

Terms of Reference – Construction Statistics Steering Group

Purpose

The Construction Statistics Steering Group will provide a forum for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to engage with key users of construction statistics on the development of ONS published statistics on the construction industry. This will include the development of:

- Price and Cost Indices (PCIs)
- Output in the construction industry
- New orders in the construction industry.

The main aims of the group are:

- to provide feedback and challenge throughout the development of new methods for construction statistics;
- to prioritise the development of construction statistics; and
- to provide feedback on the communication of articles on the new methods and future statistical releases.

The feedback on methods, data and communiqué received from members of this group will not be taken as an individual or their department's / organisation's endorsement of the final products. This information is only being shared with members of this group because of their expertise and knowledge of the construction industry and economic interpretation.

Scope

The statistical outputs in scope are:

- Construction Price and Cost Indices
- Output in the construction industry
- New orders in the construction industry

The impact that proposed methodological changes will have on construction output and new orders data will be discussed. Specific effects on other outputs such as gross fixed capital formation and gross domestic product are out of scope. Where members of the steering group external to ONS are given access to unpublished data for quality assurance purposes, they will be asked to sign a confidentiality agreement.

Escalation procedure

In any cases where members of the group feel that the above scope has been breached and these cannot be otherwise resolved, the issues will be escalated to the Director, National Accounts and Economic Statistics, ONS, Statistical Heads of Profession (HM Treasury, Office for Budget Responsibility, BIS) and the Chief Economist (Bank of England).

Frequency and timing of meetings

It is anticipated that the Steering Group will meet every six weeks throughout the 18 month development programme of the PCIs, with additional updates as required to coincide with key points in the development timetable. The frequency of meetings will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Minutes

ONS will publish minutes of all meetings on its website within 10 working days of the meeting. Draft minutes will be circulated to participating members for agreement within 5 working days of the meeting.

Review

The terms of reference and membership of the group will be reviewed and updated as necessary as the development of new methods for the PCIs progresses.

Involvement

- **Chair:** Head of Expenditure, Households and Economic Indicators Division, ONS.
- **Members:**
 - Department of Business, Innovation and Skills
 - HM Treasury
 - Infrastructure UK, HM Treasury
 - Bank of England
 - Office of Budget Responsibility
 - Bartlett School of Construction and Project Management, UCL
 - Building.co.uk
 - E C Harris
 - Construction Products Association
 - Barbour ABI
 - Glenigan
 - Experian
 - Methodology, ONS
 - Construction, ONS
 - Business Prices, ONS
- **Secretariat:** ONS