Board for official statistics in Scotland – updated Oct 2018

Purpose and terms of reference of the board

This paper summarises aims, terms of reference and membership for the board following comments received at the board meeting in September.

**Aims of the board**

To get greatest value from the producers of official statistics about Scotland by

- helping to agree a vision and strategy for official statistics in Scotland, ensuring that the strategy is appropriate for the challenges we face over the next 5 years.

- advising on the plan for delivering the agreed strategy, offer advice on prioritisation, and reviewing progress.

- making sure the voices of those using data and statistics about Scotland are heard and influence the way the strategy is developed and delivered.

- identifying new opportunities for improvements to the quality, trustworthiness or impact of official statistics in Scotland or the efficiency of their production, and to prioritise their development/adoption

**Ways of working**

* The board will typically meet every six months.
* The Scottish Government Chief Statistician will chair meetings.
* Members of the board provide advice based upon their professional expertise rather than representing specific organisations or constituencies.
* The board can commission task and finish groups to deliver specific projects that contribute towards the board’s aim. Conversely, where the statistics producers are planning to make a significant investment to official statistics production, this should come through the board.
* The board will receive strategy delivery progress reports, planned activity, and updated risk registers every six months
* Papers will be sent around a week ahead of the meeting.
* To hold a meeting, we should have as a minimum The Chief Statistician of Scottish Government, Head of Statistics for Public Health & Intelligence and Head of Statistics for National Records of Scotland (or deputies in exceptional circumstances, and four of the six other members.

**Accountability :**

The three Scottish Heads of Profession are accountable for delivery of official statistics in Scotland to the UK National Statistician.

**Membership**

- Roger Halliday, Chief Statistician, Scottish Government

- Scott Heald, Head of Statistics for Public Health & Intelligence

- Amy Wilson, Head of Statistics for National Records of Scotland

- Donald MacRae,

- Karen Facey, Evidence Based Health Policy Consultant

- Susan MacVie, Chair of Quantitative Criminology, University of Edinburgh

- Iain Wilton, Director of Policy and Public Affairs at Royal Statistical Society

- Roeland Beerten, Chief Statistician, Statistics Flanders

- Colin Ledlie, Non-executive director at National Records of Scotland