Consultation on Changes to ONS Products 2015

14 December 2015

Overview

The digital and data revolution has arrived, giving us access to more data than ever before; we need to make changes to keep pace with it. We are transforming into a fully data-capable organisation, equipped to meet the UK's future statistical needs.

To enable us to change we must reduce the costs of our current operations. The Government Spending Review 2015 reduces our core funding by 19% by 2019/20, in order to free up resources for transformation. To meet this challenge we are focused on making our core operations and back office functions as efficient as possible, meeting our statutory obligations and producing high quality products and services at a lower cost. It is inevitable given the scale of the challenge that we will have to do some things differently, stop some statistical work or scale back where products are not adding the maximum value for money.

We are proposing a series of changes to free up resources from our stretched budget, and reinvest to develop the skills and technology we need. We will invest in improving our digital and data collection services, including our new website, IT infrastructure, administrative data and big data systems. We are making the changes necessary to enable us to produce high quality statistics suited to the modern world, and help Britain make better decisions.

The proposals

We are asking for your views on 4 proposed changes to our products and services:

1. changing how we publish our statistics, including stopping production of some statistical bulletins (data tables, metadata and headlines will still be published)
2. stopping some surveys and reducing some survey sample sizes
3. publishing some of our statistics less frequently
4. stopping production of some statistics altogether where users tell us this would have a low impact

We need to ask you what you want on a regular basis to know whether our products and services meet your needs. This is your opportunity to tell us what matters to you and help us understand how we can make the changes we need to with as little disruption to your work as possible.

We will only stop producing some statistics altogether as a last resort. We intend to make the majority of savings from efficiencies, changing how we publish our statistics, reducing survey sample sizes and publishing some statistics less frequently. Some changes may be difficult but we must deliver the savings we need to enable our organisation to transform.

You may find some of the questions within this consultation fairly specific and of a technical nature; these are aimed at more expert users. If you do have any questions or require further information please get in touch.

How to respond

You can respond via email or through our online form. The consultation will close on 8 February 2016. We will publish an initial summary of our findings within 12 weeks of the consultation close date. Your response will be treated in accordance with our Privacy Policy. If you have any queries, please email ons.communications@ons.gsi.gov.uk.

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?***

    It is our view that shorter and potentially less frequently provided detailed analyses is a better way to find savings than by reducing sample sizes or response rate targets. The ONS should aim to find savings by either reducing the amount of detailed analysis it provides with the data tables, or to reduce the frequency of some its publications to protect sample sizes and response rates above all. In some instances it may be possible to stop the production of statistical bulletins altogether, or to provide detailed analysis only once a year. Less frequent publication of analysis may also mean that it is more widely read by users.

    That is not to say that the statistical bulletin documents published alongside data tables are not useful. They can help save time as they give a useful outline of content included in the release, and provide a good starting point for the analysis. Additionally, the process of producing a statistical bulletin is most likely to involve another useful step of evaluating the correctness of content, and removing this step may reduce the robustness of published data releases.

    However, the publications that accompany ONS data releases are not vital to our work; for us the quality and timeliness of the data is the most important aspect of ONS data releases. Therefore GLA would be in favour of cutbacks to publications over cuts that impact the quality of estimates.

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)?***

    GLA Intelligence Unit analysis uses a number of these ONS releases listed in Annex A. The following publications are regularly used by the GLA Intelligence Unit:

    1.1 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)
    1.2 Business Demography
    1.4 Business Register Employment Survey (BRES)
    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)
    2.2 Birth Characteristics in England and Wales
    2.3 Births by Parents' Characteristics in England and Wales
    2.4 Birth Summary Tables England and Wales
    2.10 Mortality Statistics: Deaths Registered in England & Wales (series DR)
    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

ONS releases used by others across policy teams in the GLA:
1.3 Business Enterprise Research and Development (BERD)
1.6 E-Commerce and ICT Activity of UK Businesses

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)***

   The impact of changes proposed in the release format is likely to be low. In some cases the changes may reduce our ability to produce detailed timely analysis for policy colleagues within the wider GLA group, but this impact would not be significant. In our view the proposed changes in the way ONS publishes data as outlined above is worth investigating across all data products as a way of finding savings, and not just limiting this option to products listed in Annex A.

   Furthermore, some of these impacts could be minimised by improving the format in which source data is published. For example, by publishing the source data in a manner that is consistent across releases and over time, would allow for regular uses to set up legacy spreadsheets to quickly analyse the data. A good example of this approach is the one used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

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, and/or producing these releases less frequently.

   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 of 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.

- 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.

The Wealth and Assets Survey (WAS)

*It is not clear from the consultation paper how far the lowering or elimination of incentives for respondents would impact on response rates and therefore on the value of the Wealth and Assets Survey for sub-national analysis. However, if the achieved sample size and quality of the data could be maintained as the direct (monetary) value of incentives was reduced, then this would have **little or no impact** on the GLA's use of the survey.*

*However, it is quite clear that reductions in the sample size, particularly of the level indicated, even if targeting could be improved, would compromise its use for longitudinal sub-national analysis and may well damage the viability of the survey as a whole. This would have a **high impact** on the understanding of sub-national (GOR, city, devolved administrations, LEPs) variation in the distribution and inequalities in debt and wealth and subsequent weakening of the evidence on which Mayoral policies and strategies are based.*

The Wealth and Assets Survey (WAS) is used by the GLA in a variety of contexts looking at evidence for both statutory and non-statutory strategies and policies produced by the Mayor of London. It is critical therefore that analysis can be carried out at sub-national level (and at a local, city and Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) level where possible, and in London such as distinguishing between Inner and Outer London, or where possible at a borough level) to produce robust figures, looking at both overall figures and distributions in terms of levels of wealth, the range and types of wealth and debt as well as issues around inheritance. In particular, there is great value in being able to consider these issues not just in isolation, but in conjunction with other variables, such as household income and also in combination with demographic detail and particularly relating to areas where there are statutory duties such as around the various equalities categories. While the GLA is primarily interested in the data for London, comparisons with other Government Office Regions (GOR), devolved administrations and other parts of

Great Britain across all these characteristics is also invaluable. This information is not available elsewhere and we believe is unlikely to be available from administrative data in the foreseeable future.

Inequality is of great concern and a significant issue for London and the Wealth and Assets Survey has enabled the GLA and the Mayor to understand more around this, through looking at debt levels and the impacts of this on people at different income ranges as well as the accumulation of wealth of different types and how these contribute to the overall wealth totals.

Housing is a particular concern within London and the Wealth and Assets Survey enables the GLA and the Mayor to gain valuable insights into the role of property wealth (and mortgage debt), and the data on inheritance is also useful in exploring issues of inter-generational equity, and understanding the possible role of housing wealth in perpetuating past patterns of inequality.

As this survey develops and continues, the longitudinal aspects of this survey can also be expected to provide unique perspectives on the impact of wealth as well as income levels on opportunities and outcomes, and being able to look at the differences between London, devolved areas, and other parts of England may become increasingly important.

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

- 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.

The International Passenger Survey (IPS)

*The IPS is an important dataset which feeds into our analysis of migration and tourism. The impact of any changes to the IPS **could be high** since the source feeds into the Long-Term International Migration (LTIM) figures, which are in turn used for the components of change in the mid-year population estimates. We then use these in our GLA population projections (as well as being used in ONS projections), which inform our main spatial strategy, the London Plan.*

Data on arrivals and expenditures of international visitors is used to understand trends of tourism in London, and more widely at sub-national level across the UK (such as where visitors arrive from, duration of visit and expenditures). Therefore the data enables us to get a better understanding of London's tourism economy.

Further information would need to be provided (and then consulted upon) to understand what the potential impact of removing a number of ports and airports from the analysis would be (such as the number of interviews carried out by location, impact on confidence intervals), since regional data on migration is of value to us. However, there is a great risk that removing any number of locations at which interviews are carried out will introduce or increase regional bias in the data. Furthermore, the proposed changes may imply that changes in inward migration patterns may not be observed as these changes first take place. Furthermore, it is difficult to know for certain how these types of changes will impact on the quality of migration statistics before they are implemented.

We would argue that the priority in sampling would be to maintain the volume of surveys completed, so as to be able to provide data at the sub-national level. Without further information of the spread of interview times (and the impact this may have on weighting of samples to final estimates), it is hard to determine the impact changing the times of interviews would have.

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)

The Opinion Lifestyle Survey (OLS)

*If there was a total **loss of all the content of the Opinion Lifestyle Survey (OLS), the impact would be medium**. 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 OLS may be acceptable and the **impact would then be low**. To determine what the key components are within each module, further specific consultation on each of the output variables would be required.*

The OLS is an extremely diverse survey, and is relatively easy to adapt over time to meet the needs of the day. Given each module is topic specific, this makes it more difficult to make an overall suggestion for the OLS as a whole.

The well-being module and the internet access modules have been extensively used by the GLA in recent years. However, our data needs are constantly evolving and our response inevitably only reflects the historic use of these data, and it is difficult to predict how our priorities may change over the next administration.

The GLA uses these types of well-being data to track community cohesion over time and compare with devolved administrations and other sub-national areas. The internet access data are used to monitor digital exclusion and which groups are most affected by this (e.g. age, tenure, disability, employment etc.). Digital exclusion is a growing issue given the move towards more digital government and e-commerce. It is vital that the sample size remains large enough to be able to compare London with other sub-national areas, and devolved administrations. Without sub-national level data, the dataset would become far less useful and it is unlikely we would use it at all.

We would not back the suggested move to use an online survey for the internet access module as this would introduce a bias to the published data as it would imply that everyone responding to the survey would, by default, be an internet user. This would make it extremely difficult to measure digital exclusion.

The GLA hasn't historically made extensive use of the modules relating to electric vehicles, public perceptions of tax compliance, aviation, court fees, charitable giving, or transport issues. However, this may change with the new administration in office following the 2016 Mayoral election.

We think it is important to try to retain an ONS survey that has the capability to include a set of non-core questions that can vary from survey to survey, and to provide quick answers to questions of immediate interest. If there are alternative surveys for such questions to be dropped into when required, we would support this option should the OLS be stopped. This option would likely save the considerable resources taken to collect the core demographic data, which appear on most ONS surveys. For trend purposes a gap of two years between repeating similar questions is acceptable.

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 in public policy, this may be particularly important.*

The consultation document consistently suggests that despite the different outlined changes the ONS is likely to be able to continue to produce national level statistics. However, the outlined proposal doesn't highlight how sub-national (e.g. local, city and LEP) level statistics could be affected by these proposed changes..

Increased devolution powers from central government to local authorities has increased the need and demand for more robust, comprehensive and detailed local level statistics to hold authorities accountable for decisions, and help to inform local level decision making. Reducing sample sizes can have implications for users' ability to analyse detailed data, in particular, to carry out detailed data analysis on a sub-national and local level basis. Smaller samples are likely to result in greater disclosure issues, specifically for the sub-national data where even small changes in sample size may have a detrimental impact on quality of the data, and consequently harming the usefulness of the data. Furthermore, it is vital to ensure that the intention to reduce data collection costs by making a greater use of online data collection does not bias the published results.

In relation to the social survey data, our view is that these types of data often play a vital role in the development, implementation and evaluation of policy. Some of the main reasons for this include:

- *Many potential impacts are difficult to model without robust information on the circumstances, attitudes and decision-making of the groups from whom [social survey] data are collected.*
- *Where policy initiatives are implemented over a reasonably long period, it is often particularly important to understand any changes in the drivers of decisions by households if changes are to be made to those interventions.*
- *Similarly in terms of evaluation of policy, gauging the effects accurately would be substantially impaired if there were to be increased (or, ultimately, total) reliance on other extant sources of data.*

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.

The Occupational Pension Schemes Survey and Quarterly Stocks Survey

*These types of data have not been historically extensively used by the GLA Intelligence Unit. And, the likely **impact of stopping** the Quarterly Stocks Survey on the GLA **is low**. However, it is important to note that this assessment is based on the understanding that stopping this survey will not have wider quality impacts on other ONS products as this would change the potential effect on us. The **potential implications of lost data** from the Occupational Pension Schemes Survey (OPSS) **could be higher**. For example, the lack of available data on contribution rates to private sector occupational pension schemes could harm the background analysis supporting the work feeding into the calculation of London's Living Wage, unless these data can be easily obtained from other sources (Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)).*

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.

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

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

The Retail Sales Inquiry and Monthly Business Survey

The **likely impact** of reducing the sample sizes and response rates for the Retail Sales Inquiry on the GLA **is low**, as long as this doesn't affect the quality of national level indicators. Similarly, the Monthly Business Survey data are not directly used in many analyses produced by GLA Intelligence Unit and, therefore, the impact on our work **is likely to be low**. However, it is important that the reductions in sample sizes and response rate targets are carefully balanced with the use of VAT turnover data to ensure that our ability to understand the UK service industries at a national level doesn't suffer as a result of these proposed changes.

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)

The **implications on the proposed changes** for the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) and the impact on our work **could be high** for a number of reasons:

ASHE is central to analysis and decision making in the GLA across the areas of labour market, skills, and earnings analysis. It is the only source of data suitable for these analyses. In many instances the GLA makes use of borough level information. However, borough level analysis using ASHE already has wide confidence intervals, and the GLA would find it more difficult to discharge its statutory responsibilities if the sample size or response rate were reduced. Understanding London's labour market by gender can help to inform policy choices, for example. And, looking at annual gross pay figures by gender, no median pay figures for male are available for five boroughs for 2014, whilst the same figures for female are missing for four boroughs.

Analysis of patterns of pay in ASHE is important to the GLA, and so improvements in the quality of pay data would be beneficial. This information is used alongside hours worked, gender, industry sector and occupation. The GLA makes full use of the range of data available through ASHE, and would find it more difficult to discharge its responsibilities if ASHE became more narrowly focused on pay. If there were incorporation of administrative pay data in ASHE it is important that the GLA could continue to produce meaningful time series results both at workplace and residence basis.

ASHE data published by the ONS has historically fed into a number of GLA Economics publications, and have been widely used in **labour market analysis and advice** provided to the wider GLA group and other analysis produced by the GLA Intelligence Unit:

- London Living Wage - the LLW annual report, related Mayor's Questions and data requests at London and borough levels (All of these require data on hours worked). These data have also fed into monitoring of the London Health Inequalities Strategy.
- 'GVA per Workforce Job in London and the UK' (February 2015), working paper 63 by GLA Economics. ASHE data feed into the calculation of GVA per job (productivity) at SIC division level within London (see pages 11-12 of above publication).
- 'Low Pay in London' (February 2014), working paper 59 by GLA Economics. Almost entirely based on ASHE.
- Earnings figures from ASHE have also been used in several other GLAE Reports and Working Papers e.g. 'London's changing economy since 2008' (October 2015), 'The creative industries

in London' (October 2015), '*The Economic Contribution of Older Londoners'* (October 2013). It is also used in the Economic Evidence Base and is the main source used by GLAE for employee earnings/pay estimates.

ASHE data have also been extensively used in **skills analysis and advice**:

1. *Informing response to Government consultations on Tier 2 (skilled workers) of the migration system.*

ASHE data are used as the basis for the Migration Advisory Committee's determination of occupational minimum salary thresholds for Tier 2 of migration system, and is also used in evidence for determining which occupations are in short supply. The accuracy and reliability of these detailed data is critical to ensure that migration decisions which limit London employer's ability to recruit are made on accurate data that reflect the value of different occupations at a detailed level. The GLA also makes use of ASHE data to compare the London experience with UK averages in order to inform responses to Government consultations on proposed changes to Tier 2 of the migration system, and to inform our assessments of the impact of policy changes on London employers.

2. *Area-based reviews of post-16 education and training institutions.*

Each area review is required to start by assessing the economic and educational needs of the area concerned. ASHE data at detailed occupation levels have been used as part of this assessment to understand the demand for skilled labour in London (sample size and response rates are already too small for analysis at lower geographies), as higher earnings and earnings growth are useful as an indicator of the open market value of occupations in London, and in theory reflect the demand for specialist skills.

Additionally, ASHE data have been used in **demography analysis**:

- *For house price to earnings ratios (both median and lower quartile). It is also used to monitoring of growth across boroughs and whether convergence is taking place (Olympics legacy).*
- *ASHE forms a key component of GLA Intelligence Unit (IU) household income model at a borough level (both mean and median). These data also feature in borough profiles produced and published by the GLA IU on the London Datastore.*
- *Additionally, ASHE data are used to respond to a number of ad-hoc data requests to address earnings conditions across London at a borough level.*

Given the range of uses, it is important that the use of HMRC data can be guaranteed before any changes are made to the ASHE sample sizes or response targets. Even if the use of HMRC administrative data is guaranteed, it would be desirable to run the two systems in parallel for a couple of years to ensure quality (and understand any potential biases) before a shift to the new system is adopted. However, it is important to note that ASHE provides invaluable information on other important aspects of London's economy that are widely used across the GLA.

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%
- Business Register Employment Survey (Annual) reduce sample size by 5% and response rate target by 2%
- Business Expenditure on Research and Development Survey reduce response rate target by 7%
- Insurance (Annual) reduce response rate target by 5%
- Pensions (Annual) reduce response rate target by 5%
- Producer Price Index (Monthly) reduce response rate target by 2%
- Quarterly Capital Assets Survey (QCAS) reduce sample size by 10% and response rate target by 2%

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)

*If this impacted on the quality of estimates at Borough level, the **impact would be high**.*

ASHE is central to analysis and decision making in the GLA across the areas of labour market, skills, and earnings analysis as outlined above. It is the only source of data suitable for this analysis. For each of these policy areas the GLA makes use of borough level information which is essential for the GLA as a strategic body with a remit to support the boroughs. Borough level analysis using ASHE already has wide confidence intervals, and the GLA would find it more difficult to discharge its responsibilities if the sample size or response rate were reduced.

Business Register Employment Survey (BRES)

*BRES data have been used extensively by the GLA to understand the spatial nature of the London economy. If the proposed changes reduce the ability to perform analysis, even at lower spatial levels, then the impact would be **high**.*

Examples where the GLA has used BRES data include:

1. *Labour market analysis*

London's labour market projections – BRES data are used to create a borough level employee jobs series. BRES provides estimates of employee jobs at a lower geographical level than the workforce jobs (WFJ) series (which does not go below regional level), and employee jobs aren't available at the same level of detail on an annual basis from any other source. Projections are also produced for policy areas (the Central Activities Zone and the Northern part of the Isle of Dogs), by using estimates of employee jobs in respective LSOA, using data from BRES. These projections inform the London Plan, Mayor's Transport Strategy, the Economic Development Strategy (alongside other Mayoral strategies) and is now also used by the Office of Rail and Road (ORR) in their train operating company (TOC) contracts.

Skills analysis and policymaking - BRES data on employee jobs down to 3/4-digit SIC level provide an indicator of demand for skilled labour at lower geographies – important to inform the Government's area-based reviews into further education and post-16 skills policy (areas which may be increasingly devolved in future) – setting skills policy at a more local level.

2. *Spatial economic analysis*

BRES can be used for local level analysis (e.g. London boroughs, and lower levels of spatial disaggregation), and these data are used quite extensively in spatial economic analysis.

- *Economic Evidence base – to understand clusters of activity (agglomerations) as show in the past Economic Evidence. Also used to support the London Plan, Economic Development Strategy and Mayor's Transport Strategy. So the data get used very extensively across a range of areas.*

- *Work to understand particular areas in more detail – like the Central Activities Zone (CAZ) (see 'Work & life in the CAZ, north part of the Isle of Dogs & fringes', working paper 68, August 2015, GLA Economics) – used as part of the evidence base for the Supplementary Planning Guidance in that area.*
- *Analysis of specific areas of London for policy purposes – e.g. 'Outer London – Economic data and statistics', working paper, GLA Economics for the work of the Outer London Commission (set up by the Mayor to analyse issues in Outer London).*
- *The development of baseline analysis to underpin monitoring and evaluation of opportunity areas and specific geographies affected by new developments, that do not align with administrative boundaries e.g. baseline analysis and evaluations of Park Royal and Old Oak Common (to understand the area and build a baseline for future analysis (given the large infrastructure developments likely to occur there)).*

3. *Analysis of London's sectors*
- *Creative industries (to understand clusters of activity) – latest Creative Industries in London report was used to help support the development of the Mayor's Cultural Strategy.*
- *Science and Technology – 'The Science and technology category in London' - to understand the location and clustering of activity in London and the Greater South East. This work informed the Mayor's (and London Enterprise Panels) developing policy in this area. Used very low levels of spatial disaggregation.*
- *In the past we've used it for Tourism purposes – for example in our 'Local Area Tourism Impact Model' work – to help advice on tourism policy in London. [Usually used at the borough level – but more disaggregation has been used in some instances].*
- *'The Value of Cultural Tourism to London' paper also uses BRES data in the estimation of the number of employee jobs supported by tourism in London, as well as being used towards the calculation of the GVA per workforce job in the tourism industry.*
- *Sectors work ('London's sectors: detailed jobs data & method') – for general analysis of London's economy which helps build the evidence base for London and feed into policy development like the London Plan, Transport Strategy and Economic Development Strategy.*
- *BRES data are used towards the calculation of GVA per workforce job by 2 digit SIC division, as a means of apportioning out 1 digit section level GVA to its component divisions (along with APS data on self-employed jobs and ASHE gross hourly pay). The 'Gross Value Added per Workforce Job' estimates provide an indication of the relative contribution from different parts of the economy, as well as informing our understanding on productivity trends.*

BRES provides us with data on London's jobs market at a wards, boroughs and sectors level, and it provides key information on London's growing sectors, areas and economy. For these reasons, the proposed changes could have a large detrimental impact on our ability to analyse economic conditions in London effectively going forward.

Any reduction in sample size will extremely limit the ability for analysis to be conducted at low spatial levels – particularly when you need to break that data down further into sectors for example (like with the skills work). Issues around disclosure control are already in many instances borderline, and therefore even small reductions in achieved samples could be detrimental to our ability to assess detailed jobs data across London.

If these data are no longer available or reliable enough at the LSOA level then this will hamper analysis of low level geographies to collate data on nonstandard geographies like the CAZ. Given that we estimate that the CAZ generated output worth around £140 billion in 2012 (around 9.5 per cent of the UK's total GVA) then the inability to analyse the CAZ and any other small nonstandard areas of London using BRES data would be detrimental to efficient policy making at the GLA, the Mayor's understanding of the London economy and the wider UK government's understanding of vital parts of the UK economy not to mention consultants, the wider public and anyone thinking of investing in London. Availability of detailed BRES data for decision-making, evidence based policy, regional

analysis and local-level analysis (e.g. of wards, CAZ, Isle of Dogs, etc.) is crucial, and it is widely used for low level analysis, employment projections, and skills analysis.

Furthermore, the importance of BRES in updating the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR) implies that these changes could impact on local unit counts in UK Business, but potentially could impact on any surveys that sample from the IDBR, particularly those that include sub-national breakdowns (e.g. GOR, city, LEP, and London boroughs):

Business Expenditure on Research and Development Survey (BERD)

*BERD data is one of the key sources of information that GLA uses to understand business investment decisions. Given the lack of alternative innovation-related indicators, the proposed changes could potentially reduce GLA's ability to perform innovation related analysis for London, and therefore the impact would be **medium to high**.*

More specifically, these data help to inform the design of innovation policy, aid the assessment for the need to promote and invest in Research & Development (R&D) in London, and the need for London's HEIs to promote their R&D expertise to business. These data also underpin the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programmes developed to address lower investment and collaboration rates.

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)
- PRODucts of the European COMmunity (PRODCOM)

Annual Business Survey (ABS)

*It is difficult to understand the impact of these proposed changes with the detail that is provided in the consultation document. It is not evident what impact these changes would have on the quality of the data available, particularly at a sub-national level. If the quality of the sub-national GVA estimates was compromised by these changes, then the impact on the GLA would be **high**. Whilst if the quality of the exports data from the ABS alone are compromised from these changes, then the impact would be **medium**.*

The GLA has directly used the ABS data on its estimates of exporters and importers. This has been done in order to measure the impact of work by the GLA policy team to promote exports amongst London businesses, and to help them overcome barriers to exporting. It is also used to quality control and benchmark questions used in the London Business Survey 2014. As the ABS is the sole source of annual data on the share of businesses that export and import goods or services, whether importing businesses are also those that export, or whether some businesses exclusively import or export, it is useful data to understand trade activity within London.

The GLA also considers the ABS to be important due to its importance in other areas, such as formulating the National Accounts. Sub-national ABS economic data are used on a continued basis at the GLA, and are vital to our analysis of the London economy and the policy development that is supported by this analysis.

Any implications that the proposed changes may have on other key products used by the GLA, such as the International Trade in Services (ITIS), directly increases the detrimental impact on our work. However, it is difficult to say this with any certainty without a stronger understanding of the impact that these proposed changes would make.

The GLA does not directly use the PRODCOM survey, so the proposed changes would have a low impact on the GLA. However, if these changes were to impact other ONS products there would be an impact on our work indirectly.

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)**

The impact of reviewing and rebalancing the number of short and long questionnaires for the ABS is unknown, as it is not clear the impacts that this would have on the quality of the ABS data with the current level of detail provided. However, there is a risk that this rebalancing will result in a reduction in the robustness of detailed level data provided by the ABS, as outlined in question 12.

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)**

The impact of reducing the amount of data collected at the 8-digit product level for the GLA is likely to be low.

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

*In our view, any changes that impact upon the achieved sample sizes, and therefore the level of detail available at a sub-national level across sectors will have a **damaging impact on our work**. Reducing the level of published data, across the consulted surveys but also more widely across other ONS products, and surveyed companies, on primary industrial sectors may be desirable if that enables resources to be diverted into developing a better understanding of UK's and London's service industries. However, any reductions to the sampling of ONS' key surveys providing data on the services industries in the UK and London, such as ASHE or BRES, should be avoided. In our view, there is scope to reduce the level of detail ONS collects on products via the PRODCOM survey that provides very detailed information on the production industries that account for a relatively small share of the UK's economy.*

Our view is that these proposed changes impose a very high risk on our ability to produce detailed analysis to support policy development across the GLA group. For this reason, we would resist these proposed changes to the sampling and response rates of ASHE and BRES at all cost to ensure that we are able to maintain detailed analyses of sectors at the London, London borough and Super Output Areas – Lower Layer where possible. Similarly, to understand London's performance it is vital that we are able to make meaningful comparisons between London and other sub-national areas (e.g. GOR, LEPs, boroughs etc.) and the devolved administrations. Retaining the current sampling in ASHE and BRES would be the priority for GLA Intelligence Unit, but similarly, in order to be able to analyse the outlined statistics at a sub-national level reducing sample sizes across the other listed surveys is equally not desirable. Furthermore, even if GLA Intelligence Unit doesn't directly use all of the outlined ONS products reducing sample sizes and response rates of these surveys may indirectly impact on our work (e.g. a reduction in response rate for the Insurance (Annual) may hamper the ONS' understanding of the sector that is of great importance to the UK economy).

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?

    The GLA principally relies on its own (annually updated) population and household projections to inform planning and policy for London. Therefore the impact of less frequent population projections themselves would be low.

    However, key inputs to the GLA's models are taken from outputs that arise from both the ONS's national and sub-national projections. These ONS outputs are:
    - *assumed future trends in age and sex specific fertility and mortality rates (from the National Population Projections (NPP));*
    - *births by mother's age for each local authority in England from the Sub-national Population Projections (SNPP).*

    Reducing the frequency of these outputs will therefore be directly detrimental to the quality of the GLA's own projections, and therefore the impact would be high.

    Furthermore, there will likely be direct effects on London's neighbouring authorities – many of whom make extensive use of ONS sub-national projections and corresponding household projections from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to underpin planning policy. Cooperation across the wider region is essential to ensure effective planning to accommodate its rapidly growing population and a reduction in the frequency of official projection outputs is likely to make this more challenging.

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.

    The impact would be dependent upon the release in question. However, assessing the impact on users is sensible as the frequency of publishing data is an area that can provide savings without imposing extortionate cost on users and should be considered first instead of reducing sample sizes or response rates.

    For instance, in some cases it may be desirable to reduce the publication frequency to improve the quality of data. In principle, it is more desirable to have less frequent data rather than timely data that are less robust. However, some of the ONS monthly publications, e.g. labour market statistics, are required monthly and reducing the frequency of publication would have a high negative impact on our work. For this reason, it is important that the ONS will consult further before reducing the frequency of its key publications.

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

Some less time critical releases could be published only on a quarterly basis. For example, 'Overseas Travel and Tourism – Monthly release' could be permanently replaced with 'Overseas Travel and Tourism - Quarterly release'. Or, in cases where a number of revisions take place and the robustness have been called into question, the early editions could be stopped. For example, monthly UK trade data are volatile and prone to revisions, and therefore it might be worth consulting on moving from monthly data to quarterly data releases. Another example of data where revisions are common and substantial is output in the construction industry. In the context of construction data, it may be possible to reduce the negative impact on users by replacing monthly construction output data with monthly orders data that tend to be more reliable and less prone to revisions, and publish construction output on a quarterly basis instead. Additionally, it could be feasible to stop the production of the preliminary estimate of GDP. The data content of the first GDP estimate is based on incomplete data, and given the number of revisions that take place between the first estimate and later editions.

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

To reiterate GLA's position on proposed changes suggested in this section of this consultation document, our view is that looking at reducing the frequency and detail of some of the regularly published releases is a good way to make savings, and should be considered instead of reducing sample sizes or response rate targets. However, it is important for us that reductions to the frequency or timeliness of specific publications don't change without consultation with the users. For example, the publication of sector level Gross Value Added (GVA) data at a sub-national level for 2014 introduced in December 2015 was a clear improvement in timeliness of the release, and helpful to our work, and we wish that these timelier releases will continue in the future. Similarly, it is vital that key ONS releases such as the Annual Population Survey (APS), not currently consulted on but vital to our work, will continue to be released at a no greater lag than it is currently the case.

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?**

   1. Economy
   1.3. *International Comparisons of Productivity – Annual*
   1.4. *Relative Regional Consumer Price Levels in 2010 (Experimental) – Every 6 years*
   1.5. *Small Areas Income Estimates - Variable*
   1.6. *UK Business: Activity, Size and Location – Annual*

   2. Health and Social Care
   2.1. *Alcohol-related Deaths in the United Kingdom – Annual*
   2.2. *Avoidable Mortality in England and Wales – Annual*
   2.5. *Childhood, Infant and Perinatal Mortality in England and Wales – Annual*
   2.13. *Health Expectancies at Birth and at age 65 in the United Kingdom – Ad hoc*
   2.14. *Healthy Life Expectancy at Birth by Upper Tier Local Authority, England – Annual*
   2.18. *Mortality Statistics: Deaths Registered by Area of Usual Residence – Annual*
   2.19. *Mortality Statistics: Deaths Registered in England and Wales – Annual*
   2.20. *Parents' Country of Birth – Annual*
   2.23. *Suicide in the United Kingdom – Annual*
   2.24. *Trends in Life Expectancy by the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification – Every 5 years*
   2.26. *Vital Statistics: Population and Health Reference Tables - Annual*

   3. Labour Market
   3.1. *Low Pay Estimates – Annual*
   3.2. *Patterns of Pay – Annual*

   4. People and Places
   4.1. *Integrated Household Survey Dataset - Annual*
   4.2. *Wealth in Great Britain – Every 18 months*

   5. Population
   5.1. *Ageing in the UK – Ad hoc*
   5.3. *Birth Cohort Tables for Infant Deaths – Annual*
   5.4. *Births by Parents' Characteristics – Annual*
   5.5. *Births by Area of Usual Residence of Mother, UK – Annual*
   5.6. *Childbearing of Women Born in Different Years – Annual*

5.12. *Life Expectancy at Birth and at Age 65 by Local Areas in England and Wales – Annual*
5.13. *Migration Indicators for Local Authorities in England and Wales (Experimental Statistics) – Annual*
5.16. *Overseas Travel and Tourism (Quarterly) – Quarterly*
5.18. *Period and Cohort Life Expectancy Tables – Biennial*
5.20. *Short-term Migration Estimates: Local Authorities – Annual*
5.21. *Super Output Area Mid-year Population Estimates for England and Wales – Annual*
5.25. *Ward Mid-year Population Estimates for England and Wales (Experimental) (also includes Census Area Statistics (CAS) wards) – Annual*

A number of the other listed publications are useful and are used on a more ad hoc basis.

21. *What would the impact be if we stopped producing the statistics you use? (Please describe and indicate High, Medium or Low impact)*

1. Economy

1.3. *International Comparisons of Productivity – Annual -* **Medium**

- *The GLA is interested in examining the relative performance of the UK against other countries as part of its monitoring of the overall economic environment in which London's economy operates.*

1.4. *Relative Regional Consumer Price Levels in 2010 (Experimental) – Every 6 years -* **High**

- *Accurate regional price measures have been a long running requirement of the GLA, and removing the production of these experimental statistics is likely to hamper their development. A clear understanding of the performance of London's economy is vital to the GLA but also to the UK as a whole given the importance of London to the UK's economy.*
- *Used in Living Wage calculations - extremely important in the absence of regional price indices/deflators.*

1.5. *Small Areas Income Estimates - Variable -* **Medium**

- *Information on local level income estimates helps the GLA understand emerging trends across London, and this understanding is useful in policy development more widely. These figures are the only household income estimates that cover the whole country for geographies below regional level.*
- *Although the currently published figures provide a useful guide to differences in the averages across London, they mask much of the variation within and between areas in the distribution of household income. In our view, the four measures currently available are useful, but the definitions adopted are such they are not comparable with figures available from other sources (FRS figures are usually quoted for the numbers of people in households, rather than the number of households, and are available by various characteristics, which allow comparisons to be made between population groups).*
- *For the reasons outlined above, this release would be more useful if the geography was lower (currently only available at the MSOA level), different definition were used (median income and distribution rather than just mean) and were more timely (the latest estimates refer to 2011/12 and these were published in October 2015, whilst the poverty estimates for the same date not yet released).*

1.6. *UK Business: Activity, Size and Location – Annual -* **High**

- *Comprehensive information on businesses located in London aids our understanding of the nature of London's economy and assists in the wider policy development targeted to ensure prosperous business environment in the capital.*

2. Health and Social Care

*2.1. Alcohol-related Deaths in the United Kingdom – Annual 2.14. Healthy Life Expectancy at Birth by Upper Tier Local Authority, England – Annual – **Medium***

- *These are part of the indicators, which make up the alcohol profiles at local authority level. These data are very useful for measuring the impacts of alcohol which are widespread. Alcohol consumption is a contributing factor to hospital admissions and deaths from a diverse range of conditions. Alcohol misuse is estimated to cost the NHS about £3.5 billion per year and society as a whole £21 billion annually.*

*2.2. Avoidable Mortality in England and Wales – Annual - **High***

- *This is a key indicator for measuring health of the population. This indicator appears on the London Dashboard. Preventable mortality includes causes of deaths which could potentially be avoided through good quality healthcare. The inclusion of this indicator sends out a clear signal of the importance of prevention as well as treatment in reducing avoidable deaths.*

*2.5. Childhood, Infant and Perinatal Mortality in England and Wales – Annual - **Medium***

- *Infant mortality is an indicator of the general health of an entire population and are used in analysis by the GLA Intelligence Unit. It reflects the relationship between causes of infant mortality and upstream determinants of population health such as economic, social and environmental conditions. Deaths occurring during the first 28 days of life (the neonatal period) in particular, are considered to reflect the health and care of both mother and new-born.*

*2.13. Health Expectancies at Birth and at age 65 in the United Kingdom – Ad hoc - **High***

- *This indicator is an extremely important summary measure of mortality, and widely used in GLA Intelligence Unit analysis. 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 – **Medium***

- *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. These data are used in the Mayor's health and equality strategy.*

*2.18. Mortality Statistics: Deaths Registered by Area of Usual Residence – Annual - **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 – **High***
*2.23. Suicide in the United Kingdom – Annual – **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 for the GLA.*

*2.24. Trends in Life Expectancy by the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification – Every 5 years - **Medium***

*2.26. Vital Statistics: Population and Health Reference Tables - Annual – **High***

- *Data required for birth rates, death rates and life expectancies.*

3. Labour Market
*3.1. Low Pay Estimates – Annual - **High***
*3.2. Patterns of Pay – Annual - **High***

The 'patterns of pay publication' is valuable in providing an overview of labour market developments, and a necessary source of information for the work of GLA. If ONS stopped producing these statistics it is likely that GLA would need to commission similar work. There may be a case to combine the pattern of pay, and low pay publications.

Low pay estimates would be more useful in tracking developments in pay if the publication was broader and covered the London Living Wage, and out-of-London Living Wage. On this basis stopping this publication would have a low to medium effect on our work.

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***
*5.3. Birth Cohort Tables for Infant Deaths – Annual - **Medium***
*5.4. Births by Parents' Characteristics – Annual - **High***
*5.5. Births by Area of Usual Residence of Mother, UK – Annual - **High***
*5.6. Childbearing of Women Born in Different Years – Annual - **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***
*5.16. Overseas Travel and Tourism (Quarterly) – Quarterly – **High***

- *Quarterly tourism data at regional level is important for measuring trends of overseas visits to London.*

*5.18. Period and Cohort Life Expectancy Tables – Biennial - **Medium***
*5.20. Short-term Migration Estimates: Local Authorities – Annual - **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.*

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

- *Ward population is still important to local authorities who measure things at ward level.*

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?*

It would be desirable for the ONS to investigate what is the scope and the process of changing the products included in its statutory requirements. Currently these statutory requirements include some ONS products that aren't necessarily crucial to understanding the current structure of the UK economy, for example detailed breakdowns of older, more traditional, sectors, whilst some non-statutory products are essential.

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?

> *This response is a coordinated response feeding in views of the GLA Intelligence Unit consisting of around 40 statisticians, economists and statistical analysts.*

What is your name?

> *Andrew Collinge*

What is your organisation (if applicable)?

> *Greater London Authority*

What is your email address?

> *andrew.collinge@london.gov.uk*

What is your telephone number?

> *020 7983 4652*

What sector do you work in? This will assist us in monitoring the range of users the consultation has reached.

- Academia / research
- Business
- International organisation
- Journalists / media
- **Local or regional government / public organisation** ✓
- National government department / organisation
- Voluntary and charity
- 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, content.***

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) *Satisfied.*

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

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

1.2. International Comparisons of Productivity: First Estimates – Annual

1.3. International Comparisons of Productivity – Annual

1.4. Relative Regional Consumer Price Levels in 2010 (Experimental) – Every 6 years

1.5. Small Areas Income Estimates - Variable

1.6. UK Business: Activity, Size and Location – Annual

1.7. Volume Index of Capital Services (Experimental Statistics) – Annual

2. Health and Social Care

2.1. Alcohol-related Deaths in the United Kingdom – Annual

2.2. Avoidable Mortality in England and Wales – Annual

2.3. Cancer Survival in England – Annual

2.4. Childhood Cancer Survival in England – Experimental

2.5. Childhood, Infant and Perinatal Mortality in England and Wales – Annual

2.6. Conceptions in England and Wales – Annual

2.7. Deaths Related to Drug Poisoning in England and Wales – Annual

2.8. Disability-free Life Expectancy for Upper Tier Local Authorities, England – Annual

2.9. Excess Winter Mortality in England and Wales – Annual release

2.10. Geographic Patterns of Cancer Survival in England – Annual

2.11. Gestation-specific Infant Mortality in England and Wales – Annual

2.12. Health Expectancies at Birth and at Age 65 by NS-SEC and Area Deprivation

2.13. Health Expectancies at Birth and at age 65 in the United Kingdom – Ad hoc

5.5. Births by Area of Usual Residence of Mother, UK – Annual

5.6. Childbearing of Women Born in Different Years – Annual

5.7. Civil Partnerships – Annual

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

5.9. Decennial Life Tables

5.10. Divorces in England and Wales – Annual

5.11. Families and Households in the UK – Annual

5.12. Life Expectancy at Birth and at Age 65 by Local Areas in England and Wales – Annual

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

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

5.15. Overseas Travel and Tourism (Monthly) – Monthly

5.16. Overseas Travel and Tourism (Quarterly) – Quarterly

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

5.18. Period and Cohort Life Expectancy Tables – Biennial

5.19. Population Estimates by Marital Status and Living Arrangements – England and Wales – Annual

5.20. Short-term Migration Estimates: Local Authorities – Annual

5.21. Super Output Area Mid-year Population Estimates for England and Wales – Annual

5.22. Travel Trends – Annual

5.23. Travelpac – Quarterly

5.24. UK/non-UK Fertility

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

5.26. Young Adults Living with Parents – Ad hoc