

**Minutes**

**Meeting 25 September 2009**

10.30-12.15pm FE 15 Redwood (ONS Myddleton Street)

**Present**

National Statistician (chair)  
Office for National Statistics (ONS)  
Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF)  
Bank of England (BoE)  
Home Office (HO)  
Communities and Local Government (CLG)  
Local Government Association (LGA)  
Department for Health (DH)  
GRO-Scotland  
Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

**Apologies**

Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)  
HM Treasury (HMT)

## **1. Welcome and Introduction**

1.1 The Chair welcomed the Board members and reminded them of the importance of this cross-government programme to improve migration statistics and of their contribution to the collaborative work.

## **2. Minutes, matters arising and action points**

MSIPB(Sep09)02 and MSIPB(Sep09)03

2.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were approved without amendment.

2.2 Most actions were either complete or on the agenda.

2.3 ONS reported that good feedback had been received on the annual overview which had been widely disseminated. There had been no one questioning the work programme or identifying any gaps. It was noted that the document is a helpful resource that we will continue to produce.

## **3. Programme Update**

### **Progress and issues MSIPB(Sep09)04**

3.1 ONS introduced the programme update and highlighted recent successes, including: the second migration release in August, which had received widespread reporting in the press; the extended indicators suite; and progress on data sharing. Thanks were expressed to the government departments that had helped to make all this progress possible, in particular HO, DWP, DH, DCSF and BIS.

3.2 The board discussed delivery confidence and issues around realising statistical benefits from the e-borders programme. Two other issues discussed were the communal establishment survey and the handling of the December Roadshows.

3.3 The indicative impacts of the short-term package will be published ahead of first roadshow so that all users get the release at the same time. ONS are putting a lot of effort into user engagement through the reference panels, insight panels and bi-laterals with particular authorities and will cover user issues such as regional distributions.

3.4 The meeting was reminded that first estimates of short-term migrants by local authority will also be made available in a research paper in October.

3.5 ONS has engaged an external academic from the Centre for Population Change to review the regional distribution methodology against alternative options for England and Wales. The Board welcomed the review.

**Action: ONS and CLG to engage bilaterally over Regional Distribution review**

3.6 There will be a run through of the December roadshow material for the Programme Board.

**Action: ONS to arrange a rehearsal of the roadshow material with programme board members or nominees**

3.7 Migrants in communal establishments would only need to be surveyed if omitting them would impact on the regional distribution of international migration that is currently based on migrants in the household population. The pilot survey has been valuable in providing lessons about designing and running such a survey. However the current approach will not provide outputs in time for this round of improvements.

3.8 Within the project ONS has redesigned the approach to the survey and replanned the work. The board agreed that the replanned work should continue. ONS will publish outcomes of the pilot and the next steps to be taken.

**Action: ONS to publish a paper on the Communal Establishment Survey and the way forward on this issue and to share draft with HO before publication.**

3.9 ONS tabled a paper on statistical uses flowing from e-borders. As it stands the e-borders system will provide valuable improvements to national level data, but it cannot provide all the information required to meet the various needs of migration statistics.

3.10 The paper contained two options:

A) Obtain more information at the point of data collection on intended length of stay and origin/destination data;

B) Work with what e-borders does supply and use it in conjunction with survey data and other source by using linking and matching methods.

The paper recommended option B and asked for Board endorsement.

3.11 The Board agreed with the recommendation. HO would take it for endorsement by the 'Counting In and Out' steering group.

3.12 There are technical complexities to overcome in order to use e-Borders data to improve migration statistics. ONS would shortly be exploring these using pilot data.

**Response to monitoring and assessment reports – Action plan**  
MSIPB(Sep09)06

3.14 ONS reported a positive meeting with the UK Statistics Authority on the progress and direction of travel in the Programme's action plan response to the monitoring report. It was agreed that an updated version of the action plan

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would be circulated to board members for agreement. The Chair will then write to the Authority.

**Action: ONS to circulate and collate final comments on the action plan responding to the UK Statistics Authority Monitoring Review.**

**Action: The Chair to write to the authority with the action plan**

### **Next Phase of programme MSIPB(Sep09)07**

4.1 ONS noted that all the work identified in the paper was already known to be of high priority. The Chair said the list would be enhanced by linking it to the outcomes and benefits, including some estimate of the relative impact of each of the pieces of work.

**Action: ONS to develop blueprint linking outputs and outcomes**

## **5. Departmental Progress Reports**

### **Department for Children Schools and Families MSIPB(Sep09)08**

5.1 The Chair thanked departments for providing progress reports for the first time in this format.

5.2 DCSF presented the report on their work to contribute to improving migration statistics, highlighting several new initiatives being developed.

5.3 It was noted that this work did not cover migration alone but also population stocks. The board were pleased to see the interdepartmental working between ONS and DCSF and looked forward to seeing the results. The Chair suggested that it might be worthwhile having a cross departmental workshop that would consider the potential uses once the evaluation was complete.

**Action: ONS to consider an interdepartmental workshop on administrative source to include School Census**

### **Home office/UK Borders Agency MSIPB(Sep09)09**

5.4 HO presented the report on their work contributing to improving migration statistics. Previous discussions had covered the substantial points.

### **Department for Work and Pensions MSIPB(Sep09)10**

5.5 DWP outlined the key data sources and explained that a data sharing order was planned for Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study data in the next parliamentary session.

5.6 It was noted that devolved authorities requirements for individual record level access would need to be built into sharing agreements..

**Action: ONS to ensure that devolved Administrations are considered in data sharing agreements**

**Content of Ministerial meeting MSIPB(Sep09)11**

6.1 The Chair thought good progress has been made with more timely data and sharper reporting. A short summary paper on address registers is being prepared for the ministerial group. The board noted the issue of the Address Register was wider than this programme.

**Action: CLG to arrange new date for ministerial meeting**

6.2 The communication strategy would need to be covered in the ministerial meeting, and in particular alerting ministers to the December roadshows, as they would be of public interest. There would also need to be a short item on the Authority's Review.

6.3 CLG agreed to circulate the list of members of the ministerial group.

**Action: CLG to circulate list of members of the ministerial group to Board members**

6.4 CLG had circulated a briefing note to all new members of the ministerial group.

**7. Any Other Business**

7.1 There were no other items of business.

Date of next meeting: 4 December 2009