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British Society for Population Studies Response to ONS Consultation on Changes to ONS Products 2015

8th February, 2016

Email to : ons.communications@ons.gsi.gov.uk

This response is from members of the British Society for Population Studies (BSPS) which covers a wide range of demographic users from academia, the public sector and other demographic user groups in the UK and abroad. All BSPS comments are in red text.

Changes to our publications

You have told us that you value both the data we provide and the analysis and insight that informs decision making and contributes to the democratic debate. However, some users have highlighted that it is timely data that is most valuable to them and they make relatively limited use of some of our statistical bulletins, especially where they are based on one data source.

To make the savings required to reinvest in new skills and technologies, an option we are considering is to move to an alternative model where we replace some single source statistical bulletins with key bullets or shorter summary bulletins alongside the data tables and metadata. This means that we will provide less analysis around the statistics in some cases, but all of the same data, potentially quicker.

1. *Would a change in operating model as described above meet your requirements or make things more difficult?*

Low - General feeling is that this will have a low impact. Data is the key requirement. However, the video summaries/podcasts were very useful but we note that the ONS YouTube channel has been closed down. The video summaries made the data much more accessible to a non-technical audience, and provided a useful overview for the more experienced user.

2. *Do you use any of the ONS primary, single source, releases listed at [Annex A](#) (which may be subject to this change in model)?*

1. Economic Statistics

	LAs	Academia	Other	Lowest Geog'y
1.1 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)	Yes	Yes	?	LA
1.2 Business Demography	Yes	?	?	LA
1.3 Business Enterprise Research and Development (BERD)	Yes	?	?	Region
1.4 Business Register Employment Survey (BRES)	Yes	?	?	LSOA/ Datazone
1.5 Civil Service Statistics	No	?	?	Region
1.6 E-Commerce and ICT Activity of UK Businesses	Yes	?	?	UK
1.7 Internet Access – Households and Individuals	Yes	?	?	GB
1.8 Internet Users	?	?	?	NUTS3
1.9 UK Business: Activity, Size and Location	Yes	?	?	LA
1.10 UK Non-Financial Business Economy Provisional Results (ABS)	Yes	?	?	UK
1.11 UK Non-Financial Business Economy Regional Results (ABS)	Yes	?	?	Region
1.12 UK Non-Financial Business Economy Revised Results (ABS)	Yes	?	?	UK

2. Life Events and Population Statistics

2.1 Baby Names, England and Wales	No	?	Yes	Region
2.2 Birth Characteristics in England and Wales	Yes	Yes	Yes	LA
2.3 Births by Parents' Characteristics in England and Wales	Yes	Yes	Yes	LA
2.4 Birth Summary Tables England and Wales	Yes	Yes	Yes	LA
2.5 Civil Partnership Statistics, England and Wales	Yes	Yes	Yes	LA

2.6	Death Registrations Summary Tables, England and Wales	Yes	Yes	Yes	LA
2.7	Divorces in England and Wales	No	Yes	Yes	Country
2.8	Electoral Statistics for the UK	Yes	?	?	LA
2.9	Marriages in England and Wales	Yes	Yes	Yes	LA
2.10	Mortality Statistics: Deaths Registered in England & Wales (series DR)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Region

3. Social Surveys

3.1	Family Spending	Yes	?	?	Region
3.2	Integrated Household Survey	Yes	?	?	Region
3.3	Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Adult Drinking Habits in Great Britain	Yes	?	?	Region
3.4	Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Adult Smoking Habits in Great Britain	Yes	Yes	?	Region
3.5	Overseas Travel and Tourism - Monthly Release	Yes	?	?	UK
3.6	Overseas Travel and Tourism - Quarterly Release	Yes	?	?	Region
3.7	Travel Trends	Yes	?	?	LA
3.8	Wealth in Great Britain	?	?	?	GB

3. What would the impact be if we were to publish source data, metadata and headlines for these outputs rather than a formal statistical bulletin as in the current model? (Please describe and indicate High, Medium or Low impact)

Statistical Bulletins give overall context to the data at lower levels. However, the general feeling is that there would be a low to medium impact if statistical bulletins were removed.

4. Do you have any other comments on the proposals in this section?

It would be worth investigating the possibility of reducing the level of detail provided in frequent releases that are published alongside the data files. Reducing the level of detail in statistical bulletins is potentially an effective way to reduce costs without compromising the availability of data, and the level detailed data available to users. One option would be to limit the level of detailed analysis in monthly and, in some cases, quarterly releases to the key indicators and to provide more comprehensive analysis only once a quarter, or annually.

Changes to social surveys

Over recent years, ONS has made significant savings in its data collection operations. This has been possible through a number of efficiency initiatives and technological improvements.

We will continue to reduce data collection costs as we introduce online data collection across a range of surveys and look to move from survey based data collection to further use of administrative data. However, these changes will take time and it is likely that we will need to make additional savings in the shorter term whilst needing to minimise the impact on the quality of our statistics. Some initial options are set out below where we could make some changes and we would be grateful for your views on these.

5. **Wealth and Assets:** the Wealth and Assets Survey is funded by various government departments and collects data on household and individual wealth for a number of policy needs. We may be able to reduce the costs of this survey, with agreement from contributors.

What would the impact be if we made the following changes to the Wealth and Assets Survey (WAS)? (Please describe and indicate High, Medium or Low impact)

- We may reduce the costs of the survey by having a lower or no incentive for respondents to complete the survey and/or reductions in sample size.

Medium - Increase in sample bias likely.

- The current sample size of around 20,000 households is large, compared to surveys conducted by other countries, so may cut the sample by up to 20%, including through better targeting the survey. There would be a greater risk to the quality of the results and the level of analysis as the sample size decreases.

High - The value of any survey depends on the sample size. There are already large fluctuations in Local Authority level data for one quarter to the next so cutting the sample size would undermine the usefulness of this survey. Reduced sample size would also decrease the ability to compare between groups.

6. **International Passenger Survey:** the International Passenger Survey (IPS) collects data on Travellers, Tourists and Migrants at most UK airports, seaports and the channel tunnel. We are considering how we can reduce the cost of this survey with minimal impact on the important statistics based on this data.

What would the impact be if we made the following changes to the International Passenger Survey (IPS)? (Please describe and indicate High, Medium or Low impact)

- We may exclude some ports and airports from our survey sample if it has little or no impact on our migration statistics

High – The IPS is used to measure the volume and value of overseas tourism and travel. It is also used to estimate international migration for use in Mid Year Estimates which are then also used as trends for national and sub-national population projections. Local Authorities have been lobbying for (at least) the last 15 years for improvements to the International Migration element and only recently have more ports and airports been added to improve collection of new arrivals from the EU. It had been hoped that the e-borders project would improve data collection but that has not happened. Any reduction in the already low numbers of international migrants picked up as part of this survey (3,000 IN and 2,500 OUT) will have an impact.

The UK continues to experience high levels of international migration. Furthermore, there have been major variations in countries of origin and routes of entry into the UK.

Migration is a major political issue and it is vital that debate is informed by the best possible statistics.

Experience during the years 2001-2011 shows the importance of maintaining coverage of many points of entry, and the impacts of failing to do so. This is highlighted in the following extract from ONS' report "Quality of Long-Term International Migration estimates from 2001 to 2011"

"Between 2004 and 2008 the design of the IPS was inadequate to cope with rapidly changing migration trends. There was a large increase in the number of passengers travelling on routes not covered, or not fully covered for migration purposes, by the IPS."

If savings are to be made on the IPS, would it be more worthwhile to investigate other sources about international travel and the expenditure of international travellers? Carriers and airports now have much more sophisticated systems for recording data about passengers. Much expenditure is now channelled through the internet and by electronic payment. Businesses increasingly use systems to derive statistics out of such big data sources, so there may be potential to tap into these systems.

- We may change the times when passengers are interviewed at ports and airports so that they are conducted at the times with greatest passenger variations. This will help us to reduce the amount of staff time spent conducting interviews, while maintaining quality at the national level.

No idea – as long as numbers in the survey aren't reduced.

The current policy importance of this issue would seem to justify prioritising this as an area to protect from cuts.

7. **Opinions and Lifestyle Survey:** the Opinions Survey is an omnibus survey which collects data from adults on a variety of subjects. Our proposal would be to stop this face to face survey until the provision of an on-line alternative.

This would remove the only random sample opinions survey available to Government which includes, for example, smoking measurements and internet data access required under EU regulations.

However, the Opinions and Lifestyle survey would be relatively easy to stop operationally beyond contracts which are already in place for part of the next financial year. Compared to the other household surveys we judge that the impact would be lower, but we need to understand the full impact on users and contributors.

What would the impact be if we stopped the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey? (Please describe and indicate High, Medium or Low impact)

Low to Medium – depending on whether some of the key questions could be transferred to alternative surveys. If the 'key components' of these surveys could be transferred to other surveys such as Labour Force Survey (LFS) or Community Life Survey, then the loss of the Opinions Lifestyle Survey may be acceptable and the impact would then be low. If there was a total loss of all the content of this survey, the impact would be medium to high. To determine what the key components are within each module, further specific consultation on each of the output variables would be required.

At a time when there is considerable discussion about the non-random nature of other opinion surveys, it is short-sighted to drop ONS' only random opinion survey simply because the contracts are easy to cancel. No information is given about the possible online

alternative and how it would be possible to make this random, given the variations in internet access, but it is important to pursue this rather than simply cancelling the survey.

8. Do you have any other comments on the proposals in this section?

In terms of the changes being considered, those affecting the social surveys in this section along with others such as the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) for example, could potentially, have a **substantial impact** on our work. Bearing in mind the increased importance being attached to the (subjective) wellbeing of people, this may be particularly important.]

On-line surveys may differ in many respects from face-to-face, but specifically may be more prone to the problems associated with self-selection. In any case, the proposal at present is to have an interregnum before the on-line alternative becomes operational. This would give rise to discontinuities, even if the new survey could faithfully reproduce the responses of the previous one.

Overall, the integrity of the data currently provided is vital to the robustness and chances of success in policy work for a very large proportion of public service delivery.

Changes to business surveys

We currently conduct around 80 business surveys that feed into key economic statistics such as national accounts, labour market and prices. We are required to produce the majority of these statistics by law.

We can't stop producing any of our key economic statistics, but have considered reducing the costs of some of the business surveys that support them. The changes we are proposing would be significant but minimise the impact on the quality of our statistics. The proposals cover:

- stopping some surveys
- reducing sample sizes by making greater use of administrative data
- reductions in validation
- reducing the level of detail required
- reducing response rate targets

These changes may cause some discontinuities in time series, but we need to make some of them to enable us to modernise. We would use some of the savings from these proposals to invest in collecting and analysing more administrative data and big data to produce high quality statistics more quickly.

The potential changes are summarised below.

9. ***What would the impact be if we stopped running the following surveys? (Please describe and indicate High, Medium or Low impact)***

- Occupational Pension Schemes Survey (OPSS) - OPSS collects information on all workplace pensions. Estimates for deferred and pensioner membership would cease to be available. The proportion of employees contributing to a pension and banded contribution rate estimates would be available from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, and some information is also available from the Pensions Regulator.
- Quarterly Stocks Survey - we would replace this by aligning the annual benchmark data (from the Annual Business Survey) and model the changes in inventories and holding gains quarterly data

Low – but if stopped, then ONS should check on the impact it may have on calculating a Living Wage and find an alternative source (ASHE for example).

10. We are aiming to use administrative data sources to reduce the level of survey data collection.

What would the impact be if we reduced the sample sizes and response targets for the following surveys? (Please describe and indicate High, Medium or Low impact)

- Retail Sales Inquiry (RSI) - this proposal relies on us being able to access and use VAT turnover data to replace the reduced survey data and would retain the completely enumerated sizeband.

Low

- Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) - this proposal relies on us making increased use of HMRC data on pay.

Medium to High – sample sizes need to be at least retained in order for sub-national data to be of use. Local Authorities make wide use of this survey and it is the only source for local information on the labour market, skills and wages.

ASHE is a linked data source from HMRC based on a sample of NINOs of employees. No such data exist on people who are self-employed, so this should come from LCFS and LFS returns.

It is essential for assessing housing affordability, and is thus required for Strategic Housing Market Assessments as necessitated by NPPG and for the Indices of Deprivation.

- Monthly Business Survey (MBS) - this proposal relies on us increasing use of VAT turnover data and would retain the completely enumerated sizeband.

Low – not widely used.

11. What would the impact be if we reduced the sample sizes and response rates for all or some of the following surveys? (Please describe and indicate High, Medium or Low impact)

We could make small potential reductions in sample size and / or response rates for some business surveys. This would have a minimal impact on statistical quality as an acceptable level of response would be achieved. These surveys are listed below with an indication of how far we would look to reduce the sample size and/or response rate target.

- Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) reduce response rate target by 2%

High – concerns that reducing sample size will further increase local coefficient of variation which are already high, which will reduce the accuracy of the results.

- Business Register Employment Survey (Annual) reduce sample size by 5% and response rate target by 2%

High – BRES is the primary dataset used by LAs & LEPs (Local Enterprise Partnerships) to track employee jobs. Creating jobs is the key strategic aim of Local Plans and LEPs and BRES is the only dataset that produces small area geography employee jobs estimates. Concerns that reducing sample size will further increase local coefficient of variation which are already high, which will reduce the accuracy of the results.

- Business Expenditure on Research and Development Survey reduce response rate target by 7%

Medium – BERD is one of very few datasets that provides a sub-national proxy measure for 'Innovation' – a key target area for LEPs.

- Insurance (Annual) reduce response rate target by 5%

Low

- Pensions (Annual) reduce response rate target by 5%

Low

- Producer Price Index (Monthly) reduce response rate target by 2%

Low

- Quarterly Capital Assets Survey (QCAS) reduce sample size by 10% and response rate target by 2%

Low

12. What would the impact be if we reduced validation rules and selective editing thresholds for the following surveys? (Please describe and indicate High, Medium or Low impact)

- Annual Business Survey (ABS)

Medium to High – likely impact on quality of sub-national GVA and export data. ABS/ABI is critical in economic planning, which feeds into spatial (Town) planning for districts, counties, city-regions and combined authorities.

- PROducts of the European COMmunity (PRODCOM)

Low

13. ***What would the impact be if we review and rebalance the number of short and long questionnaires for the Annual Business Survey (ABS)? (Please describe and indicate High, Medium or Low impact)***

Low – however, there is a risk that this rebalancing will result in a reduction in the robustness of detailed level data provided by the ABS.

14. ***What would the impact be if we reduce the amount of data collected at the 8-digit product level and move towards the 6-digit level (which meets European requirements) for the Products of the European COMMunity (PRODCOM) survey? (Please describe and indicate High, Medium or Low impact)***

Low

15. ***Do you have any other comments on the proposals in this section?***

Business statistics need a boost and new questions added in order to measure output and GVA in a more timely and accurate manner. The focus should shift to reflect activities in the digital age.

Producing statistics less frequently

We are looking closely at the products we produce and considering whether we can make any changes to them while still meeting user needs. To avoid stopping products altogether, one option is to publish some of our statistics less often.

16. One proposal we have identified is to conduct the national and sub-national Population Projections once every three years, rather than once every two years as currently. It should be noted that Population Statistics is a devolved issue and ONS carries out the National Population Projections on behalf of the Devolved Administrations. However, this is an ONS proposal rather than one from the Devolved Administrations.

Would a reduction in the frequency of national and sub-national population projections cause a difficulty for your Department or organisation?

Yes

National and sub-national population projections are of key importance in public health and in the planning of health services, so timeliness is important at a time of great population change.

There is already a significant time lag between the release of the projections and the base date to which they relate (for example, the 2014-based sub-national projections will be published in 2016). Many users already consider that the projections are out of date and do not reflect the latest trends. The need for frequent updates is shown by the wide degree of change between projection runs at local authority level; this stems from the volatility of short-term migration trends. Reducing the frequency of production will increase user dissatisfaction.

Improving the ability to spot changes in fertility trends is essential for school place planning. Updating these trends every three years could lead to significant under or over estimates of the future school cohort sizes.

The sub-national population projections are key inputs into CLG's household projections. Both projections provide vital data for the calculation of Objectively Assessed Housing Need in the development plan process (ref "Housing and economic development needs assessments" <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/housing-and-economic-development-needs-assessments/>).

The Planning Guidance also states that the assessment of housing need should be informed by the latest information. If the official projections are prepared less frequently, planning authorities will be obliged to provide their own updated trend-based projections to satisfy the requirements of Government Guidance. This will be costly and add to delay in the planning process. The results may be of a lesser quality and, because they will be prepared on a piecemeal basis, will lead to inconsistencies across the country. A major advantage of the official projections is that they are comparable across all local authority areas.

If frequency is reduced, could this be compensated for by providing variant projections based on 5 and 10 year trends?

If frequency were reduced, it would be essential to time it with the output from the 2021 Census.

Dialogue with the devolved administrations should take place before taking this proposal any further.

17. Based on your understanding of the ONS statistics that you use, what would the impact be if we published some of our statistics less frequently? (Please describe and indicate High, Medium or Low impact)

With the exception of sub-national population projections, we will consult further before we reduce the frequency for any specific outputs. We are only gauging views at this time.

Some very high e.g. Births. Births by Month are essential for use in school place planning – at the moment data for Sept 2012 to Aug 2013 wasn't available until Jan 2015. Changes in birth rate make a huge difference when projecting numbers entering primary education and with the loss of detailed GP register information (available at least 1 year earlier than ONS output), having an accurate starting point is essential. Please consult.

Timeliness is of crucial importance in public health, so the majority of releases are needed at least annually.

Any changes to outputs which reduced the frequency to less than annual would remove a necessary point of reference for looking at social change with respect to the social phenomena, and could undermine both policy-related and other academic research.

18. Do you have any suggestions for products that we could publish less frequently without any significant impact on users?

Tourism data - monthly to quarterly was the only suggestion.

19. Do you have any other comments on the proposals in this section?

Any loss of annual data would cause issues across all users. If data is release only as an annual publication, thought should be given to the whether it should be on a calendar basis or on a mid year basis (for data that ties in with mid year population estimates). In some cases reduction from quarterly to six-monthly would maintain value, in other cases, owing to the need for financial year data, quarterly data is more necessary.

Local Government : Reduction in frequency is preferred to any reduction in sample size.

Health : As timeliness is of crucial importance, reductions in frequency could have serious implications, not only for the usefulness of data to users (to pick up short term events/epidemics etc), but also to ONS' reputation.

Stopping products and services

We are required to produce around 80% of our products by law and our non statutory work includes some high profile statistics, such as statistics on population, living standards and public sector productivity. We therefore wish to make the majority of savings from becoming more efficient and changing how we collect and publish statistics, rather than cutting some of them. To help us improve and transform, we wish to regularly review some of our statistics and analyses to ensure that they meet your needs and continue to provide the value we and you would expect.

We are asking for your views on our non-statutory statistics and analysis to help us understand which of these are important to you and/or your organisation and inform your decision making. Your feedback will help us to prioritise our resources on those outputs and services that matter most to you.

You can see a list of some of our non-statutory products below. The majority of these products are funded by ONS but some receive external funding, where this is the case we would only stop the output if external funding is withdrawn.

- 20. Which of the statistics listed at [Annex B](#) are essential to your work or the work of your organisation?**
- 21. What would the impact be if we stopped producing the statistics you use? (Please describe and indicate High, Medium or Low impact)**
- 22. Are there any other sources of funding that could be used for any of these statistics?**
- 23. Do you have any other comments on the proposals in this section?**

About you

To help us better understand your needs, we would like to know a bit about you. We only intend to use this information for analysis purposes.

Are you answering this questionnaire on behalf of an organisation or as an individual?

On behalf of the British Society for Population Studies (BSPS)

What is your name? Piers Elias, Vice-president, BSPS

What is your organisation (if applicable)? BSPS is a non-profitable society of persons with a scientific interest in the study of human populations.

What is your email address? pic@lse.ac.uk

What is your telephone number? 020-7955-7666

What sector do you work in? This will assist us in monitoring the range of users the consultation has reached. *Member's sectors covering – in bold*

- **Academia / research**
- **Business (in partnership with public/academic bodies)**
- International organisation
- Journalists / media
- **Local or regional government / public organisation**
- **National government department / organisation**
- **Voluntary and charity (in partnership with public/academic bodies)**
- Other (please specify)

Your response

To support transparency in our decision making, responses to this consultation will be made public. This will include the name of your organisation, and with your permission, also your name.

Please let us know if you are content for your name to be published. We will not publish personal contact details. Any information provided in response to this consultation could be made publicly available if requested under a Freedom of Information request. The information you send us may be passed to other parts of Government.

Yes

May we contact you to discuss your response to this consultation? This may be to follow up any specific points that we need to clarify.

Yes

Are you happy for us to contact you about future ONS consultations and surveys?

Yes

Overall, how satisfied were you with our online consultation service today? (Please choose from: very satisfied, satisfied, neither, dissatisfied, very dissatisfied)

We submitted a Word Document response – however, having submitted a personal response on-line, it would be useful, when using the on-line response method, to be able to save a copy of the response made to keep for future reference.

Annex A: List of products which could be initially affected by the proposal to change publications

1. Economic Statistics

- 1.1 [Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings \(ASHE\)](#)
- 1.2 [Business Demography](#)
- 1.3 [Business Enterprise Research and Development \(BERD\)](#)
- 1.4 [Business Register Employment Survey \(BRES\)](#)
- 1.5 [Civil Service Statistics](#)
- 1.6 [E-Commerce and ICT Activity of UK Businesses](#)
- 1.7 [Internet Access – Households and Individuals](#)
- 1.8 [Internet Users](#)
- 1.9 [UK Business: Activity, Size and Location](#)
- 1.10 [UK Non-Financial Business Economy Provisional Results \(ABS\)](#)
- 1.11 [UK Non-Financial Business Economy Regional Results \(ABS\)](#)
- 1.12 [UK Non-Financial Business Economy Revised Results \(ABS\)](#)

2. Life Events and Population Statistics

2.1 [Baby Names, England and Wales](#)

The bulletin for this release has only six pages of analysis, comparing trends over time and making comparisons between countries of the UK. It lists a wide range of users of the accompanying data, some of whom use the data to produce their own analyses. National Records of Scotland, which counts the numbers of times its web pages, are accessed reports that its corresponding release is its most popular. The bulletin provides links to other ONS birth statistics. It would be short-sighted to stop it, let alone stop compiling the tables.

- 2.2 [Birth Characteristics in England and Wales](#)
- 2.3 [Births by Parents' Characteristics in England and Wales](#)
- 2.4 [Birth Summary Tables England and Wales](#)
- 2.5 [Civil Partnership Statistics, England and Wales](#)
- 2.6 [Death Registrations Summary Tables, England and Wales](#)
- 2.7 [Divorces in England and Wales](#)
- 2.8 [Electoral Statistics for the UK](#)
- 2.9 [Marriages in England and Wales](#)

2.10 [Mortality Statistics: Deaths Registered in England & Wales \(series DR\)](#)

3. Social Surveys

3.1 [Family Spending](#)

3.2 [Integrated Household Survey](#)

3.3 [Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Adult Drinking Habits in Great Britain](#)

3.4 [Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Adult Smoking Habits in Great Britain](#)

3.5 [Overseas Travel and Tourism - Monthly Release](#)

3.6 [Overseas Travel and Tourism - Quarterly Release](#)

3.7 [Travel Trends](#)

3.8 [Wealth in Great Britain](#)

Annex B: List of non-statutory products

1. Economy

- 1.1. [Aerospace and Electronics Cost Indices \(MM19\)](#) – Annual
Low – no respondents use this
- 1.2. [International Comparisons of Productivity: First Estimates](#) – Annual
Low – no respondents use this
- 1.3. [International Comparisons of Productivity](#) – Annual
Essential - Medium
- 1.4. [Relative Regional Consumer Price Levels in 2010 \(Experimental\)](#) – Every 6 years
Essential - High
- 1.5. [Small Areas Income Estimates](#) - Variable
Essential – Medium to High - Important in linking local labour demand and supply issues and tracking deprivation. An important small area dataset with no alternative source.
- 1.6. [UK Business: Activity, Size and Location](#) – Annual
Essential – High - No alternative in terms of looking at the size and sectoral breakdown of business stock at the local level.
- 1.7. [Volume Index of Capital Services \(Experimental Statistics\)](#) – Annual
Low – no respondents use this

2. Health and Social Care

- 2.1. [Alcohol-related Deaths in the United Kingdom](#) – Annual
Essential – High - This release consists of a bulletin, three sets of data tables and a ‘short story’ about a major public health problem.
- 2.2. [Avoidable Mortality in England and Wales](#) – Annual
Essential – High - The data in this release are used widely for monitoring policy and other purposes. It is linked to a comparative European project.
- 2.3. [Cancer Survival in England](#) – Annual
Essential – High - This release contains one year and five year survival rates and is important for monitoring trends in survival of people diagnosed with cancer.
- 2.4. [Childhood Cancer Survival in England](#) – Experimental
Essential – High - This release monitors survival rates of children with cancer. As the numbers are small, the text is important for interpreting the data.
- 2.5. [Childhood, Infant and Perinatal Mortality in England and Wales](#) – Annual
Essential – High - These are key statistics on perinatal infant mortality in relation to factors recorded at birth registration, which have been linked to infant deaths since 1975. They are widely used government and other bodies and by academic departments to monitor inequalities in the outcome of pregnancy.
- 2.6. [Conceptions in England and Wales](#) – Annual
Essential – High - This release brings together data from birth registration and abortion notification to monitor trends over time and variations between local authorities in conception

rates in women of all ages and in more detail in the under 18 age group. The data are used widely to monitor teenage pregnancy policies. The frequency of publication was reduced following a consultation by ONS in 2011. <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/about-ons/get-involved/consultations-and-user-surveys/archived-consultations/2011/review-of-conception-statistics--user-consultation/index.html>

2.7. [Deaths Related to Drug Poisoning in England and Wales](#) – Annual

Essential – High - This release is used by a wide range of public bodies in England and Wales as well as by academic researchers and is also used internationally. This is a complex and specialised subject and the bulletin contains key information including information about problems arising from late registration of deaths.

2.8. [Disability-free Life Expectancy for Upper Tier Local Authorities, England](#) – Annual

Essential – High - This release uses data from surveys to make comparisons between local authorities both cross-sectionally and over time and is used to monitor changes in health inequalities.

2.9. [Excess Winter Mortality in England and Wales](#) – Annual release

Essential – High - This release is derived from death registration data and is used to monitor a range of policies which aim to reduce excess mortality in winter through protecting vulnerable people

2.10. [Geographic Patterns of Cancer Survival in England](#) – Annual

Essential – High - It is used to monitor the impact of strategies to increase cancer survival rates and data are also included as indicators in the NHS Outcomes Framework and the Clinical Commissioning Group indicator set. The data are also used internationally.

2.11. [Gestation-specific Infant Mortality in England and Wales](#) – Annual

Essential – High – . The tabulations are used to monitor trends in preterm birth and its outcome. They have also been used by the Euro-Peristat project to derive valid international comparisons of stillbirth, neonatal and infant mortality rates by using a common gestational age cut-off.

2.12. [Health Expectancies at Birth and at Age 65 by NS-SEC and Area Deprivation](#)

Essential – High – These are decennial analyses which were among the few analyses of inequalities to survive the previous round of cuts two years ago, after ONS received additional funding to do them.

2.13. [Health Expectancies at Birth and at age 65 in the United Kingdom](#) – Ad hoc

Essential – High – This indicator is an extremely important summary measure of mortality, and widely used Local Government. It complements the supporting indicators by showing the overall trends in major population health measures, setting the context in which local authorities can assess the other indicators and identify the drivers of life expectancy.

- 2.14. [Healthy Life Expectancy at Birth by Upper Tier Local Authority, England](#) – Annual
Essential – Medium to High – This indicator is an extremely important summary measure of mortality and morbidity in itself. It complements the supporting indicators by showing the overall trends in a major population health measure, setting the context in which local authorities can assess the other indicators and identify the drivers of healthy life expectancy. The data are used in the Public Health Outcomes Framework.
- 2.15. [Index of Cancer Survival for Clinical Commissioning Groups in England](#) – Annual
Essential – High - These data are extensively used by government organisations for monitoring policy and are also included as indicators in the NHS Outcomes Framework and the Clinical Commissioning Group Indicator Set.
- 2.16. [Inequality in Healthy Life Expectancy at Birth by National Deciles of Area Deprivation](#) – Annual
Low
- 2.17. [Monthly Deaths](#) – Monthly
Essential – High - This is important for monitoring short term changes in mortality at a local level.
- 2.18. [Mortality Statistics: Deaths Registered by Area of Usual Residence](#) – Annual
Essential – High – Mortality data are required to create Life expectancy and mortality ratio data, and are a key measure of the health of a population.
- 2.19. [Mortality Statistics: Deaths Registered in England and Wales](#) – Annual
Medium
- 2.20. [Parents' Country of Birth](#) – Annual
Essential – High - The data are widely used by government organisations, notably the Home Office and the Cabinet Office, by academics and a range of voluntary organisations. Also used to monitor differing fertility rates between UK and non-UK born mothers.
- 2.21. [Social Inequalities in Alcohol-related Adult Mortality by National Statistics Socio-economic Classification](#) – Annual
The main users of these statistics include the Department of Health and devolved government administrations, public health organisations and local government. The figures on alcohol-related deaths are used to monitor and develop policies to protect the health of the general public.
- 2.22. [Social Inequalities in Fatal Childhood Accidents and Assaults: England and Wales](#) – Annual
Low
- 2.23. [Suicide in the United Kingdom](#) – Annual
Essential – High - Suicide is seen as an indicator of underlying rates of mental ill-health. The Government says it takes the prevention of avoidable deaths seriously, and for this reason having data on this is important.

Key users include the Department of Health and devolved health administrations, public health organisations, local and health authorities, academics, and charity organisations. The bulletin contains important information for interpreting the data.
- 2.24. [Trends in Life Expectancy by the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification](#) – Every 5 years
Medium - The accompanying bulletin contains important interpretive material and the last release was published in 2015, so another release is not due until 2020.

2.25. [Unexplained Deaths in Infancy, England and Wales](#) – Annual

Main users of these data include The Lullaby Trust, formerly the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths (FSID), which raises awareness about sudden infant deaths. Others include the Department of Health, Welsh Government and independent researchers, including academics.

2.26. [Vital Statistics: Population and Health Reference Tables](#) - Annual

Essential – High – Used extensively by Local Authorities and Health for mortality, fertility and life expectancies. Only source of Ward level Births and Deaths (inc. Death by cause/age/sex).

2.27. [Weekly Provisional Figures on Deaths Registered in England and Wales](#) – Weekly

General Comments

Morbidity data are few and far between in the UK, so any cut here would be a loss of essential information, hence the need to preserve any registers like the cancer registrations.

Most of the statistics in the categories of health and social care are essential for public health purposes and data from the Integrated Household Survey are also important.

3. Labour Market

3.1. [Low Pay Estimates](#) – Annual

Medium to High - Used to help evaluate the extent of low pay in the area and how is changing over time.

3.2. [Patterns of Pay](#) – Annual

Medium to High - There may be a case to combine the pattern of pay, and low pay publications.

4. People and Places

4.1. [Integrated Household Survey Dataset](#) - Annual

High - Only source of fairly reliable Sexual Orientation data, which is a key equalities measure.

4.2. [Wealth in Great Britain](#) – Every 18 months

High

5. Population

5.1. [Ageing in the UK](#) – Ad hoc

Low - This one-off release takes the form of a link to a video on U-tube which is no longer there as the YouTube channel is closed.

5.2. [Baby names in England and Wales](#) – Annual

See Section 2.1 in Annex A

5.3. [Birth Cohort Tables for Infant Deaths](#) – Annual

Medium to High - These tables are also derived from linkage of infant death records to birth records and are based on deaths of babies born in a given year analysed according to social characteristics and plurality. This makes them of crucial importance for monitoring the outcomes of singleton and multiple births in relation to a range of social and demographic factors.

5.4. [Births by Parents' Characteristics](#) – Annual

High -

5.5. [Births by Area of Usual Residence of Mother, UK](#) – Annual

High - Used to calculate age specific fertility rates for alternative scenarios to the official population projections. The gap between these and the national rates are compared over time.

5.6. [Childbearing of Women Born in Different Years](#) – Annual

High - Cohort fertility is essential for understanding of changing fertility patterns. The data are used by a range of government and other organisations, in many cases to feed into other activities, such as constructing population estimates and projections.

5.7. [Civil Partnerships](#) – Annual

High - Together with the release Marriages in England and Wales (provisional), for Same Sex Couples, 2014, the Civil Partnership Statistics release for 2014 is invaluable for documenting the impact of legislation on same sex marriages. From 2015 onwards, these releases will not be published in this form.

5.8. [Clinical Commissioning Group Mid-year Population Estimates for England \(Experimental Statistics\)](#) – Annual

High – Used by Clinical Commissioning Groups, NHS Area Teams, and NHS Commissioning Regions. These were created under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

5.9. [Decennial Life Tables](#)

Medium - next publication in this series is not due until after the 2021 census.

5.10. [Divorces in England and Wales](#) – Annual

Not widely used but for those that do, Medium to High

5.11. [Families and Households in the UK](#) – Annual

Not widely used but for those that do, High

5.12. [Life Expectancy at Birth and at Age 65 by Local Areas in England and Wales](#) – Annual

High - This indicator is an extremely important summary measure of mortality. It complements the supporting indicators by showing the overall trends in major population health measures, setting the context in which local authorities can assess the other indicators and identify the drivers of life expectancy.

5.13. [Migration Indicators for Local Authorities in England and Wales \(Experimental Statistics\)](#) – Annual

High – essential for assessing trends in migration for use in population projections, pupil projections and projections for households and jobs.

5.14. [National Park Mid-year Population Estimates for England and Wales \(Experimental Statistics\)](#) – Annual

Low usage but extremely useful and essential for planning purposes for the National Parks.

5.15. [Overseas Travel and Tourism \(Monthly\)](#) – Monthly

Low

5.16. [Overseas Travel and Tourism \(Quarterly\)](#) – Quarterly

High

5.17. [Parliamentary Constituency Mid-year Population Estimates for England and Wales \(Experimental Statistics\)](#) – Annual

Useful just before general elections, when MPs become interested in their constituencies. Frequency could be reduced to coincide with elections and/or Parliamentary Constituency reviews.

5.18. [Period and Cohort Life Expectancy Tables](#) – Biennial

Medium - The data are used by the Department for Work and Pensions and the Government Actuary's department for pension projections, as well as by the insurance industry and Public Health England.

5.19. [Population Estimates by Marital Status and Living Arrangements – England and Wales](#) – Annual

Low

5.20. Short-term Migration Estimates: Local Authorities – Annual (not yet published)

High

5.21. [Super Output Area Mid-year Population Estimates for England and Wales](#) – Annual

High - This is now the preferred small area geography used by ONS. This is the single most important piece of data available at this geographical level and is crucial for calculating rates and for creating estimates for non-standard geographies. The estimates are also used as the denominator when establishing small area rates, such as unemployment, economic activity, skills level, exam results. They are used by a wide range of partner agencies (Public Health, Police, Fire) to calculate service user take-up rates, such as for immunisation and screening, crime rates, call-out rates.

5.22. [Travel Trends](#) – Annual

Low

5.23. [Travelpac](#) – Quarterly

Low

5.24. [UK/non-UK Fertility](#)

Low - It has been widely used but a further set of analyses will not be produced until after the 2021 census.

5.25. [Ward Mid-year Population Estimates for England and Wales \(Experimental\) \(also includes Census Area Statistics \(CAS\) wards\)](#) – Annual

Low to High - Ward population is still important to local authorities who measure things at ward level. However, LSOA, MSOA and Wards can be built up from OA geography and as long as SOA Estimates are produced, then those higher geographies could be supplied more simply with a series of look-up and pivot tables.

5.26. [Young Adults Living with Parents](#) – Ad hoc

Low

General Comments

Most of the statistics in the population category are essential for public health purposes and data from the Integrated Household Survey are also important.(5.2 is not essential).