

Main Estimates Memoranda 2020-21

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: to mobilise the power of data to help Britain make better decisions.

The Authority’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

The [Authority’s Strategy](#) and [Business Plan](#) set out its key goals with performance assessed by its senior governance committees - the Authority Board and the National Statistics Executive Group.

The current strategy - Better Statistics, Better Decisions – which sets out a vision for UK official statistics in 2020 is underpinned by a business plan for the period 2019 to 2022 which was refreshed in April 2019. A new strategy and further refreshed business plan are being developed for the period 2020/21 to 2024/25 with a view to being published in late Summer of 2020. This is a slight delay on our original planned publication dates in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic and the need to consider its impact on the statistical system carefully.

Better Statistics, Better Decisions sets out the organisation's expectations - more data will be real-time; services will be digital by default; and the quality of advice and insight will have earned the organisation a seat at the table where the most important decisions are made. Decision-makers across the spectrum will value the Authority's services as being vital to them. Confusion about statistics will be much rarer because the information base delivered as National Statistics will be accepted and used with confidence. All those working as part of the statistical system will feel they are well led and able to make a special contribution to the public good. A review of progress against this strategy was published in October 2017 setting out what has been achieved so far, improvements that have been made, as well as highlighting what is coming next.

Better Statistics, Better Decisions is underpinned by five core strategic imperatives starting from the experience of the user. Its success will be judged by the extent to which it is seen by users as helpful to Britain in making better decisions about the future. This in turn will be delivered through high quality, trusted and valued professional services. In the fast-moving world of the data revolution the Authority will need to be innovative to keep up with expectations and opportunities. It will make the space to innovate by being efficient in the use of time, money and other resources. All of this depends on investment in the knowledge, skills and experience of capable people and attracting the best to work within the organisation.

The Authority's [Business Plan](#) describes how the strategic vision will be delivered with a timetable for transforming the way it works.

The main highlights from the current plan include:

- Delivery of the 2019 Blue Book that will see the effective completion of the agenda set out in the 2016 Bean Review and further progress in our Economic Statistics Transformation.
- The Census collection rehearsal in October 2019 in four local authority areas to test our readiness for 2021.
- The Census data processing rehearsal that will follow in Spring 2020
- Continuing the implementation of the legislative framework provided by the Digital Economy Act 2017 – including support to the research community through the facilitation of access to administrative data
- Our continued investments in data, technology and statistical theory to underpin our ability to deliver these milestones.
- Regional GDP: publication of experimental quarterly estimates for the English Regions and Wales.
- Trade: analysis of UK trade looking at how that trade is delivered (Mode of Supply).
- Enhanced Financial Accounts: publication of experimental estimates on financial flows in the UK economy.
- Inflation: experimental item level indices published using alternative data sources, new methods and harmonised systems.

- Devise a Global Platform on behalf of the United Nations

An update on progress against the 2019 Business Plan will be provided in the Authority's 2019/20 Annual Report and Accounts.

1.1.1 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 data science 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; and 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 Data Science and Economical Impact 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 provision in respect of onerous contracts; early departure costs; and other provisions and associated non-cash items.

1.2 Spending controls

The Statistics Board's net spending is broken down into a 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.

1.3 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		Compared to final budget last year. 19/20		Compared to original 19/20 budget	
Amounts sought this year 20/21		(Supplementary Estimate 2019-20)		(Main Estimate 2019-20)	
	£m	£m	%	£m	%
Resource DEL	£466.471*	£327.091*	+42.62	£297.629*	+56.73
Capital DEL	£10.000	£7.601	+31.56	£7.000	+42.86

* includes ringfenced depreciation

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

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

The net Resource DEL has increased by £168.8m from the original 2019/20 budget. The main reasons for the increase are:

- Increase funding (+£143.00m) for Census and Data Collection Transformation Programme (CDCTP). Initial amount of £104.00m in 19/20 increases to £247.00m in 20/21 as per CDCTP Full Business Case agreed in July 2019.
- Increase funding (+£8.000m) CDCTP 19/20 Contingency roll forward agreed in the 19/20 Supplementary Estimate.
- Increase funding (+£3.350m) for Budget Cover Transfer with Department for International Trade to improve the provision of trade and investment statistics.
- Increase funding (+£6.500m) Reserve Call agreed as part of the Spending Round 2019 settlement.
- Increase funding (+£5.000m) for Integrated Data Platform (IDP) agreed as part of the Budget announcement in March 2020. This is ONS’s first 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.

- Increase funding (+£0.405m) for Data Quality; to establish a Centre of Excellence for Data Quality agreed as part of the Budget announcement in March 2020.

The net Capital DEL funding increases by £3.000m as we continue to invest in IT Infrastructure, Research & Development and Major works property projects.

Further detail is provided in section 2.1

1.5 New policies and programmes; ambit changes

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

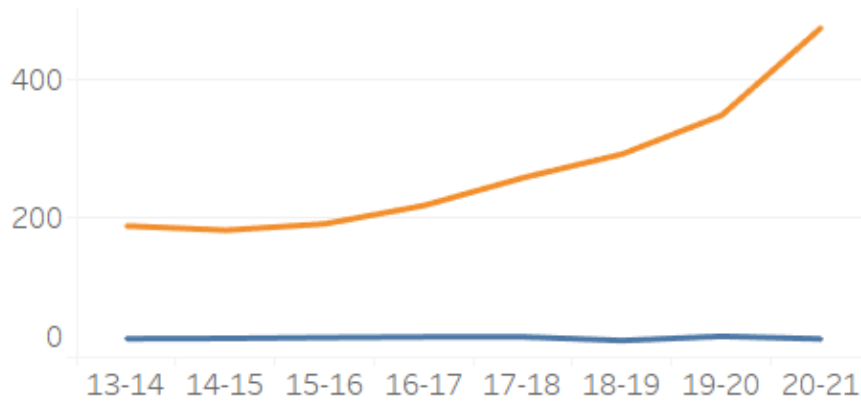
1.6 Spending and income trends

The charts below show the overall spending and trends for the last eight years, based on plans presented in the Mains Estimate for 2020-21. The main driver for the increase in operating costs over the period is the delivery of the 2021 Census which is due to take place in March 2021.

Gross Operating Costs and Income

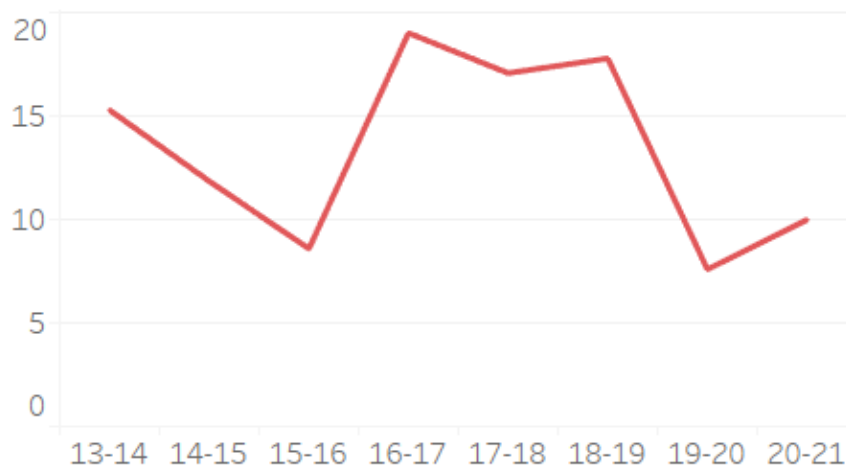
The Statistics Board
£ Million

■ Gross Operating Costs
■ Income



Capital DEL spend

The Statistics Board
£ Million



1.7 Administration costs and efficiency plans

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

We have identified £23.0m of RDEL savings from our 2020/21 baseline of £426m to be achieved by the end of 2021/22 as required in the recent commission set out by HM Treasury in preparation for the next Spending Review.

Our baseline CDEL budget for 2020/21 is £10m. We will reduce our CDEL spend to £9.5m, through commercial discussions and reprioritisation of spend.

1.8 Funding: Spending Review and Budgets

In addition to the Funding allocated to the Statistics Board for 2020/21 through the 2019 Spending Round, the Authority has received the following additional Resource DEL funding:

- £3.350m from Department for International Trade to improve the provision of trade and investment statistics.
- £8.000m rollover budget from the Census and Data Collection Transformation Programme 19/20 Contingency.
- £6.500m Reserve Call.
- £5.000m for Integrated Data Platform (IDP) as agreed in the Budget March 2020.
- £0.405m for Data Quality as agreed in the Budget March 2020.

1.9 Other funding announcements

Not applicable

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 2019/20 as agreed in the 2019-20 Main Estimate

Subhead		<i>This year (2020-21 Mains Estimates budget sought)</i>	<i>Last year (2019-20 Supp Estimates budget approved)</i>	Movement		Is movement significant? see explanation, note number
		£ million			%	
A	Resource DEL	466.5	327.1	+ 139.4	+ 43	1
B	Capital DEL	10.0	7.6	+2.4	+32	2
C	Resource AME	1.0	(0.8)	+1.8	-225	3

Note 1:

Resource DEL has increased by £139.4m; the main contributor to this increase is the funding for the 2021 Census which increases by £121m. This is made up of £105m ramp up in expenditure from 19/20 to 20/21 as agreed in the CDCTP Full Business Case which was agreed in July 2019; and a return of £8m of CDCTP contingency to HM Treasury in 19/20 as a budget exchange (with £8m additional funding being made available in 2020/21).

Note 2:

Capital DEL has increased by £2.4m as we continue to invest in IT Infrastructure to support the technology impact on Census and Economic Statistics. A lower Capital budget was required in 2019/20 as the ONS received a £3m one off capital receipt from the sale of a property.

Note 3:

Positive movement of Resource AME budget by £1.8m which includes the financial treatment of Census Incentivisation clauses for Field Force Logistics and Replenishment (FFLR) and Census Field Force People Services Partner (CFFPSP).

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 2020-21)		Compared to final budget 19/20 (Supplementary Estimate 2019-20)		Compared to original 19/20 budget (Main Estimate 2019-20)	
		£ m	%	£m	%
Depreciation	20.3	18.3	11%	21.3	5%
ODA	0.3	0.3	0%	0.3	0%
EU Exit	2.4	2.4	0%	2.4	0%
CDCTP	255.0	141.6	80%	104.0	145%

2.3 Changes to Contingent Liabilities

The Statistics Board has not entered into any new Contingent Liabilities at the 31st March 2020. The Statistics Board will follow the Cabinet Office Procurement Policy Note in supporting suppliers affected by the Covid-19 restrictions and will apply a risk-based approach in making prepayments.

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 [Business Plan](#) for the Authority, 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 next Census in 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.

The 11 March Budget included £5m of seed funding to develop the business case for the Integrated Data Platform – which aims to develop a strategic evidence source for Government and the tools to facilitate its use. This programme will be considered further in advance of the upcoming Spending Review.

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 Accounting Officer of the Statistics Board, Sir Ian Diamond

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

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

£

	Voted	Non-Voted	Total
Departmental Expenditure Limit			
Resource	466,471,000	-	466,471,000
Capital	10,000,000	-	10,000,000
Annually Managed Expenditure			
Resource	1,000,000	-	1,000,000
Capital	-	-	-
Total Net Budget			
Resource	467,471,000	-	467,471,000
Capital	10,000,000	-	10,000,000
Non-Budget Expenditure	-		
Net cash requirement	456,172,000		

Amounts required in the year ending 31 March 2021 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 data science 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; undertaking of various roles in an international context including 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.

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 Data Science and Economical Impact Research; receipts from EU and other overseas contracts; rental income; recovery of Apprenticeship Levy; and 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.

The Statistics Board will account for this Estimate.

Part I (continued)

£

	Voted Total	Allocated in Vote on Account	Balance to complete or surrender
Departmental Expenditure Limit			
Resource	466,471,000	203,255,000	263,216,000
Capital	10,000,000	4,500,000	5,500,000
Annually Managed Expenditure			
Resource	1,000,000	-	1,000,000
Capital	-	-	-
Non-Budget Expenditure	-	-	-
Net cash requirement	456,172,000	198,170,000	258,002,000

Part II: Resource to cash reconciliation

£'000

	2020-21 Plans	2019-20 Provisions	2018-19 Outturn
Net Resource Requirement	467,471	326,291	282,580
Net Capital Requirement	10,000	7,601	17,556
Accruals to cash adjustments	-21,299	-17,500	-24,167
<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	-20,299	-18,300	-21,714
New provisions and adjustments to previous provisions	-2,000	-200	-3,217
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	-	-	-
Use of provisions	1,000	1,000	764
Removal of non-voted budget items	-	-	-
<i>Of which:</i>			
Consolidated Fund Standing Services	-	-	-
Other adjustments	-	-	-
Net Cash Requirement	456,172	316,392	275,969

Part III: Note A - Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure & Reconciliation Table

£'000

	2020-21 Plans	2019-20 Provisions	2018-19 Outturn
Gross Administration Costs	-	-	-
<i>Less:</i>			
Administration DEL Income	-	-	-
Net Administration Costs	-	-	-
Gross Programme Costs	494,071	356,672	308,071
<i>Less:</i>			
Programme DEL Income	-26,600	-30,381	-25,491
Programme AME Income	-	-	-
Non-budget income	-	-	-
Net Programme Costs	467,471	326,291	282,580
Total Net Operating Costs	467,471	326,291	282,580
<i>Of which:</i>			
Resource DEL	465,471	326,091	279,363
Capital DEL	-	-	-
Resource AME	2,000	200	3,217
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	-	-	-
Grants to devolved administrations	-	-	-
Non-Budget Consolidated Fund Extra Receipts in the SoCNE	-	-	-
Other adjustments	-	-	-
Total Resource Budget	467,471	326,291	282,580
<i>Of which:</i>			
Resource DEL	466,471	327,091	280,127
Resource AME	1,000	-800	2,453
<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)	467,471	326,291	282,580

Part III: Note B - Analysis of Departmental Income

£'000

	2020-21 Plans	2019-20 Provision	2018-19 Outturn
Voted Resource DEL	-26,600	-30,381	-25,491
<i>Of which:</i>			
Programme			
Sales of Goods and Services	-26,600	-30,381	-25,491
<i>Of which:</i>			
A: Programme Expenditure	-26,600	-30,381	-25,491
Total Programme	-26,600	-30,381	-25,491
Total Voted Resource Income	-26,600	-30,381	-25,491

Part III: Note C - Analysis of Consolidated Fund Extra Receipts

No CFER income or receipts are expected in 2020-21 or 2019-20. No CFER income or receipts were received in 2018-19.

Part III: Note D - Explanation of Accounting Officer responsibilities

The Accounting Officer prepares resource accounts for each financial year.

The following individuals are responsible for the expenditure within this Estimate:

Accounting Officer: Sir Ian Diamond

Sir Ian Diamond has personal responsibility for the proper presentation of the department's resource accounts and their transmission to the Comptroller & Auditor General, and is also responsible for the use of public money and stewardship of assets.

In discharging these responsibilities, particular regard is given to:

- observing any accounting and disclosure requirements (including any Accounts Direction) and applying suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis;
- making judgements and estimates on a reasonable basis;
- stating whether applicable accounting standards, as set out in the Financial Reporting Manual (FRM), or an organisation's version of it, have been followed, and explain any material departures in the accounts; and
- preparing the accounts on a going concern basis.

The responsibilities of an Accounting Officer, including responsibility for regularity and propriety of the public finances for which an Accounting Officer is answerable, for keeping proper records and safeguarding assets, are also set out in Chapter 3 of Managing Public Money.