

The Statistics Board

INTRODUCTION

1. This Estimate provides for the programme costs and other expenditure costs for the Statistics Board known as the UK Statistics Authority.
2. The Authority's objective is to promote and safeguard the production and publication of official statistics that serve the public good.
3. The Authority's main responsibilities include: to promote and safeguard the quality of official statistics with reference to their impartiality, accuracy, relevance and coherence with other official statistics; to monitor the production and publication of official statistics; to conduct a programme of assessment of existing and candidate National Statistics against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics; to confirm or cancel National Statistics designation of these statistics; to oversee the Office for National Statistics (ONS).
4. The main responsibilities of ONS, the Executive Office of the Authority include: collection, collation and dissemination of statistics relating to the United Kingdom's national accounts, balance of payments, retail prices index, financial transactions and measures of output; co-ordination of statistics relating to regional matters and crime statistics; compilation of Labour Market statistics; undertaking of various representational roles in an international context including the coordination, design, collection, preparation, supply and quality management of the UK's European statistics; providing professional leadership for statistics across government; development and maintenance of definitions, methodologies, classifications for official statistics; implementing and issuing information from the decennial census of the population; supplying demographic statistics for national, regional and local planning; conducting social surveys; undertaking data science research and developing measures of national wellbeing.

PART I: EXPENDITURE AND AMBIT

£

	Voted	Non-Voted	Total
Departmental Expenditure Limit			
Resource	389,479,000	-	389,479,000
Capital	22,098,000	-	22,098,000
Annually Managed Expenditure			
Resource	2,300,000	-	2,300,000
Capital	-	-	-
Total Net Budget			
Resource	391,779,000	-	391,779,000
Capital	22,098,000	-	22,098,000
Non-Budget Expenditure	-		
Net Cash Requirement	396,383,000		

Amounts required in the year ending 31 March 2025 for expenditure by The Statistics Board on:

Departmental Expenditure Limit:

Expenditure arising from:

The collection, preparation and dissemination of economic, social, labour market and other statistics; undertaking and commissioning statistical research, 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; 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 provisions in respect of onerous contracts; early departure costs; and other provisions and associated non-cash items.

The Statistics Board will account for this Estimate.

PART I: EXPENDITURE AND AMBIT

£

	Voted Total	Allocated in Vote on Account	Balance to complete or surrender
Departmental Expenditure Limit			
Resource	389,479,000	177,210,000	212,269,000
Capital	22,098,000	10,722,000	11,376,000
Annually Managed Expenditure			
Resource	2,300,000	-	2,300,000
Capital	-	-	-
Non-Budget Expenditure	-	-	-
Net Cash Requirement	396,383,000	179,600,000	216,783,000

PART II: SUBHEAD DETAIL

												£'000
2024-25 Plans											2023-24 Plans	
	Resources							Capital			Resources	Capital
	Administration			Programme			Total	Gross	Income	Net	Net	Net
	Gross	Income	Net	Gross	Income	Net	Net					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL)												
Voted expenditure												
A Programme Expenditure	-	-	-	415,579	-26,100	389,479	389,479	22,098	-	22,098	371,971	23,827
Total voted DEL	-	-	-	415,579	-26,100	389,479	389,479	22,098	-	22,098	371,971	23,827
Total DEL	-	-	-	415,579	-26,100	389,479	389,479	22,098	-	22,098	371,971	23,827
Annually Managed Expenditure (AME)												
Voted expenditure												
B Utilised Provisions	-	-	-	2,300	-	2,300	2,300	-	-	-	1,600	-
Total voted AME	-	-	-	2,300	-	2,300	2,300	-	-	-	1,600	-
Total AME	-	-	-	2,300	-	2,300	2,300	-	-	-	1,600	-
Voted expenditure	-	-	-	417,879	-26,100	391,779	391,779	22,098	-	22,098	373,571	23,827
Non-voted expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total for Estimate	-	-	-	417,879	-26,100	391,779	391,779	22,098	-	22,098	373,571	23,827

PART II: RESOURCE TO CASH RECONCILIATION

	£'000		
	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23
	Plans	Plans	Outturn
Net Resource Requirement	391,779	373,571	348,448
Net Capital Requirement	22,098	23,827	35,678
Accruals to cash adjustments	-17,494	-15,117	-8,219
<i>Of which:</i>	-	-	-
<i>Adjustment for ALBs:</i>	-	-	-
Remove voted resource and capital	-	-	-
Add cash grant-in-aid	-	-	-
<i>Adjustments to remove non-cash items:</i>	-	-	-
Depreciation	-18,711	-18,517	-12,146
New provisions and adjustments to previous provisions	-2,300	-1,600	3,902
Departmental Unallocated Provision	-	-	-
Supported capital expenditure (revenue)	-	-	-
Prior Period Adjustments	-	-	-
Other non-cash items	-	-	-
<i>Adjustments to reflect movements in working balances:</i>	-	-	-
Increase (+) / Decrease (-) in stock	-	-	-
Increase (+) / Decrease (-) in debtors	-	-	-
Increase (-) / Decrease (+) in creditors	3,517	5,000	-
Use of provisions	-	-	25
Removal of non-voted budget items	-	-	-
<i>Of which:</i>	-	-	-
Consolidated Fund Standing Services	-	-	-
Other adjustments	-	-	-
Net Cash Requirement	396,383	382,281	375,907

PART III: NOTE A - STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE NET EXPENDITURE & RECONCILIATION TABLE

£'000

	2024-25 Plans	2023-24 Plans	2022-23 Outturn
Gross Administration Costs	-	-	-
<i>Less:</i>			
Administration DEL Income	-	-	-
Net Administration Costs	-	-	-
Gross Programme Costs	417,879	406,011	584,304
<i>Less:</i>			
Programme DEL Income	-26,100	-32,440	-224,529
Programme AME Income	-	-	-
Non-budget income	-	-	-
Net Programme Costs	391,779	373,571	359,775
Total Net Operating Costs	391,779	373,571	359,775
<i>Of which:</i>			
Resource DEL	389,479	371,971	352,350
Capital DEL	-	-	11,327
Resource AME	2,300	1,600	-3,902
Capital AME	-	-	-
Non-budget	-	-	-
<i>Adjustments to include:</i>			
Departmental Unallocated Provision (resource)	-	-	-
Consolidated Fund Extra Receipts in the budget but not in the SoCNE	-	-	-
<i>Adjustments to remove:</i>			
Capital in the SoCNE	-	-	-11,327
Grants to devolved administrations	-	-	-
Non-Budget Consolidated Fund Extra Receipts in the SoCNE	-	-	-
Other adjustments	-	-	-
Total Resource Budget	391,779	373,571	348,448
<i>Of which:</i>			
Resource DEL	389,479	371,971	352,375
Resource AME	2,300	1,600	-3,927
<i>Adjustments to include:</i>			
Grants to devolved administrations	-	-	-
Prior period adjustments	-	-	-
<i>Adjustments to remove:</i>			
Consolidated Fund Extra Receipts in the resource budget	-	-	-
Other adjustments	-	-	-
Total Resource (Estimate)	391,779	373,571	348,448

PART III: NOTE B - ANALYSIS OF DEPARTMENTAL INCOME

£'000

	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23
	Plans	Plans	Outturn
Voted Resource DEL			
Programme			
A: Programme Expenditure			
Sales of Goods and Services	-26,100	-32,440	-224,529
Total Sales of Goods and Services	-26,100	-32,440	-224,529
Total Programme	-26,100	-32,440	-224,529
Total Voted Resource DEL	-26,100	-32,440	-224,529
Total Voted Resource Income	-26,100	-32,440	-224,529

PART III: NOTE C - ANALYSIS OF CONSOLIDATED FUND EXTRA RECEIPTS

No CFER income or receipts are expected in 2024-25 or 2023-24. No CFER income or receipts were received in 2022-23.

PART III: NOTE D - EXPLANATION OF ACCOUNTING OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Accounting Officer prepares resource accounts for each financial year. See Section 2, Part III - Other statements and notes for further details of Accounting Officer responsibilities.

Accounting Officer:

Sir Ian Diamond

Main Estimates Memoranda 2024-25

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 as the UK Statistics Authority [UKSA]) 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 to provide 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 Strategy

2023/24 is the fourth 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 that 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.

The different parts of the statistical system will contribute to delivery of the objectives set out in the strategy, in different ways.

The [2024/25 Strategic Business Plan – ONS](#) sets out how the ONS will deliver its contribution to the UKSA strategy in 2024/25.

The [2024/25 Strategic Business Plan – OSR](#) sets out how the OSR will deliver its contribution to the UKSA strategy in 2024/25.

1.2 Ambit

The Statistic's Board Ambit is as follows:

Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL)

Expenditure arising from:

The collection, preparation and dissemination of economic, social, labour market and other statistics; undertaking and commissioning statistical research, 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; 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 (AME)

Expenditure arising from:

Creation of provisions 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.
- 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 as set in Spending Review 2021 (“SR21”):

Spending total Amounts sought this year 2024/25 (Main Estimates 2024-25)		Compared to original budget this year, 2024/25 (UKSA SR21 Settlement Letter)		Compared to final budget last year, 2023/24 (Supplementary Estimate 2023-24)	
	£m	£m	%	£m	%
Resource DEL	389.479*	314.511*	+23.84%	371.971*	+4.71
Capital DEL	22.097	11.520	+91.81%	23.827	-7.26

* 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

Net Resource DEL has increased by £74.968m from the original 2024/25 budget set out in the SR21 settlement letter. The main reasons for this increase are:

- **+£50.240m:** Reserve claim for the Future of Population and Migration Statistics (FPMS) Programme
- **+£18.800m:** Reserve claim for Surveys
- **+£8.080m:** Reserve claim for the National Statistician’s review of Public Sector Productivity (PSP) Statistics
- **+£1.139m:** Pre-agreed reserve claims from the Labour Markets Evaluation and Pilots (LMEP) fund for ‘Endometriosis and labour market outcomes in women in England’ (£0.429m), ‘National labour market outcomes of bariatric surgery and diabetes prevention programmes’ (£0.432m) and ‘Relationship between musculoskeletal diagnosis and surgery and employment status and income using national linked data’ (£0.278m)

- **+£0.162m:** Budgetary impact of IFRS 16. This includes an increase of depreciation budget of £5.206m, partly offset by a reduction in non-ring-fenced Resource (DEL) of £5.044m
- **-£1.993m:** Return of funding originally delegated for the Health and Social Care Levy
- **+£3.455m** Budget Cover Transfer (BCT) with the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) for support on levelling-up activity
- **+£2.000m:** BCT with Home Office for Crime Survey expansion
- **+£0.085m:** BCT with Home Office for Drug Misuse Study
- **-£7.000m:** Return of depreciation budget no longer required

Net Capital DEL has increased by £10.577m from the original 2024/25 budget set out in the SR21 settlement letter. The main reasons for this increase are:

- **+£6.697m:** BCT with DLUHC for levelling-up work
- **+£3.880:** Reserve claim for the Future of Population and Migration Statistics (FPMS) Programme

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.

1.7 Spending and income trends

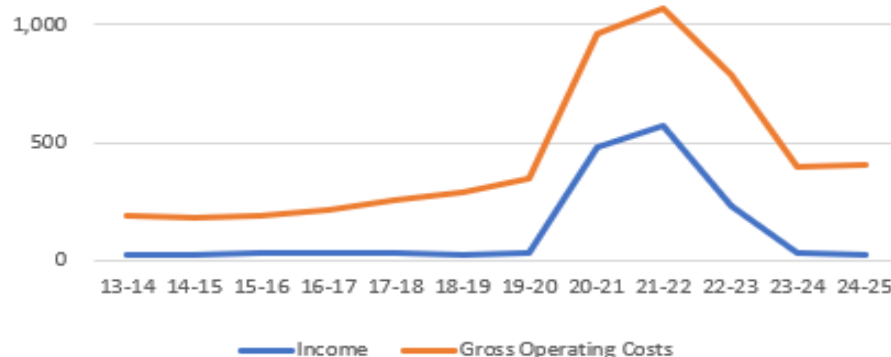
The charts below show the overall expenditure trends for the last ten years. The main driver for the steady increase in gross operating costs over the period is the delivery of the 2021 Census. Census Day was 21 March 2021 with activity and funding reducing by £214.4m between 2021/22 and 2022/23. Funding ended in 2023/24, aligned with the successful conclusion of the 2021 Census programme. The continuation of the FPMS programme and other items funded from the Reserve at Main Estimates has led to a net increase in forecast expenditure for 2024/25 compared with 2023/24.

The position over the past few years has also been significantly impacted by the Authority's work in response to the pandemic through the COVID-19 Infection Survey (CIS) and wider studies resulting in a large spike in expenditure and income in 2020/21 and 2021/22. The CIS Digital delivery model and programme continued throughout 2022/23 but at a markedly reduced cost – with a corresponding lower income. A smaller winter surveillance programme was in operation during 2023/24. These workstreams have been funded via the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA).

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. Further increases are seen in 2022/23 mainly driven by the technical impacts of the adoption of IFRS 16 from April 2022 resulting in an increase in capital assets held on the balance sheet. Capital expenditure has reduced back down in 2023/24 following the one-off IFRS16 adoption event. This gradual decline continues in 2024/25.

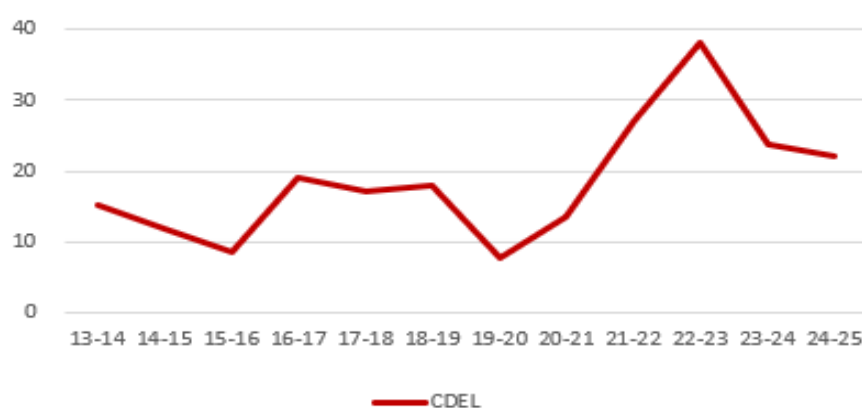
Gross Operating Costs and Income

The Statistics Board
£ Million



Capital DEL spend

The Statistics Board
£ Million



1.8 Administration costs and efficiency plans

The Statistics Board does not have RDEL-Administration budget, all funding is classed as RDEL-Programme.

As part of SR21 the Statistics Board committed to identify and deliver recurring 10% of baseline budget savings by 2024/25 for internal reuse to achieve strategic priority goals. Following the Autumn Statement 2022 and the subsequent Efficiency Savings Review in February 2023 a further plan for enhanced efficiencies and cost savings was developed. These plans will continue to deliver cost reductions to be re-invested through the rest of the SR21 period.

All efficiencies are included (net) within control totals. The Authority will operate within all control totals across this period, therefore achieving its financial targets as agreed with HM Treasury.

1.9 Funding: Spending Review and Budgets

In addition to the Funding allocated to the Statistics Board for 2024/25 through the 2021 Spending Review, the Authority received the following additional DEL funding at the Main Estimates 2024/25:

- **+£54.120m:** Reserve claim to fund FPMS programme (£50.240m RDEL and £3.880m CDEL)
- **+£18.800m:** RDEL Reserve claim for Surveys
- **+£8.080m:** RDEL Reserve claim for the National Statistician's review of Public Sector Productivity (PSP) Statistics
- **-£1.993m:** Return of RDEL funding for Health and Social Care Levy
- **+£0.162m:** Budgetary Impact of IFRS16, increase to Depreciation charges (£5.206m), and reduced RDEL expenditure (£5.044m)
- **+£12.237m:** Budget Cover Transfers (BCTs) with DLUHC, Home Office and Cabinet Office (£5.540m RDEL and £6.697m CDEL)
- **-£7.000m:** Return of depreciation budget no longer required
- **+£1.139m:** Pre-agreed RDEL reserve claims from the Labour Markets Evaluation and Pilots (LMEP) fund for 'Endometriosis and labour market outcomes in women in England' (£0.429m), 'National labour market outcomes of bariatric surgery and diabetes prevention programmes' (£0.432m) and 'Relationship between musculoskeletal diagnosis and surgery and employment status and income using national linked data' (£0.278m)

2 Spending and income detail

2.1 Explanations of changes in spending and income

The table below shows how spending plans compare with the final budget for 2023/24 as agreed in the 2023/24 Supplementary Estimate:

		<i>This year (2024-25 Main Estimates budget sought)</i>	<i>Last year (2023-24 Supplementary Estimate budget approved)</i>	<i>Movement</i>		<i>Is movement significant? see explanation, note number</i>
Subhead		£ million			%	
A	Resource DEL	389.479	371.971	+17.508	+4.71	1
B	Capital DEL	22.097	23.827	-1.73	-7.26	2
C	Resource AME	2.300	1.600	-0.700	+43.75	3

Note 1:

Resource DEL has increased by £17.508m. Most of this increase relates to further investment in surveys along with increases for the Future of Population and Migration Statistics (FPMS) Programme and the Public Sector Productivity Review, netted off by a decrease in the Census Data Collection Transformation Programme funding due to planned programme closure.

Note 2:

Capital DEL has decreased by £1.730m. The main reason for this decrease from 2023/24 is due to a reduced Baseline and Integrated Data Service Capital DEL of £9.420m and £1.100m respectively, as per SR21 budgets. This is netted off by a Budget Cover Transfer with DLUHC, providing an additional £6.697m of CDEL funding to cover research work to be classified as capital expenditure (under ESA10 protocols) along with £3.880m of FPMS CDEL funding.

Note 3:

AME – Many of the anticipated provisions in 2023/24 did not materialise, meaning the anticipated budget requirement was not needed.

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 unless previously agreed with HM Treasury).

Ring fenced budgets Amounts sought this year (Main Estimates 2024/25)		Compared to final budget 2023/24 (Supplementary Estimate 2023/24)		Compared to original 2024/25 budget (SR21)	
		£ m	%	£m	%
Depreciation	18.711	18.517	+1.04	20.505	-8.75
ODA	4.800	4.200	+14.29	4.800	-
CDCTP	0.000	18.000	n/a	0.000	n/a
IDSP	55.300	62.800	-11.94	55.300	-
ARIES	17.663	19.737	-10.5	17.663	-
FPMS	54.120	28.800	+87.91	0.000	n/a

2.3 Changes to Contingent Liabilities

The Statistics Board has not entered into any new Contingent Liabilities.

3 Priorities and performance

3.1 How spending relates to objectives

All expenditure is classified as RDEL-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

The Future Population and Migration Statistics Programme (FPMS), will enable transformed methods for delivering population and migration statistics, and will further transform ONS social and household statistics. The new system will provide an opportunity to provide users with more timely and frequent estimates of the population whilst also providing more rapid information on the population and society of today. A consultation and wide user engagement was undertaken during 2023/24 on the proposed methods which will inform the National Statistician's recommendation later in 2024. The evidence gathered through this work will be used to further inform the transformed statistical system delivered through FPMS.

Integrated Data Service Programme (IDSP) supports UKSA's 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 received funding approval of £62.3m for 2022/23, £62.8m for 2023/24 and £55.3m for 2024/25. The ONS has continued to deliver against the IDSP programme milestones including the initial Public Beta in 2022 and full Public Beta in 2023.

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 the vital workstreams, in part by bringing into scope closely linked socio-economic and environmental measures which align to government priorities. Its strategic aim is to deliver 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 secured funding of £22.011m for 2022/23, £19.737m for 2023/24 and £17.663m for 2024/25.

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](#).¹

The information in this memorandum has been approved by the ONS Accounting Officer and National Statistician, Sir Ian Diamond.

1

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