**SOC2010 Revision: Review of Major Group 2 ‘Professional Occupations’**

SOC Revision Working Group Proposals

This document is the 2nd report that outlines all the proposals made in relation to Major Group 2, and updates the previous documents circulated. Please refer to the spreadsheet on the GSS website for the new structure for major group 2 and previous proposals.

If you wish to see a copy of the full combined report (which will be published at a later date) or if you have any comments/feedback related to the proposals please contact [socrevision@ons.gov.uk](mailto:socrevision@ons.gov.uk) by Tuesday 19 December 2017.

The majority of issues relating to major group 2 are outlined in this document. Issues relating to other majors groups may further impact major group 2, and if so will be communicated at a later date.

**Issue 1: Should ‘Web Design and Development Professionals’ (2137) be disaggregated to separate designers and developers?**

Research into these occupations found that there is no separation between web designers and web developers. These roles include the same tasks, and the terms are often used interchangeably.

**Proposal:** No further action required. **(see update below)**

**Issue 2: Should ‘Graphic Designers’ (3421) be moved from Major Group 3 to Major Group 2?**

Research using survey data and job advertisements suggest that a degree is not necessarily needed to be employed as a graphic designer; much of the learning is on the job except for formal training in industry specific software. Therefore, historically graphic designers have been coded as unit group 3421 within Major Group 3. However, the majority of graphic designers do have higher qualifications, and survey data has shown that many in this occupational group stated that qualifications were a formal requirement in obtaining a job; or that while a degree wasn’t a formal requirement it gave them an advantage. Research also found that progress without formal training can be difficult.

Further research found that the skill specialism for ‘Web Design and Web Development Professionals’ (2137) are sufficiently similar to ‘Graphic Designers’ (3421) that we propose a new minor group is created in Major Group 2.

**Proposal:** To create a new minor group in Major Group 2 for ‘Web and Multimedia Designers and Development Professionals’ to include the unit groups for ‘Web Design and Web Development Professionals’ (2137) and ‘Graphic Designers’ (3421).

To rename Graphic Designers (3421): ‘Graphic and Multimedia Designers’.

**Update to issues 1 and 2**

Information was supplied by a stakeholder regarding the distinction between web developers and web designers that currently code to 2137, this resulted in further research being conducted that found that these occupations could be coded to separate unit groups.

**Proposal:**

* ‘Web Development Professionals’ that currently code to ‘Web Design and Web Development Professionals’ (2137) to be coded to ‘Programmers and Software Development Professionals’ (SOC2020 2134)
* ‘Web Design Professionals’ that currently code to 2137 and ‘Application Designers’ that currently code to 2135 to be coded to new SOC2020 group ‘Web Design Professionals (2141)’.
  + The above 2 groups to sit under new minor group 214 for ‘Web and Multimedia Design Professionals’
* ‘Web Masters and Managers’ that that currently code to 2137 to be coded to SOC2020 2139 as there were not sufficient numbers to form their own group

**Issue 6: Should a new unit group be created for ‘Applications Design and Development Professionals’?**

Research indicates application design and development is a growing occupational area. Job descriptions for roles involving applications tend to mention software design and development, indicating that these roles fit with existing unit group codes in minor group ‘Information Technology and Telecommunications Professionals’ (213) as follows:

* Applications designers are coded to ‘IT Business Analysts, Architects and Systems Designers’ (2135)
* Applications developers and programmers are coded to ‘Programmers and Software Development Professionals’ (2136)
* Applications consultant are coded to ‘Information Technology and Telecommunications Professionals n.e.c.’ (2139)

Occupations involving application design and development are growing, and this should be reflected in the unit group descriptions.

**Proposal:** The descriptions in SOC Volume 1 for unit groups 2135, 2136 and 2139 to be amended to include information on ‘applications’.

To rename Programmers and Software Development Professionals’ (2136): Programmers and Software Design and Development Professionals’

**Update to issue 6:** see update to issues 1 & 2 above

**Issue 7: Should ‘Programme Managers’ be moved out of ‘IT Project and Programme Managers’ (2134) and ‘Programme Managers and Directors’ from ‘Business and Financial Project Management Professionals’ (2424)**

Research highlighted that ‘Programme Managers’ that code to 2134 and ‘Programme Managers and Directors’ in 2424 oversee a number of projects; therefore a distinction should be made between a ‘project’ manager, who is managing a project, and a ‘programme manager/director’ who has greater responsibilities.

**Proposal**: ‘IT Programme Managers’ to be moved to ‘Information Technology and Telecommunications Directors’ (1136) and ‘Programme Managers and Directors’ (non IT) should move to ‘Functional Managers and Directors n.e.c.’ (1139).

To rename IT Project and Programme managers (2134): IT Project Managers

**Issue 17: Can the unit group ‘Legal Professionals n.e.c.’ (2419) be disaggregated?**

Analysis of the unit group ‘Legal Professionals n.e.c.’ (2419) identified enough numbers in the survey data to form a new group for ‘Lawyers’.

**Proposal:** Create a new unit group for ‘Lawyers’

**Update to issue 17**

Stakeholder feedback noted that the majority of lawyers are actually solicitors, and that these occupations could be merged so that 2412 becomes ‘Solicitors and Lawyers’. A new index entry for an associate professional ‘Lawyer’ will be added to group Legal associate professionals (3520).

**Proposal:** Move ‘Lawyers’ to SOC2020 2412 and rename unit group ‘Solicitors and Lawyers’.

**Issue 23: Can educational professionals who are not teaching be coded separately to teaching professionals?**

In SOC2010 teaching professionals and other educational professionals such as managers, principals, head teachers and examiners are coded together in minor group 231 (Teaching and Educational Professionals). Analysis of ‘Teaching and Other Educational Professionals n.e.c’ (2319), and ‘Senior Professionals of Educational Establishments’ (2317) highlighted that a number of occupational groups that could be separated into individual minor groups. Specifically it was found that ‘Teaching Professionals’ and ‘Other Education Professionals’ could be divided into separate minor groups.

This latter minor group will include head teachers and principals, and education managers (previously coded as ‘Senior Professionals of Educational Establishments’ (2317), as well as the existing group ‘Education Advisers and School Inspectors’.

**Proposal:**

* New minor group 232 ‘Other Educational Professionals’, to include the following new SOC2020 unit groups:
  + 2321 Head teachers and principals
  + 2322 Education managers
  + 2323 Education advisers and school inspectors
  + 2324 Other educational professionals
* SOC2010 groups 2317 and 2318 are removed, and occupations moved to new minor group 232.
* Change name of minor group 231 to ‘Teaching Professionals’, and unit group 2319 to ‘Teaching Professionals n.e.c.’

**Issue 24: Can pre-school teachers and those teaching school aged children that currently code to ‘Primary and nursery education teaching professionals (2315) be separated?**

Analysis of survey data has found that nursery education teaching professionals is a large enough group to be separated from primary teaching professionals.

**Proposal:** Create new SOC2020 group 2315 ‘Nursery Education Teaching Professionals’. SOC2020 group 2314 becomes ‘Primary Education Teaching Professionals’.

**Issue 25: Are there occupational groups that can be identified using the Higher Education Statistics Authority bespoke SOC groupings?**

**25A:** Two new unit groups have been identified within minor group ‘Natural and Social Science Professionals’ (211) that can be disaggregated. ‘Biochemists’ can be separated from ‘Biological Scientists and Biochemists’ (2112) and ‘Researchers of Unspecified Discipline’ can be separated from ‘Natural and Social Science Professionals n.e.c (2119)

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**Proposal:**

* Rename 2112 ‘Biological Scientists’, and move ‘Biochemists and Biochemical Scientists’ to a new SOC2020 group 2113 ‘Biochemists and Biomedical Scientists’
* SOC2010 minor group 215 ‘Research and Development Managers’ will become 216 ‘Other Research and Development Professionals’, to include
  + 2161 Research and development professionals
  + 2162 Other researchers, unspecified discipline

**25B:** Research found there is a difference between general psychologists (who study mental behaviours and psychological functions) and clinical psychologists (who assess and treat mental health issues), and that these two groups have sufficient numbers to be separated into two unit groups.

**Proposal:** Create a new SOC2020group for ‘Clinical Psychologists (2221) ’ and the existing group becomes ‘Other Psychologists’ (2222).

**25C:** Research found that ‘Interior Designers’ have sufficient numbers to be separated from Product, Clothing and Related Designers’ (3422)

**Proposal:** Create a newgroup for ‘Interior Designers’ (3421)

**Issue 26: Should environmental technicians currently coded to ‘Conservation and Environmental Associate Professionals’ (3550) be moved to Major Group 2?**

Research into unit group 3550 found environmental technicians to be a distinct group that require a degree, therefore we propose moving these occupations to unit group ‘Environmental Professionals’ (SOC2020 2152). The remaining occupations that code to 3550 are ranger and warden type roles. There are not sufficient numbers for them to form their own group, therefore they will be combined with ‘Agriculture and Fishing Trades n.e.c’ (5119)

**Proposal:**

* Move environmental technicians from 3550 to ‘Environmental professionals’ (2152).
* Move remainder of 3550 to Agriculture and fishing trades n.e.c’ (5119)

**Issue 27: Should code 2211 ‘Medical Practitioners’ be disaggregated?**

Analysis of survey data found that ‘Medical Practitioners’ (2211) could be divided into two separate groups: ‘Generalist Medical Practitioners’ (including job titles such as Doctor, General Medical Practitioner, General Practitioner, and Physician), and ‘Specialist Medical Practitioners’ who have completed training in a specialist area of medicine (including surgeons, consultants, oncologists, cardiologists etc).

These two new groups will be separated from the wider ‘Health Professionals’ minor group.

**Proposal:**

Create two new unit groups within the SOC2020 minor group 221 ‘Medical Practitioners’

* ‘Generalist Medical Practitioners’ (2211)
* ‘Specialist Medical Practitioners’ (2212)
* Create a new minor group 222 ‘Health Professionals’ to include all other health professional unit groups

**Issue 28: Can ‘Nurses’ (2231) with specialist training be identified?**

Analysis of nursing occupations coded as 2231 found a number of specialist nurses that could be disaggregated. It is therefore proposed that the new unit groups below are created:

**Proposal:**

* The unit group name for ‘Midwives (2232) will be changed to ‘Midwifery Nurses’
* minor group 223 becomes 224 ‘Nursing Professionals’
* minor group 224 will contain 7 unit groups:
  + ‘Midwifery Nurses’ (2241)
  + ‘Community Nurses’ (2242)
  + ‘Specialist Nurses’ (2243)
  + ‘Nurse Practitioners’ (2244)
  + ‘Mental Health Nurses’ (2245)
  + ‘Children's Nurses’ (2246)
  + ‘Other Nursing Professionals’ (2247)

**Issue 29 Can the unit group ‘Business, Research and Administrative Professionals’ (2429) be further disaggregated?**

Analysis of group 2429 found that there are sufficient numbers of qualified company secretaries and chartered secretaries to form their own unit group.

**Proposal:** Create new unit group for ‘Chartered Company Secretaries’ (SOC2020 2426).

**Issue 30: Can any occupational groups be disaggregated from 2449 ‘Welfare Professionals n.e.c.’?**

Analysis of occupations included in unit 2449 found that ‘Youth Work Professionals’ have sufficient numbers to be separated into a new unit group.

**Proposal:** Create anew unit group for ‘Youth Work Professionals’ (SOC2020 2444).

**Issue 31: Can ‘Dental Practitioners’ (2215) working in hospitals, the high street or in training be identified.**

Analysis of group 2215 showed that it was possible to identify dentists, dental surgeons and orthodontists, but these could be working either for the NHS or private practice, on the high street or in or in a hospital setting, trainee dentists could not be identified. There were three reasons why disaggregation of 2215 is not possible: SOC groups occupations according to skill levels and specialism, and not in the environment that people work; where possible we aim to align with the International Standard of Occupations (ISCO) which groups these occupations together and finally there were not sufficient numbers to form distinct groups.

**Proposal:** No further action required**.**

**Issue 32: Can ‘Social Workers’ (2442) be identified by key specialism or those requiring additional training?**

Specialist social workers requiring additional training could not be identified.

**Proposal:** No further action required.

**Issue 33: Can ‘Teaching Professionals n.e.c’ (2319) be disaggregated?**

Analysis of the Unit Group ‘Teaching professionals n.e.c’ (2319) was undertaken to examine whether this group could be disaggregated. Teachers of English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) and Teachers of English as a Second Language (TESOL) were found to be identifiable and there are sufficient numbers in these occupations to create a viable unit group. Peripatetic teachers were identifiable but the numbers were small and therefore a new group is not viable.

**Proposal:** Create a new unit group ‘Teachers of English as a Foreign Language’ (which will include the ESOL teachers) to sit within the new minor group ‘Teaching Professionals’ (231).

**Issue 34: Can ‘IT Specialist Managers’ (2133) be split by ‘functional’ and ‘specialist’ managers?**

This issue has been raised, and research is currently being conducted which will be reported at a later date.

If you have any comments or evidence which supports or refutes any of these proposals, please send them to [socrevision@ons.gov.uk](mailto:socrevision@ons.gov.uk) by Tuesday 19 December 2017. These will be considered before any final decisions are made.