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Statistics Regulation



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Authority

State of the UK Statistical System 2026

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Executive Summary

Drawing on our work as the UK's statistics regulator, this report sets out our annual view of how the UK statistical system is operating. It brings together evidence from across our regulatory work over the past year to identify the main system-level issues, risks and priorities, while also recognising areas of progress and improvement.

This year's report is written in the context of continued pressure on the statistical system. Over the past year, the system has faced leadership transition, with interim arrangements in place for the National Statistician and Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, and no National Statistician currently in post. It has also faced ongoing challenges to data quality, difficulties with survey response rates and increasing pressure on resources and capacity. These pressures affect multiple parts of the system and are closely connected.

The report highlights areas of progress and improvement. Producers have improved their statistics and adapted to new demands. It also shows examples of producers being open about quality concerns and delivery pressures affecting their statistics.

The Permanent Secretary and senior team at the Office for National Statistics (ONS) have led recovery during this period, with greater openness about the challenges facing the organisation and the steps being taken to address them. We have also seen stronger governance and more proactive engagement with users. Established Government Statistical Service (GSS) structures and the wider statistical community have supported co-ordination and collaboration during a period of leadership transition. These developments provide a stronger basis for addressing the challenges facing ONS and the wider system.

A central theme running through the report is that the system is increasingly having to make difficult choices. Leaders are operating in a context of transition and constraint, and prioritisation decisions are becoming more visible. This is a necessary response to pressure. It underlines that prioritisation is not simply an operational response to resource constraint, but a core leadership responsibility.

We also find that the quality and resilience of statistics remain under pressure, although there has been progress in some areas. ONS has made progress in improving some economic statistics and in stabilising parts of its survey portfolio. However, important challenges remain, including continuing concerns about survey response and representativeness, quality concerns in local authority population estimates, and the effect that quality problems in key sources can have across a wider set of statistics. The increase in suspensions and cancellations of accredited official statistics over the past two years shows that OSR, as the system regulator, and statistics producers themselves, take the Code of Practice for Statistics seriously and use accreditation to give signals to users where statistics do not currently meet the standards of the Code. At the same time, new accreditations and confirmations have continued, showing that accreditation remains an active part of the regulatory framework.

The communication and use of statistics has remained a major focus of our regulatory work. We have seen some improvement in the way producers explain uncertainty, limitations and comparability, and we have continued to intervene publicly where statistics have been misused or presented without sufficient context. At the same time, public involvement and engagement is now a clearer part of the Code's expectations for official statistics, but practice is still developing across the system. Progress following the inaugural Statistics Assembly has been slower than users might reasonably have expected, and users need a clearer public plan for taking forward the Assembly priorities.

The report also shows that the system continues to adapt. Activity is increasing in areas such as artificial intelligence and implementation of the revised Code of Practice for Statistics. Innovation is also taking place across the system, including through changes to methods, data access and dissemination. However, progress is not consistent across the system. AI use in official statistics remains limited, and innovation is often shaped by capacity and prioritisation. Implementation of the revised Code is not yet fully in place. The revised Code, including the new Standards for the Public Use of Statistics, Data and Wider Analysis, provides a stronger framework for both the production and the public use of statistics. The task now is to ensure that these expectations are applied clearly and consistently in practice.

Our regulatory work shows that many of the challenges facing the statistical system are interconnected. Supporting confidence in official statistics depends on the quality of individual outputs, but also on how the system responds to pressure and change.

Our recommendations focus on the areas where we consider clearer system leadership is needed. Most are directed to the National Statistician once appointed, because the role provides leadership across the GSS and the wider statistical system. There is currently no National Statistician in post and at the time of writing the role has been vacant for six months. Some of the actions to implement these recommendations can only be taken forward once the substantive appointment has been made.

Our recommendations

- The National Statistician should publish a baseline system-wide view of resources and capacity across the statistical system, including workforce numbers, key skills gaps and major capacity constraints. This should be updated regularly to support greater transparency about current pressures and how priorities are being managed (target within 6 months of being in post).
- The National Statistician should ensure that public reporting on key household and business surveys gives users a clear explanation of survey quality, so they can understand what the estimates can support and where the evidence is not strong enough for particular uses. This should include achieved sample sizes, response rates and representativeness, and explain where survey quality limits the use of estimates for particular geographic areas, population groups or types of analysis (target within 6 months of being in post).

- The UK Statistics Authority, working with the National Statistician once appointed and statistics producers across the system, should publish a clear, time-bound plan for taking forward the four Statistics Assembly priority areas. This should show what action will be taken on the four high-level priorities and the main commitments arising from the Assembly report, who is responsible for them and how progress will be reported publicly (target by end March 2027).
- The National Statistician's Office, working with the GSS, should set out a clear approach for how existing guidance and standards apply to the use of AI in official statistics. This should help producers apply the Code of Practice consistently and explain how AI tools and models are being used (target within 6 months of being in post).
- The National Statistician should set out how the GSS will support comprehensive application of Code 3.0. This should include clear expectations for ongoing self-evaluation by producers and for building a system-wide view of how the revised Code is being applied in practice (target within 6 months of being in post).

Introduction

Drawing on our work as the UK's statistics regulator, this report sets out our annual view of how the UK statistical system is operating. It brings together evidence from across our regulatory work over the past year to consider the system as a whole, rather than individual statistics in isolation.

This year's report is written in the context of continued pressure on the statistical system. Over the past year, the system has faced leadership transition, ongoing challenges to data quality, difficulties with survey response rates and increasing pressure on resources and capacity. These pressures affect multiple parts of the system and are closely connected. The report highlights areas where producers have improved their statistics and adapted to new demands. It also shows examples of producers being open about quality concerns and delivery pressures affecting their statistics.

The UK's statistical system includes those who collect, produce, disseminate and regulate official statistics, alongside central bodies that set its strategic direction. We want this report to support continuing collaboration across the UK statistical system, and to help producers, leaders and users understand the main system-level issues, risks and priorities facing it.

Our view of the system is informed by the full range of our regulatory work. This includes assessments and compliance reviews against the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#), casework on the use and misuse of statistics, our system-wide regulatory work, and our wider engagement with statistics producers, users and other stakeholders. These strands of work help us identify broader patterns, risks and issues across the statistical system. The report does not aim to cover all statistical activity across the UK. Its focus is on the system-level issues, patterns and risks that emerge through our regulatory work, while also recognising areas of strength as well as challenge.

The report is structured in four main sections. Together, they provide an overall view of how well the statistical system is functioning.

- **Statistical system leadership and direction** looks at how decisions are being taken and priorities managed across the system, with a focus on leadership transition, co-ordination and collaboration, and resourcing and prioritisation.
- **Quality and resilience of statistics** considers the reliability and sustainability of key statistics, with a focus on economic statistics, surveys, statistics that measure the population and accreditation trends.
- **Public confidence and use of statistics** examines how statistics are communicated, understood and used, with a focus on supporting appropriate use, challenging misuse, public involvement and engagement, and progress following the inaugural Statistics Assembly.

- **Innovation and regulatory evolution** looks at how the system is adapting to new opportunities and expectations, with a focus on artificial intelligence, innovation and system capacity, and implementation of the revised Code of Practice for Statistics.

Our recommendations focus on the areas where we consider clearer system leadership is needed. Most are directed to the National Statistician once appointed, because the role provides leadership across the GSS and the wider statistical system. There is currently no National Statistician in post. Some actions will therefore need to be taken forward once the substantive appointment has been made. We recommend that these are addressed within 6 months of the National Statistician being appointed.

Statistical system leadership and direction

Over the past year, leadership across the statistical system has continued to operate in a context of transition and constraint. This section shows that interim arrangements for the National Statistician and Chair of the UK Statistics Authority have helped maintain continuity in the operation and governance of the UK statistical system during a period of leadership transition, but that the continuing absence of a substantive National Statistician has left the system without a single, visible leader to provide long-term strategic direction. Leadership at the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has also become more open during the year, with greater transparency, stronger governance and more proactive engagement with users.

The section also considers how established Government Statistical Service (GSS) structures and the wider statistical community have supported co-ordination and collaboration across the system, and how leaders have taken more explicit prioritisation decisions in response to pressure on resources. These developments are taking place against a backdrop of continuing pressure on resources and capacity. Limited visibility of resources and capacity across the system makes it harder to judge whether current priorities are realistic and can be sustained.

Leadership transition

In May 2025, Sir Ian Diamond stepped down as National Statistician and Emma Rourke took on the role on an acting basis. During the year, the National Statistician and Permanent Secretary functions were separated, and Darren Tierney was appointed Permanent Secretary of ONS on a fixed-term basis. Since Emma Rourke's departure in December 2025, the role of National Statistician has remained unfilled, with no interim National Statistician in post.

The wider context for these changes was shaped by [the independent review of ONS's performance and culture led by Sir Robert Devereux](#), published in June 2025. The review concluded that ONS needed a focused and consistent effort to improve core statistics, that changes were needed in the way ONS is led, and that the governance of ONS and the wider statistical system merited further consideration. The UK Statistics Authority and Cabinet Office accepted all three recommendations.

Leadership changes at the UK Statistics Authority also continued during the year. Sir Robert Chote stepped down as Chair in September 2025, and Penny Young, Deputy Chair of the Authority Board, took on the role on an interim basis. A substantive appointment has not yet been made.

The Permanent Secretary and senior team at ONS have led recovery during this period, with greater openness about the challenges facing the organisation and the steps being taken to address them. We have also seen greater transparency, stronger governance and

more proactive engagement with users. These developments provide a stronger basis for addressing the challenges facing ONS.

Interim arrangements have helped provide continuity during a prolonged period of transition. Leadership across the system has relied more heavily on collective and delegated arrangements, supported by formal advisory and challenge mechanisms, including the [National Statistician's advisory committees and panels](#). These arrangements have helped maintain continuity, but they are not a substitute for stable substantive leadership. The continuing absence of a substantive National Statistician means the statistical system lacks a single, visible leader to provide long-term strategic direction, support system-wide prioritisation decisions and provide leadership across the wider Analysis Function.

Co-ordination and collaboration

During the year, we have seen collaboration play a more visible role in how leadership has operated across the statistical system. This has built on established [Government Statistical Service \(GSS\)](#) structures and relationships that pre-date the recent leadership changes at ONS and the UK Statistics Authority. These arrangements have provided a basis for co-ordination between statistics producers, collective leadership on shared priorities and support across organisational boundaries.

This has been evident in the more active use of existing system-wide leadership structures, including the three deputy heads of the GSS, the Chief Statisticians of the Devolved Governments, [GSS committees and groups](#) and [GSS theme-based work](#). These structures have provided a clearer basis for bringing producers together on issues that cut across departmental and UK-wide responsibilities. We have also seen Heads of Profession maintain a focus on shared system priorities, including [delivery of the GSS vision](#) and management of system-wide risks. The publication of the GSS and the RSS [Future Statistician: vision report](#) is another example of collaboration within the system. It sets out a trajectory for the GSS and its statisticians, grounded in the Code of Practice for Statistics. This is a positive development, given concerns OSR has raised over recent years that parts of the GSS infrastructure had weakened.

UK-wide coordination has also continued through existing structures. The [Inter-Administration Committee](#) (IAC), which includes the Chief Statisticians of the Devolved Governments, has provided a forum for directing cross-UK priorities, including comparability of statistics across the four nations. This forum appears to be operating with more strategic and delivery focus, which is a welcome development.

Where arrangements have worked well, they have provided a more structured basis for coordination on shared priorities than informal or ad hoc engagements. However, this progress relies on sustained engagement and continued leadership attention. It reflects more active use of existing system infrastructure, much of which had weakened in previous years, rather than a significant increase in capacity across the statistical system.

Resourcing and prioritisation

Our regulatory work over the year highlights continued pressure on resources, with leaders increasingly having to take prioritisation decisions in response. Where resources are stretched, quality assurance, improvement activity and user engagement can become harder to sustain, increasing the risk that quality issues are not identified or addressed quickly enough.

We have seen examples of openness from leaders about the constraints they are facing, and early engagement of users in decision making. For example, the Welsh Government consulted users on proposed changes to its portfolio of statistical outputs in response to significant resourcing pressures. We [recognised this approach as a constructive response to those pressures](#), with users placed at the centre of decision making and a clear commitment made by Welsh Government to openness and accountability about the outcomes. Wider consultations of this kind are one way of supporting transparent prioritisation, but they are not the only appropriate approach. More targeted engagement by producer teams can also be effective where it is transparent and aligned with the Code of Practice.

Our regulatory work has also shown the importance of clear and realistic prioritisation where delivery is under pressure. This was evident earlier in the year in relation to ONS economic statistics, where lack of clarity on priorities impacted delivery and quality. Since then, we have also seen a clearer shift away from attempts to maintain all statistical outputs at any cost. This is reflected in [ONS's more explicit approach to prioritisation](#) set out in its tiering model, which is based on the expected impact of statistical outputs on users and is intended to focus resources on improving the statistics that carry the greatest weight for the UK. ONS has also introduced a structured “waiting room” approach to sequencing change activity, intended to ensure that work only moves into delivery when it is ready, resourced and well defined. This gives users a clearer basis for understanding how ONS is prioritising work under pressure and supports more disciplined prioritisation and sequencing.

In several cases, statistical leaders have taken explicit decisions to pause, change or stop outputs where quality or sustainability could not be assured, while seeking to maintain user access to information through clear communication, signposting and co-ordination with other producers of similar statistics. When producers pause, change or stop outputs, they should explain the decision clearly, engage users and consider how important evidence needs will continue to be met. Changes to established outputs should not weaken the availability of official statistics for important areas of public debate, policy and accountability.

One example of this approach was ONS's decision to cease publication of statistics on deaths in the care sector. ONS concluded that improving the quality of these statistics would require further methodological development, that alternative approaches could not be guaranteed to produce estimates of sufficient quality, and that available capacity did not

allow this work to be prioritised. We [recognised this as an appropriate decision](#), alongside clear communication and signposting for users to other sources of related information. Similarly, in approving NHS England's request to discontinue accredited official statistics on public health, [we noted](#) that NHS England had consulted users, that respondents supported the proposed changes, and that arrangements were in place to ensure continued access to relevant data through partner organisations. We recognised these as proportionate decisions, supported by user engagement, clear communication and arrangements to maintain access to related information.

Resourcing pressures remain a defining feature of the statistical system and continue to require difficult decisions about priorities. Our regulatory work shows that where these decisions are made clearly, with users engaged and trade-offs explained, they can support quality and delivery confidence. However, the absence of a clear, publicly available GSS-wide picture of resources and system capacity remains a concern. As we have previously highlighted, there is limited publicly available information on the numbers, skills and resources available across the GSS. This makes it harder to understand pressures across the GSS and to assess how far current priorities are realistic and sustainable.

Recommendation: The National Statistician should publish a baseline system-wide view of resources and capacity across the statistical system, including workforce numbers, key skills gaps and major capacity constraints. This should be updated regularly to support greater transparency about current pressures and how priorities are being managed.

Quality and resilience of statistics

Over the past year, the quality and resilience of statistics have remained under pressure, although there has been improvement in some areas. This section shows that the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has made progress in improving some economic statistics and in stabilising parts of its survey portfolio. It also shows that important challenges remain for the wider system, including continuing concerns about survey response and representativeness, weaker confidence in some subnational population estimates, and the effect that quality problems in key sources can have on other statistics.

The increase in suspensions and cancellations of accredited official statistics over the past two years shows that accreditation is being used to signal to users where statistics do not currently meet the standards of the Code. At the same time, new accreditations and confirmations have continued, showing that accreditation remains an active part of the regulatory framework.

Economic statistics

Concerns about the quality and reliability of ONS economic statistics have remained a major focus of OSR's regulatory work over the past year. In response to issues identified through our [April 2025 interim systemic review](#) and [November 2025 final review](#), ONS published its [Plan for ONS Economic Statistics](#) and [Survey Improvement and](#)

[Enhancement Plan](#), and has since begun publishing quarterly progress updates. OSR has responded publicly to those updates as part of its ongoing regulatory scrutiny.

In our [January 2026 response to ONS's first quarterly update](#), we judged that ONS was meeting the immediate requirements set out in the interim and final reports of our systemic review. We also made three further recommendations to improve the transparency of future reporting, including stronger user focus, more disaggregated cost information, and further reporting on quality reviews, recruitment and retention, and legacy systems.

In our [May 2026 response to ONS's second quarterly update](#), we noted that the latest update demonstrated genuine and welcome progress. We welcomed signs of stabilisation, greater transparency, stronger governance and more proactive engagement with users. At the same time, we noted that critical challenges and risks remained, particularly in relation to sustaining quality, delivering the Transformed Labour Force Survey, implementing the new Statistical Business Register and improving response rates across social surveys. The Statistical Business Register remains a significant dependency for ONS's plans for improving economic statistics, and delays to its implementation continue to present a delivery risk. This is not a new issue. Replacing the current register has been a long-running dependency for transforming economic statistics.

We also noted in our response that these ongoing risks and challenges were reflected in delivery, with over one-quarter of the milestones scheduled for delivery in 2025/26 delayed. This may indicate that the original plans for economic statistics were in part over-ambitious and unrealistic. It underlines the importance of realistic planning, clear prioritisation and transparent reporting where delivery is under pressure. ONS's [structured "waiting room" approach](#) should help support planning and clearer prioritisation, but its impact will need to be demonstrated through delivery.

Surveys

Last year, we commented that challenges with household survey response rates were becoming particularly significant, especially in ONS surveys. Since then, interventions by producers have contributed to improvements in achieved sample sizes and response patterns in particular surveys. However, survey response and representativeness remain significant challenges, and concerns about data quality continue to impact many areas of the statistical system.

The most visible survey challenges during the year were in relation to the ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS), the main household survey used to produce official estimates of the UK labour market. In 2023, declining survey response rates led to significant quality concerns about LFS-based estimates. In November 2023, [OSR removed the accredited official statistics status](#) of ONS's LFS-based estimates and datasets. [In December 2024](#), OSR also highlighted that the quality issues with the LFS had affected outputs across and beyond ONS, including a wider set of LFS-derived and Annual Population Survey (APS)-derived outputs.

ONS has since taken substantial action to stabilise the survey while continuing to develop the Transformed Labour Force Survey (TLFS). This has been followed by clear improvement in the operational position of the survey. [ONS reported](#) that the overall response rate for January to March 2025 was 21.3%, up from 12.7% in July to September 2023, and that response levels by late 2025 were close to their pre-pandemic levels across all waves.

However, recovery is not complete. In its [April 2026 update](#), ONS continued to advise caution when assessing change over time periods affected by operational changes and when analysing more-detailed estimates. In [our April 2026 update report](#), we found that the survey did not yet support more-detailed regional or devolved analysis.

As we were finalising this report, ONS announced that an operational error had reduced the number of telephone interviewers allocated to the LFS in May and June. This reduced achieved household interviews on waves 2-5 of the main sample by around 1,200, or 19%, compared with the preceding period. ONS has said this will temporarily reduce the quality of labour market statistics published in July, with a smaller effect on later releases. ONS has set out immediate actions and set in train a lesson learned exercise which will have external input. The steps ONS has set out will be important to assure quality and confidence in this priority area.

A devolved perspective shows how producers are responding differently to survey pressures. The Scottish Government [has communicated with users about changes to labour market statistics in Scotland](#). It explained the decision to end funding for the Scottish LFS boost and the expected impact on APS-derived estimates, while setting out plans to explore alternative data sources, including administrative financial data.

Although response rates in Northern Ireland have not declined as much as other GB surveys, the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) chose to develop a shorter Labour Market Survey. NISRA's focus was on key labour market indicators for Northern Ireland stakeholders, removing content that was not used or was available from other sources, and maximising response rates and the quality of responses. In our [2026 compliance review](#), we found that NISRA had taken a considered approach, balancing response rates, data quality considerations and user needs. ONS and NISRA are working closely together to deliver cohesive UK-level estimates. It is vital that this collaboration continues, particularly in the context of high-profile labour market statistics. However, the transition to two new surveys with different timelines and some differing content presents ongoing challenges for both producers.

In June 2025, following concerns raised through our review of ONS economic statistics and the wider context of the [Independent Review by Sir Robert Devereux KCB](#), ONS published its [Survey Improvement and Enhancement Plan](#) (SIEP), which set out an ambitious plan to restore confidence in ONS's survey operations, data quality and systems.

ONS has since provided regular updates on this work, [most recently in April 2026](#). These updates show progress in some areas, particularly on the Labour Force Survey, but also illustrate that important risks remain. Our systemic review also flagged risks around the quality of business surveys. ONS's updates describe work to improve engagement with businesses and reduce reporting burden. They also report progress in moving some collections away from legacy systems. At the same time, ONS has reported continuing delivery challenges, including in relation to the Statistical Business Register and the sequencing of wider survey improvement work. These remain important dependencies for wider economic statistics improvement.

Other producers have also introduced changes intended to mitigate declining response rates and protect data quality. For example, to improve the accuracy of benefit amounts in its survey, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is [transforming the Family Resources Survey](#) through the use of administrative benefits data, while the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has introduced a more modular and adaptive approach through its [new Community and Engagement Survey](#). Other surveys, including ONS's [Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings](#), have moved toward “digital by default” collection, with the aim of improving respondent convenience and submission rates. These changes may improve quality over time, but they can also create uncertainty for users while methods and outputs evolve. Producers need to explain these changes clearly to users and work together where changes to survey sources affect related outputs.

However, as Annex A shows, response rates across many surveys remain below historic levels, which continues to raise concerns about representativeness and the quality of outputs that rely on survey-based data collection. Improvements in achieved sample sizes can help strengthen the stability of survey estimates, but they do not on their own resolve concerns about quality if the responding sample is not sufficiently representative of the wider population. These issues are not confined to a single survey or producer. In cases where lower response rates have increased reliance on weighting adjustments and modelling, we have recommended that producers place greater importance on transparency around uncertainty and data limitations. We also recognise that, whilst response rates are important, they are not the only factor affecting data quality.

The Scottish Government has also taken work forward to understand the causes of survey nonresponse. [Research commissioned by the Scottish Government](#), with funding support from ONS, examined nonresponse in the Scottish Household Survey, Scottish Health Survey and Scottish Crime and Justice Survey. It found that some groups were less well represented in these surveys, including younger people, people living in deprived areas, people from minority ethnic backgrounds and private renters. The research identified barriers to participation and actions that could be tested to make surveys easier to take part in and more relevant to respondents.

Against this backdrop, survey mandation (a legal requirement to participate in a survey) is receiving increased attention in parts of the statistical system. This issue was also highlighted [in the Independent Review of the UK Statistics Authority by Professor Denise Lievesley](#), which recommended that the UK Statistics Authority engage with the Cabinet

Office to explore the consequences of mandatory completion of the Labour Force Survey. In its [December 2025 update to the Survey Improvement and Enhancement Plan](#), ONS noted that work was underway with the Cabinet Office and HM Treasury on a “state of play” paper, with recommendations for further exploration of non-statutory approaches and future discussion of mandation. This means mandation has been recognised as a relevant issue, but there has not yet been a clear public position on whether, or how, it should form part of the longer-term response to survey quality challenges.

There has been some improvement in survey-based data collection where producers have prioritised targeted recovery activity. However, the persistence of response and representativeness challenges shows that significant underlying risks to quality remain. The longer-term challenge is not only to recover individual surveys, but to develop survey strategies that can continue to meet user needs as response patterns and data sources change. This builds on our recommendation last year that the statistical system should better understand variation in survey response rates and develop system-wide solutions. This year, our regulatory work shows the importance of giving users a clearer view of what survey quality means in practice, including where quality is affected for particular geographies, subgroups or uses.

Recommendation: The National Statistician should ensure that public reporting on key household and business surveys gives users a clear explanation of survey quality, so they can understand what the estimates can support and where the evidence is not strong enough for particular uses. This should include achieved sample sizes, response rates and representativeness, and explain where survey quality limits the use of estimates for particular geographic areas, population groups or types of analysis.

Measuring the population in the UK

Population statistics remain a fundamental component of the UK statistical system, underpinning a wide range of economic, social and administrative statistics. Alongside the 10-year benchmark provided by the censuses, population estimates are used extensively to inform policy development, allocate resources and support service planning across central and local government. The importance of these statistics means that confidence in their quality and coherence is critical for the functioning of the wider system.

Over the past year, the population statistics system has operated in a context of significant change and uncertainty. Across the UK, producers are making increasing use of administrative data sources to improve population and migration statistics, with the aim of reducing reliance on traditional approaches. These developments offer clear opportunities but also introduce additional methodological complexity and uncertainty, particularly where data sources were not originally designed for statistical purposes.

Within this evolving landscape, our regulatory work highlights that population statistics continue to provide broadly credible insights at a national UK level. The combination of census data, surveys and administrative sources provides a strong basis for

understanding long-term demographic trends. At the same time, there remain important challenges in producing robust estimates at a subnational level in some parts of the UK. In particular, local authority areas in England and Wales with high levels of migration or population churn, and groups such as students, continue to present difficulties for estimation approaches that rely on integrating multiple data sources. These challenges can lead to differences between statistical estimates and local intelligence, contributing to varying levels of user confidence.

Our recent [compliance review of mid-year population estimates for England and Wales](#) illustrates these issues clearly. While these estimates remain a valued and widely used source of population data, we identified concerns about the quality of some local authority estimates and the need for clearer communication of uncertainty and limitations. Strengthening transparency, improving engagement with users and providing clearer guidance on appropriate use will therefore be essential to maintaining confidence in population statistics and supporting their effective use across the system in England and Wales. Later in the year, we plan to review mid-year population estimates in Scotland and Northern Ireland so that we have a UK-wide position and view of these statistics.

Decisions about the future approach to population statistics have also shaped the system over the past year. Following consideration of administrative-based approaches, ONS decided [not to move to admin-based population estimates](#) as the headline measure for England and Wales at this stage, and instead to continue with mid-year estimates while pursuing a programme of improvement. This decision places renewed emphasis on the quality, coherence and communication of existing estimates, as well as on ensuring that learning from the development of administrative-based methods is retained and applied.

At the same time, preparations for the 2031 census are underway across the UK. Confirmation that censuses will take place in 2031 has provided greater clarity for producers and users, although the timing of the decision has introduced additional pressures for planning and delivery. The return of the [Population Statistics System Committee](#) has provided a clearer route for co-ordination between the census offices as they develop recommendations and prepare for census testing. The next census will draw more extensively on administrative data and integrated data systems, reflecting a broader shift in the statistical system. However, current evidence indicates that administrative sources do not yet provide sufficient coverage or consistency to replace the census entirely, reinforcing the continued importance of a mixed-methods approach.

Experience from the 2021 and 2022 censuses provides important lessons for the future. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, producers delivered high-quality and accessible outputs overall. In some cases, such as in National Records of Scotland (NRS)'s [2022 census outputs](#), innovative use of administrative data, combined with strong communication and transparency about uncertainty, helped maintain user confidence even where there were operational challenges. These experiences show that technical capability and clear communication are important for maintaining confidence in population statistics.

Looking ahead, achieving greater coherence across the UK population statistics system will remain an important priority. While there have been improvements in collaboration and engagement between producers, continued leadership attention will be needed to ensure that approaches are aligned and that learning is shared effectively across the four nations.

Overall, population statistics continue to provide an essential foundation for the UK statistical system. The move towards greater use of administrative data, alongside challenges in subnational estimation, means producers will need to continue explaining quality and uncertainty clearly to users. Continued UK-wide co-ordination will also be important as decisions about future methods and data sources develop.

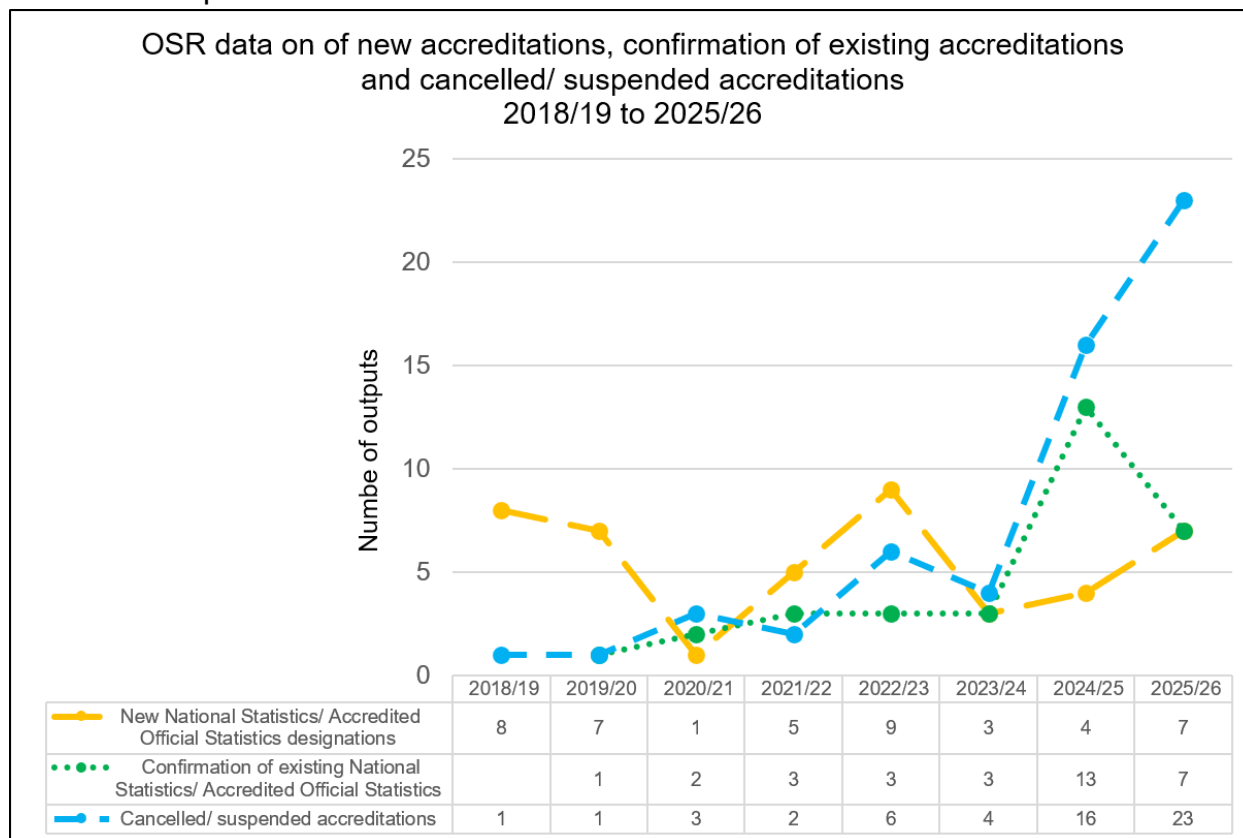
Trends in de-accreditations

[Accredited official statistics](#) are official statistics that have been independently reviewed by OSR and confirmed to comply with the standards of Trustworthiness, Quality and Value in the Code of Practice for Statistics. [Accreditation can be suspended or cancelled](#) where substantial non-compliance with the Code is identified. Changes to methods, data sources or producers do not automatically mean that accreditation should be removed. Removal is needed only if those changes affect compliance with the Code. OSR's concerns are greatest where users could be materially misled by statistics that continue to carry accreditation.

An increase in suspensions and cancellations is in some ways an indication of the health of the statistical system. It shows that OSR, as the system regulator, and statistics producers themselves, take the Code seriously and use accreditation to give signals to users where statistics do not currently meet the standards of the Code.

Over the past two years, there has been a marked increase in suspensions and cancellations of accredited official statistics. Our metrics on cancelled and suspended accreditations (Figure 1) show that the number rose from 4 in 2023/24 to 16 in 2024/25, and to 23 in 2025/26.

Figure 1. OSR data on new accreditations, confirmations of accreditations and cancelled/suspended accreditations.



Sources: [OSR cancelled/suspended accreditations](#) (date accessed 22 June 2026), new and confirmation of existing accredited official statistics - [published reports and letters on OSR website](#) (date accessed, 22 June 2026).

The increase in 2024/25 was driven overwhelmingly by the widespread use of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) in a range of accredited outputs. Quality issues in these surveys have had wide impacts across the system, beyond labour market statistics – all but 2 of the 16 suspensions and cancellations that year were linked to quality issues in these sources. The APS combines responses from waves of the LFS with additional survey collection to produce more-detailed estimates. As [concerns about the quality of the LFS and APS intensified](#), accreditation was suspended not only for headline labour market outputs, but also for a wider range of accredited statistics produced by ONS, the Welsh Government, the Scottish Government and other UK government departments using those sources. These included outputs on employment, labour market conditions, health, well-being and population by country of birth and nationality. This illustrates how weaknesses in a single foundational source can affect a wide range of statistics across multiple producers.

The pattern in 2025/26 was broader than the LFS and APS alone. Of the 23 suspensions and cancellations in 2025/26, 4 were linked to LFS or APS quality issues. Thirteen were linked to wider quality or methodology issues, including identified errors, uncertainty in

survey-derived estimates and methodological developments. A further five related to changes of producer.

This includes poverty and income inequality outputs in [Northern Ireland](#), [Scotland](#) and [Wales](#) that draw on the Family Resources Survey. In these cases, methodological developments introduced uncertainty that was particularly acute below the UK level. At a UK level, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) [wrote to update us on progress with its transformation work on the Family Resources Survey](#) and its view that accreditation could be maintained for related UK-level outputs. We responded noting DWP's view and setting out our plans to carry out a review of the transformation.

Other recent suspensions show that accreditation can also be affected during periods of producer transition or wider quality assurance work. At the same time, Figure 1 shows that new accreditations and confirmations of accreditation continued in 2025/26. We will continue to monitor the increase in suspensions and cancellations, including whether the trend points to wider issues with quality or to how accreditation is understood and used across the system. We will use our regulatory work to decide whether the trend points to a need for further guidance or review.

Public confidence and use of statistics

Over the past year, the way statistics are communicated, used and understood has remained an important focus of regulatory activity. This section shows that there has been some improvement in the way producers explain uncertainty, limitations and comparability, and that OSR has continued to intervene publicly where statistics have been misused or presented without sufficient context. It also shows that public involvement and engagement is now a clearer part of the Code's expectations for official statistics, but practice is still developing across the system.

The section also considers progress following the inaugural Statistics Assembly. Progress has been slower than users might reasonably have expected, and users need a clearer public plan for taking forward the Assembly priorities.

Supporting appropriate use of statistics

The appropriate use of statistics depends not only on the quality of the underlying data, but also on how clearly statistics are communicated and explained. The Code of Practice for Statistics makes clear that producers should support understanding of what statistics can and cannot say, including their strengths, limitations, uncertainty and comparability across the UK. These expectations are reinforced by the [Standards for the Public Use of Statistics, Data and Wider Analysis](#), which emphasise that statistics should be used and communicated transparently, and with integrity, clarity and accuracy.

Supporting the appropriate use of statistics was a recurring theme across OSR's regulatory work over the last year, featuring in ten assessments and compliance reviews.

Our work has highlighted the importance of clearly explaining data quality and methodology, including revisions, provisional estimates and comparability, and of giving users clear guidance on how statistics should and should not be used. This was reflected in our July 2025 confirmation of accredited official statistics status for [Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information](#), where we recognised improvements by HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) that helped users understand the coherence of labour market data and improved the accessibility of the statistics. We also noted the importance of users understanding the comparability and coherence of the wider suite of labour market statistics.

Over the last year, we have also seen positive examples of producers improving how they explain and present statistics in response to our regulatory work. This has included [work by the National Records of Scotland](#) (NRS), where we found that the quality of the 2022 census outputs was communicated thoroughly and effectively, with appropriate attention given to communicating uncertainty. We found that NRS had taken a proactive and comprehensive approach to user engagement and in supporting users to understand and make use of the census statistics. Our work has also found that Welsh Government communicated uncertainty and methods effectively in its [estimates of additional housing need](#) statistics.

However, our regulatory work continues to identify examples where statistics are published or used without sufficient explanation of caveats, uncertainty or comparability. This has included [NHS waiting times for planned healthcare](#), where differences in data collection and definitions across the UK created a risk of inappropriate comparisons between nations. In our review of [NHS England's Referral to Treatment waiting times statistics](#), we found that users needed clearer explanation of UK comparability and NHS structural changes to help them understand the limits of comparison and interpret the statistics appropriately. Beyond these regulatory examples, migration statistics also show why clear guidance on use matters. [ONS's latest long-term international migration bulletin](#) explains what users can and cannot do with the statistics, including how to use the newest provisional estimates. Cases such as these show that appropriate use depends not only on the availability of statistics, but also on whether users are given enough explanation to interpret them correctly.

While there has been some improvement over the past year, practice remains inconsistent. Our regulatory work continues to identify cases where clearer explanation of quality, uncertainty and comparability is needed.

Challenging the misuse of statistics

A core part of OSR's role is investigating concerns about the production and use of statistics through [casework](#). Over the past year, we have made public interventions where statistics were used without enough explanation or context or had the potential to mislead. The cases below are examples chosen to illustrate the different ways in which misuse and misunderstanding of statistics can arise in high-profile public debate.

- Presentation of modelling: In [our intervention on the presentation of modelling in the UK Covid-19 Inquiry](#), we raised concerns that the way a modelled estimate was presented risked over-interpretation without sufficient caveats. This highlighted the importance of communicating uncertainty clearly, particularly where modelled figures may be given undue weight in public debate.
- Choice of measure: In relation to the [Welsh Government's apprenticeships target](#), we highlighted the need to be transparent about which measure was being used and why, particularly where more than one possible measure was available and previous reporting had used a different basis.
- Lack of context: In our work on [claims about changes to business rates announced in the November 2025 Budget](#), we found that fuller context was needed to support understanding, including clarity about whether statements referred to changes in the tax rates specifically (for example, the multiplier) or to business rates more broadly.
- Unsupported comparisons: Misuse of statistics also featured in recent Scottish Parliament and Welsh Senedd election debates. High-profile claims comparing NHS planned care waiting times across the UK demonstrated how differences in definitions, coverage and limitations can be misunderstood or ignored in public debate. In response, [we published a public statement](#) setting out how these statistics should be interpreted and the risks of misleading comparisons. We also investigated similar claims in [January](#) and [March](#) 2026.

These are all issues that the [Standards for the Public Use of Statistics, Data and Wider Analysis](#) are intended to address.

Public involvement and engagement

The revised Code places greater emphasis on how producers engage with users and the wider public. It requires producers to put users at the centre of decisions about statistics and to consider evidence on the degree to which the collection and use of data for sensitive topics are viewed as acceptable by society. It also requires producers to publish a public involvement and engagement strategy.

This is an important development for the statistical system. The Code is clear that official statistics should serve the public good. Public involvement and engagement supports this by helping producers understand the views of people who may or may not be direct users of official statistics, but who should have a say in what statistics are produced and how that is done.

This is not the same as user engagement. User engagement helps producers understand what people who consume statistics need from them, including their data needs and their views about the published statistics. Public involvement and engagement may be part of a wider user engagement strategy, but it also goes beyond this to understand views of non-users as well, for example around public acceptability. This includes people whose data

are used, people who are represented in statistics and people affected by decisions made on the basis of statistics.

The toolkit for [public involvement and engagement in official statistics](#), developed by Connected by Data in conjunction with OSR, provides practical support for producers in meeting these expectations. It sets out why, when and how producers can reach members of the public in a proportionate way. It is clear that it is not necessary to involve or engage the public in every decision and that the level of involvement or engagement should be guided by factors including the scale of the statistical work, the use of the statistics, the level of sensitivity attached to the statistics and the public interest in the statistics.

During the year, we have seen examples of work that can support producers in understanding wider public attitudes to data. ONS published the outcomes of its [ONS Data Debate: 65 plus](#) and an updated [summary of people's attitudes to data](#). This work provides evidence that other producers and organisations can draw on, particularly where statistics involve sensitive topics or substantial change. Producers can also draw on system-level work when considering how people are represented in statistics and the language used in statistical surveys or outputs. The Government Statistics Service (GSS) Harmonisation Team's [work plan](#) outlines further development of standards and guidance on ethnicity, disability, sex and gender identity. The [National Statistician's Inclusive Data Advisory Committee](#) provides independent advice to support the ongoing improvement of the inclusivity of data and evidence across the UK statistical system.

Public involvement and engagement does not replace user engagement. Our regulatory work over the last year has shown positive examples of producers strengthening user engagement, which remains central to the Code expectation to put users at the centre of decisions about statistics. In our [assessment of statistics on higher education, further education, apprenticeships and adult community learning in Wales](#), we found that Medr was putting users at the centre of decision making and maintaining a dialogue with users, which helps ensure that the statistics continue to be relevant. In confirming accredited official statistics status for [Northern Ireland Business Expenditure on Research and Development statistics](#), produced by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), we also noted that NISRA had conducted a user consultation to better understand user needs, revised its quality report in response and planned to publish a back series because users said it would be useful.

At the same time practice is not yet consistent across the system. The [Royal Statistical Society \(RSS\) - OSR roundtable on user engagement and the Code of Practice](#), held in February 2026, found that users often remain uncertain about whether their input is heard or acted on. It highlighted the importance of clearer feedback loops, more consistent approaches to engagement and more transparent routes into dialogue with producers.

Public involvement and engagement is now a clearer part of the Code's expectations for official statistics, and part of how producers show that statistics serve the public good. The system now needs to strengthen practice in a proportionate way, recognising the practical challenges producers face in deciding when and how to involve the public. Continued collaboration and sharing of knowledge will be important in supporting this.

Reviving momentum following the Statistics Assembly

The inaugural UK Statistics Assembly, held in January 2025, provided useful insights into the current demand for data and statistics across the UK. It brought together a wide range of stakeholders and, [through the independent report published in March 2025](#), identified four high-level priorities for the UK Statistics Authority and the Government Statistical Service: reinvigorating user engagement, improving more-granular statistics, scaling up the use of administrative data and strengthening UK-wide coherence.

There is evidence of some progress in areas connected to those priorities. This includes the extensive topic consultations conducted by the three census offices ahead of the 2031 censuses, the [July 2025 Family Finance Surveys User Conference](#), and the activity described in the [UK Statistics Authority's December 2025 update](#) on granular statistics, administrative data and UK-wide coherence. More recently, the [UK Government's March 2026 response to recommendation 5 of the Lievesley Review](#) has also set out further commitments on comparable UK-wide data and a strengthened strategic role for the Inter-Administration Committee (IAC).

However, progress against these priorities has been slower than users might reasonably have expected, and it remains important that momentum is maintained. Without reinvigoration, the Statistics Assembly has the potential to become a significant missed opportunity.

The Assembly generated a wide range of recommendations, not all of which can be taken forward at the same pace. Delivery will need to be prioritised alongside other pressures facing ONS, the GSS and producers across the system. The Authority's December 2025 update stated that it had *"not progressed development of the refreshed Authority user engagement strategy as quickly as we would have liked."* The same update said that activity would be reviewed again following the appointment of a permanent National Statistician in early 2026. In January 2026, [OSR similarly warned](#) that there was a risk of losing momentum from the Assembly and said that renewed momentum was needed to take its priorities forward.

The Assembly was not intended to be a one-off event. It identified priorities that require co-ordinated effort across the statistical system. Users need a clearer public plan for taking forward the Assembly priorities. Without that clarity, the Assembly risks losing some of the value it created.

Recommendation: The UK Statistics Authority, working with the National Statistician once appointed and statistics producers across the system, should publish a clear, time-bound plan for taking forward the four Statistics Assembly priority areas. This should show what action will be taken on the four high-level priorities and the main commitments arising from the Assembly report, who is responsible for them and how progress will be reported publicly.

Innovation and regulatory evolution

Over the past year, the statistical system has continued to adapt through new methods, evolving practice and changes to the regulatory framework. This section considers three areas where that adaptation is most visible: the use of artificial intelligence, innovation and system capacity, and implementation of the revised [Code of Practice for Statistics](#). It shows that the system is taking steps to respond to new opportunities and expectations, but progress is not consistent. AI use in official statistics remains limited, innovation is often shaped by capacity and prioritisation, and implementation of the revised Code is not yet fully in place.

Use of artificial intelligence

Artificial intelligence (AI) continues to attract interest across the statistical system. Current use in official statistics still appears limited, but activity is underway to understand where AI tools and models might be useful and how they should be applied. There is increasing activity across the Government Statistical Service (GSS) to understand current uses of AI, develop guidance and capability and to share learning across the statistical system. The [Analysis Function](#) is also developing wider guidance and resources on the safe and responsible use of AI.

AI may offer opportunities to improve efficiency and support analytical work. For example, the Office for National Statistics (ONS)'s [Survey Assist](#) tool draws on [ClassifAI](#) to support the coding of survey responses. These types of tools may help reduce time spent on repetitive processing and allow statisticians to focus more on quality assurance and meeting user needs. At the same time, OSR's current experience through regulatory work suggests that AI use in official statistics remains focused mainly on research and development, testing and administrative support rather than routine statistical production.

Existing GSS leadership structures provide a route for understanding current uses of AI, and shared learning. The GSS has identified [AI champions for 2026](#). The [GSS and RSS Future Statistician vision](#) also highlights the need for statisticians to embrace modern tools responsibly while protecting trustworthiness and integrity.

However, there is still no single overall view of how much AI is currently being used, or could be used, across the statistical system.

The Code of Practice for Statistics provides a robust and flexible framework that extends to the use of AI in official statistics. Where producers use AI in the production or communication of official statistics, they should apply the Code in the same way as they would for other statistical methods or models. To support this approach, OSR is updating its existing [guidance for using statistical models](#) so that it reflects the revised Code of Practice and applies clearly to AI tools and models. The updated guidance will continue to focus on Trustworthiness, Quality and Value, including the need for appropriate planning,

transparency, quality assurance, human oversight and clear accountability for outputs. It will also support producers to consider whether use of AI is proportionate, how risks and environmental impacts are managed, and whether the approach provides clear value relative to its cost.

AI is likely to remain an area of growing interest for the statistical system. Current evidence suggests a phase of coordination, capability building and experimentation rather than established practice. In this context, clear communication about how AI is being used, alongside consistent application of existing standards, will therefore remain important.

Recommendation: The National Statistician's Office, working with the GSS, should set out a clear approach for how existing guidance and standards apply to the use of AI in official statistics. This should help producers apply the Code of Practice consistently and explain how AI tools and models are being used.

Innovation and system capacity

Innovation is taking place across the statistical system, including in methods, data access and dissemination. In the examples we have seen, this activity is often closely tied to operational priorities and the practical constraints facing producers. Some producers are also using innovation proactively to support prioritisation and future resilience.

There are examples of producers adapting their approaches in useful ways. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has set out [a programme of statistical work](#) that includes greater use of reproducible analytical pipelines, linking survey and administrative data, and new approaches to user engagement. We have also seen examples of producers improving how users access and explore statistics, including in [our assessment of Scotland's 2022 census outputs](#), where we found that National Records Scotland had developed a range of innovative tools that enhanced users' experience of using the data.

Data sharing and linkage remain important to innovation and system capacity. Last year, we highlighted that progress in data sharing and linkage was often driven by individual successes rather than consistent system-wide improvement. There have been positive recent developments. The Department for Education has [strengthened its long-standing collaboration](#) with the UK Data Service on linked administrative datasets to support longitudinal analysis of education outcomes. ONS has also [shared HMRC Pay As You Earn Real Time Information](#) (PAYE RTI) administrative data with the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) to support future population and migration statistics research and development. However, comprehensive and sustained system-wide data sharing and linkage still requires strategic leadership and buy-in from the wider data ecosystem, and cannot be achieved by statistics producers alone.

There continues to be innovative practice across the system. A significant change this year was the introduction by [ONS of groceries scanner data into consumer price inflation statistics in March 2026](#). This was a significant innovation in a core set of economic

statistics, intended to strengthen the measurement of grocery price change through a larger and more detailed source of data.

The statistical system continues to adapt, but the pace of innovation is shaped by available capacity and prioritisation decisions. We continue to consider that the recommendations from our [2024 follow-on report on data sharing and linkage](#) remain relevant.

Regulatory evolution

The revised [Code of Practice for Statistics](#), published in October 2025, marked an important evolution for the statistical system. While retaining the core principles of Trustworthiness, Quality and Value, the revised Code provides greater clarity on how these principles must be applied in practice. This includes refreshed [Standards for Official Statistics](#), which set out the practices required to ensure that statistics serve the public good and support public confidence. They also place greater emphasis on areas such as transparency, public involvement and engagement, and published statements of compliance.

A key development in the revised Code is the introduction of the [Standards for the Public Use of Statistics, Data and Wider Analysis](#). These standards set out what public bodies need to do to ensure an open, clear and accessible approach to the use of statistics, data and wider analysis in the public domain. They are based on the concept of intelligent transparency: proactively taking an open, clear and accessible approach to the use of data, statistics and wider analysis in public. In November 2025, OSR published the findings of its [first annual review of intelligent transparency](#), which provided an initial picture of how far these expectations are being reflected in practice. The review made six recommendations aimed at helping intelligent transparency become the default approach across governments in the UK.

There are signs that organisations are responding to these developments, and we note activity to support understanding of the new expectations beyond producer teams. For example, in response to OSR's review of intelligent transparency, [Number 10 appointed a chief analyst](#) who is engaging with Heads of Profession for Statistics on the Standards for the Public Use of Statistics. These standards have also been acknowledged in ministerial responses to our report and related correspondence.

Since its launch, all new OSR regulatory work has been based on Code 3.0, including assessments for accreditation and compliance reviews. In June 2026, OSR [updated Heads of Profession for Statistics](#) on its approach to applying Code 3.0 in regulatory work, building on the [transition guidance](#) published when the revised Code was launched. OSR has made clear that it is supporting the transition, recognising that embedding the new standards for existing statistics will take time.

The revised Code requires producers to publish organisational policies and statements relating to statistics production. Producers must review current practices and publish

required materials, and where required materials are not yet in place, producers should set out plans to address gaps with clear timeframes. For existing statistics, we expect producers to have clear, time-bound plans for implementing Code 3.0 where further work is needed. New and updated statistics should apply Code 3.0 from the start. OSR's [self-evaluation tool](#) is one way of helping producers review how well their statistics meet the revised Code, both within teams and across the organisation, and identify where further development is needed.

Initial regulatory application of the revised Code suggests that implementation is still at an early stage in some areas. The task now is to ensure the revised Code's expectations are applied clearly and consistently in practice across the statistical system.

Recommendation: The National Statistician should set out how the GSS will support comprehensive application of Code 3.0. This should include clear expectations for ongoing self-evaluation by producers and for building a system-wide view of how the revised Code is being applied in practice.

Annex A: More information on survey response rates

This annex shares response rates for a selection of key statistical surveys. It aims to illustrate response rates across the UK from a range of household surveys and producers, highlighting how survey participation has changed over time and the continuing challenge of lower response rates for many surveys since the pandemic.

Each of the surveys listed below will have its own specific caveats and may have undergone changes in method that impact their measured response rates. For example, in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the introduction of national lockdown restrictions, many surveys changed their fieldwork operations for the 2020 to 2021 period.

From April 2020, and for the whole of the 2020 to 2021 survey year, most data collection was conducted by telephone instead of face-to-face. This shift in mode of interview was accompanied by a substantial reduction in the number of interviews achieved. Other surveys were suspended during the same period, carried out for different lengths of time, or experienced other method changes.

Readers must refer to the original sources for each listed survey response rate to gain a detailed understanding, and prior to replicating or making use of the information provided in this annex.

Office for National Statistics

Labour Force Survey, total response rate, Quarter 1 (January to March) – Office for National Statistics

2020 Q1 – 36.2%

2021 Q1 – 23.6%

2022 Q1 – 22.6%

2023 Q1 – 16.9%

2024 Q1 – 16.7%

2025 Q1 – 21.3%

2026 Q1 – 33.4%

[Labour Force Survey performance and quality monitoring report: January to March 2026](#)

Living Costs and Food Survey – Office for National Statistics

2017/18 – 43%

2018/19 – 43%

2019/20 – 40%

2020/21 – 24%

2021/22 – 27%

2022/23 – 22%

2023/24 – 28%

[Living Costs and Food Survey technical report: financial year ending March 2024](#)

Crime Survey for England and Wales – Office for National Statistics

2018/19 – 70%

2019/20 – 64%

2020/21 – suspended (COVID)

2021/22 – suspended (COVID)

2022/23 – 42%

2023/24 – 46%

2024/25 – 46% provisional

[Crime in England and Wales QMI](#)

Wealth and Assets Survey – Office for National Statistics

Wave 5 (2014-16) – 65%

Round 6 (2016-18) – 63%

Round 7 (2018-20) – 58%

Round 8 (2020-22) – 41%

Round 9 (2022-24) – 29%

[Wealth and Assets Survey guide](#)

UK government departments

Health Survey for England – NHS England

2017 Q1 – 60%

2018 Q1 – 59%

2019 Q1 – 60%

2020 Q1 – suspended

2021 Q1 – 32%

2022-3 Q1 – 36%

2024 Q1 – 37%

[Health Survey for England 2024: Methods](#)

National Travel Survey – Department for Transport

2019 – 54%

2020 – 16%

2021 – 38%

2022 – 31%

2023 – 32%

2024 – 32%

[NTS 2024: Quality Report](#)

Family Resources Survey – Department for Work and Pensions

2018/19 – 50%

2019/20 – 49%
2020/21 – 23%
2021/22 – 26%
2022/23 – 28%
2023/24 – 32%
2024/25 – 31%

[Family Resources Survey 2024 to 2025 Methodology Tables](#)

Scottish Government

Scottish Household Survey – Scottish Government

2018 – 64%
2019 – 63%
2020 – not applicable
2021 – not applicable
2022 – 44%
2023 – 46%
2024 – 47%

[Scottish Household Survey 2024: Methodology and fieldwork outcomes](#)

Scottish Health Survey – Scottish Government

2018 – 57%
2019 – 56%
2020 – telephone only
2021 – 31% (part sample approach)
2022 – 38%
2023 – 42%
2024 – 37%

[The Scottish Health Survey 2024 – Volume 2: Technical Report](#)

Scottish Crime and Justice Survey – Scottish Government

2018/19 – 63%
2019/20 – 63%
2020/21 – no survey carried out due to COVID
2021/22 – 47%
2022/23 – no survey carried out
2023/24 – 46%
2024/25 – 48%

[Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2024-25](#)

Welsh Government

National Survey for Wales – Welsh Government

2018/19 – 54.2%

2019/20 – 55.7%
2020/21 – 58.4%
2021/22 – 41.8%
2022/23 – 38.3%
2023/24 – suspended
2024/25 – 18.7%

[National Survey for Wales: quality report 2024 to 2025](#)

Northern Ireland

Labour Force Survey (NI), Quarter 1 (January to March) – Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Q1 2019 – 51.0%
Q1 2020 – 55.5%
Q1 2021 – 20.9%
Q1 2022 – 33.3%
Q1 2023 – 48.0%
Q1 2024 – 36.1%
Q1 2025 – 30.9%
Q1 2026 – 33.6%

[Labour Market Report – Historical | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency](#)

Northern Ireland Health Survey – Department of Health (NI)

2018/19 – 53%
2019/20 – 59%
2020/21 – 18%
2021/22 – 47%
2022/23 – 56%
2023/24 – 53%
2024/25 – 49%

[Health Survey \(NI\): First Results 2024/25](#)

Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey – Department of Justice (NI)

2019/20 – 56%
2020/21 (NI Safe Community Telephone Survey) – 15%
2021/22 (NI Safe Community Telephone Survey) – 40%
2022/23 (NI Safe Community Telephone Survey) – 49%
2023/24 (NI Safe Community Telephone Survey) – 49%

[Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey | Department of Justice](#)

