**GSS Harmonisation Programme: Past, Present and Future**

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The Harmonisation Team works across the Government Statistical Services (GSS) to produce harmonised definitions, questions and outputs. These harmonised principles are reused across national statistics allowing users to more easily compare data from different sources and makes our statistics easier to understand.

The GSS Harmonisation Programme has developed a range of harmonised definitions, questions and outputs for a range of key social topics over the past ten years or so. However it is now looking at developing business harmonised principles as well.

The Bean Review, EUROSTATs Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics (FRIBS) and the requirements of the UK Government’s Digital by Default initiative are providing an ideal opportunity to harmonising business survey questions and definitions. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is aiming to move all business surveys from paper to an electronic data collection mode (EDC). The EDC programme gives rise to a unique opportunity to review all ONS business survey questions and to develop harmonised business survey definitions, questions and outputs and through a process of rationalisation reduce the number of surveys wherever possible. This has the potential to reduce cost of collection and respondent burden. It will potentially improve the quality, timeliness and accuracy of data and could increase response rates from certain groups.

This presentation will focus on what has been achieved to date with social and business harmonisation, how we work across the GSS to develop and encourage the use of the harmonised principles, how key programmes such as the 2021 Census are instrumental to the harmonised programme and how you can help to develop and promote these harmonised principles.

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