

Mains Estimates Memoranda 2022-23

The Statistics Board

1 Overview

1.1 Objectives

The Statistics Board is an independent government body that reports directly to the UK Parliament, the Scottish Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales and the Northern Ireland Assembly.

The Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 established the Statistics Board (more commonly referenced the UK Statistics Authority (the Authority)) with the statutory objective of “promoting and safeguarding the production and publication of official statistics that serve the public good”. The public good includes:

- informing the public about social and economic matters;
- assisting in the development and evaluation of public policy; and
- regulating quality and publicly challenging the misuse of statistics.

The collective mission of the official statistics system is: High quality data and analysis to inform the UK, improve lives and build the future.

The Statistics Board’s remit covers the three principal elements of [the UK official statistics system](#):

- the [Government Statistical Service](#) (GSS), which is the cross-government community of all those involved in the production of [official statistics](#) in the UK
- the [Office for National Statistics](#) (ONS) which is the executive office of the UK Statistics Authority and the largest producer of official statistics in the UK
- the [Office for Statistics Regulation](#) (OSR) which is the regulatory arm of the UK Statistics Authority. It assesses official statistics for compliance with the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#), reports on system-wide issues and on how statistics are used, celebrating when the standards are upheld and challenging publicly when they are not.

Strategic Direction and Key Goals

Statistics Board/UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) Strategy

2021/22 was the second year of the UKSA Strategy ‘[Statistics for the Public Good: Informing the UK. Improving Lives. Building the Future.](#)’. The strategy sets out the direction and the core principles to underpin the work of the statistical system over the five year period of 2020/21 – 2024/25:

- **Radical** in taking opportunities to innovate and collaborate, using data for the public good. This means seizing opportunities and being prepared to take action, where the risks of inaction are often greater
- **Ambitious** in setting out to answer the critical research questions the public needs answers to, and informing the decisions that citizens, businesses and civil society take. This means anticipating the data, insights and understanding the UK needs, being boldly innovative with

our methods and sources, and responding rapidly and transparently to reach the widest audience that we can.

- **Inclusive** in our approach to workforce, talent management, and the design of data, statistics and analysis. This means ensuring our statistics and our workforce reflect the experiences of everyone in our society so that everyone counts, and is counted, and no one is forgotten.
- **Sustainable** in delivering a unique service in a way which delivers value for money through partnership and collaboration. This means supporting and stewarding the UK's statistical infrastructure and collaborating with the expertise of the UK's scientific community, academia, and the commercial sector, learning from each other.

Our strategy is an ambitious call to action. It sets out our aims, priorities, mission and values to make the case for change. The different parts of the statistical system will contribute to delivery of the objectives set out in the strategy, in different ways.

ONS Strategic Business Plan

The 2022/23 ONS Strategic Business Plan sets out how it will lead the response to these challenges by increasing capacity, across the statistical and analytical community, to deliver analysis and share integrated data. This, combined with the value of the ONS's economic and social statistics – building on the 2021 Census – and a more inclusive approach and sustainable delivery model for the organisation will help to build the evidence the UK needs to address its major challenges.

The key deliverables in the 2022/23 Strategic Business Plan include:

- April 2022 – Integrated Data Services Programme (IDSP) – New Private Beta
- May 2022 - Publish ONS Subnational Work Plan by May 2022, and then implement and update regularly
- June 2022 – IDSP – Initial Public Beta
- June 2022 - Outputs of Census 2021 – first release of the high-level population estimates
- October 2022 - Produce and publish quarterly crime in England and Wales estimates, alongside focused analytical articles on topics including Domestic Abuse, Homicide.
- December 2022 - IDSP – Full Public Beta
- February 2023 - Alternative Data Sources used in the headline measure of CPI and CPIH
- February 2023 - Supply evidence on population, migration, and social statistics to inform the National Statistician 2023 Recommendations future approach
- March 2023 - Deliver a new flexible multi modal model approach for the Crime Survey for England and Wales
- March 2023 - UK to meet legislative obligations for measurement of Gross National Income.
- March 2023 - Publish a range of supplementary analysis, including a Least Cost Index and inflation calculator, to inform the debate on the cost of living.
- March 2023 - We will Publish all outputs and analysis by end March 2023, this includes achieving National Statistics accreditation by end May 2022 and publishing the First Release from Census by end June 2022.
- March 2023– Covid Infection Surveillance digital implementation complete
- June 2023 - Transformed Population and Migration Statistics System delivered
- December 2023 - Recommendation on the future of the Census

Covid-19 will continue to be a feature of our statistical work during 2022/23 as we continue to deliver the gold standard Covid-19 Infection Survey. The UK also faces economic and social recovery from Covid-19, the ongoing crisis in Ukraine and ongoing priorities such as net-zero, levelling up economic chances across the country, social mobility, an ageing population and building back better following the pandemic.

1.2 Ambit

The Statistic's Board Ambit is as follows:

Departmental Expenditure Limit:

Expenditure arising from:

The collection, preparation and dissemination of economic, social, labour market and other statistics; undertaking **and commissioning statistical research**¹, and assisting statistical research by providing access to data; promoting and safeguarding the quality of official statistics, monitoring the production and publication of official statistics; conducting a programme of assessment of existing and candidate National Statistics against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics; providing analysis of statistics to enhance understanding; coordinating the design, collection, preparation, supply, quality management of the UK's European statistics, provision of business support and IT services and associated non-cash items. Undertaking of various roles in an international context.

Income arising from:

Provision of social surveys and the provision of other services (statistical and corporate); provision of statistical related IT platforms to other public sector organisations; recovery costs of shared projects; sales of statistical data supply services, analyses and publications; research grants or funding for **Statistical Research**¹; receipts from EU and other overseas contracts; rental income; recovery of Apprenticeship Levy; the provision of business support services and through the sale of fixed assets.

Annually Managed Expenditure

Expenditure arising from:

Creation of provision in respect of onerous contracts; early departure costs; and other provisions and associated non-cash items.

1.3 Spending controls

The Statistics Board's net spending is broken down into several different spending totals, for which Parliament's approval is sought.

The spending totals which Parliament votes are:

- Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit ("**Resource DEL**"): a net limit comprising day to day running costs, less income for statistical data research and property; and includes depreciation (ring fenced budget).
- Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit ("**Capital DEL**"): investment in capital equipment/projects.

¹ Reflects the change made to the ambit in the 2021-22 Supplementary Estimate Exercise

- Annually Managed Expenditure (“**AME**”): Spending included in departmental budgets, but is difficult to predict, such as Legal or Early departure provisions.
- Net Cash Requirement (“**NCR**”): designed to cover the elements of the above budgets which require the Statistics Board to pay out cash in year.

1.4 Comparison of net spending totals sought

The table below shows how the net spending totals sought (movement) for the Statistics Board compared with the opening budget for this year:

Spending total Amounts sought this year 22/23 (Main Estimate 2022-23)		Compared to original budget this year. 22/23 (UKSA SR21 Settlement Letter)		Compared to final budget last year. 21/22 (Supplementary Estimate 2021-22)	
	£m	£m	%	£m	%
Resource DEL	£360.183*	£354.971*	+1.4%	£515.139*	-30%
Capital DEL	£32.859	£20.792	+58%	£27.081	+21.3%

* Includes ringfenced depreciation

A breakdown of spending and income within the net total is shown in section 2.1.

1.5 Key drivers of spending changes since the original budget this year

The net Resource DEL has increased by £5.212m from the original 2022/23 budget set out in the Spending Review 2021 (SR21) Settlement letter. The main reasons for this increase are:

- **+£4.739m:** GPA Office Move - Reserve support to fund ONS bespoke requirements to the estate
- **+£0.402m:** Budgetary Impact of IFRS16 which UKSA will adopt from April 2022. This will result in an increase to Depreciation charges (£5.048m) and reduced Rdel expenditure (£4.646m)

The net Capital DEL has increased by £12.067m from the original 2022/23 budget set out in the SR21 Settlement letter. The main reasons for this increase are:

- **+£10.217m:** Budgetary Impact of IFRS16 which UKSA will adopt from April 2022 which will result in an increase in Capital Assets
- **+£1.850m:** GPA Office Move - Reserve support to fund ONS bespoke requirements to the estate

Further detail is provided in section 2.1

1.6 New policies and programmes; ambit changes

There are currently no new policies or programmes applicable to the Statistics Board.

The pandemic has exposed the role that the ONS has to play in undertaking and supporting research in the fields of social statistics and health statistics in addition to the Data Science and Economic Statistics areas currently specifically mentioned in the Ambit. During the 21/22 Supplementary Estimate we broadened the ambit to reflect this role and to permit the ONS to work with select partners in the future to research and develop new knowledge and understanding of our society.

1.7 Spending and income trends

The charts below show the overall expenditure trends for the last ten years. The main driver for the steady increase in operating costs over the period is the delivery of the 2021 Census. Census Day was 21st March 2021 and as a result Census funding has reduced by £214.4m between 21/22 and 22/23.

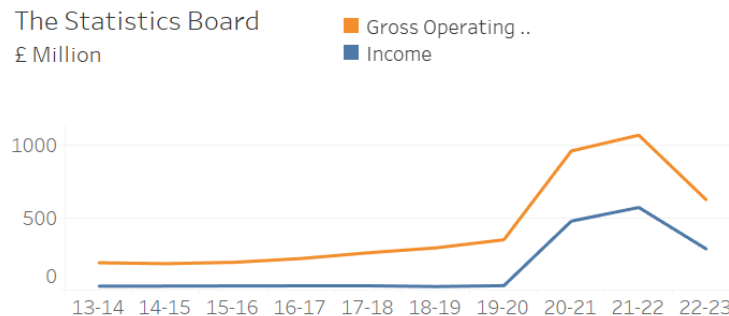
The large spike in expenditure and income since 2020/21 also reflects the work the Authority is undertaking in response to the COVID-19 pandemic through the COVID-19 Infection Survey (CIS) and wider studies. CIS Digital as a programme will continue throughout 2022/23 but at a reduced cost as agreed with UKHSA as the programme sponsoring department.

CDEL expenditure trends reflect the build of digital assets as part of Spending Review 2015 together with the gradual movement away from capital build to cloud based technologies since the end of 2018/19. The 2021/22 increase in capital spend reflects the increase in our research work classified as capital expenditure (under ESA10 protocols) and work to our Estate to ensure it is fully equipped for hybrid working. Further increases are seen in 2022/23 mainly as the UKSA adopts IFRS 16 from April 2022 which will result in an increase in Capital Assets.

Gross Operating Costs and Income

The Statistics Board

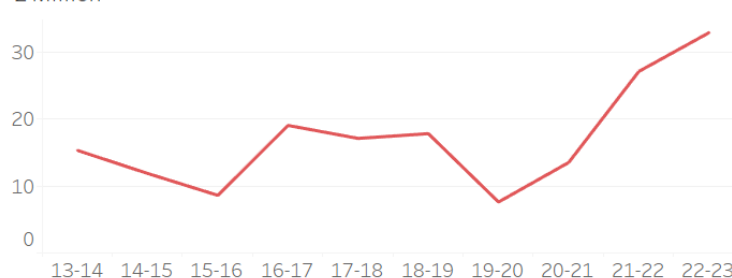
£ Million



Capital DEL spend

The Statistics Board

£ Million



1.8 Administration costs and efficiency plans

The Statistics Board does not have Administration budget, all funding is classed as programme.

All efficiencies are included (net) within our control totals for the Spending Review. We will operate within all control totals across this period therefore achieving our financial targets.

The ONS has committed to identify and deliver recurring 10% of Baseline budget savings by 2024/25. These efficiency savings will be used to re-invest in wider organisational priorities not funded through the 2021 Spending Review.

1.9 Funding: Spending Review and Budgets

In addition to the Funding allocated to the Statistics Board for 2022/23 through SR21, the Authority received the following additional DEL funding at the Mains Estimate 2022/23

- **+£6.589m:** GPA Office Move - Reserve support to fund ONS bespoke requirements to the estate. (£4.739m Rdel and £1.850m Cdel)
- **+£10.619m:** Budgetary Impact on IFRS16 which UKSA will adopt from April 2022. This will result in an increase to Capital (£20.792m), Depreciation charges (£5.048m) and reduced Rdel expenditure (£4.646m)
- **+£0.085m** BCT with Cabinet Office; DSA funded roles within ONS
- **(£0.014m)** BCT with Cabinet Office; ONS Contribution to Civil Service Live

2 Spending and income detail

2.1 Explanations of changes in spending and income

The table below shows how spending plans compare with the opening budget for 2021/22 as agreed in the 2021/22 Main Estimate:

		<i>This year (2022-23 Mains Estimates budget sought)</i>	<i>Last year (2021-22 Supp Estimates budget approved)</i>	Movement		Is movement significant? see explanation, note number
Subhead		£ million			%	
A	Resource DEL	360.183	515.139	-154.956	-30	1
B	Capital DEL	32.859	27.081	+5.778	+21.3	2
C	Resource AME	8.4	8.4	0	0	3

Note 1:

Resource DEL has decreased by £154.956m. Although this is a significant change it is primarily down to the reduction of funding within the Census Data Collection Transformation Programme (CDCTP); with the Rdel budget reducing by £212.1m as all core Census 21 collection operational activities have now been completed successfully. There have been several small offset movements with the two most significant changes relating to Integrated Data Service Programme (IDSP) funding which has increased by £23.4m and the Ambitious Radical Inclusive Economic Statistics (ARIES) Programme with an increase of £15.169m; both were awarded in the SR21 settlement.

Note 2:

Capital DEL has increased to £32.859m. The main contributor to this is the adoption of IFRS16 which will see increased capital expenditure through recognition of leases as Capital assets. Baseline Capital DEL has also increased to £14.4m within the SR21 settlement.

Note 3:

AME – no change

2.2 Ring fenced budgets

Within the totals, the following elements are ring fenced i.e. savings in these budgets may not be used to fund pressures on other budgets.

Resource DEL

Ring fenced budgets Amounts sought this year (Mains Estimate 2022/23)		Compared to final budget 21/22 (Supplementary Estimate 2021/22)		Compared to original 22/23 budget (SR21)	
		£ m	%	£m	%
Depreciation	20.347	15.299	+33	20.299	-
ODA	3.600	3.000	+20	3.600	-
CDCTP	39.000	252.400	-85	39.000	-
IDSP	62.3	42.400	+47	62.300	-
ARIES	22.001	6.00	+267	22.001	-

2.3 Changes to Contingent Liabilities

The Statistics Board has not entered any new Contingent Liabilities.

3 Priorities and performance

3.1 How spending relates to objectives

The Statistics Board does not have Administration budget, all expenditure is classified as programme.

Each of the subheads contribute to all corporate objectives, therefore a breakdown on expenditure against each objective has not been provided.

3.2 Measures of performance against each priority

The [ONS Strategic Business Plan](#) details the high-level objectives for the Statistics Board and its performance measures.

3.3 Major projects

On the 14th December 2018, a white paper, '[Help Shape Our Future](#)', was published which sets out the content and conduct of the Census 2021, including a target to make the centuries old Census a predominantly online survey for the first time in its history.

The Census is part of a larger transformation programme of the way the Office for National Statistics (ONS) collects, processes, and shares its data. Investment in re-usable systems and processes will ensure the ONS delivers a legacy beyond just the Census. Previous Censuses have been shown to deliver many times their cost in indirect benefits, with the return on investment shown to be at least £5 for every £1 spent. Information gathered during the Census will ensure vital public services can be targeted into communities and groups where they are needed, in 2021 and beyond.

All core Census 21 operational activities have now been completed successfully. There are still significant post data collection milestones to deliver across the next two financial years. As a result, we will look to submit a £10m reserve claim in the 22/23 Supplementary Estimates. This will not increase the overall full life costs of the Programme but is a reprofiling of prior year underspends. The funding will look to address objectives which have been reprioritized due to the Pandemic. ONS will work with HMT during 22/23 Financial year to finalize plans for this funding, but initial 22/23 planning has indicated there is a risk to delivering ancillary objectives without this reprofile.

Integrated Data Service Programme (IDSP) supports ONS' ongoing contribution to the government's National Data Strategy to unlock the power of data across government and the wider economy, while building trust in its use. As part of SR21, ONS was awarded funding of £62.3m for 2022-23, £62.8 in 2023-24 and £55.3m in 2024-25. However, ONS must produce a revised business case for the IDSP and submit to HMT in September 2022.

During 2020/21, ONS designed, piloted and stabilized the ongoing delivery of the [COVID-19 Infection Survey \(CIS\)](#) to provide ongoing surveillance of rates of infection. CIS has been judged by the scientific community and wider stakeholders to be a success and provides robust estimates of COVID-19 prevalence in the community – with supporting analytical work in wider settings including schools and universities. In 22/23 ONS will look to progress CIS to the COVID Infection Surveillance Digital programme; where the goal is to continue the provision of high quality COVID-19 data and analysis, whilst significantly reducing costs and creating a more sustainable solution

Funding for CIS Digital is provided by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) as part of their overall Test and Trace Budget. 2022/23 funding has been confirmed with UKHSA.

The Ambitious Radical Inclusive Economic Statistics (ARIES) Programme aims to continue our longstanding commitment to improving the quality and value of our economic statistics. The Programme aims to embed this ongoing statistical development work, enabling us to continue to support the delivery of UK government priorities, generating value and providing security for these vital workstreams, in part by bringing into scope closely linked socio-economic and environmental measures which closely align to government priorities. The ARIES programme strategic aim is to deliver an ambitious programme that will provide clear, insightful economic, social, and environmental statistics to inform decision-making across the UK in an inclusive, timely and sustainable way.

As part of SR21, ONS also secured funding of £22.011m for 22/23, £19.737m in 23/24 and £17.663m with a revised Business Case supporting the programme having been submitted in March 2022.

4. Other information

4.1 Additional specific information required by the select committee

Not applicable

5. Approval of Memorandum

This memorandum has been prepared with reference to revised guidance to produce Estimates Memoranda for Smaller departments provided by the House of Commons, [Scrutiny Unit](#).²

The information in this memorandum has been approved by the Accounting Officer of the Statistics Board, Sir Ian Diamond.

²

<https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons/Scrutiny/Guidance%20Small%20Depts%20rev%202020.pdf>