



Minutes of the National Statistics Harmonisation Group (NSHG) Meeting
8th March 2017
1100 to 1330 hrs
ONS, 1 Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Attendees:

Steve Ellerd-Elliott (Chair)	MoJ
Alison Pritchard (video – Newport)	ONS
Andrew Phelps (video – Newport)	ONS
Ann Blake (audio – Titchfield)	ONS
Becki Aquilina (video - Titchfield)	ONS
Ben Coleman	NAO
Charlie Wroth-Smith	ONS
Charlotte Guinee (video – Newport)	ONS
Darren Barnes (audio – Newport)	ONS
Darren Stillwell	DfT
Emily Knipe (video – Titchfield)	ONS
Emma Dickinson (video – Newport)	ONS
Jill Morton (audio – Scotland)	NRS
Joy Preece (video – Newport)	ONS
Karen Hurrell (video – Manchester)	EHRC
Katrina Morrison (video – Newport)	ONS
Lisa Walters (audio - Cardiff)	Welsh Gov
Marina Wright (video – Newport)	ONS
Paul Benson	HSE
Penni McClure	ONS
Pete Betts	ONS
Rafael Mastrangelo (audio – HMRC)	HMRC
Roger Smith (video – Newport)	ONS
Samaa Elsandabessee (video – Titchfield)	ONS
Scott Edgar	DCLG
Steve Cooley (video – Titchfield)	ONS
Steve Webster	NHS Digital
Mark Herniman (Secretariat)	ONS

Apologies:

Andrew McCormick	NISRA
Becky Tinsley	ONS
Bonang Lewis	ONS
Catherine Davies	ONS
Dawn Camus	BEIS
Fiona Aitchison	ONS
Hugh Kerr	NISRA
Ian O’Sullivan	ONS
Ian Sidney	ONS
Jacob Wilcock	DFID
Jonathan Swan	ONS
Martin Ralphs	ONS
Matthew Steel	ONS
Michelle Monkman	ONS
Nazma Nessa	DfE
Nick Barford	ONS
Rebecca Hulme	Ofsted
Roger Smith	ONS
Sean White	ONS
Steve Cooley	ONS
Thomas Sims	DWP
Tim Vizard	ONS

1.0 Welcome and Introduction – Steve Ellerd-Elliott

The Chair introduced himself as the new NSHG Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2.0 Minutes and Actions from the previous meeting, NSHG (16:3) 16 – Steve Ellerd-Elliott

There were no comments from the previous minutes and these were accepted as a true reflection of the last meeting. All bar three of the actions were complete and it was agreed these should be progressed outside of the meeting.

ACTION 1 – NSHG Secretariat to progress actions 5, 6, 14 from the 9 Nov 16 NSHG meeting

3.0 Update on Harmonisation Work

a. GSS SPSC Meeting Report, Verbal Update – Steve Ellerd-Elliott

The main points were:

- the most recent GSS SPSC meeting was held 12th January 2017
- there were no substantive items on harmonisation
- previous action for NSH SG Chair to feedback views on the approval of the 'Age Banding' proposal
- SPSC have given the NSH SG permission to approve harmonised principles, reporting back to the SPSC
- the revised 'Harmonisation Process Model' and the new 'Harmonisation Handbook' were both well received by the NSHG SG
- the 2017 Communication Plan is now a joint NSH SG and NSHG plan and is attached as an annex to the NSHG Workplan

b. Review of the NSHG Workplan, NSHG (17:1) 01 – Mark Herniman

The following additional points were discussed:

- the chair encouraged members to have a look at the Communication Plan and to think about areas of the plan where they might be able to contribute
- the secretariat was asked to circulate an email regarding ideas or thoughts for inclusion in the Communication Plan

ACTION 2 – Secretariat to circulate an email to encourage members to think about ideas for inclusion in the Communication Plan.

c. Business Harmonisation, Verbal Update – Ian Sidney

Ian was unable to attend the meeting but members were briefed on progress with business harmonisation via the update in the NSHG Workplan. There were no comments or questions.

d. Update on Good Practice Team & Harmonisation, NSHG (17:1) 02 – Martin Ralphs

Martin was unable to attend the meeting but the update was presented. The following additional points were discussed:

- members were encouraged to look at the Policy Store, aiming to bring together a range of guidance, policies and standards from across the GSS into one place (www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/policy-store/)
- the aim of the co-location of the Harmonisation Team with the Good Practice Team and the Quality Centre was to have more of an outward GSS focus rather than be ONS centric

4.0 Verbal Update – UK Census Topic Work – Ann Blake

The following points were discussed:

- a meeting took place in February to review the status of the various topics and there are several key topics receiving the most attention, harmonisation wise
- Sexual identity/gender identity
 - joint acceptability testing is currently being carried out in the UK, due to close this week in England, Wales and Scotland and a week later in Northern Ireland (due to purdah)
 - a paper was presented to the UK Census Committee (chaired by John Pullinger) last week, representing a joint UK approach on the decisions to be made on UK topics for the census

- there are differing country specific concepts that need to be considered
- the decision-making framework that was presented at the meeting was accepted by the UK Census Committee
- all countries are working with the same harmonised approach in making decisions
- Veterans/Armed Forces Community
 - working closely with the MOD over several months to discuss three strands of work
 - o getting access to MOD data to understand more about the veteran's community and understand the gaps that exist in the admin data
 - o work is ongoing to look at estimates over three and five years on the Annual Population Survey which asks questions on veterans
 - o considering how to ask questions on the Census if the admin data does not meet the need
 - Armed Forces questions were added to the English Housing Survey (EHS) in 2014 and these can be shared with the Census

ACTION 3 – Scot Edgar to share copies of the EHS Armed Forces questions with Ann Blake (ann.blake@ons.gov.uk) as soon as possible

- Ethnic Group
 - currently looking at three variations of the questions
 - o an online version of the 2011 question, split into two parts (being used in the 2017 Test)
 - o a two-part question asking respondents to categorise their Ethnic Group at the high level and second part of the question offers a predictive text write-in box
 - o a third version of the question which includes an additional tick box
 - members were interested in the predictive text write-in box option (and any analysis of the text) for the Ethnic Group question and in general and asked if this could be shared.

ACTION 4 – Ann Blake to ask Michelle Walters to share information on the predicative text write-in box option and any text analysis for the Ethnic Group question

- Scotland are working closely with ONS and are harmonised on all topics except where cases of question specific context exist

5.0 Presentation – DCTP Update – Andrew Phelps & Emma Dickinson

The presentation was shown and the following additional points were discussed:

- the basic aim of the programme is to transform ONS surveys and move towards mixed mode collection including online and utilise other survey data as much as possible
- there is a need to transform the questions (not just translate them) for online use, making them easy to use for respondents
- regarding the ethnicity question it was thought that the inclusions were confusing and a suggestion of having just 'includes any white background' may be better as this appears to be what is being asked
- another consideration would be for the different types of device the questions are to be viewed on and the issues caused by screen size
- both the technological and question wording aspects need to be considered
- work around the questions on the LFS is probably further ahead than the Census
- collaboration between the LFS and Census teams is planned and part of this will be to understand why questions differ

- LFS will be writing up their findings from the testing and will share with this group

ACTION 5 – Emma Dickinson to share the findings from the testing of the online questions with the NSHG

- LFS have not tried asking the Ethnic Group questions with just the basic categories (leaving out the inclusions)
- in previous testing respondents appeared to have been using the sub-categories and there appears to be little understanding of what 'Ethnic Group' is among the general population
- It was suggested that previous testing has shown that respondents like to see examples before they choose an option for ethnic group

6.0 Verbal update, GSS Data Discovery and Harmonisation – Darren Barnes

The following points were discussed:

- tasked by John Pullinger and the GSS Presentation Dissemination Committee (PDC) to look at how statistics are presented across the wider spectrum of government and if Gov.UK and similar platforms are the best to do this
- work is on-going to identify the different platforms, processes, tools and publishing mechanisms across all government departments and collate a comprehensive picture of what is available
- a variety of departments (inc the devolved administrations) are being looked at to see what range of skills and capabilities around data dissemination are used
- looking to build a common platform which will hold an online registry of data for users to explore making it more searchable - therefore a lot of harmonisation and standardisation will be required
- a report will be submitted to John Pullinger to suggest how this work can be taken forward
- knowledge and experience of this group will be needed to help with this project
- departments have had an opportunity to feed into this work and having a single platform that better supports statistics across the UK is needed but there was nothing specific this group could do now
- once written, the report on this work will be shared with the NSHG as key stakeholders

ACTION 6 – Darren Barnes to share the report on the GSS Data Discovery Project with the NSHG

ACTION 7 – Darren Barnes to be invited to the next NSHG meeting to present further developments on the GSS Data Discovery Project

7.0 Presentation, National Audit Office's (NAO) Data Service – Ben Coleman

Ben introduced the presentation stating the development of the NAO Data Service was an in-house solution to problems around not having a single portal for data and the absence in the standards for the way government departments release data. The following additional points were discussed:

- looking forward the NAO hope to develop the Data Service further, add data, get more functionality and look to make it available outside the NAO (with the House of Commons Library and the Departmental Directors of Analysis (DDANs) group showing interest)
- data is cleansed by a set of registers and scripts have been developed and applied to the data and this is tightly controlled within a team
- data is quality assured before release to teams who apply a strict clearance process
- mainly Gov.UK data is processed but also some data from HSCIC has been included

- some labour market data, economic activity type data, qualifications data, industries, occupations and employment data are also included - a comprehensive list of included data is on the last slide of the presentation
- all the linking is geographic level based and the data is from sources that are already available as either statistical or open data releases and these are being pulled together
- some of the NAO Data Service does what Data.Gov.UK hoped to do in terms of data linkage and a tool like this would be good to have
- in terms of harmonisation, we need to recognise sometimes things will be asked for or collected in a slightly different way and this may be a challenge with 'snapping' data to other data – age bands are a good example of this only coming together at the higher level
- Ben was happy to attend individual government departments to present the NAO Data Service

8.0 Presentation, Consumer Durables – Joy Preece

The presentation was shown and the following additional points were discussed:

- in addition to the Living Costs and Food (LCF) survey and the Survey on Living Conditions (SLC), the Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS) and the Understanding Society Survey (run by the University of Essex) were the only other organisations identified as using data from the questions and these groups have been invited to join the topic group
- members were asked if the harmonised principle was required and if so what questions should be included and what information should the responses to the questions provide
- the Sustainable Development Goals data produced by the Well-being Inequalities Sustainability and Environment (WISE) branch in ONS may use related questions
- Public Health England run the annual National Diet and Nutrition Survey (NDNS) may also use related questions
- reviewing the questions on Internet Access questions it was clear they do not belong under Consumer Durables but the Department of Culture Media and Sports (DCMS) may be interested in taking the lead on this topic
- a question is asked on the LCF and it was suggested that DWP may have an interest (claimants using the internet)
- the Welsh Government use some of the questions and would also be interested in any question development on Internet access
- there is an Integrated Project Team (IPT) within ONS that covers both business and household interests and they may be interested in leading on this

ACTION 8 – Harmonisation Team to contact DCMS, DWP, Welsh Government, LCF team at ONS and the ONS IPT to see if there is interest in forming a group for Internet Access

- it will be worth keeping an eye on the internet access questions in case they grow into a larger set on general digital use

9.0 NSHG Topic Lead Updates, NSHG (16:3) 14 – Topic Group Leads

The Chair the topic leads for their reports.

Benefits and Tax Credits – Thomas Sims

Thomas was unable to attend the meeting but had submitted a report. There were no comments or questions.

Consumer Durables – Joy Preece

Joy had presented a report and there were no further comments or questions.

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour – Fiona Aitchison

Fiona had presented a report and there were no comments or questions.

Demographic Information – Emily Knipe

Emily presented a report and the following additional points were discussed:

- the Steering Group have approved the new Age Banding Principle 6 covering the older age groups but there were concerns over the new Age Banding Principle 5
- NSHG members have been asked to comment on how the existing Age Banding Principle 4 was used and findings will be discussed with the Harmonisation Team
- regarding Same Sex Marriage or Marital Status question, can NSHG members provide information if they are aware of a need for separate questions or responses or if data is required separately, back to Emily (emily.knipe@ons.gov.uk)

ACTION 9 – If NSHG members are aware of users requiring separate questions or responses or if separate data is required on Same Sex Marriage or Marital Status questions, can they please get in touch with Emily (emily.knipe@ons.gov.uk)

Economic Activity – Roger Smith

Roger had presented a report and added the following:

- a representative from the topic group sits on the Business Harmonisation Task and Finish Group (BHTFG)

Education – Nazma Neesa and Nafeessah Ameeruddin

Nazma was unable to attend the meeting but had presented a report. There were no comments or questions.

EILR – Becki Aquilina (temp)

Becki had presented a report and there were no comments or questions.

Gender Identity – Michelle Monkman

Michelle was unable to attend the meeting but was represented by Samaa Elsandabesee who added the following additional points to the report:

- fieldwork is almost complete and qualitative research is under way with DCM and further qualitative testing is being considered

Health, Disability and Carers – Steve Webster

Steve had presented a report and the following additional points were discussed:

- an additional 2 (possibly 4) members for the group have been identified

Housing and Tenure – Scott Edgar

Scott presented a report and the following additional points were discussed:

- the group now has more members
- the Harmonisation Team has helped in researching where the questions are being used

Income – Matthew Minifie

Matthew had presented a report and there were no comments or questions.

Migration, Country of Birth and Citizenship – Penni McClure

Penni had presented a report and there were no comments or questions.

Pensions – Bonnie Lewis

There was nothing to report for this period.

Personal Well-being – Matthew Steel

There was nothing to report for this period.

Social Capital – Katrina Morrison

Katrina had presented a report and there were no comments or questions.

10.0 Any Other Business

There were no items of AOB but members were asked to contact the Harmonisation Team if they thought of any after the meeting.

11.0 Next Meetings

Dates of the next meetings are:

- Tuesday 11th July 2017, 1100 to 1330 hrs at ONS Drummond Gate, Meeting Room 3, followed by the NSHG Topic Leads Facilitation Meeting (1400 to 1630 Hrs)
- Wednesday 8th November 2017, 1100 to 1330 hrs at ONS Drummond Gate, Meeting Room 3.

Annexes:

- A. List of Actions
- B. Presentation Slides – DCTP Update
- C. Presentation Slides – National Audit Office's Data Linkage System
- D. Presentation Slides – Consumer Durables

ANNEX A

ACTIONS FROM THE NSHG MEETING – 8th March 2017				
No	Para	Action	Responsible	Status
1	2.0	NSHG Secretariat to progress actions 5, 6, 14 from the 9 Nov 16 NSHG meeting	Secretariat	
2	3.0 b	Secretariat to circulate an email to encourage members to think about ideas for inclusion in the Communication Plan.	Secretariat	
3	4.0	Scot Edgar to share copies of the EHS Armed Forces questions with Ann Blake (ann.blake@ons.gov.uk) as soon as possible	Scot Edgar	
4	4.0	Ann Blake to ask Michelle Walters to share information on the predicative text write-in box option and any text analysis for the Ethnic Group question	Ann Blake	
5	5.0	Emma Dickinson to share the findings from the testing of the online questions with the NSHG	Emma Dickinson	
6	6.0	Darren Barnes to share the report on the GSS Data Discovery Project with the NSHG	Darren Barnes	
7	6.0	Darren Barnes to be invited to the next NSHG meeting to present further developments on the GSS Data Discovery Project	Darren Barnes	
8	8.0	Harmonisation Team to contact DCMS, DWP, Welsh Government, LCF team at ONS and the ONS IPT to see if there is interest in forming a group for Internet Access	Harmonisation Team	
9	9.0	If NSHG members are aware of users requiring separate questions or responses or if separate data is required on Same Sex Marriage or Marital Status questions, can they please get in touch with Emily (emily.knipe@ons.gov.uk)	NSHG Members	

Presentation Slides – DCTP Update

DCTPS
Sociodemographic work

What are we doing in DCTPS?

- Redesign the LFS frontal aspect:
 - Household composition: Name, DoB, sex, relationship matrix, marital status (of all householders)
 - Sociodemographics: country of birth (if not UK then questions regarding arrival), national identity, ethnic group, nationality, sexual identity, religion
- Use previous research and redesign work, e.g. EDC alpha
- Work in close collaboration with eQ team – adopt some patterns, challenge others
- Transform not translate
- Mobile and online first

Testing work

- Built in Axure RP Pro – massive scope for functionality
- Cognitive interviews with some usability elements: 2 rounds so far but we'll keep going until we're satisfied
- BYOD – laptops, tablets and phones have been used
- Think aloud
- Retrospective probing

Example - Relationships

- CAPI/ CATI version is conversational. Harder for online
- Long list of responses – high burden
- Guidance confusing to process
- Which relationship are we asking about?

The screenshot shows a web-based survey interface. At the top, there is a title bar and a menu bar. Below that, there is a text area with instructions: "I would now like to ask how all the people in your household are related to each other. Code relationship of MS. JANE SMITH to MS. JOHN SMITH. Treat relatives of Civil Partners as though the Civil Partners were married. Also treat relatives of cohabiting members of the household as though the cohabiting couple were married, including same sex couples." Below the text area is a list of relationship types, each with a radio button and a corresponding code. The list is as follows:

<input type="radio"/> 1. Spouse	<input type="radio"/> 12. Brother (not adopted)
<input type="radio"/> 2. Cohabiting partner	<input type="radio"/> 13. Step brother/step sister
<input type="radio"/> 3. Son/daughter (not adopted)	<input type="radio"/> 14. Foster brother/step sister
<input type="radio"/> 4. Stepson/stepdaughter	<input type="radio"/> 15. Brother-in-law
<input type="radio"/> 5. Foster child	<input type="radio"/> 16. Grand-child
<input type="radio"/> 6. Son-in-law/daughter-in-law	<input type="radio"/> 17. Grand-parent
<input type="radio"/> 7. Parent / Guardian	<input type="radio"/> 18. Other relative
<input type="radio"/> 8. Step-parent	<input type="radio"/> 19. Other non-relative
<input type="radio"/> 9. Foster parent	<input type="radio"/> 20. Civil Partner
<input type="radio"/> 10. Parent-in-law	

Below the list is a table with columns for Name, Relationship, and 20 relationship codes (R1 to R20). The table has 8 rows, with the first row containing the name "MS. JANE SMITH" and the relationship "spouse". The other rows are empty.

Name	Relationship	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	R11	R12	R13	R14	R15	R16	R17	R18	R19	R20
MS. JANE SMITH	spouse																				
MS. JANE SMITH	spouse																				
MS. JANE SMITH	spouse																				
MS. JANE SMITH	spouse																				
MS. JANE SMITH	spouse																				
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MS. JANE SMITH	spouse																				

Office for National Statistics | Survey Help | 0300 1234 931
 ID: 023 | Period: 2016-01-01 | Ref: 12346789012A

BETA Labour Force Survey

Previous

Test 1 Design

What is the relationship between Mr Donald Duck. Male, 1970 and Mrs Daisy Duck. Female, 1975?

Mr Donald Duck. Male, 1970 is the ... of Mrs Daisy Duck. Female, 1975

- Husband or civil partner
- Cohabiting partner
- Parent, including adoptive parent
- Step parent
- Parent-in-law
- Son
Including adopted and foster child
- Step son

Annotations:

- Red arrow from "R's found the two aspects repetitive" points to the question stem.
- Green text: "Fill in the gap" = clarity Worked well (points to the gap in the question stem).
- Red text: "Some issues with terminology" (points to "Cohabiting partner").
- Red text: "Gendered responses worked well – adapt" (points to "Step son").
- Red text: "One page per rel design resulted in repetitive and burdensome experience." (points to the list of options).

Office for National Statistics | Survey Help | 0300 1234 931
 ID: 023 | Period: 2016-01-01 | Ref: 12346789012A

BETA Labour Force Survey

Previous

Test 2 Design

About your household

Who lives at this address?

Include everyone who classifies this address as their main residence

My Details

My Title: Mr

My First or Given Name: John

My Surname or Family Name: Doe

My Gender: Male

My Date of Birth: 01 02 1983

Add another person

Person 2

Title: Mrs

First or Given Name: Jane

Surname or Family Name: Doe

Gender: Female

Date of Birth: 04 05 1986

This person is my...

Please select

- Wife or civil partner
- Partner
- Mother, including adoptive mother
- Step mother
- Mother-in-law
- Daughter, including adopted and foster child
- Step daughter

Annotations:

- Red text: "Simplified question stem (page follows introduction page)" (points to the question stem).
- Red text: "Simplified terminology but some still misunderstood" (points to the list of relationship options).
- Red text: "Still issues with number of response options and how Rs wish to categorise themselves" (points to the list of relationship options).
- Red text: "Rels to P1 collected on first page" (points to the "Add another person" button).

Marital status

Only one change: removed wording 'single' as R's who were in a relationship felt this was exclusive and confusing. Still testing - mixed results so far

Ethnicity

2 part question to allow select one only whilst all response options are visible – testing well so far BUT Scottish version more complicated!

Early work showed Rs like to see all available options – now as sub categories. Tests well with “White” born in UK, not so well with other ethnicities

Other and what's next

- SexID – using recommended version subsequent to in depth testing by DCM
- Religion – unchanged, testing well so far but requires further exploration
- Further testing rounds – currently in the middle of cog testing. Good spread of Rs here with regard to country of birth

Presentation Slides – National Audit Office’s Data Linkage System

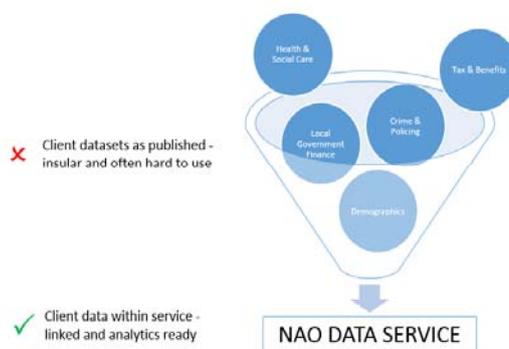


NAO Data Service

Ben Coleman, March 2017

Background

- Data service launched across office in February 2015, following period of agile development over preceding 6 months.
- Operates by taking a range of client datasets, storing them in an NAO data warehouse, cleansing them to remove inconsistencies and linking them together to enable easy consumption by NAO staff.



Background - contd

- Service is intended to realise 3 key benefits to the Office:



As client data is processed once, centrally, by team of data experts, rather than many times by different line teams



By having easy and ready access to linked data, changing teams' focus from processing data to analysing it



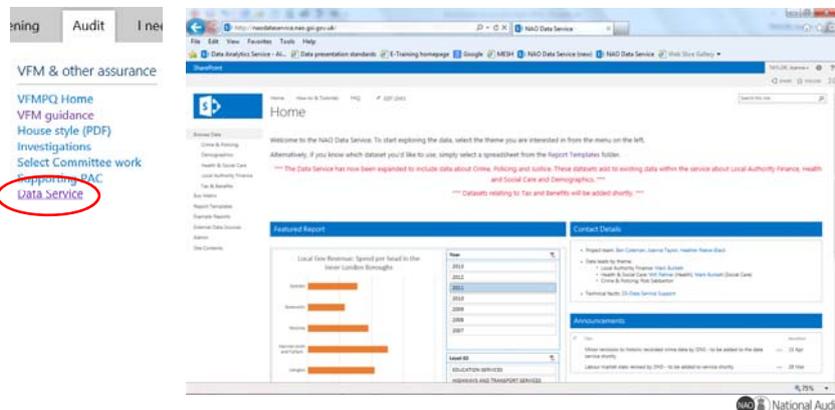
As data is processed and linked consistently, within central environment.

- Further developed and enhanced since 2015 launch with new content and functionality, driven by user feedback.
- Now contains wide range of linked client data covering 11 key themes (see appendix for details):



User interface

- Entry point to service is through dedicated Share Point site, accessible via NAO intranet.
- Site provides easy data discovery and key meta-data about each data series held within the service, as well as user guidance and key contact details.



User interface (2)

- Data discovery via navigation panel, with data arranged by theme.
- Meta data for each dataset held consistently – inc. key aspects such as data source, temporal and geographical coverage and key definitions and issues.

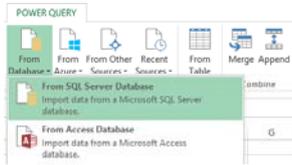
Accessing data

Access to data is via cube icon within each meta-data page

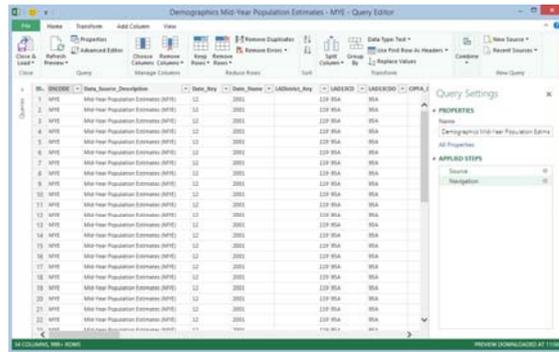
... but with the ability to easily customise & link to other data series within the service

Accessing data (2)

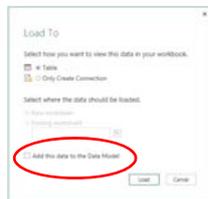
Alternatively, advanced users can connect to the data warehouse directly...



...for example via Microsoft analytics tools

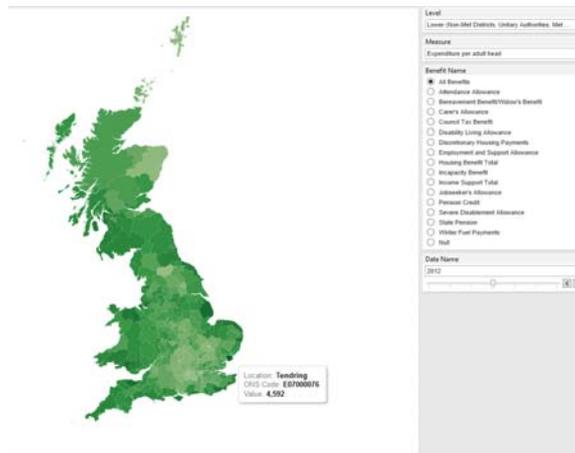


... with the ability to perform custom queries and link the data service to external datasets



Accessing data (3)

- Each data series is also made available via a mapping interface developed using Tableau software
- Maps are fully interactive, allowing users to hover over areas, zoom in/out and select different options to re-cast the data for different years or subsets of data.



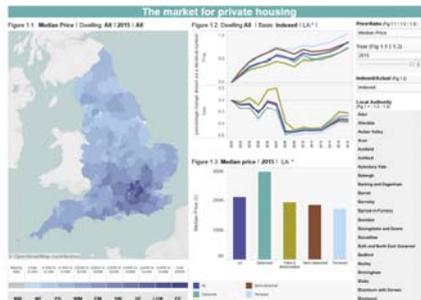
User feedback

- Users surveyed quarterly with ~90% overall satisfaction with service
- Typically 80% of service users report time savings and 40-50% say they gained new insight.
- 16 published VFM studies referencing data service use.



Example uses (1)

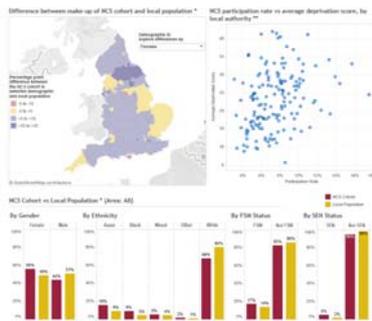
- The local government VFM team made substantial use of the data service to prepare their recent landscape review of Housing in England.
- They saved time by being able to access a wide range of linked data in one place, savings that were magnified as successive drafts of the report drew on updated data. Overall, they reported that the data service saved them between 3 and 5 days over the life of the project.



- The team were also able to use the pre-linked data within the service to quickly create a highly effective interactive visualisation of the data.
- An output that has already been accessed over 1,500 times.

Example uses (2)

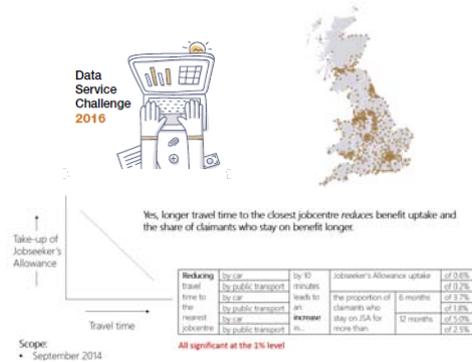
- NAO's Cabinet Office team used the data service significantly to support the recent 'National Citizen Service' study.
- Data about participants on the NCS were seamlessly linked with the data service to explore how participation varied geographically and how well participants reflected local demographics.



- The results of this work formed part of the report's key findings and were also used to create an effective visualisation of the data – something the team reported would not have been attempted had it not been for the service.

Example uses (3)

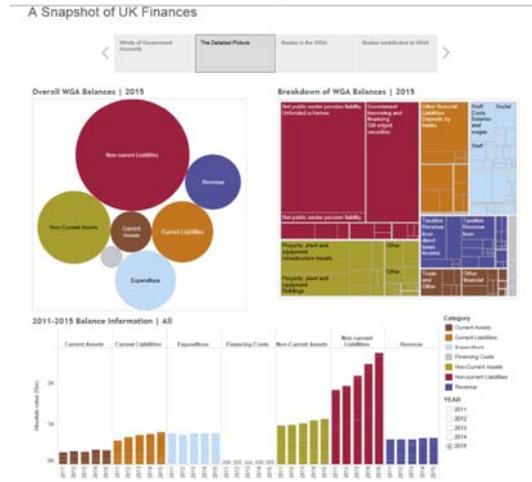
- A team competing within in the 2016 Data Service Challenge used the service to explore the relationship between travel times to job centres and take up of JSA
- They were able to find new evidence of a relationship with both take-up and duration appearing to reduce with longer travel times



- The teams work in this area then fed directly into a new piece of NAO work modelling the impact of planned changes to DWP's estate
- The work is generating new insight and is being very well received by DWP

Example uses (4)

- Whole of Government Accounts Data from within the service was used in May 2016 to develop a new data visualisation on the state of UK finances.
- The visualisation - which allows users to understand overall changes in the balance sheet, as well as individual bodies contributions – has proved very popular, being accessed over 8,000 times to date.
- The data service saved the team significant amounts of time in developing the output and will make updating it with new data very straightforward.



Appendix

Data Service Content

DS Content, as at Jan 17



Local Authority Finance

Revenue expenditure outturn & financing
 Capital expenditure outturn & financing
 Collection rates for council tax and non-domestic rates
 Revenue expenditure & financing: special grants



Tax and Benefits

LA and constituency level benefit expenditure data
 LA benefit caseload data (claimant level)
 National tax and national insurance receipts
 National benefit fraud and error



Crime and policing

Police force recorded crime data
 Police force service strength data
 Criminal justice area outcomes
 Prison population & prison/probation staffing
 Police force victim satisfaction survey data

DS Content, as at Jan 17



Demographics

LA indices of deprivation
 LA labour market statistics
 LA level mid-year population estimates
 LA level hours and earnings (workplace and residence based)
 LA jobs density
 LA level apprenticeship starts and qualification achievements



Health

LA level health and provision of unpaid care data (census)
 GP and CCG patient registrations
 GP and CCG datasets underlying revenue allocations



Social care

LA adult social care outcomes
 LA adult social care activity/support data
 LA adult social care financial return

DS Content, as at Jan 17



Housing

LA level sales and prices
 LA dwelling stock and construction data
 LA change in dwelling stock data
 Rents data for LA and housing association owned properties
 LA level housing benefit caseload statistics



Cross Government

Civil service staffing statistics
 Civil service people survey results
 Central and local government accounts (from WGA)
 Public expenditure statistical analyses

DS Content, as at Jan 17



Immigration and Migration

Asylum applications and outcomes
 Visa applications
 Removals and voluntary departures data



Transport

LA and LSOA level journey time accessibility data



Children and Education

Local Authority interactive tool data (x400 – covering attainment, early years, health, children in care, adoption, absence & exclusion, funding)
 Ofsted school and provider inspection outcomes at LA level

Datasets to be added over Spring 17

Theme	Dataset
Children & Education	School workforce data
Cross Government	Further breakdowns from civil service staffing survey
Demographics	Characteristics of businesses operating in local authorities
Demographics	LA economic performance outcomes
Demographics	Fuel poverty statistics at LA and LSOA level
Health	CCG financial returns
Health	NHS Trust and Foundation Trust financial returns
Health	CCG to NHS Trusts footprints (lookups)
Health	CCGs to STP footprints (lookups)
Housing	English housing survey data (condition and efficiency)
LA Finance	National non-domestic rates collected by LAs and reliefs granted
LA Finance	Further data about LA expenditure and financing
LA Finance	CIPFA Capital expenditure for LAs
	Further LA labour market stats - inc. qualifications and industry of employment
Tax & Benefits	Universal credit statistics - caseload/awards
Tax & Benefits	Caseloads for all benefits (claim, rather than claimant, level)
Tax & Benefits	JSA and ESA sanction and referral decisions
Tax & Benefits	JSA off flows
Tax & Benefits	Pensions (non-state) contributions data
Tax & Benefits	DWP Business plan quarterly indicators

Presentation Slides – Consumer Durables



**National Statistics Harmonisation Group
Consumer Durables Topic Update**

Consumer Durables Today

- Last NSHG published standards:
 - Major change (v3.1) in August 2011
 - Minor tweaks to formatting (v3.2) in May 2015
- Is there a need for change... yes!

So, to the best of your knowledge, is the main service you use to receive television a digital or analogue TV service?

Living Costs and Food Survey (main user of principle) – have updated their questions independently

Step 1: New Topic Group

- Topic Group lead & 2 members from Living Costs and Food survey
- 2 further members from ONS Survey on Living Conditions
- Added external perspectives!
 - 1 member from Institute for Fiscal Studies (data user & current member of LCF steering group)
 - 1 member from University of Essex 'Understanding Society' research team (use their own questions on consumer durables)

Ask about certain items for material deprivation measures

Step 2: Different uses for the data

1. Consumption

- Value obtained from expenditure on larger household items (and resulting effect on living standards)
- Energy use and demand for related non-durable items

2. Material Deprivation (EU measure)

- Do you own {a phone, a washing machine, a colour TV, a car}?
- If not, is that because you can't afford to, or for some other reason?

Other uses?



Roadmap

- March → April: Drawing together fuller information on purposes for consumer durable data collection
- May → August: Developing a proposed new set of principles
- September → December: Publishing the principles and agreeing future review cycle



Current questions

- **Needs** for the principle? Identifying users beyond the Living Costs and Food survey in ONS
- **Items included** in the principle? Taking a material deprivation approach would require us to include questions on household car ownership
- **Rate of change?** What trade off is appropriate between year-on-year comparable data vs changes in household technology?



Thoughts on process



- ✓ NSHG Central team support
- ✓ No problem generating appetite for involvement, including with non-governmental members
- ✓ Telecom sessions and an agreed roadmap working well for getting people together
- ✓ A short set of principles and a clear need for update helped!
- ✗ Sometimes a challenge to separate viewpoints on the principle from its implementation in a particular survey
- ✗ Historically an issue of conflicting priorities between updates to the principle and questionnaire updates



AND NOW
FOR SOMETHING
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT

The text is presented in a stylized, bubbly font with a 3D effect. The words are stacked vertically. 'AND NOW' is in pink, 'FOR SOMETHING' is in orange, 'COMPLETELY' is in red, and 'DIFFERENT' is in pink. The background is black.

Internet Access

- Last NSHG published standards:
 - Major change – unclear. Established (v1) 2005
 - Minor tweaks to formatting (v3.2) in May 2015

Does your household have access to the internet from home?

Have you ever used the internet for your job or personal use or both?

When did you last use the internet?

Have you (personally) ever used the internet at home or anywhere else?

Have you ever bought or ordered goods or services for personal or private use over the internet?

Internet Access

- Neither consumption nor material deprivation data
- Consumer Durables principle includes a question on computer ownership...
- ...but if a harmonised principle on internet access is preferred, it deserves its own topic team



Questions / comments?



Thank you

Joy Preece, Living Costs and Food Survey team, ONS
Consumer Durables Topic Group lead