
**NATIONAL STATISTICS
EDUCATION AND TRAINING THEME WORKING GROUP**

MINUTES OF MEETING 1 DECEMBER 2000

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Malcolm Britton	DfEE (Chair)	Mehdi Hussain	ONS
Ivor Johnston	NIDE	Karin Phillips	NAW
Peter Scrimgeour	SE		

ALSO PRESENT

John Canlin	DfEE (Item 5)	Jim Foley	DfEE (Item 3)
Nick Kew	DfEE (Item 4)	Alfred Munster	FEFC

SECRETARIAT

David Canham	NSPD, ONS
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CIRCULATION

All participants

Absent Members:

John Fletcher	DfEE.	Colin Stronach	FEFC
Andy Youell	HESA		

Others for information:

Richard Bartholomew	DfEE	Linda Bradley	NIDHFETE
Audrey Brown	DfEE	Michael Davidson	DfEE
John Elliot	DfEE	Frances Good	WFC
Guy Goodwin	OFSTED	John Kerr	DfEE
Alan Lowndes	ESTYN	Mike Mercer	TTA
Alan Meyrick	GTC	Andrew Ray	DfEE
Phil Rose	DfEE	Louise Stern	QCA
Barry Werner	ONS		

Apologies

Action:

Apologies for absence were received from:

John Fletcher – DfEE

Colin Stronach – FEFC (replaced by Alfred Munster)

Andy Youell – HESA

1. Minutes of last meeting

- a) Agreed as a true record

2. Matters arising

- a) The Secretary reported that the action on the list of E&T outputs in scope had been superseded by the action agreed by TWG Chairs to update StatBase. The Chair encouraged the Group to ensure that procedures were in place in their area to maintain and update StatBase. It was noted that a draft Service Level Agreement (SLA), covering Statbase and the National Statistics website had been circulated for comment. **All**
- b) This SLA had been included in a composite letter sent from ONS NSPD to TWG Chairs and to Heads of Profession. The Chair said he would circulate this correspondence to the TWG. **MB**
- c) It had been agreed at the last meeting that the HESA representative should take on a website co-ordinator role for the theme. It was agreed that the Chair should take on this role, owing to Brian Ramsden's imminent retirement. The Group were invited to nominate someone from their area to take on this role for the long term, and the Secretary was asked to obtain and circulate departmental website contacts. **All**
DC

3. Quality Review Programme

- a) The Chair emphasised that he was keen for the Higher Education (HE) Quality Review Steering Group to include non-English representation. The NIDE representative would need to contact NIDHFETE about an N.Ireland nominee. It was noted that CVCP and HE registry participation in the Review had been successfully obtained but that the Statistics Commission did not wish to participate directly in National Statistics reviews. **IJ**
- b) Andy Youell of HESA was unable to present an oral report (travel difficulties prevented his attendance). The Chair agreed to ask Andy Youell to circulate information about the HE Review progress and the Project Initiation Document to the TWG during January. **AY**
- c) It was noted that the HE Review Project Board was meeting on 12 December.
- d) It was agreed that consultation on the Education and Training review programme for 2001/02 onwards should take place in the first three months **MB,**

of 2001. The Chair would produce a provisional programme which the Group would be required to provide input. **All**

- e) The Group discussed a proposal that Reviews should also include cross-cutting issues (e.g. covering subjects such as Reliability, Gender and School Finance) as well as the current topic based programme. The Secretary would report this view to the ONS Methods and Quality team. The Secretary also reported that there had been a paper on gender statistics presented at the Statistics User Council annual conference which mainly focused on Education and Training statistics. He would forward a copy to the Chair. **DC**
DC

4. National Statistics Planning (Papers 2000(14,15,16))

- a) The Group and Chapter editor Jim Foley went through the revised E&T plan, considering it in the light of consultation responses. Various amendments to the Plan, prompted by these responses, were agreed. These will not all be listed in these minutes but the following points are highlighted and actions noted.
- b) The editor was asked to check the ETSUG response with Audrey Brown at DfEE and circulate the outcome to the Group. The Group were also asked to consider the general issue of reviewing finance data in the Education sector and to pass their views to the editor. **JF**
All
- c) It was agreed that some of the information requested in the NUT response would be supplied in an individual reply to the NUT. The Group were asked to provide information relevant to their area to the editor, with the objective of replying to NUT (and other respondents) by mid-January. **All**
JF
- d) The editor would put together a summary of the responses to the consultation: this will be made available to respondents and placed on the National Statistics website. The Secretary, with Group input as necessary would provide information about the consultation mechanisms used. **JF**
DC
All
- e) The ONS Secretariat needed the next draft of the E&T chapter from the editor by 8 December. It was also agreed that the editor should circulate this draft to the Group who should in turn circulate to colleagues to confirm factual accuracy of all content. **JF**
All
- f) It was agreed that a reference to the Scottish Executive statistics plan should be included in the Interaction with other workplans section
- g) It was noted that some material had been included in the Summary section but not in the main body of the Plan. It was agreed to ensure that all summary material was covered later in the Plan. **JF**

- h) The Group were asked to provide costs for all major developments in the Plan, and to pass these to the editor. **JF**
- i) It was agreed that international organisations should also see the Plan and be given the opportunity to comment. The editor to send the next draft to John Canlin who would circulate. **All, JF**
JF
JC
- j) It was reported that in the past some members had concerns that only DfEE were being represented at international meetings. It was agreed that John Canlin should maintain a register of such meetings and advertise them to the Group in advance. **JC**
- k) The meeting thanked editor Jim Foley for the effective work he had put in to the E&T chapter.

5. Common Basic Dataset and Pupil Level Database

- a) Nick Kew of DfEE gave a presentation on this item. (A handout with presentation slides was made available to the Group). After the presentation the following points were noted and actions agreed:
- b) The NAW said it would be helpful to have more regular dialogue with DfEE on these issues. NAW had received Ministerial approval for a feasibility study and this pilot was due to take place in 2001. NAW also had staff resource now in place. The Chair and Nick Kew offered to meet/support this person as necessary. **MB, NK**
KP
- c) The Scottish Executive reported on progress. It was noted that these initiatives would have resource implications for both schools and for government.
- d) The NIDE reported that unique pupil numbers were not available in N.Ireland. Returns of anonymised individual records of secondary pupils are received annually.
- e) Nick Kew was thanked for his presentation. The Chair stated that he would like future TWG meetings to include similar presentations. The Chair and the Group to consider suitable topics. **MB, All**

6. Any other business

- a) UK Education and Training Group John Canlin of DfEE introduced this topic and asked the Group for their views on the objectives and membership of the Group as previously circulated. The intention was to draw up formal Terms of Reference during December and to hold the first meeting in January.

- b) It was agreed that the remit of the UK Group should incorporate international matters. **JC**
- c) The NIDE member reported that the N.Ireland Dept of Higher and Further Education, Training and Employment, in the person of Linda Bradley, should be represented on the UK Group. **JC**
- d) It was agreed that a clearer timetable and specific outputs for the UK Group should be established. John Canlin was asked to produce these and circulate to the TWG for comment. The UK Group itself would need to consider whether it should be a permanent or temporary body. **JC**
- e) Education and Training chapter in Social Trends Peter Scrimgeour of SE introduced this topic. It was stated that this chapter was too English focused and that more UK material could and should have been used, if the territorial departments had had the time to supply the relevant data. It was agreed that this was a suitable topic for the UK Group to take forward, and that a meeting with ONS might be required. **All**
- f) Scope of Education and Training theme The Chair said that further ONS guidance was needed on this, for example on the process in terms of the involvement of Ministers and the National Statistician, and on standards in terms of what can be called National Statistics. The Secretary reported that this topic would probably be discussed at the National Statistics Planning Board. **JC**
- g) Future location, agenda and date of next meeting The Group were asked to consider whether alternative locations to Caxton House would be of benefit. The Chair and Secretary would determine the agenda and timing of the next meeting, which is likely to be influenced by the overall Planning process. **All**
- h) The Chair thanked all members and guests for their contributions. **MB, DC**

David Canham
Secretary
Education and Training Theme Working Group
January 2000