

COMPARING OFFICIAL STATISTICS ACROSS THE UK

SUMMARY

- i. Some statistics are produced for the UK as a whole, while others are produced separately by each nation of the UK, reflecting devolution of policies. There is interest both in piecing together a more detailed UK picture and looking at the difference between nations. This is particularly true in a year where statistics on Scotland's place within the UK are vital to the debate on Scottish independence.
- ii. To maximise the value to users of statistics for the nations of the UK, the National Statistician commissioned a project to consider how best to maintain comparability and coherence between official statistics published by the four nations of the UK. The aim of the work was to ensure that it is clear where comparable statistics between the four nations of the UK are available, and where statistics are not comparable.
- iii. A Government Statistical Service (GSS) Task and Finish Group on Comparability (TFG)¹ was established to lead this work. This report presents the findings of the TFG. Measuring and reporting on comparability of official statistics needs to start with user need. Producers of official statistics need to identify and support all the uses that deliver public value. They must find ways to do this efficiently and without imposing excessive burdens on themselves, data suppliers or the users. A first step is to support all current and potential users in communicating their needs to the GSS. The needs of users may differ, not necessarily in terms of data, but more in the way statistics are packaged, presented and communicated. It is important therefore that producers explain their statistics, including strengths and limitations in relation to major uses, clearly to ensure that those whose actions are influenced by them have all the information they need including comparability.
- iv. The TFG recommended that all high profile statistics, for which users say cross nation comparability is important, should be assessed for comparability by the relevant producers. For those statistics that are comparable, it should be straightforward for users to access information about comparability. Where statistics are not comparable, producers should provide a summary explanation of why this is not currently possible.
- v. The TFG developed a framework and criteria, grounded in user needs and priorities, for assessing the extent to which a statistical output is comparable with its equivalent published elsewhere. A comparability scale has been developed to assess and report on statistics from across the UK. The scale comprises a range of 10 categories broken down into three markings - fully, partially and not comparable. A full explanation of the differences between the categories, markings and overall approach is included in this report.
- vi. In mid-2013 the National Statistician commissioned Theme Leaders², in consultation with users, to create a list of 'headline statistics'. Inclusion on the list was driven by knowledge of the uses and users of these statistics agreed between statistics producers across the UK. For each of the statistics on each list, an assessment of

¹ The Comparability TFG was established by the GSS Inter Administration Committee (IAC). This Committee works within the context of an Inter Administration Working Agreement between the UK Statistics Authority and each of the Devolved Administrations, which outlines the ways in which the four nations work together and cooperate on statistical matters.

² More information about the current Themes for the UK's official statistics is available at <https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/about/governance-and-structure/themes/>

cross-nation comparability was undertaken based upon what is known about the uses made of the statistic in question. The outputs from the assessments were one of the three markings together with a statement of comparability. A summary of the outputs from this exercise is in Annex 2. It includes headline statistics from ten Themes³. Where there is only one producer of National Statistics for a non-devolved topic, for example Defence and International Development, any regional breakdowns published would automatically be fully comparable, and so a more detailed comparability assessment was not required.

- vii. It is important for producers to have feedback from users on the usefulness of markings and comparability statements. Users are therefore encouraged to engage with producers to make their views known. This can be done directly, via GSS Themes or using StatsUserNet.

³ Agriculture & Environment; Business & Energy; Crime & Justice; Education, Children & Skills; Economy; Health & Social Care; Housing, Planning & Local Services; Labour Market; Population & Demography; Travel & Transport.

COMPARING OFFICIAL STATISTICS ACROSS THE UK

Introduction and aim

1. The referendum on Scottish independence in autumn 2014 provides an opportunity to ensure that, wherever possible, comparable, coherent and quality statistics are available about the four nations of the UK.
2. This is a document aimed at producers of official statistics to explain how they can use a standard and straightforward way of assessing comparability of their statistics with other parts of the UK. This should allow your user to better understand what is comparable and to quickly get to the numbers they want.

Background and scope

3. The Government Statistical Service Inter Administration Committee (IAC) set up the Comparability Task and Finish Group (TFG) to support better use of official statistics by helping producers to signal clearly to users where comparable statistics between the four nations of the UK are available and where statistics are not comparable.
4. The problems this group aimed to overcome were –
 - A perception that there is an unmet user need for cross-UK comparable official and national statistics
 - Users of statistics who want UK wide information or information about areas of the UK put into appropriate context are currently (knowingly or not) unclear about whether they can make cross-nation comparisons for many GSS outputs
 - GSS producers are often criticised for not producing comparable statistics when the user need for this comparative data is not proven.
5. The focus of this work has been around assessing the extent to which existing statistics are comparable and then making it easier for users to find out this information. It only touched on steps statistics producers could take to improve comparability and does not cover ways of maximising comparability as new statistics are developed. All official or national statistics published on a sub-UK basis are in scope irrespective of whether the issue is devolved – so, for example, GDP figures are in scope.

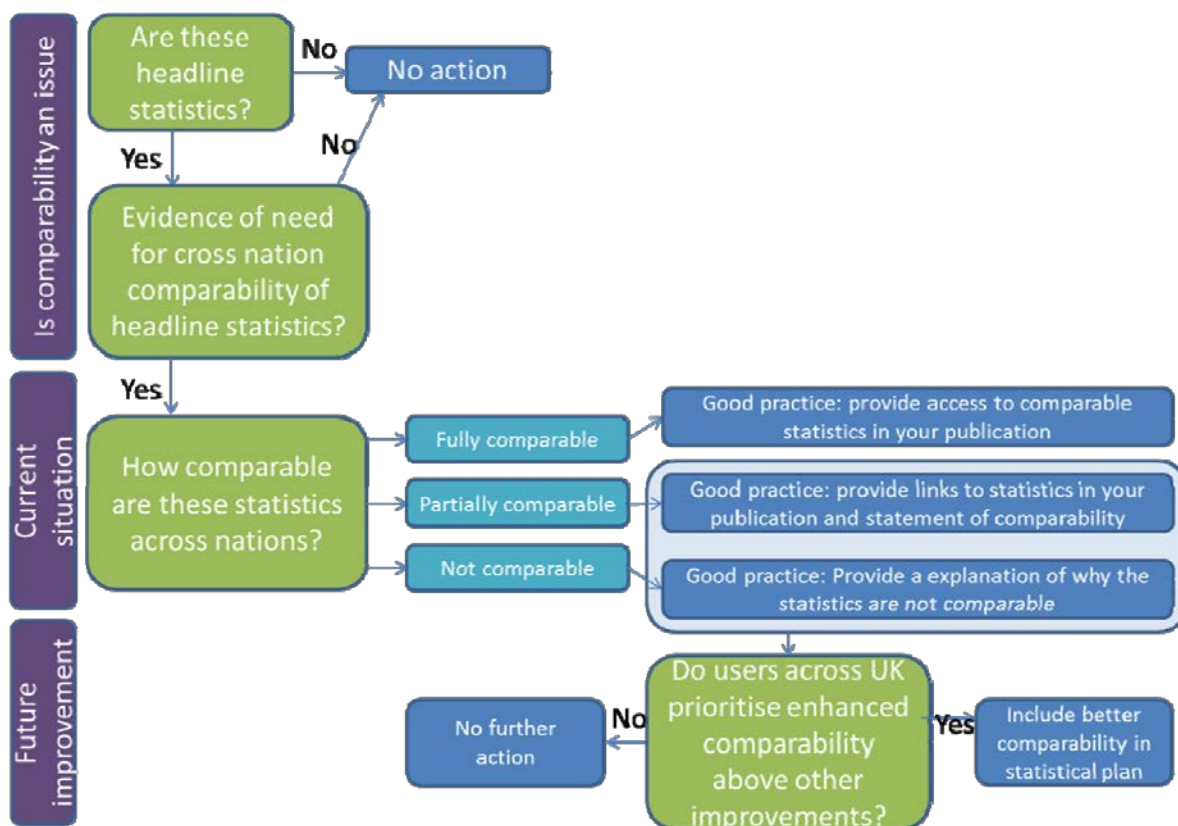
Why assess comparability

6. Even for statistics where the vast majority of users are mainly interested in within nation figures, there are usually some who want to piece together a UK picture or look at the difference between nations. The TFG found for almost all headline indicators that it was challenging to find out whether or not statistics are comparable and, where appropriate, to obtain the comparable statistics.
7. A major part of good communication of statistics is about putting figures in context and an important aspect of that is comparing what is happening in one area with another. If the statistics are comparable, adding this detail to the published output should be a basic requirement.

8. Assessing comparability of headline statistics is not about improving comparability. It is a relatively small task that can have significant benefits for users.

Proposed Approach

9. The flow chart below describes good practice and text underneath adds more detail.



10. It is recommended that producers of official and national statistics need to answer up to four questions.

1. Does this product contain one or more headline statistics?

11. To give work around geographical comparability a focus, this proposal asks statistics producers to focus on headline indicators. The judgement of which statistic(s) are classed as headline should be a decision for statistics producers. This should be driven by their knowledge of the uses and users of the statistics. There should be an agreed list between statistics producers across the UK.

2. Is there evidence of need for cross-nation comparability of this statistic?

12. This question is a trigger for carrying out an assessment of cross-nation comparability on the headline statistics. If one or more producers of this headline statistic across the UK has evidence that a user is looking for cross-UK or international comparisons for those statistics then the need is satisfied. Evidence here could be (for example) a request for data from a user or a comment from a user on lack of comparable figures.

3. Is this statistic comparable across nations?

13. An assessment should be made and agreed by one or more producers. It should be a professional judgement of the statisticians involved based upon what they know are the uses made of the statistic in question. The output from the assessment should be a one of three markings –
- Fully comparable.** Where there is agreement between producers that the headline statistic is comparable between nations for all major known uses of it
 - Partially comparable.** Where the comparability of the statistic is good enough for some major known uses but not others, or where there is not agreement between producers about the comparability of the statistic
 - Not comparable.** Where there is agreement between producers that the headline statistic is not comparable for all major known uses of it, or where those headline statistics are not available for some nations.
14. Where statistics are assessed as –
- Fully comparable.** Good practice is that the relevant statistical outputs should include that comparison. This is to minimise the time users take to get comparative data.
 - Partially comparable.** Good practice is that the relevant statistical outputs should contain web link to the comparative data and an explanation of why the statistics are not fully comparable across geographies and advice about what are legitimate uses of the statistics where geographical comparisons can be made.
 - Not comparable.** Good practice is that the relevant statistical outputs should include an explanation of why the statistics are not fully comparable across geographies.

EXAMPLE

Below is (i) a generic draft version of a comparability statement (ii) Labour Force Survey (LFS) example and (iii) Quarterly Gross Domestic Product (GDP) example.

(i) Official statistics relating to a, b, c relating to [the UK / Country W] in this publication are considered by [the producer(s?)] as [Fully / Partially / Not Comparable] at level [X] of the following scale (web link to scale (see below), across countries / with those statistics produced by Country [UK / Country X, Y, Z (web-link to UK / Country X, Y, Z's closest equivalent publication).

Repeat and amend if comparison with another country/ies statistics results in a different score on the comparability scale.

(ii) Statement included in ONS Labour Market Publication

All official statistics from the Labour Force Survey and Claimant Count for the UK and constituent countries in this publication are considered by ONS as "Fully Comparable at level A*" of the UK Countries Comparability Scale (web link to comparability scale) across countries.

(iii) Draft Statement for inclusion in ONS Preliminary estimate of Quarterly GDP http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778_296664.pdf

Official statistics relating to Quarterly GDP in this publication are considered by ONS as "Fully Comparable at Level B" of the following scale (web link to scale below) with those statistics produced by the Scottish Government (most recent publication at:-

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0041/00413557.pdf>) ONS's Quarterly GDP statistics are considered as "Partially Comparable at Level D" with the Composite Economic Index produced by NISRA (most recent publication at http://www.detini.gov.uk/ni_composite_economic_index_statistical_bulletin_q3_2012-3.pdf). The ONS quarterly GDP statistics are considered "Not Comparable at level I" relative to Wales as there is no equivalent.

15. Sometimes there will need to be a more sophisticated description of comparability, such as where a statistic is comparable between England and Wales, but not comparable with Northern Ireland and Scotland or where a statistic is comparable within the UK, but not internationally.
16. To support decisions there are two resources –
 - **Annex A** is a detailed description of the factors producers need to consider. This can help in situations where different producers reach a different conclusion after assessing cross-nation comparability.
 - **Annex B** contains a description and illustration of 10 groups of statistics with similar characteristics when it comes to assessing comparability between nations. This should help producers come to an assessment of comparability for most headline statistics.
17. This is based upon the United Nations Generic Statistical Business Process Model and builds up evidence using questions from the [Quality Methods Harmonisation Tool](#) (QMHT). The UN Model is shown in full in **Annex C** with those sub-processes directly associated with comparability highlighted in green. A full description of the sub-processes is in **Annex D** and **Annex E** contains an initial summary of the factors to consider for comparability assessment linked to QHMT.

4. Do users across the UK prioritise enhanced cross-nation comparability above other improvements to the statistical product?

18. This question aims to address longer term statistical improvements that enhance comparability where there is evidence of widespread user need. Good practice here is sharing statistical improvement plans across the countries of the UK through the GSS Themes. It may be useful to use a Theme's network to ascertain whether users prioritise enhanced cross-nation comparability above other improvements. If the answer to this question is yes, the statistics producers involved should make and deliver the agreed improvement. If the answer is no, the statistics producers should use their resources for improvement to deliver what is most important to their users.

4 Nations Comparability Scale

FULLY COMPARABLE

A*

Figures are collected, produced and available off-the-shelf for all 4 nations separately. All from one producer.

A

Figures that are produced by the same body but not for all four nations – e.g. only produced for the UK, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland but not England.

B

Figures that are published by two or more statistics producers using common data, methods and standards.

C

Figures which are produced from separate sources of data, but using the same methods and standards.

PARTIALLY COMPARABLE

D

Figures which are produced from separate sources of data. Methods and standards are broadly comparable, but users should be made aware of the limitations.

E

Figures which require conversion into a common currency to enable comparison

F

Figures which are produced across the UK in ways that are sufficiently different to the extent they are not comparable.

G

The headline statistic is only produced in one nation. However, secondary analysis of a single source of data means it could be replicated exactly by other nations from the micro-data.

H

The headline statistic is only produced in one nation. However, figures are collected in similar ways across the UK and comparable figures could be produced by the different nations.

I

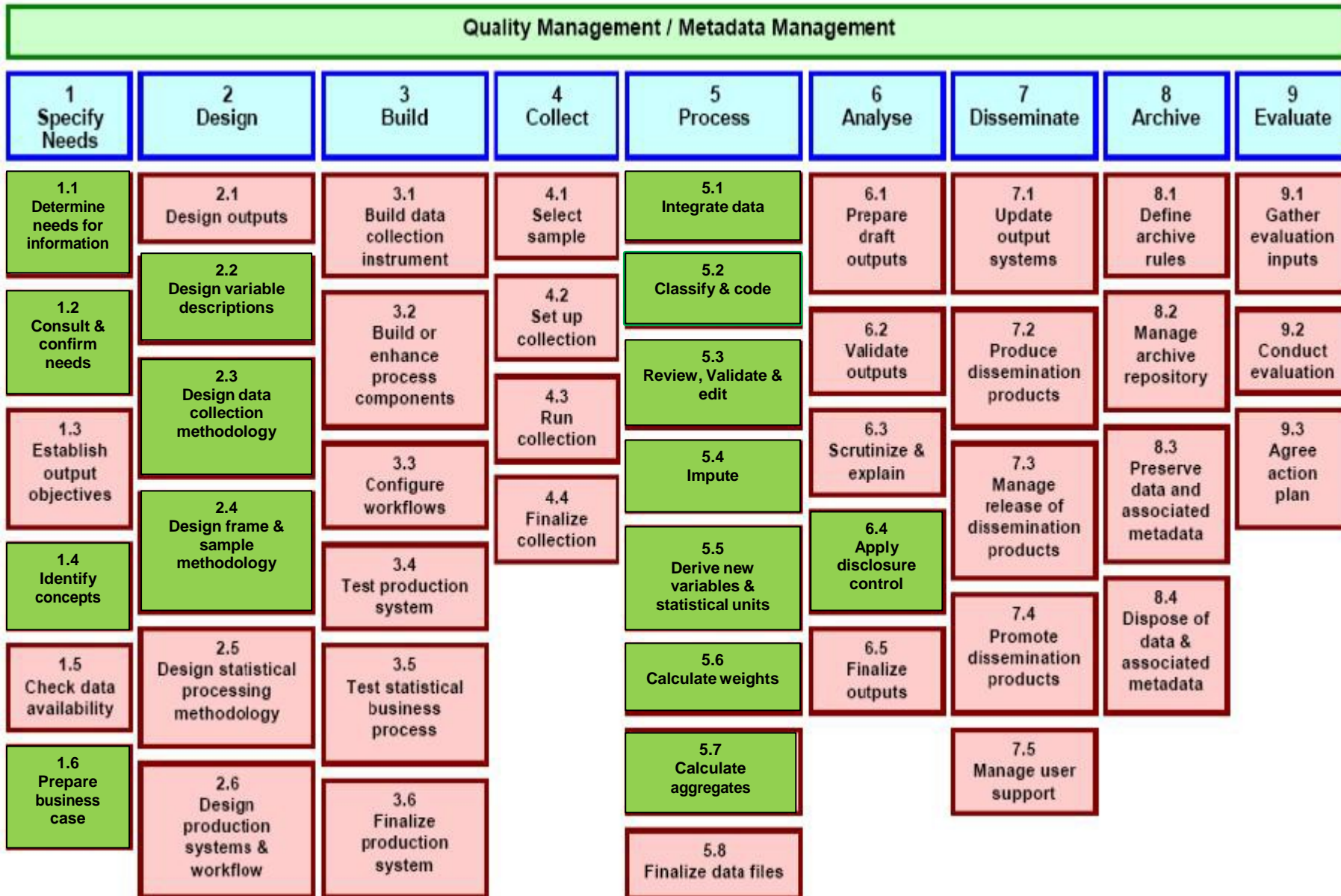
The headline statistic is only produced in one nation. Systems or questions are completely different, or no equivalent collection. New primary research would be needed.

NOT COMPARABLE

4 Nations Comparability Scale

FULLY COMPARABLE	A* Employment Rates are produced by ONS for all 4 nations of the UK and are taken from the Labour Force Survey using international standards
	A DECC produce sustainability estimates for the UK and Scotland, but I'm not sure how much if any processing (on Emissions Trading Scheme etc) the Scottish Government do on this. [check with Alan F]
	B Productivity estimates are produced separately by the ONS for the UK and by the Scottish Govt for Scotland. No comparisons are available for the other constituent nations.
	C Population estimates are produced on the same basis by ONS, Scottish Government and NISRA, but are produced separately.
PARTIALLY COMPARABLE	D The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey and the Crime Survey in England and Wales both assess crime victimisation in similar ways. Differences in the legislative framework, definitions and minor methodological issues around the coding of offences mean that the victimisation rates are not completely comparable.
	E Population skill profile is calculated using the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). There appears to be work on a European Qualifications Framework which would provide a common scale to allow comparison.
NOT COMPARABLE	F Comparability of reconviction rates across jurisdictions has been Investigated. They concluded that differences in methodology, terminology and criminal justice systems between countries make it difficult to meaningfully compare reconviction rates. When these differences were stripped out of the analysis, the patterns of reconviction became more similar. So there is very limited comparability, but extreme caution should be exercised.
	G The number of VAT/PAYE registered private sector enterprises per 10,000 population is published for Scotland. There does not seem to be an equivalent statistics for other parts of the UK, although given that the source is the UK-wide IDBR, it is theoretically possible.
	H Whilst indicators of bird populations are used across the UK, the UK level indicators use differing groups of bird species to assess performance. Therefore there is no comparable measure in England, although a general comparison could be made about change over time?
	I The Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing scale is not collected across the UK, just in Scotland. If subjective wellbeing comparisons are required across the UK, the 4 questions could be used, or life satisfaction internationally.

Annex C The Generic Statistical Business Process Model



DEFINITIONS OF SUB-PROCESSES

1.1 Determine needs for information –This sub-process includes the initial investigation and identification of what statistics are needed and what is needed of the statistics. It also includes consideration of practice amongst other (national and international) statistical organizations producing similar data, and in particular the methods used by those organizations.

1.2 Consult and confirm needs -This sub-process focuses on consulting with the stakeholders and confirming in detail the needs for the statistics. A good understanding of user needs is required so that the statistical organization knows not only what it is expected to deliver, but also when, how, and, perhaps most importantly, why. For second and subsequent iterations of this phase, the main focus will be on determining whether previously identified needs have changed. This detailed understanding of user needs is the critical part of this sub-process.

1.4. Identify concepts - This sub-process clarifies the required concepts to be measured by the business process from the point of view of the user. At this stage the concepts identified may not align with existing statistical standards. This alignment, and the choice or definition of the statistical concepts and variables to be used, takes place in sub-process 2.2.

1.6. Prepare business case -This sub-process documents the findings of the other sub-processes in this phase in the form a business case to get approval to implement the new or modified statistical business process. Such a business case would typically also include:

- A description of the “As-Is” business process (if it already exists), with information on how the current statistics are produced, highlighting any inefficiencies and issues to be addressed;
- The proposed “To-Be” solution, detailing how the statistical business process will be developed to produce the new or revised statistics;
- An assessment of costs and benefits, as well as any external constraints.

2.2 Design variable descriptions - This sub-process defines the statistical variables to be collected via the data collection instrument, as well as any other variables that will be derived from them in sub-process 5.5 (Derive new variables and statistical units), and any classifications that will be used. It is expected that existing national and international standards will be followed wherever possible. This sub-process may need to run in parallel with sub-process 2.3 (Design data collection methodology), as the definition of the variables to be collected, and the choice of data collection instrument may be inter-dependent to some degree. Preparation of metadata descriptions of collected and derived variables and classifications is a necessary precondition for subsequent phases.

2.3. Design data collection methodology -This sub-process determines the most appropriate data collection method(s) and instrument(s). The actual activities in this sub-process will vary according to the type of collection instruments required, which can include computer assisted interviewing, paper questionnaires, administrative data interfaces and data integration techniques. This sub-process includes the design of questions and response templates (in conjunction with the variables and classifications designed in sub-process 2.2 (Design variable descriptions)). It also includes the design of any formal agreements relating to data supply, such as memoranda of understanding, and confirmation of the legal basis for the data collection. This sub-process is enabled by tools such as question libraries (to facilitate the reuse of questions and related attributes), questionnaire tools (to enable the quick and easy compilation of questions into formats suitable for cognitive testing) and agreement templates (to help standardize terms and conditions). This sub-process also includes the design of process-specific provider management systems.

2.4. Design frame and sample methodology -This sub-process identifies and specifies the population of interest, defines a sampling frame (and, where necessary, the register from which it is derived), and determines the most appropriate sampling criteria and methodology (which could include complete enumeration). Common sources are administrative and statistical registers, censuses and sample surveys. This sub-process describes how these sources can be combined if needed. Analysis of whether the frame covers the target population should be performed. A sampling plan should be made: The actual sample is created sub-process 4.1 (Select sample), using the methodology, specified in this sub-process.

5.1. Integrate data -This sub-process integrates data from one or more sources. The input data can be from a mixture of external or internal data sources, and a variety of collection modes, including extracts of administrative data. The result is a harmonized data set. Data integration typically includes:

- matching / record linkage routines, with the aim of linking data from different sources, where those data refer to the same unit;
- prioritising, when two or more sources contain data for the same variable (with potentially different values).

Data integration may take place at any point in this phase, before or after any of the other sub-processes. There may also be several instances of data integration in any statistical business process. Following integration, depending on data protection requirements, data may be anonymised, that is stripped of identifiers such as name and address, to help to protect confidentiality.

5.2. Classify and code - This sub-process classifies and codes the input data. For example automatic (or clerical) coding routines may assign numeric codes to text responses according to a pre-determined classification scheme.

5.3. Review, validate and edit - This sub-process applies to collected micro-data, and looks at each record to try to identify (and where necessary correct) potential problems, errors and discrepancies such as outliers, item non-response and miscoding. It can also be referred to as input data validation. It may be run iteratively, validating data against predefined edit rules, usually in a set order. It may apply automatic edits, or raise alerts for manual inspection and correction of the data. Reviewing, validating and editing can apply to unit records both from surveys and administrative sources, before and after integration. In certain cases, imputation (sub-process 5.4) may be used as a form of editing.

5.4. Impute - Where data are missing or unreliable, estimates may be imputed, often using a rule-based approach. Specific steps typically include:

- the identification of potential errors and gaps;
- the selection of data to include or exclude from imputation routines;
- imputation using one or more pre-defined methods e.g. "hot-deck" or "cold-deck";
- writing the imputed data back to the data set, and flagging them as imputed;
- the production of metadata on the imputation process;

5.5. Derive new variables and statistical units -This sub-process derives (values for) variables and statistical units that are not explicitly provided in the collection, but are needed to deliver the required outputs. It derives new variables by applying arithmetic formulae to one or more of the variables that are already present in the dataset. This may need to be iterative, as some derived variables may themselves be based on other derived variables. It is therefore important to ensure that variables are derived in the correct order. New statistical units may be derived by aggregating or splitting data for collection units, or by various other estimation methods. Examples include deriving households where the collection units are persons or enterprises where the collection units are legal units.

5.6. Calculate weights -This sub process creates weights for unit data records according to the methodology created in sub-process 2.5 (Design statistical processing methodology). These weights can be used to “gross-up” sample survey results to make them representative of the target population, or to adjust for non-response in total enumerations.

5.7. Calculate aggregates - This sub process creates aggregate data and population totals from micro-data. It includes summing data for records sharing certain characteristics, determining measures of average and dispersion, and applying weights from sub-process 5.6 to sample survey data to derive population totals.

6.4. Apply disclosure control – This sub-process ensures that the data (and metadata) to be disseminated do not breach the appropriate rules on confidentiality. This may include checks for primary and secondary disclosure, as well as the application of data suppression or perturbation techniques.

Factors to Consider for Comparability Assessment

PROCESS	UN GSBPM SUB-PROCESS	Quality Management Harmonisation Tool
User Needs	Determine needs for information Consult and confirm needs Identify concepts Prepare business case	2. <u>General Information</u> Q14 – coverage 3. <u>User Requirements</u> Q5 quality of outputs required, Q6 domains needed, Q18 overall fitness for user purpose
Design	Design variable descriptions Design data collection methodology Design frame and sample methodology	4. <u>Use of Administrative data</u> :- Q6-13 definitions, coverage, timeliness, changes to data collection; Q23 overall fitness for purpose 6. <u>Survey Data Collection Design</u> :- Q8 collection mode, Q40 definition of response; Q47-48 treatment of response bias Q55-Q57 data capture, code and transfer methods; Q58 documentation; Q61 overall fitness of collection methods and processes 7. <u>Sample Design and Implementation</u> :- Q1- 22 – Sample methods. Q26-27 equivalence to other countries; Q29 documentation; Q32 overall fitness of sample design and methods
Process	Integrate data Classify and code Review, validate and edit Impute Derive new variables/ statistical units Calculate weights	5. <u>Classifications and Harmonisation</u> 8. <u>Edit and Impute</u> :- Q3 data sources used for validation; Q8,9,11,15,16 main types of data error, rates, reasons and treatment; Q21,22 imputation methods and international standards; Q26 documentation; Overall fitness of edit and impute processes; 9. <u>Weighting and Estimation</u> :- Q1-6, type of weights, outlier detection methods; Q8 – Coefficient of variation 5 key variables; Q10- standard error calculation; Q14 documentation; Q17 overall fitness of weighting and estimation.
Analyse	Validate Outputs Apply disclosure control Disseminate	10. <u>Analysis of Statistical Outputs</u> Q4 adjustments, Q9 QA including coherence; Q12 documentation; Q15 overall fitness 12. <u>Regular or Repeated Statistics</u> Q4,5 time series and treatment of anomalies; Q 8,9 Seasonal Adjustment Q15 Forecasting method; Q18 smoothing method; Q20 Documentation Q23 overall fitness of time series 13. <u>Index Number Construction</u> :- Q2,3 Index methods Q6 Source of weights Q8 Frequency of update of weights; Q10 Frequency of update of base period Q12-15 Deflator method Q18 deflator deficiencies; Q22 Conform to standards (local, national international) ? Q25 Documentation. Q28 Overall fitness of Index number construction. 14. <u>Confidentiality</u> Q1,2, 5 Disclosure standards and methods applied Q11 Impact on quality; Q18 documentation Q21 overall fitness of disclosure control. 15. <u>Dissemination</u> :- Q2 time lag between publication and reference period Q15 Users advised of revisions? Q25,26 Advice on uses of data

Theme	Product	Rating	Remarks
Agriculture and Environment	Air Emissions	Fully Comparable	
	Air Pollution Days	Fully Comparable	
	Bovine TB Incidents - GB	Fully Comparable	
	Bovine TB Incidents - Northern Ireland	Partially Comparable	Bovine TB is transmitted by cattle to cattle contact, contact between susceptible wildlife species, and contact between cattle and susceptible wildlife species. As such, Great Britain is regarded as one epidemiologically distinct island. It is likely that there is more interest in how Northern Ireland bovine TB statistics are comparable to the Republic of Ireland TB statistics, than how they compare to GB statistics.
	Cereal Production	Fully Comparable	
	Condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest	Partially Comparable	All the Country Agencies use Common Standards of Monitoring as a basis for how SSSIs (or ASSIs in Northern Ireland) are assessed. However, each Agency implements and records their monitoring differently, and work to different targets set by their devolved administrations. All use the same condition definitions. The sampling frame and sampling strategy and units also differ between countries. SSSI statistics are classified as official statistics in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland only.
	Employment, Population and Growth	Fully Comparable	In England and Wales a common methodology has been used to develop a typology / classification of rural areas and rural settlements. In Scotland a different methodology / typology is used to classify settlements. However, in all three countries a population threshold of 10,000 is set to differentiate between urban and rural areas. In Northern Ireland a different methodology / typology is used and a population threshold of 4,500 is set to differentiate between urban and rural areas. In many instances statistics will be produced using a local authority based rural-urban classification by aggregation of the more detailed typology. The methodologies either differ or are not applied across all countries at this level.
	Fish Stocks	Fully Comparable	
	Fished Sustainability	Fully Comparable	
	GHG Emissions	Fully Comparable	
	Invasive Species	Fully Comparable	
	Livestock Populations	Fully Comparable	
	Recycling Rate of Waste from Households	Fully Comparable	
	River Quality	Fully Comparable	
	Rural Community Broadband Fund	Not Comparable	The headline statistic is specific to England, as it relates to a funding programme only applicable to England.
	Sea Bathing Quality	Fully Comparable	
	Total Income from Farming	Fully Comparable	
	Visits to the Natural Environment	Partially Comparable	The figures for England are produced from separate sources of data to their Scottish and Welsh counterparts. Methods and standards are broadly comparable, but users should be made aware of the limitations. The outputs of the surveys on Visits to the Natural Environment are official statistics in Scotland, England and Wales. There are no such statistics for Northern Ireland.
	Volume and Value of Landings by UK and Foreign Vessels landing in the UK	Fully Comparable	
	Wild Bird Index	Fully Comparable	
Woodland Area - GB	Partially Comparable	Separate data sources used for GB and for NI.	
Woodland Area - NI	Partially Comparable	Separate data sources used for GB and for NI.	
Business and Energy	Annual Business Survey	Fully Comparable	
	Business Confidence EBS	Not Comparable	The English Business (EBS) survey run by BIS is relatively new and only covers England.
	Business Registrations	Fully Comparable	
	Electricity Generation (including renewable generation)	Fully Comparable	
	Employees/Employment	Fully Comparable	
	Final Energy Consumption (by type)	Fully Comparable	
	Fuel Poverty	Partially Comparable	DECC produce data on fuel poverty for England but this measure and issue is fully devolved. Each country produces fuel poverty estimates using their house condition/property survey and model information to estimate fuel poverty. As underlying source data and methodology are different but definition of fuel poverty is the same, it could be scored as partially comparable.
	High Growth Businesses	Fully Comparable	
	High Growth Sectors	Not Comparable	There are priority sectors in Wales and Scotland have key sectors. As there are different 'key' sectors in the countries and some of those sectors which are the same have different definitions (eg Scotland has a different creative industries definition) this is not comparable. These are essentially different measures being collected in each country however as Wales produce a UK comparator it could be possible to create comparable measures.
	Imports and Exports	Fully Comparable	
	Innovation	Fully Comparable	
	Insolvencies and Bankruptcies	Fully Comparable	While there are slightly different procedures in Scotland, data is broadly comparable. This is made clear in the Insolvencies and Bankruptcies report published by BIS.
	Number of Businesses	Fully Comparable	
Research and Development Activity	Fully Comparable		
Salaries	Fully Comparable		

Children, Education and Skills	School pupil numbers	Partially Comparable	Data on pupil numbers is collected separately by each of the Devolved Administrations. The methods and standards are broadly comparable but there are some minor coverage differences. These differences are described fully in the notes to Table 1.2 (https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/255087/v01-2013c1.xls) in the Education and Training Statistics for the UK 2013 Report.
	Class size	Partially Comparable	Methodology and coverage across the four nations are broadly similar, covering class sizes in primary schools as measured by a pupil-level annual school census in the academic year 2012/13. Age ranges vary across the four nations of the UK, but mainly cover ages 4 or 5 up to age 10 or 11. Data is also collected at different points during the academic year.
	Pupil Teacher Ratios	Partially Comparable	Data on pupils and teachers is collected separately by each of the Devolved Administrations. The methods and standards are broadly comparable but there are some minor coverage differences. These differences are described fully in the notes to Table 1.4 (https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/255087/v01-2013c1.xls) in the Education and Training Statistics for the UK 2013 Report.
	Pupil attainment	Fully Comparable	
	Higher Education	Not Comparable	Figures are produced from separate sources of data and published separately in England and Scotland. The England and Scotland measures are based on similar methodologies although the former is the sum of initial participation rates for those aged 17 to 30, while Scotland include 16 year olds in their measure. Differences in structure of the Scottish education system means there are significant Higher Education entrants aged 16. Up-to-date figures are not produced for Wales and Northern Ireland.
	Highest qualifications	Partially Comparable	The Office for National Statistics collects Labour Force Survey data on a comparable basis that covers each of the 4 nations. The definition of level 4 qualifications is the same across all countries, however the methodology varies in: a) ages of "working age population"; b) when countries do the analysis using the LFS; c) how each of the countries deals with reweighting of the data and boosting the LFS sample with information gathered from other national surveys to boost the representation. Therefore statistics produced in the different nations are not always comparable.
	Graduate destinations	Fully Comparable	
Crime and Justice	Number of violent and sexual crimes - police recorded crime data	Fully Comparable	These figures are fully comparable for England & Wales as they come from the same police recorded crime dataset. Northern Ireland use the same crime recording system as England and Wales, so results should be comparable barring any differences in legal systems. Figures are available for Scotland, but consideration would have to be given to ensuring the same types of crime were included in the total before any comparisons were made. There are also some potential differences between England & Wales, Scotland and NI due to differences in legislation. There is also need to be careful to include the same set of offences if comparing the countries.
	Police Officers (FTE)	Fully Comparable	England and Wales are fully comparable as they are covered by the same set of statistics. Figures are produced separately for Scotland and Northern Ireland. The figures all cover the same time frames and exclude police staff. England, Wales and Northern Ireland publish breakdowns by rank. The Scottish Government does not, but Police Scotland does hold the figures and plans to publish additional police officer data with effect from March 2014. There are some differences in more minor factors (e.g. whether secondments are included, whether officers on career breaks are included), which mean that the statistics are not perfectly comparable.
	Stop and Search Total	Fully Comparable	Data is fully comparable for England and Wales, as they come from the same dataset. Data is not currently collected by Scottish Government but discussions are ongoing between statisticians there and Police Scotland. Data is partially comparable with Northern Ireland's data - it presents data breakdowns on the all offence basis whereas England and Wales are for principal offence. Additional stop and search powers (under Justice and Security Act 2007) are available in Northern Ireland, which may affect their usage of powers under the Police And Crime Evidence act (PACE) and other legislation (including terrorism legislation).
	The percentage of offenders who re-offend within 1 year of sentence or release from custody - linked prison/probation/police data in England and Wales, linked to Convictions database ex-Causeway in Northern Ireland.	Fully Comparable	Data for England and Wales are fully comparable as they use the same data source and are based on identical justice systems. England and Wales re-offending statistics are also broadly comparable with Scotland, and work has been carried out in the past to bring the figures into closer alignment. Both areas monitor re-offending over a 1 year period following release from custody or commencement of another sentence. However, there are differences in approach in terms of counting rules (Scotland count convictions that occur the follow-up period, England and Wales count cautions and convictions where the offence was committed in the period and the disposal was given within a further 6 months). Both areas use a cohort based approach using administrative systems. In Northern Ireland the definition used is the same as that for England and Wales, while the complete annual cohort is assessed.
	Total number of crimes - Crime Survey Data	Fully Comparable	England and Wales are covered by the the same survey and are fully comparable. Northern Ireland uses the same methodology and content for its survey so the results are broadly comparable. Scotland also follows a similar methodology, as it used to be included in the British Crime Survey. Its results are therefore also broadly comparable. Northern Ireland incidence rates are generally shown per 10,000 adults/households, whereas England and Wales are shown per 1,000. But one could easily be converted to the other. There are also some differences in offence and crime classifications, reflecting the differing legal systems of the countries but the surveys are still generally comparable.

	Total number of crimes - Police recorded Crime Data	Fully Comparable	England and Wales are fully comparable, as they are covered by the same data collection exercise. Northern Ireland use the same National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) as the Home Office use for England and Wales, so their data are closely comparable. Police Recorded Crime in Scotland divides data into crimes and offences, but this is only for statistical purposes. For example, the word "crime" is used to cover more serious offences, whilst "offence" indicates lesser offences. However, as long as it is ensured that the same crime/offence types are included in the total, the figures will be broadly comparable. There is a need to ensure the same crime/offence types were included if comparing across countries. Some differences in legislation also make it difficult to compare perfectly. Northern Ireland figures include fraud, so comparisons with England & Wales should be treated with caution given the recent staggered move to record fraud offences via a central body (Action Fraud). It would probably be wise to exclude fraud from both sets of figures to allow a fair comparison.
	Total number of offenders commencing a community sentence - probation case management system in England and Wales, PIMS in Northern Ireland.	Fully Comparable	England and Wales are fully comparable as they are covered by the same data source and underlying probation system. England and Wales community sentence statistics are broadly comparable with those from Scotland although there are inevitable differences in the type of sentences available in these areas. There are also some differences in naming conventions - eg. Scotland uses term 'social work orders', England and Wales use 'court orders' but they appear broadly comparable and to have similar counting rules. Both areas use administrative systems. In Northern Ireland there are further differences in the types of sentences available as well as naming conventions.
	Total number of out of court disposals issued- Police disposal data in England and Wales, Criminal History Systems in Scotland. Convictions database ex-Causeway in Northern Ireland.	Fully Comparable	England and Wales are fully comparable as they are covered by the same datasets and system of out of court disposals. However there are significant differences when comparing data for England and Wales with data for Scotland and Northern Ireland, mainly driven by differences in the range of out of court disposals available in these areas. Out of court disposal statistics in England and Wales include police cautions, reprimands and warnings given to juveniles (until April 2013), cannabis warnings (from 2005) and penalty notices for disorder (from 2004). However, neither police cautions nor cannabis warnings exist in Scotland while Scottish out of court disposal statistics also include data from fiscal fines, warnings for anti-social behaviour and a range of diversionary measures. In Northern Ireland there is an extensive diversionary and restorative apparatus, both pre-court and court-initiated in addition to standard cautionary disposals (Informed Warnings, Diversionary Youth Conferences, Restorative Cautions, Northern Ireland Driver Improvement Scheme, Prosecutorial Fines (once executed) and Community Based Restorative Justice scheme). Cannabis warnings do not exist in Northern Ireland.
	Total number of persons (aged 15 or over) held in a prison establishment or immigration removal centre - prison management system in England and Wales, PRISM in Northern Ireland.	Fully Comparable	England and Wales are fully comparable as they are covered by the same data source and underlying prison system. Figures for England and Wales include numbers held in National Offender Management Service-run immigration removal centres. There is no equivalent for these centres under the authority of the Scottish Prison Service. The data sources are all administrative systems with 100% coverage and the counting rules appear to be equivalent - both include prisoners on remand etc. The Northern Ireland system has broadly the same statistical definitions/categories as those for England and Wales but there are certain differences in administrative arrangements for the prisons themselves which may affect comparability.
	Total number of persons or companies found (or have pleaded) guilty of a criminal offence at court - court management information systems in England and Wales, Criminal History System in Scotland, Convictions database ex-Causeway in Northern Ireland	Fully Comparable	Data for England and Wales are fully comparable as they come from the same data source and underlying courts/justice system is the same. However, some differences exist between England/Wales and Scotland and Northern Ireland owing to the different justice/court systems that exist in these areas. The prosecution/court process in England and Wales is broadly comparable with Northern Ireland, where a similar system of Magistrates and Crown Courts exists, but differs to the Scottish system which comprises of the High Court, Sheriff Court and Justice of the Peace court. Data in all areas come from administrative systems and similar counting rules exist in relation to aspects such as counting only the principal offence where an individual court case involves several different offences. However there are differences between areas in terms of naming conventions and additionally, differences in the underlying criminal justice systems mean that more low-level offences are likely to be heard in court in England and Wales as opposed to Scotland.
	Total numbers of cases initiated in a Civil Court - County Family Court Administrative System in England/Wales. Court Service arrangements Information System in Scotland. COS in Northern Ireland.	Fully Comparable	England and Wales are fully comparable as they are covered by the same data source and underlying civil/family justice system. The Civil Courts structure is different in England and Wales compared with Scotland - England and Wales civil cases are taken through county courts/high court while family cases go through the family courts. Scottish cases go through the sheriff courts or the Court of Session. This leads to some presentational differences in the statistics but, in itself, should not affect the comparability of the overall numbers of cases initiated. The England and Wales and Scottish data are also reported against slightly different categories and naming conventions but, again, this affects the underlying data rather than the overall headline statistic. There may, however, be differences in case volumes which are due to different approaches to mediation and pre-action protocols and, in addition, Scottish data excludes some summary applications which the England and Wales data does not. In Northern Ireland there are some further differences in the Civil Courts structure (although the base structural position is relatively similar to England and Wales) and in legislation applicable. Relative comparability should be attainable in much the same way at overall headline statistic levels.
Economy	Balance of Trade	Fully Comparable	
	Construction Output Bulletin	Fully Comparable	
	Consumer Price Inflation (CPI)	Not Comparable	All CPI statistics produced by the ONS are for the whole of the UK economy, and cannot be graded on the 4 Nations Comparability Scale.

	Gross Disposable Household Income	Fully Comparable	Household disposable income figures released by ONS within their Quarterly National Accounts are for the UK as a whole and cannot be graded on the 4 Nations Comparability Scale. ONS also produces GDHI statistics within their Regional Household Income release which are fully comparable. The Scottish Government produces household GDHI within their Scottish National Accounts Project (SNAP). These statistics are benchmarked to the Regional Household Income release and are therefore classed as fully comparable. Welsh Government publishes its own GDHI bulletins using data sourced from ONS putting it into a context relevant to Wales.
	Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	Partially Comparable	All official GDP statistics produced by ONS are for the whole of the UK economy. The UK figure is compiled by using chained volume measures in each of the four countries and thus Fully Comparable. Scotland's own GDP estimates are not fully comparable with ones compiled across the UK. Northern Ireland's Composite Economic Index uses a number of official indices to construct a performance index of the economy. The Northern Irish government uses different data sources to those used by the UK, making them Partially Comparable on the 4 Nation Comparability Scale.
	Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF)	Not comparable	ONS produces GFCF figures within their Quarterly National Accounts. These are for the UK economy and cannot be graded on the 4 Nations Comparability Scale. Scottish Government produces GFCF statistics within their Input-Output tables. These statistics are then incorporated within the Scottish National Accounts Project (SNAP). The source data and methods used to calculate these statistics are different to the UK figures; therefore the statistics are partially comparable.
	Gross Operating Surplus	Fully Comparable	ONS produces gross operating surplus statistics for the UK economy within the Second Estimate of GDP publication, and the Quarterly National Accounts. As no breakdown is provided for Home Nations, they cannot be graded on the 4 Nations Comparability Scale. ONS also produces these statistics as part of their Regional GVA (I) release and is graded as fully comparable. Scottish Government produces statistics on gross operating surplus in their Scottish National Accounts Project (SNAP). These statistics are benchmarked to the ONS Regional GVA (I) release and are therefore fully comparable.
	Household Final Consumption Expenditure Figures	Not Comparable	Household final consumption expenditure figures released by the ONS within their Quarterly National Accounts are for the UK and cannot be graded on the 4 Nations Comparability Scale. The Scottish Government produces household final consumption expenditure statistics within the Scottish National Accounts Project (SNAP). These statistics are produced using different methods to the UK and are therefore classed as partially comparable.
	Index of Production (IoP)	Not comparable	Figures within ONS' Index of Production (IoP) are for the UK economy as a whole, and cannot be graded on the 4 Nations Comparability Scale. Scottish Government does not have a separate IoP bulletin, but does include it within their GDP release. It is fully comparable.
	Index of Services (IoS)	Fully Comparable	Figures within ONS' Index of Services (IoS) are for the UK economy as a whole, and cannot be graded on the 4 Nations Comparability Scale. Scottish Government includes an IoS component within their GDP release, thus making them fully comparable. Northern Ireland's IoS uses similar methods and reporting standards to those of the ONS with the data sourced independently and is classed as fully comparable. Welsh Government's Index of Market Services (IoMS) is produced in conjunction with the ONS but excludes components found in the indexes produced by the UK, Scotland and Northern Ireland releases. It is classed as not comparable.
	Labour Productivity	Fully Comparable	
	Public Sector Finances	Partially Comparable	The Public Sector Finances bulletin covers the whole of the UK economy. Figures within the Government Expenditure and Revenue Scotland (GERS) publication are consistent with the UK publication with apportionments used to generate the regional estimate. Northern Ireland's Net Fiscal Balance (NFB) publication employs methods similar to those used to produce GERS. Data is collected from local government on a different basis in England from the other 3 nations.
	Public Sector Productivity	Not Comparable	Public Sector Productivity Estimates are for the whole of the UK economy, and cannot be graded on the 4 Nations Comparability Scale. The latest public sector productivity estimates were released in April 2013 for the period between 1997 and 2010, available here (http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/psa/public-sector-productivity-estimates--total-public-sector/2010/art-public-service-productivity-estimates.html#tab-abstract). The publication provides estimates on the productivity of the UK public sector as a whole and for individual service areas. This publication is produced every two years with a long time lag. Some selected breakdowns of health and education estimates are available on a country basis, but this method cannot be repeated for the headline statistic.
	Regional Gross Value Added (GVA)	Fully Comparable	
	Regional Trade Statistics (RTS)	Fully Comparable	
	Retail Sales Index (RSI)	Partially comparable	ONS produces the Retail Sales Index (RSI) for Great Britain, not for the whole of the UK economy therefore excluding Northern Ireland, and cannot be graded on the 4 Nations Comparability Scale. Statistics within the Scottish Retail Sales Index are derived using the same surveys as those used by the ONS and thus directly comparable to the UK's RSI. They are graded as fully comparable.
Health and Social Care	Accident and Emergency Waiting Times (Non-elective)	Partially Comparable	All 4 UK countries publish information on the time spent in Accident and Emergency (A&E), though this can be labelled under Emergency Department (as in Scotland) or Emergency Care (as in Northern Ireland). The published statistics are not exactly comparable because: they were designed to monitor targets which have developed separately within each country; the provision and classification of unscheduled care services varies across the UK; the systems which collect the data are different.

	Children's Social Care - Number of children in need	Not Comparable	The number of children in need is a statistic which is not gathered across all countries of the UK. England and Wales gather information, but the collection is done at different points in the year, and the Welsh figures focus on children whose case has been open for 3 or more months – in England all open cases are included. Scotland does not gather this information.
	Children's Social Care - Number of children looked after	Not Comparable	The number of looked after children is not directly comparable across the four countries of the UK. Whilst information is gathered and published by each country this is done to slightly different definitions of what constitutes 'looked after' by the Local Authority, and the point in the calendar when the data collection takes place.
	Elective Waiting Times - Referral to Treatment Times	Partially Comparable	England, Scotland and Wales publish referral to treatment waiting times – which measures the complete patient pathway from initial referral e.g. by a GP, to agreed treatment or discharge - in addition to certain stages of treatment waiting times. Northern Ireland publish waiting times statistics for the inpatient, outpatient and diagnostics stages of treatment – which measures waiting times for the different stages of the patient pathway, typically specific waits for outpatient, diagnostic or inpatient treatment, or for specific services such as audiology.
	General Mortality Data by disease code, age and sex	Fully Comparable	Information about all deaths registered in England and Wales is held by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Death registration data for Scotland and Northern Ireland is held by the National Records of Scotland (NRS) and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), respectively. In Scotland a death must be registered within eight days compared to five days in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. However the definitions, classifications and methods used in mortality statistics are broadly comparable across the four countries. All four countries use ICD-10v2010 to code cause of death.
	GP Patient Experience	Partially Comparable	GP patient experience surveys are carried out separately in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. The frequency and method of collection differs between the countries, but there are broadly comparable information available for England, Scotland and Northern Ireland on the care received at the surgery. Caution is advised for comparisons between the Welsh survey and the English, Northern Irish and Scottish surveys as the Welsh survey uses a distinctly different methodology. It has also been possible to rework data from the English survey to enable comparisons between England, Scotland and Northern Ireland on patient engagement with the doctor and nurse.
	Health Risks - Alcohol Consumption	Not Comparable	Statistics on alcohol consumption on the heaviest drinking day in the previous week are available for Scotland, England and Wales; statistics on mean weekly alcohol consumption are available for Scotland, England and Northern Ireland. Whilst the survey questions are generally similar, the modes of delivery differ: for example, for heaviest daily consumption, face-to-face in Scotland and England; self-completion in Wales. Furthermore, categorisation of drinkers and non-drinkers is inconsistent, and some differences exist in the way some alcoholic drinks are categorised or presented to the respondent.
	Health Risks - Obesity	Partially Comparable	Adult obesity is defined consistently across Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland using the BMI scale. However, height and weight measurements are self-reported in the Welsh Health Survey and are therefore not directly comparable with equivalent statistics in Scotland, England and Northern Ireland, where direct measurements are taken.
	Health Risks - Smoking	Partially Comparable	Statistics on smoking prevalence taken from Scottish Health Survey, Health Survey for England, Welsh Health Survey and Health Survey for Northern Ireland are assessed to be Partially Comparable.
	Healthy Life Expectancy	Fully Comparable	
	Hospital Mortality Ratios	Not Comparable	Methodologies and information on Hospital Mortality are sufficiently different across England, Wales and Scotland to mean that direct comparisons should not be made between the countries on the basis of these statistics. In Scotland the main figure used is the Hospital Standardised Mortality Ratio (HMSR) and in England it is the Summary Hospital-level Mortality Index (SHMI). Northern Ireland do not currently publish information on Hospital Mortality but are in the process of developing a suitable methodology. Wales are in the process of developing a new measure.
	Inpatient Experience	Not Comparable	Comparisons on Inpatient Experience are not available for Wales and Northern Ireland. The English and Scottish surveys are broadly non-comparable due to differences in sampling, questionnaire structure, questions and response categories. Comparisons are possible for a number of similar questions which are asked in both the English and Scottish surveys.
	Life Expectancy	Fully Comparable	
	Maternity Experience	Fully Comparable	The statistics are Fully Comparable between England and Scotland. Comparisons are not available for Wales and Northern Ireland.
	Mortality Attributed to various causes	Partially comparable	The underlying mortality data used to derive these estimates are partially comparable, being produced from separate sources of data, but using similar methods and standards. For some causes, such as alcohol, estimates of deaths are derived from those data for all four UK nations using the same definitions and methods (partially comparable). In other cases, such as smoking, separate estimates are derived across the UK using different definitions and methods (not comparable). For some, such as figures for avoidable, preventable and amenable deaths, estimates are not available for all four UK nations (not comparable).
	Re-admissions (to Hospital)	Not Comparable	Information on emergency re-admissions is collected in England for fractured proximal femur; hip replacement surgery; hysterectomy; stroke and 'all readmissions'. Scotland and Wales do not routinely publish information on emergency re-admissions.

	Social Care (Adult) Experience	Not Comparable	Information on client experience of Social Care is gathered in England through the Adult Social Care Survey (England) and Survey of Carers (England) products. There are no comparable data gathered in Scotland or Wales. Scotland will be gathering information on client experience through its Health and Care Experience Survey (Scotland) – but it will not be comparable with the information gathered in England. The Scottish survey will gather information for the first time in November 2013.
	Workforce - GP Numbers	Partially Comparable	GPs providing primary care services are mostly independent contractors working for the NHS. The number of GPs per 10,000 population is a statistic which is broadly comparable across all countries of the UK. There are many factors that impact on the size of GPs' patient lists, including the health, age and density of the local population. As many GPs work part-time, comparisons on this headcount basis would not reflect any systematic differences in the relationship between headcount and whole-time equivalent number across the UK. Whole-time equivalent numbers of GPs are collected routinely in England and Wales, but less frequently in Scotland. Northern Ireland does not gather this information.
	Workforce - Other NHS Staff	Partially Comparable	Other NHS staff such as hospital doctors, nurses and administrative staff are employed directly by NHS organisations. Comparisons of the numbers of staff in these groups between countries should be treated with caution since there are slight differences in the way in which staff are classified. Published figures exclude staff in the independent sector providing NHS care and staff in NHS hospitals who are employed by non NHS organisations; levels of these staff will vary by country. Underlying data for England and Wales is collected in the same database and to the same specifications, so there are better prospects for comparing these two countries.
Housing, Planning and Local Services	House Building	Fully Comparable	
	Dwelling Stocks - Annual Counts	Fully Comparable	
	Dwelling Stocks - Split by Tenure	Fully Comparable	
	Dwelling Stocks - Net Supply	Partially Comparable	The Department for Communities and Local Government publish figures describing the net supply of housing in England annually, which includes house building completions, gains or losses through conversions, changes of use, demolitions and other changes to stock. The Scottish Government does not publish a similar series on net supply of housing, but time series showing demolitions and conversions in Scotland are available. Wales do not publish net supply statistics in the same format as the Department for Communities and Local Government but data on house building and conversions, and demolitions, are published separately. Northern Ireland does not publish net supply statistics.
	House Prices	Fully Comparable	
	Household Projections	Fully Comparable	
	Residential Planning Applications - Number of residential applications	Partially Comparable	England and Scotland provide numbers of planning applications by local authority area split by major and minor (or local) developments quarterly. Definitions of major/minor developments vary between these two countries and England includes a further definitional division of major developments of small- and large-scale and Scotland classifies some applications as national. In Wales, data on overall numbers of planning applications and decisions is available from the Development Management Quarterly Survey, and is published quarterly. The number of residential applications is not available separately from other types of applications, so is not normally published separately from other types of applications, but is available on request. The Department of the Environment in Northern Ireland publishes a press release quarterly which includes headlines of residential planning numbers. Quarterly and annual reports are produced on planning statistics in the Northern Ireland Planning Development Management Statistical Bulletin. These reports contain summary information on planning applications received and decided, including geographic detail at the Local Government District and the Assembly Constituency in Northern Ireland. Three types of application are recognised in Northern Ireland (Major, Intermediate and Minor). Live planning data is available to extract online, backdated to a maximum of 6 months and includes codes to indicate application type.
	Residential Planning Applications - Residential Planning Performance	Partially Comparable	Data on the time taken for decisions to be made is available from all four constituent countries. Timeframes for decisions set by each country vary: In England applications defined as major have a statutory 13 week timeframe for determination and minor applications should be determined within 8 weeks; Scotland targets two months for minor developments and four months for major applications; Wales targets eight weeks for all applications; and Northern Ireland targets 12 weeks for minor, 18 weeks for intermediate and 20 weeks for major applications. Scotland and Northern Ireland publish residential planning performance statistics quarterly and annually. The Department for Communities and Local Government publish residential planning performance statistics quarterly; annual figures are available online. Wales publish planning performance statistics for total planning applications quarterly.
Labour Market	Average Weekly Earnings	Fully Comparable	
	Claimant Count Level	Fully Comparable	
	Claimant Count Rate	Fully Comparable	
	Economic Activity Level (16-64)	Fully Comparable	
	Economic Activity Rate (16-64)	Fully Comparable	
	Employment Level (16+)	Fully Comparable	
	Employment Rate (16-64)	Fully Comparable	
	Inactive Benefits (16-64)	Fully Comparable	

	Inactive Benefits Rate (16-64)	Fully Comparable	
	Total Earnings Growth	Not Comparable	GB only. Information is collected at an aggregate level from businesses and it is not possible to break this figure down between UK countries from the current collection.
	Unemployment Level (16+)	Fully Comparable	
	Unemployment Level (16-24)	Fully Comparable	
	Unemployment Rate (16+)	Fully Comparable	
	Unemployment Rate (16-24)	Fully Comparable	
	Vacancies	Not Comparable	Available for UK. Information is collected at an aggregate level from businesses and it is not possible to break this figure down between UK countries from the current collection.
	Workforce Jobs	Fully Comparable	
Population	Births	Partially Comparable	Births statistics are partially comparable. Those for Scotland and Northern Ireland are based on registrations, while those for England and Wales are based on occurrences. Although the figures for individual country data are not all released on the same day they are brought together in a UK release by ONS.
	Deaths	Fully Comparable	
	Internal Migration	Partially Comparable	Internal Migration data are partially comparable. They are produced separately by ONS, WG, NRS and NISRA using health records. ONS also makes a student adjustment using data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency and users should be aware of this difference when making comparisons.
	International Migration	Fully Comparable	
	Mid-year Population Estimates	Fully Comparable	
	National Population Projections	Fully Comparable	
	Sub-national Population Projections	Partially Comparable	Sub-national Population Projections are partially comparable. They are produced separately by ONS, WG, NRS and NISRA and use similar methods. However, the figures for Wales are not constrained to the National Population Projections and users need to be aware of this difference when making comparisons. In addition, ONS, WG and NRS produce 25 year projections whereas NISRA produce 15 year projections
Travel & Transport	Accessibility - percentage of households with a car	Fully Comparable	
	Freight Moved -Roads	Fully Comparable	
	Freight Moved -Shipping	Fully Comparable	
	Modal Share - Percentage of total journeys by each mode (including cycling)	Fully Comparable	
	Number killed or seriously injured casualties in road accidents	Fully Comparable	
	Rail Passengers Kilometres and Journeys	Fully Comparable	
	Rail Performance	Not Comparable	Though Public Performance Measure (PPM) figures are available for England & Wales and for Scotland separately (calculated from Network Rail routes), these neither map to the country geographies nor the train operators serving those countries, so provide an approximation only. The headline statistic is for GB. Statistics are prepared on a slightly different basis and published for Northern Ireland by the train operator 'Translink'. England & Wales: Includes all routes wholly in England, and wholly in Wales, and all cross border routes between England & Wales, and England & Scotland. Note: To separate 'England & Wales' into England PPM and Wales PPM would be difficult. Scotland: Includes services operated by ScotRail only. Northern Ireland: Includes NIR services operated by Translink.
	Stock of licensed road vehicles	Fully Comparable	
	Total Motor Traffic Volume	Fully Comparable	
