (transferred from quarterly to monthly statistics)
- Scottish Mental Health Officers Statistics
- Statistics on Reported Road Casualties in Great Britain (including new adjusted estimates of injury severity)
- Scottish Health Survey Statistics
- Criminal Court Statistics

### **OS re-accreditations**

- Crime Survey for England and Wales

### **Suspensions**

- Sea Fisheries Statistics
- Trade Union Membership statistics
- Labour Market Statistics (APS)
- Young People Not in Education, Employment or training (NEET)
- Welsh Language data from the APS
- Scottish Monthly Labour Market Trends outputs
- Business Population Estimates
- Gender Identity, England and Wales: Census 2021
- Statistics produced using the Annual Population Survey (APS) for Wales
- Adult Smoking Habits in the UK produced using the APS
- Health State Life Expectancies in England, Northern Ireland and Wales produced using the APS
- Labour Market in Regions of the UK produced using the APS
- Population of the UK by Country of Birth and Nationality produced using the APS
- Personal Well-being in the UK produced using the APS
- Regional Gross Disposable Household Income produced using the APS

### **Compliance checks**

#### **To confirm continued OS accreditation**

- Scottish Health Survey Statistics
- Statistics on Reported Road Casualties in Great Britain
- Scottish Mental Health Officers Statistics
- Individual Insolvency and Company Insolvency Statistics
- Statistics on Police Powers and Procedures: Stop and Search and Arrests in England and Wales
- Higher Education Student Statistics
- Social Housing Lettings in England
- Statistics on Council Tax in Wales

## **To inform development of statistics by the producer**

- Statistics in development from the Winter Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Study, England and Scotland
- Disability Payment Statistics
- Review of the Quality of Criminal Court Statistics for England and Wales
- Murder, manslaughter and sexual offences in the Service Justice System

## **Strategic reviews (including Systemic reviews)**

- The Quality of Police Recorded Crime statistics for England and Wales
- Data Sharing and Linkage for the Public Good: Follow-Up Report
- State of the Statistical System 2024
- Ensuring Confidence in the Economic Statistics Classification Process
- Office for National Statistics' reintroduced Labour Force Survey (LFS)-derived labour market statistics: OSR progress report, July 2024
- Statistics from the Labour Force Survey (Progress Report). February 2025
- Review of Fraud and Computer Misuse Statistics for England and Wales (published 3 April 2025)\*
- Systemic Review of ONS Economic Statistics (published 7 April 2025)<sup>1</sup>

## **Regulatory research, development and guidance**

- Office for Statistics Regulation Business Plan 2024/25
- Statistics for the Public Good: Facilitating their Role in Public Policy
- The Use of Official Statistics in UK Public Policy: Facilitators and Barriers
- Election 2024: What to look out for
- Spotlight on Quality Framework: Assuring Confidence in Economic Statistics
- Office for Statistics Regulation Annual Report 2023/24
- What Does OSR Think About Misleadingness?
- Final Update in Response to the Sturgis Report on OSR's Approach to Quality Assessing the Covid Infection Survey
- Annual Review of Casework 2023-24
- A Think Piece on Value and GDP
- Statistics on Health Inequalities in the United Kingdom
- Statistics in Personal Decision-Making

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1 Not included in the numbers of outputs reported for 2024/25 as dates fall in early April 2025. Included here so we can reference the important work in 2024/25 that informed the publications.

## Blogs

### OSR blogs

- Data in Debate: The Role of Statistics in Elections
- Understanding the Complexities of Crime Statistics
- Earned, Not Given: Public Confidence in Statistics and How This Informs OSR's Work
- Is a Picture Really Worth a Thousand Words?
- Revising GDP: The Challenge of Uncertainty
- Ed Humpherson Reflects on Why Communicating Uncertainty is a Constant Challenge for Statisticians
- Whose Line Is It Anyway? Why the Misleading Presentation of Statistics Cannot Be Dismissed as Just a Matter of Opinion
- Data Sharing and Linkage for the Public Good: Breaking Down Barriers
- Commenting on Conference Speeches
- Learning Lessons from Statistics: My Experience as an Intern at OSR
- Embedding the Habit of Intelligent Transparency
- The Importance of Separation: Ed Humpherson Addresses Questions Raised by the Lievesley Review
- Just Three Words – The Birth of a Code
- The Power of Public Engagement in Shaping Our Work
- The Power of Conversation
- Quality Under Challenge: Regulating Statistics and Data from the Labour Force Survey
- Beyond GDP: Redefining Economic Progress
- A Reason To Be Optimistic: Sharing and Linking Data on Road Traffic Collisions
- Beyond GDP? Yes – But How Far?
- How Official Statistics Shape Personal Decisions

### Guest blogs

- Fostering a Robust Government Evaluation Culture (Catherine Hutchinson, Head of the Evaluation Task Force)
- Transparency, Integrity, and Independence: The Keys to Improving Budget Scrutiny and Public Understanding of Risks to Public Finances (Silvia Palombi)
- Achieving Linked Data Insights to Improve Lives: A Leadership Perspective (Emma Gordon, Director, Strategic Hub, ADR UK)
- Collaborative Leadership: Drawing on our Different Strengths to Answer Important Questions (Scott Heald, Head of Profession for Statistics, Public Health Scotland)

- Ensuring That Analytical Leadership is Fit for The Future (Paul Matthews, a Senior Statistician working in the Office of the Chief Statistician (OCS) in Scottish Government)
- Demonstrating Transparency and Integrity to Support Public Trust (Robert Cann, Policy and Government Relations Manager at Full Fact)
- What Do You Do with a Degree in Philosophy? (PhD student, Kyle Adams, from the University of Waterloo)
- Improving Mental Health Services in Northern Ireland: The Regional Mental Health Outcomes Framework (Oscar Donnelly, Lead for the Mental Health Outcomes Framework)
- Culture, Psychological Safety, and the Impact on Quality (Dr James Tucker, Deputy Director for Health, International and Partnerships at the Office for National Statistics)
- Lessons in Communicating Uncertainty from the Infected Blood Inquiry: What To Say When Statistics Don't Have The Answers (Sir David Spiegelhalter)
- Embracing Challenge for Change (Darren Watson, Principal Environmental, Analyst, Office for Environment Protection)
- The Code, The Key and (for fans of 90s dance music) The Secret (Paul Matthews, Head of Profession for Statistics in Scottish Government)

\* Not included in the numbers of outputs reported for 2024/25 as dates fall in early April 2025. Included here so we can reference the important work in 2024/25 that informed the publications.



# Our capability as a regulator

## Overview

### The change we want to see

Our maturity as a regulator is at the heart of our success. To deliver outcomes and impact we must continuously improve our capability and capacity within resource constraints.

### 2024/25 in numbers

A team of around **50 people** operating across the UK (Newport, Edinburgh, London, Titchfield and Darlington) delivered our business in 2024/25. Our numbers were reduced by the end of the financial year to allow us to accommodate the in-year pay award and to set us up to operate within budget in 2025/26.

We were operating with **four vacancies** by year-end which we are now recruiting to fill – three Statistics Regulators and one Research Specialist. We continued to use contingent labour to provide flexibility. We have extended our Senior Copy Editor agency position for another year and have made our Senior Economic Advisor position permanent.

Employee Engagement rate in the Civil Service People Survey of **72%** in 2024 compared with 75% the previous year, and 64% across the Civil Service.

We operated within a **£3.4 million baseline budget** in 2024/25. We utilised £70k of a ringfenced £150k contingency to resource an increase in demand for our guidance and interventions around the UK General Election.

The OSR website had **113,000 sessions** initiated, with **66,000 engaged sessions** (lasting longer than ten seconds or having two or more screen or page views). Outputs with the highest views and engagement included our Review of the statistics on Gender Identity during the England and Wales Census and our report on Police Recorded Crime.

We have **4,476 followers** on X with engagement at **3.6%**, above the [standard for Government accounts](#) of 1.7%. Highest numbers of impressions were for: importance of transparency in election claims; communicating uncertainty is a constant challenge for statisticians; examining topics in the proposed refreshed Code of Practice for Statistics; and response to @SEENinHealth about the NHS staff survey.

Posts have generated **33,000 impressions** on LinkedIn, with **20,000 LinkedIn users** seeing our posts. Highest number of impressions were for: OSR delighted to speak alongside Government Communication Service at the Government Statistical Service Conference about ‘Enhancing trust in the communication of statistics’; Latest annual report that provides analysis of the UK’s statistical system, its current state, and its future direction (SoSS 2024); independently reviewed the actions Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has taken to address requirements from our recent assessment of Butterflies statistics.

## OSR 2.0 Capability Programme

In 2024/25 we initiated a capability programme with the following core themes:

- **OSR strategy** – to lead on establishing our strategy for the next five years
- **Individual capability** – to refresh our values, develop a capability framework for regulators and support career development.
- **Organisational capability** – establish more flexibility in our organisational structure to allow us to better respond to regulatory priorities, building on our approach to the General Election where a task force allowed us to respond to surges in demand.
- **Developing our regulatory model** – our regulatory work is increasingly systemic but is built on the foundations of our core regulatory assessments, compliance checks and reviews – we need a balanced model where we can assign resource appropriately.

The programme is ongoing but has reached key milestones by the end of 2024/25, which are reflected in the following sections.

## Our people

### Values

We refreshed our values in 2024/25, involving the whole team in deciding how we aspire to operate:

- **Vigilant and rigorous** – we work carefully and proportionately to develop our judgement to improve and safeguard statistics.
- **Innovative and adaptable** – we inspire creative, agile and innovative cultures to empower meaningful and visible systemic change.
- **Fair and open** – we are curious and listen to stakeholders’ views to delivery transparent and just regulatory decisions.
- When working with others, we will be respectful, kind, open-minded, and humble.

## **Organisational structure**

We have concluded our review of organisational structure, and we have made changes to improve flexibility. We have reduced the number of domain teams from eight to six, merging topic areas. This will support us in evolving a less top-heavy structure and free resource for a new Cross-Cutting team which will lead on some cross-cutting projects like our State of the Statistics System report and also increases our flexibility so we can pivot to support higher casework demand and any unexpected high priority regulatory work.

## **Skills survey**

We launched our skills survey in March 2023 to understand the overall landscape of OSR's skills base in relation to the skills we need to deliver our business, and to identify strategic gaps to enable us to address them through recruitment and learning activities. Following the successful rollout of the survey and review of the data we designed a programme of learning around five priority areas that we identified.

## **Job profiles**

Under our capability framework we have been producing standardised role profiles for each role in OSR. We have finalised the profiles for our regulators, and we are drafting profiles with our functions. These profiles are to be utilised to inform recruitment for creating job adverts. Alongside this we also created our regulators skills framework and matrices to provide clarity on regulatory skills and to identify and address skill gaps within OSR.

## **Learning**

We had a successful year for learning with 54 training events arranged through our Learning Calendar, informed by the People and Pulse Surveys, our Skills Survey, and our Corporate Governance Assurance Statement. Highlights included:

- a five-part series of learning sessions with our Senior Copy Editor that aimed to elevate written communications in OSR, supported by new writing guidance and resources, including the OSR Writing and Style Guide.
- a team day and other sessions focused on wellbeing: personal resilience; OSR values, bullying and harassment, and psychological safety.
- four skills sessions on; devolution, change management, workshop your workload in a week, and a managing your workload panel discussion. We also held sessions on risk management, portfolio management and Equality Impact Assessments. Programme management, project management, and Finance management are scheduled to follow.

- Statistics Centre Abu Dhabi (SCAD): We delivered a 7-day OSR led seminar for international delegates on how to deliver a quality assessment programme. This seminar has since been reimagined and rolled out as a 4-day internal workshop on 'How to be a Regulator' and will be repeated annually as an induction event for new starters.
- three security-themed training sessions: avoiding phishing, online privacy and data security.

## Our regulatory model

Our regulatory model refers to the framework OSR uses to carry out oversight of official statistics. This includes how we monitor the statistical system, assess compliance with the Code of Practice, and communicate regulatory judgements and impacts.

We have continually evolved and improved our regulatory model throughout 2024/25. This included clarifying and consolidating tools for how we carry out our regulatory work, developing clearer ways to communicate the findings and working with our data and methods team to test ways we could be more efficient.

A key output has been the development of a new approach to improve clarity and consistency in how we communicate our findings, which went live in May 2025. This new approach aims to enhance the transparency of our regulatory findings and to make them more searchable using technology, thereby improving our ability to gain insights and maximise impact.

This work ensures our regulatory model remains fit for purpose in the context of evolving statistical practices and user needs.

## Our technology

Our Data and Methods team have been at the forefront of our innovation. The flagship development in 2024/25 has been a new automated HorizonScan-AI Dashboard that is supporting our horizon scanning and delivering insights and efficiencies for our casework programme. An Automation Task Force is developing our Automation Strategy.

We have also taken part in a pilot study of the application of CoPilot within the Authority, identifying a range of ways to employ the technology responsibly to improve our productivity. We are awaiting a decision on whether the tool will be made available routinely in the future.

# Managing risk

## Management assurance

- Our Portfolio Review Board (PRB) provides oversight of delivery and evaluation of our 5-year strategy and supporting business plans, our rolling regulatory work programme, finance and resource management, and risk management.
- We provide a detailed report to Regulation Committee twice a year on our performance (in addition to my more regular updates). We also publish an Annual Report as an annex to the UK Statistics Authority Annual Report and Accounts, and separately on our website.
- We provide a Corporate Governance Assurance return to the Authority's Risk and Assurance team.
- We are currently developing a refreshed set of KPIs.
- In February 2025, we initiated a project to develop a new automated workflow system.

## Financial assurance

OSR delivered an approximate four per cent underspend for 2024/25.

## Risk assurance

OSR delivers controls that support the mitigation of UK Statistics Authority overarching risk around Independence, Trustworthiness and Impact. This is achieved through its role as an independent regulator and the interventions made by the Authority Chair. OSR reviews and updates its controls for this risk on a quarterly basis.

OSR has identified four long-standing areas of strategic risk – Relevance; Voice; Independence; and Capability. These risks are reported to each meeting of PRB with a status report and RAG rating for review and challenge, and twice a year to Regulation Committee. Projects and Programmes can also escalate risk to PRB via the SLT Sponsor and our Plan-on-a-Page process.

In 2024/25 we added three additional risks to the strategic risk log:

- **General Election** (now closed) – We developed mitigation strategies to help us respond to increased demand for our role as a regulator and to manage any potential pressures placed on our independent voice. Our work during the Election period is described above.
- **Capacity** – This risk reflects the increasing demands for our regulatory role and the financial pressures on OSR, the Authority and wider public sector. We retain this risk for close management by PRB.
- **ONS performance** – The risk that our regulatory work is insufficient, or perceived to be insufficient, in responding to reduced confidence in the quality of ONS statistics, leading to regulatory, or perceived regulatory, failure.

## Quality assurance

In September 2024 we received the results of an audit focused on assurance on the design and embeddedness of controls supporting consistency and fairness of judgements across casework and assessments. The outcome found substantial assurance - the framework of governance, risk management and control are adequate and effective. We are progressing recommendations to review guidance, training and our approach to monitoring our work.

We have developed an OSR Regulatory Quality Framework. The Framework sets out a high-level overview of how OSR delivers and assures the quality of its outputs.

## Reviews of UK Statistics that are relevant to OSR

**Lievesley Review** – Professor Denise Lievesley published her [review of the UK Statistics Authority](#) which included important issues relating to OSR. In particular, that OSR needs to improve how it communicates the separateness of its role from ONS. Separation matters to us and in October 2024 we published a [statement](#) that sets out, in formal terms, the arrangements that underpin our separation from ONS.

**PACAC Report** – Transforming the UK’s Evidence Base: The Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee published its [report](#) in May 2024. The report endorsed the Lievesley Review finding and recommended that OSR play an enhanced role in highlighting data gaps across the UK, preparing regular and public reports. The report also commended OSR on our Intelligent Transparency campaign and recommended we ‘publish an annual report card on departments’ compliance with its guidance, so that Parliament and external bodies might support it in holding departments to account and making the case for well-informed policy.



# Looking ahead

We would typically have shared our Annual Business Plan by this point in the year. We are currently working to develop our multi-year strategy for 2025-2030 and the intention is to publish the annual plan for 2025/26 alongside that strategy in the autumn.

We've been engaging with stakeholders and developing our thinking, but with two independent reviews announced in April 2025, we think it is important to allow time to reflect on the findings before finalising the strategy.

The UK Statistics Authority and Cabinet Office jointly commissioned Sir Robert Devereux to lead a review of the performance and culture of the Office for National Statistics, and the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee announced an Inquiry into the work of the UK Statistics Authority.

Until our full plans are available, we have published an [interim summary](#). Summarised here are our priorities for the first half of 2025/26:

## Code of Practice 3.0

After completing our consultation on the proposed third edition of the Code of Practice for Statistics we have published a [summary report](#) of what we were told. We are now using that feedback to complete the refresh of the Code so that it remains relevant in a data landscape experiencing substantial changes – including the rapid growth of new technologies, an increased desire for statistics from users, and developments in the ways statistics are produced and disseminated.

We aim to release Code 3.0 in autumn 2025. We will invest time in embedding the Code with those producing official statistics and those involved in the public communication of statistics, data and wider analysis across government, as well as with analysts beyond government.

## State of the Statistical System 2025

This annual report draws together evidence from our regulatory work and targeted engagement to provide our regulatory view on how the statistical system in the UK is performing. This will be the sixth year that we have published the report, which will provide an important input to the annual public lecture from the Chair of the UK Statistics Authority on the work of the statistical system.

## Economic and Labour Market Statistics

Our systemic review of economic statistics produced by ONS was published on 7 April 2025. We intend to review ONS's response to this report in autumn 2025 and publish our overall findings, including relevant insights from the review by Sir Robert Devereux. We will also continue to monitor ONS's efforts to improve the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and work on the Transformed Labour Force Survey (TLFS).

## Household Surveys

We have set out our intention to undertake further regulatory work on response issues impacting household surveys used across the statistics landscape. In addition to our work on LFS and TLFS, in June 2025 we have published a review of the Wealth and Assets Survey, following which the accredited official statistics status of the related statistics has been suspended. We are now reviewing the Living Costs and Food Survey.

## Population and Migration Statistics

In June 2025 we published the third and final phase of our assessment of the 2021 Census in England and Wales, focused on the extent to which ONS fulfilled its commitments from 2022 and met the needs of statistics and data users with the 2021 Census for England and Wales outputs. We will engage with ONS as they seek to meet the requirements over the coming six months. We will continue to shape our regulatory activity as ONS progress work on the future of population and migration statistics.

## Communicating Statistics

We are continuing our work on our flag ship campaign of intelligent transparency. Over the next few months we will be focusing on introducing intelligent transparency into the Code of Practice for Statistics 3.0, ensuring that we are supporting departments to fully embed the principles.

We are also undertaking a review of ministerial departments to understand what processes are already in place to support intelligent transparency and what barriers departments are facing, we hope to share some high-level findings from this review in the Autumn. We are continuing to consider whether to introduce 'report cards' for intelligent transparency following the PACAC recommendation in the 2024 report, Transforming the UK Evidence Base. Outside of intelligent transparency, we are continuing our work on communicating statistics more widely with a current focus on how dashboards should be produced in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics.

## Rolling Regulatory Programme

We will continue to update our [Rolling Regulatory Work Programme](#) to provide oversight of the work we are doing across the statistical system that goes beyond the priorities listed here. Examples include assessments of Cancer Waiting Time statistics (NHS England) and NHS Scotland Workforce statistics (NHS Education for Scotland), compliance reviews of Coroner Statistics England and Wales (Ministry of Justice) and Tourism statistics (Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency), and research into driving trust in official statistics.

# Review against OSR maturity model

## 2020 – 2025 Our strategic impact

2024/25 marks the final year of our 2020-25 strategic business plan – Statistics for the Public Good, Regulating for Trustworthiness, Quality and Value. We are currently working with stakeholders and developing our strategic plans for the next five years, but we are confident that the themes of public good and TQV will continue to play very strongly.

As we come to the end of the five years, we are offered the opportunity to reflect on our strategic impact during the period. While we have had our critics we have transformed as a regulator during this period.

When we published the strategy, it was early in the coronavirus pandemic, and we recognised how this influenced our strategy. The pandemic reminded us of the importance to the public of trustworthy, high quality and high value statistics and the important role we play as an independent regulator in upholding those principles, evolving to support a fast-changing environment. This not only applies to responding to an event like the pandemic but to advances in technology and AI, growing demand for accessible data, evolving pressures on traditional data collection, and so on. The pandemic also showed us what the statistics system can do at its best and it was a core ambition that we support the statistics system to make this performance the norm.

## How we have evolved

Legislation establishing the regulatory arm of the Authority was established in 2007. Since then, we have adapted to deliver increasing expectations against our remit. Since the last spending review, we have shifted from being seen as a ‘statistics watchdog’ to a ‘statistics system guardian’ – we are increasingly expected to have a critical view of data and evidence across government. However, we do have some critics who consider that we should continue to act in a pure watchdog role. We recognise this challenge but consider that we are more effective in supporting the public good of statistics by taking a wider, systemic role. Examples include:

- **Increasingly systemic in our judgements** – The statistical system has changed over last ten years – the risks are more acute and the opportunities more widescale. Through our real-time Horizon Scanning, our State of the Statistical System reporting and our Partnerships programme we are increasingly giving a voice to these opportunities and risks (across issues such as data sharing and linkage) and work with the Statistical System to address them.

- **Responsiveness to quality concerns across the system** – There is increased demand for our assurance which has resulted in our strengthened Economic Statistics spotlight on quality programme and a range of unplanned work - recent examples include Labour market (survey response challenges), GDP Revisions (communicating uncertainty), Sex and Gender (responding to societal issues), Scottish Census – (maintaining quality), Court and Tribunal Statistics (maintaining quality).
- **Demand for casework interventions** – Significantly increased during pandemic (from 109 to 323 cases) and has not returned to pre-pandemic levels (sitting around 200 a year now) – increasing awareness and recognition of our role.
- **Acting proactively to prevent of misuse of statistics** – Our Intelligent Transparency campaign was developed to prevent misuse of statistics by ensuring that government data is transparent and accessible. The role of this campaign has been recognised by PACAC who recommended we ‘publish an annual report card on departments’ compliance with its guidance’.
- **Increasing Parliamentary and stakeholder demands** – PACACs Report: Transforming the UK evidence base recommended that OSR play an enhanced role in highlighting data gaps across the UK, preparing reports on data gaps and coherence in the UK. The Royal Statistical Society vision for public statistics said the role of OSR is crucial in any solution to public statistics, and welcomed OSR’s research programme into how the official statistics system can serve the public good. The recent Statistics Assembly also raised potential new demands for OSR work, for example on AI.

To keep up with these demands we have increasingly needed to prioritise our regular reviews of statistics. This means we are building a debt of official statistics that we have not been able to review in some time. While prioritisation will always play a part in how we regulate, and we do not expect to review all statistics with a high frequency, there is a risk attached to the debt we are building. This is informing our review of the regulatory model as part of our OSR 2.0 programme, to ensure we are balancing our systemic and responsive approach with delivering the core regulatory work of assessments and compliance checks.

## Our maturity and performance

We built a performance framework around our four 5-year strategy ambitions based on a maturity model.

**Building public trust in evidence** – We are acting strategically, drawing together lessons from regulatory work including casework and making those lessons available to help producers deliver. The new Code will be an opportunity to be even more effective in supporting the system.

### **Making greater data available in a secure way for research and evaluation**

– We have made significant progress on supporting data linkage and sharing, with strong published outputs – for example, a review of data sharing and linkage across government, and follow up report. We can report a lot of follow up activity with producers, though frustratingly systemic change feels out of reach because of barriers within Government. We will continue to convene, support, advocate and warn on specific areas where we think we can have a useful impact. In doing so, our goal is to help government, researchers and the private sector move towards a future where data sharing and linkage is widely and safely employed for the public good. We are also developing a lot of partnerships – for example, with the Evaluation Task Force (ETF) - a joint Cabinet Office-HM Treasury unit providing specialist support to ensure evidence and evaluation across government. ETF has asked OSR help ensure compliance with the Evaluation Registry which acts as a home for all Government evaluations, for improved accessibility and transparency.

**Enhance understanding of social and economic matters** – We have continued evidence of responding to societal areas of interest and are very responsive in casework. We are not yet at a systemic level of maturity - for example - the new Government's focus on missions is still emergent and there is a risk that our planned work is not focused on the most relevant issues in the short term.

**Clarity and coherence of communication for maximum impact** – This would be our main area of relative concern. We have not yet drawn together all our strands into a coherent strategic position on what good communication looks like, how we influence good communication, and what we do when we have concerns. To address this, we are reviewing how we draw together our knowledge of best practice on communication.

