### Definition of a Statistical Survey

A statistical survey is any structured inquiry designed to obtain aggregated data, which may be qualitative or quantitative where the individual or corporate identities of the respondents are in themselves of little significance.

Statistical surveys in scope are not limited to those conducted by statistics divisions and do not necessarily involve completion of a form; telephone and personal interview surveys are also included.

The following are examples of statistical surveys of business or local authorities **covered** by these controls:

- Surveys designed to obtain aggregated data
- Surveys where responses are solicited by means of a direct approach to potential respondents
- Surveys carried out for departmental sponsors by consultants or private organisations
- Customer satisfaction surveys designed to identify overall success of a product or service

The following are examples of surveys **excluded** from survey control:

- Surveys where there is no direct approach made and where respondents clearly select themselves (e.g. web sites, readership surveys, some types of consultation exercises where there is an invitation to comment
- Where information is required as an integral part of the operational management of a public service. Such returns will often be regulated under specific departmental controls
- Surveys relating to the contractual obligations of potential respondents to the department or agency concerned
- Surveys to respondents in central government and its agencies

Any doubt about the inclusion or exclusion of particular surveys should be clarified with SCU