

# Summary of ONS consultation responses

October 2014

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## Introduction

ONS is committed to engaging with our customers and users to:

- ensure that our statistics and analyses meet their needs; and
- enable our customers and users to influence our future priorities, plans and outputs.

We are committed to continuous improvement, and recognise that there is more we could do to demonstrate that we are listening to our customers and users and responding to their feedback. This document provides a summary of the ONS consultations carried out since January 2013. It explains what we consulted on, summarises respondent feedback and describes the actions we have taken in response. In future, we will include a summary as part of the consultation response. We will also publish an annual summary of all ONS consultations.

## Consultation on the reporting of International Migration statistics

Consultation period: 20 June - 18 July 2014

### **Background**

International Migration statistics are of interest to a wide audience, including central and local government, international statistical institutions, academia, the media and the public. Sources of migration statistics were first brought together in 2009 in the Migration Statistics Quarterly Report (MSQR). Some changes were made to the report in 2011 following feedback from users, but since then the report had grown in length and may not have presented the key areas of interest in the best way. We wanted your comments on the future of migration statistics, and on proposals to shorten and restructure the Migration Statistics Quarterly Report.

### **We asked**

What your views were on our proposals to shorten and restructure the Migration Statistics Quarterly Report (MSQR) and on other aspects of migration reporting.

### **You said**

- The majority of you wanted a shorter report.
- The majority of you wanted more information on the reliability of migration estimates.
- The majority of you wanted us, where possible, to announce short stories in advance of publication.
- A minority of you wanted more prominence to be given to local area migration data and short-term migration estimates.
- You wanted a single web page with links to all migration related data.

### **We did**

- We shortened the report and introduced a new structure which was more flexible for reporting on new trends.
- We added a new section to the report on the accuracy of migration statistics.
- We provided a link to the [Migration Theme Page](#), where links to migration products could be found.
- We aimed to announce short stories in advance, but continued to respond to emerging trends using existing published data.
- After considering your comments on local and short-term migration estimates, we decided not to add them to this report, but to add more prominent links to other migration related products (including [Short-term Migration Annual Report](#), the [Local Area Migration Indicators Suite](#) and [Home Office Immigration Statistics](#)). We also began work on new infographics and data visualisations, which make better use of local area migration data.

## Consultation on Small Area Population Estimates

Consultation period: 16 June - 25 July 2014

### **Background**

We produce official population estimates for the UK and its constituent countries, the regions of England and Wales, local authorities and other geographic areas within England and Wales. Following changes to the organisational structure of the NHS in England, introduced by the Health and Social Care Act, 2012 we reviewed the range of health geographies for which population estimates would be produced. In particular, we wanted your views on the need for population estimates for former health geographies.

### **We asked**

What you thought of our proposal to withdraw population estimates for former health geographies.

What you thought of the accuracy and timing of small area population estimates.

How you used small population estimates.

### **You said**

- The majority of you agreed that you were happy for us to withdraw population estimates for former health geographies.
- The majority of you were happy with the accuracy of the statistics, although there were some concerns over the accuracy of the local authority population estimates (from which small area population estimates are derived) and estimates for areas whose boundaries do not match Output Areas.
- The majority of you thought the timing of the statistics (three to four months after the national population estimates) was acceptable, but any steps to reduce this time lag were welcomed.
- You mostly use these statistics for:
  - local government planning purposes and performance indicators;
  - inputs to local models and analyses, e.g. population forecasting;
  - health planning and production of health indicators.

### **We did**

- We agreed to discontinue population estimates for former health geographies.
- We confirmed that all other small area population estimates would continue to be published, including population estimates for current health geographies.

## [Consultation on Population Estimates by Marital Status and Living Arrangements](#)

Consultation period: 3 June - 11 July 2014

### **Background**

We publish estimates of the England and Wales population by marital status and provide estimates of the resident population who are single, married, widowed or divorced. There had been changes in society which impacted on these estimates, such as rising cohabitation, the growth in people marrying abroad and the introduction of civil partnerships and marriage of same-sex couples.

The publication of data from the 2011 Census on marital status in England and Wales provided a good opportunity to review whether the output was still fit for purpose. As part of this review, we welcomed your views on a proposed change to the method used and tables produced.

### **We asked**

What you thought of our proposals to update Population Estimates by Marital Status and Living Arrangements statistics.

### **You said**

- The majority of you did not have concerns about the change of method. Some of you had concerns about the changes affecting the quality, coverage or accuracy of the data.
- The majority of you did not have concerns about the proposed new tables.
- The majority of you wanted more detailed living arrangements categories rather than more detailed age groups.
- The majority of you wanted estimates to be published from 2002 onwards.

### **We did**

- We agreed to use the new proposed methodology for future publications including:
  - one table presenting legal marital status by sex and five year age bands;
  - a second table presenting living arrangements in greater detail by sex and less detailed age bands.
- We decided to continue publishing the data for England and Wales only.
- We agreed to include data from 2002 onwards for the legal marital status table and the living arrangements table.
- We decided to include an estimate of same sex couples who are married by sex, but only if at least three people in same sex couples who are married have been surveyed in the Labour Force Survey.

## Country groupings in International Migration statistics

Consultation period: 20 June - 18 July 2014

### **Background**

Historically, a variety of country groupings were used by different government departments and some groupings had become less relevant as trends in international migration had changed over time. Following a commitment to provide a coherent picture of international migration trends from across the different data available, we were considering harmonising the groupings used in the reporting of migration statistics.

### **We asked**

If you thought the country groupings used in international migration statistics reporting and data tables should be harmonised with those used across other government departments.

### **You said**

- You broadly agreed with the proposals for harmonising the groupings used for reporting migration statistics.
- Time series data is required and any changes would ideally need to be backdated to 1975. It needs to be clearly explained that the membership/availability of country groups will change over time e.g. due to EU Accession.
- The UK grouping including British dependencies is inconsistent with other ONS outputs. The composition of this grouping will need to be reconsidered, and explained in the footnotes.
- There is a need to split the 'EU 2004 and onwards' group into EU15, EU8, EU2 and Other EU/EEA.
- There should be further splits of other country groupings.

### **We did**

- We harmonised tables, where possible, across departments.
- We agreed to reassess the proposed new groupings, in particular the UK and EU groupings.
- A review was conducted of how to group other countries within the EU/EEA group (e.g. the EEA countries: Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) and the other EU countries (Malta, Cyprus and Croatia).
- We considered whether any of the other proposals in Table 1 (see full response) could/should be implemented.
- We developed three new single variable International Passenger Survey (IPS) tables by citizenship, country of birth and country of last/next residence using the new country groupings, which will be published in November 2014.

## [Consultation on the 2012-based Subnational Population Projections for England](#)

Consultation period: 20 January - 28 February 2014

### **Background**

We wanted your help to improve the quality and acceptability of the projections before they were published. The consultation papers set out the proposed data sources and methods used to produce the 2012-based Sub-national Population Projections for England and the outputs we intended to publish. We also held a number of consultation meetings which enabled representatives of local authorities to see the provisional data for their area.

### **We asked**

What you thought of our proposals for the 2012-based Subnational Population Projections.

### **You said**

- You did not object to the proposed changes to the outputs.
- You had some concerns regarding the migration trends for certain areas and suggested possible reasons for these.
- The majority of you agreed with the ONS proposal not to make an adjustment for Unattributable Population Change (UPC) in the 2012-based Sub-national Population Projections.
- You wanted better supporting documentation to be published alongside the projections.

### **We did**

- We implemented the proposed changes and agreed to publish the component of change tables by single year of age. The tables published in this release can be found on the [ONS website](#).
- Small methodology changes were made for calculating the likelihood of moving out of an area. However, we did not make any changes to the migration assumptions that were proposed for any individual areas. Following the publication of the 2012-based Subnational Population Projections, we will investigate whether some of the suggestions raised could be implemented as improvements in the 2014-based projections, planned for release in 2016.
- We recognised that UPC can have a significant impact at some age and sex groups in some local authorities, but found that there was insufficient evidence that an adjustment for UPC should be made. We did not plan to produce any variant subnational population projections but agreed to consider these as part of our future work plan.
- We included some of your requests for further information in this release. For example, publishing a methodology document which is easier to understand and health warnings that clearly explain what the projections are and how they should be used.

## Customer satisfaction survey 2013/14

Consultation period: January – March 2014

### **Background**

In January 2014, we conducted our first comprehensive Customer Satisfaction Survey of a sample of over 1,000 users, including those from central government departments, local government, academia, the media and voluntary organisations.

### **We asked**

How satisfied you were with ONS products and services.

The survey asked questions on many aspects of ONS work, including the quality of our statistics, our engagement with you and your overall satisfaction with our performance.

### **You said**

- The majority of you were satisfied with our overall performance.
- The majority of you trusted ONS statistics.
- The majority of you were satisfied with the overall quality of ONS statistics and outputs.
- The majority of you would speak highly of ONS.
- You thought the ONS website had improved in the last year, but that it needed further improvement.
- You thought we were good at consulting with you to help inform our work, but that often there was little evidence of ONS acting on the feedback it receives.
- You said we need to do more to inform you about our products and services.

### **We did**

- We published an [initial response](#), outlining the findings of the survey and identifying the areas where we need to improve. An update on the actions we are taking to improve our products and services in response to your feedback will be published in December 2014.
- We identified a number of actions to help keep users and customers more informed (e.g. production of a monthly [ONS Update](#)) and demonstrate how we are listening to customer/user feedback (e.g. the publication of these consultation summaries).



## **Consultation on proposals from the review of Public Sector Finance statistics**

Consultation period: 17 December 2013 - 28 January 2014

### **Background**

Following the UK Statistics Authority's report on the Asset Purchase Facility of June 2014 we reviewed the Public Sector Finance statistics.

The review of Public Sector Finance statistics focused on two key areas:

- improving the presentation of the statistics to ensure they are well presented and easily understood;
- reviewing the methodology and guidance which underpins the "ex-measures" of Public Sector Net Debt and Borrowing which were developed in response to the financial crisis to ensure they remain robust, statistically coherent and future-proofed.

After concluding this process, we decided to consult you on the outcome from this work.

### **We asked**

What you thought of our proposals for the Public Sector Finances.

### **You said**

- You broadly welcomed the proposals, especially the proposal to publish more detailed component data on expenditure and receipts, and the proposal to identify clearly all one-off factors.
- You wanted further information to support Public Sector Finance statistics, including a glossary of terms and contextual information on liquid assets and other debt measures.

### **We did**

- We agreed to implement the proposals throughout 2014.
- We agreed to incorporate some of the additional information you requested, such as a glossary of terms, into future editions of Public Sector Finance statistics.
- User events to discuss the proposals were held to ensure our changes are meeting your needs. Further events will be held in future.

## User requirements for marriage, divorce and civil partnership statistics given the introduction of marriage of same sex couples

Consultation period: 8 October – 17 December 2013

### **Background**

When legislation was passed which allowed same sex couples to marry in England and Wales, it affected our marriage, divorce and civil partnership statistics. We needed to understand user requirements for these statistics in light of the change in legislation.

### **We asked**

What your requirements were for statistics on marriage, divorce and civil partnership given the introduction of marriages to same sex couples.

### **You said**

- The majority of you did not need a set of tables where marriages to opposite sex and same sex couples were combined to provide figures on total marriages.
- The majority of you felt that civil partnerships were different from marriage and so should be kept separate in published tables.
- The majority of you felt that it was very important that some tables show the number of marriages to opposite sex and same sex couples separately.
- The majority of you needed statistics on the number of civil partnerships which are converted into marriage.
- The majority of you did not require some tables to show the total number of divorces (opposite sex and same sex couples combined together).
- The majority of you felt that it was very important that some tables show the number of divorces to opposite sex and same sex couples separately.
- The majority of you felt that civil partnership dissolutions were different from divorce and so should be kept separate in published tables.

### **We did**

- We agreed to publish marriage and divorce statistics providing separate figures for both opposite sex and same sex couples.
- We decided that published statistics would not combine marriages with civil partnerships and divorces with civil partnership dissolutions.
- We agreed to publish one summary table to show the total number of marriages, and the number of marriages to both same sex and opposite sex couples.
- We decided to publish statistics on the number of civil partnership conversions, when these became available.
- We agreed to publish one summary table to show the total number of divorces, and the number of divorces to both same sex and opposite sex couples.

## [The census and future provision of population statistics in England and Wales](#)

Consultation period: 23 September – 13 December 2013

### **Background**

Following a successful 2011 Census, the Government began a review of the scope and value of future censuses. We researched various methods for collecting future census data, including the traditional paper survey, online surveys and using administrative data. We needed to understand which approach best suited our customers, while delivering value for money.

### **We asked**

You to consider and comment on two approaches to future census taking:

- A census once a decade, but conducted primarily online, or
- A census using existing government data and compulsory annual surveys.

### **You said**

- You still wanted detailed information about small areas and small populations offered by the decennial census, whether online or paper-based.
- You were concerned that the proposed use of an annual survey of 4 per cent of households (to support the use of existing administrative data) would not meet these needs, nor deliver the required small area and small population statistics offered by the decennial census.
- You welcomed more frequent statistics that could be provided between censuses by the use of administrative data and annual surveys, but not at the expense of the detailed statistics.
- You thought that the methods using administrative data and surveys show considerable potential, but they were not yet mature enough to replace the decennial census.
- You most wanted a hybrid approach, making the best of both approaches, with an online census in 2021 enhanced by administrative data and household surveys.

### **We did**

- We [recommended](#) a predominantly online census in 2021 supplemented by the further use of administrative and survey data. The recommendation was [accepted](#) by the Government.

## Zero hours contracts consultation

Consultation period: 23 October – 12 November 2013

### **Background**

'Zero hours' contracts became an increasing phenomenon in the workplace and subject to political and social scrutiny. As such, we needed to provide accurate statistics on the number of people working with employment contracts which do not guarantee a minimum number of hours. We wanted users' views on our proposals for collecting source data for this type of contract.

### **We asked**

What your views were on our proposal for collecting data on zero hours contracts through a pilot telephone survey.

If you wanted us to obtain further information on zero hours contracts from either household surveys or business surveys.

### **You said**

- You mostly welcomed the proposed data collection to be run by a phone survey to businesses, but requested further data which can be best supplied from the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

### **We did**

- We responded to your feedback by developing the questions on the LFS to ensure that it provides a more rounded picture of zero hours contracts.
- We considered including a question on zero hour contracts on our Business Register and Employment survey (BRES), subject to evaluation of the new business-based survey.
- A [report setting out the results of the February / March phone survey of businesses](#) was published on 30 April 2014. The report included additional analysis of existing Labour Force Survey data covering the final quarter of 2013.

## Consultation on statistical products 2013

Consultation period: 2 September – 31 October 2013

### **Background**

Due to funding pressures, we needed to make annual savings of around £9 million over two years. Most of these savings were to come from streamlining business operations, but some cuts to statistical products were also necessary. We wanted to understand what products were most important to our customers before making any decisions.

### **We asked**

What your thoughts were on the need for, and use of, 38 non-statutory outputs so we could determine which proposed cuts would have the least impact on our users.

This consultation covered outputs in the following areas: specific surveys; regional and local, health statistics and analyses, life events, and health inequalities analysis.

### **You said**

- Your support for each output varied and you indicated the relative impact of cutting each of the outputs you use.

### **We did**

- We took account of all feedback to categorise each output into one of three groups:
  - high impact outputs, supported by a wide range of stakeholders (group one);
  - high impact outputs with less widespread support (group two); and
  - lower impact outputs (group three).
- We published the consultation findings and reported that we would:
  - continue to fund and produce the high impact outputs in group one.
  - continue to produce the high impact outputs in group two if alternative solutions for producing them could be found.
  - discontinue all the lower impact outputs in group three.
- We explored alternative sources of funding for the second group of outputs with a number of government departments/agencies and other organisations. Following these very constructive discussions, we published an [updated response](#) on the final outcomes for all 38 outputs.

## [Integrated Household Survey questionnaire content review 2014](#)

Consultation period: 13 September – 11 October 2013

### **Background**

The Integrated Household Survey (IHS) is the UK's largest social survey, collecting responses from around 335,000 adults in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. As part of the annual questionnaire review, we proposed to omit the sexual identity questions from the IHS for 2014, and then reinstate them in 2015. It was proposed these questions would be replaced by a set of new questions, collecting data on military veterans due to their policy importance.

### **We asked**

What you thought of our proposal to change the Integrated Household Survey from 2011 to:

- rotate the existing sexual identity questions on a biennial basis (collecting information once every two years to still meet policy / user needs); and
- introduce new military veterans questions in the Integrated Household Survey (IHS).

### **You said**

- Rotating questions in and out of the survey would help to reduce the questionnaire length and keep the burden on respondents low.
- You supported the inclusion of military veteran questions, which were seen to have a strong policy need supporting their inclusion.
- You were concerned about the rotation of sexual identity questions from the IHS, because it was one of the few sources of data on lesbian, gay and bisexual people in the UK, and the annual rotation of sexual identity questions would reduce your ability to meet statutory obligations of the Public Sector Equality Duty to monitor and report to Parliament.
- You were concerned about the potential loss of analysis opportunities resulting from the proposal. This included the loss of year on year trend analysis, and the loss of ability to combine data into larger data sets.

### **We did**

- We listened to your feedback, retaining the sexual identity questions on the 2014 IHS questionnaire, and not rotating these questions on a biennial (every two years) basis.
- We investigated options which would allow the proposed veterans questions to be included on the IHS in 2014; however this collection would be limited to the Annual Population Survey component of the IHS.

## Implementation of the 2013 European Standard Population

Consultation period: 9 August – 3 October 2013

### **Background**

The European Standard Population (ESP) is an artificial population structure which is used in the weighting of mortality or incidence data to produce age standardised rates. Eurostat, the statistical institute of the European Union, decided to bring this population structure up to date. We consulted on how to implement the change in the UK on behalf of all government bodies that were affected.

However, because the various government bodies vary in their responsibilities, they did not necessarily all follow the same approach following the consultation.

### **We asked**

How you thought changes to the European Standard Population should be implemented in the UK.

### **You said**

- Very few people responded to our question about implementation of the 2013 ESP. The majority of those who responded agreed.
- You mostly agreed that the changes should be implemented in a 'controlled flow' - statistics producers begin introducing the 2013 ESP from an agreed date, revise their publications in an agreed order of priority, and finish all revisions by an agreed date.
- You had mixed views on whether a time series revision back to 1994 was necessary.
- You mostly thought priority should be given to national level data and to all-cause mortality and/or all-site cancer incidence. However, six answers went into more detail in listing major causes of death such as coronary heart disease; nine mentioned the need for figures for local authorities and NHS geographies; and three expressed a need for revised figures at ward or Lower Super Output Area level.

### **We did**

- We recommended that all implementation should take place in 2014.
- We used the 1976 ESP for a few publications in 2014, to complete the cycle of scheduled statistics production for cancers diagnosed in 2011 and deaths registered in 2012.
- Revisions were made to key mortality time series back to 1994, and cancer incidence series back to 1971.
- Papers were published describing the effects of ESP change on main causes of death and cancer sites.
- Research papers were published on the estimation of older population and related issues.

## Consultation on workplace and residence estimates of Regional Gross Value Added

Consultation period: 7 June – 30 August 2013

### Background

A review was conducted on the methodology used to compile workplace-based and residence-based estimates of regional Gross Value Added (GVA) in the Regional Accounts. Following the review we proposed to:

- introduce independent measures of workplace and residence-based Compensation of Employees (CoE) at the NUTS1 (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) level of regional geography;
- apportion corporate profits to regions using total Gross Operating Surplus/Mixed Income (GOS/MI) instead of using workplace CoE at all levels of regional geography.

### We asked

What your views were on our proposed changes to the methodology of workplace-based and residence-based estimates of GVA in the Regional Accounts.

### You said

- You supported the proposals.
- You were concerned that the finance and insurance industries are not fully covered by the Annual Business Survey.
- You wanted the method changes extended to NUTS2 and NUTS3 areas.
- You provided a mixed response on whether we should produce residence-based estimates for GVA for the lower level areas.
- You find the presentation of different measures of GVA confusing.
- You wanted improved methodology guidance.

### We did

- We implemented the proposed changes for the Regional GVA bulletin.
- We noted the data about self-employed people and the finance and insurance industries as an issue to be addressed when a more suitable data source could be obtained.
- After reviewing your comments, we decided to extend the method changes to NUTS2 and NUTS3 areas, with a few exceptions.
- We decided not to take any more steps to produce residence-based estimates for GVA.
- A project was started to develop a single measure of GVA, tentatively aiming for completion by December 2015.
- A report was published with updated methodology guidance, as you requested.



## **National Accounts and related statistics work plan: 2013/14 to 2017/18**

Consultation period: 31 May – 31 July 2013

### **Background**

We wanted your views on a five year work plan for National Accounts and other outputs that have a close relationship. The work plan included revisions to legally required frameworks (European System of Accounts 2010, Balance of Payments Manual version 6) and guidelines beginning in September 2014.

### **We asked**

What your views were on our five year work plan for National Accounts and other outputs that have a close relationship.

### **You said**

- You welcomed the publication of a work plan for National Accounts and related statistics.
- You supported the ONS strategy and what it meant for the National Accounts work plan.
- You thought that a monthly Gross Domestic product (GDP) estimate was not necessary.
- You supported expanding the Business Investment publication.

### **We did**

- We agreed not to publish a monthly estimate of GDP.
- We trialled Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) asset and industry breakdowns in the Second Estimate of GDP, and planned to continue developing these statistics.

## **Publication of New Orders in the Construction Industry data**

Consultation period: 22 March – 14 June 2013

### **Background**

We wanted your views on proposed changes to the [New Orders in the Construction Industry](#) publication.

### **We asked**

What tables you used in the [New Orders in the Construction Industry](#) publication, and what you used them for.

How ceasing to publish some of the tables would affect you.

### **You said**

- Some of the tables in the publication were of limited interest.

### **We did**

- We discontinued the tables which you said you don't use. A full list of the tables consulted on can be found in the [consultation response](#).

## **Retail outlet data publication removal**

Consultation period: 16 April – 31 May 2013

### **Background**

A review of the retail outlets methodology and processes was undertaken which highlighted that similar information was available from the Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR). The IDBR collects, validates and publishes retail outlet data via the annual publication - [Business Activity Size and Location](#). In light of this, we wanted to know if users still needed counts of retail outlets.

### **We asked**

If you thought we should stop publishing the counts of retail outlets table (from reference year 2011) in the Annual Business Survey (ABS).

### **You said**

- You agreed with the proposal.

### **We did**

- We ceased publication of the annual table.

## Consultation on the measures of human capital

Consultation period: 7 December 2012 – 28 February 2013

### Background

Human capital is a measure of the economic value of an employee's skill set. It is a driver of economic growth and if measured accurately can ensure a better understanding of the dynamics of an economy. We had a number of questions on possible developments to the way we measure human capital, and wanted to better understand how estimates of human capital would be used.

### We asked

What you thought of the methodology for Human Capital Estimates.

What you thought of our proposals for future development of Human Capital Estimates.

How you used Human Capital Estimates.

### You said

- The majority of you accepted that the Lifetime Labour Income approach was the most appropriate way to measure human capital.
- The majority of you thought that there were methodological issues which needed to be addressed with this approach.
- The majority of you thought that further breakdowns of the estimates would be desirable and useful for policymaking.
- The majority of you thought we should produce estimates of 'potential human capital' in addition to 'employed human capital'.
- You all agreed that further information was required on workforce training.
- You all agreed we should explore the use of panel surveys, such as 'Understanding Society', to better understand human capital estimates over time.
- You all agreed that we did not need to produce quarterly estimates of human capital, but should instead focus on the timeliness of annual estimates.
- You unanimously did not use human capital estimates much at the moment, but thought that their development was a vital part of moving 'beyond GDP'.

### We did

- We developed an estimate for 'potential' human capital in addition to estimates of 'employed' human capital, as the majority of you suggested. This was first published in December 2013.
- We prioritised research into the feasibility of further breakdowns of human capital estimates, particularly regional breakdowns.
- We agreed to update the Human Capital Estimates annually and improve the timeliness – in 2014 the estimates were published in August, rather than December.

## [Review of cancer incidence and survival statistics](#)

Consultation period: 18 December 2012 – 20 February 2013

### **Background**

We reviewed our cancer incidence and survival outputs to ensure that they continued to meet users' requirements. As part of this exercise we consulted users on how National Statistics on cancer incidence and survival should be developed in the future.

### **We asked**

What you thought of our proposals to develop statistics on cancer incidence and survival.

### **You said**

- You raised concerns that new outputs might cause duplication of effort between ONS and other organisations.
- You questioned whether ONS or another organisation would be best placed to carry out additional work.
- You questioned the quality of data collected for stage, treatment and patient's occupation and thought that it might could impact on the accuracy of any new outputs.
- You mostly agreed that the new proposed outputs would be useful, but also had concerns about the quality of the existing data.
- You suggested three additional outputs which were not included in the proposal: cancer prevalence, median survival and distribution of treatment types at a sub-national level.
- You mostly thought information on occupation would not be useful.

### **We did**

- We agreed that duplication of effort should be avoided and welcomed collaborative working between ONS and other organisations in the development of cancer incidence and survival statistics. This was to be achieved by ensuring that there was consistency in the split between what ONS provides and what other organisations provide.
- We started pursuing the possibility of producing National Statistics on the distribution of stage at diagnosis and survival by stage at diagnosis.
- We aimed to publish Experimental Statistics on the distribution of stage at diagnosis and survival by stage at diagnosis by 2015 subject to funding.
- We investigated breaking down the proposed outputs by demographic factors and geographical area, as you requested.
- We agreed not to produce information on occupation.
- We decided not to produce treatment related statistics following concerns raised about the quality and consistency of this information.
- Our investigations into the feasibility of producing cancer prevalence statistics continued.
- We decided not to publish estimates of median survival, because we did not think this would be a useful indicator for a variety of statistical reasons.