

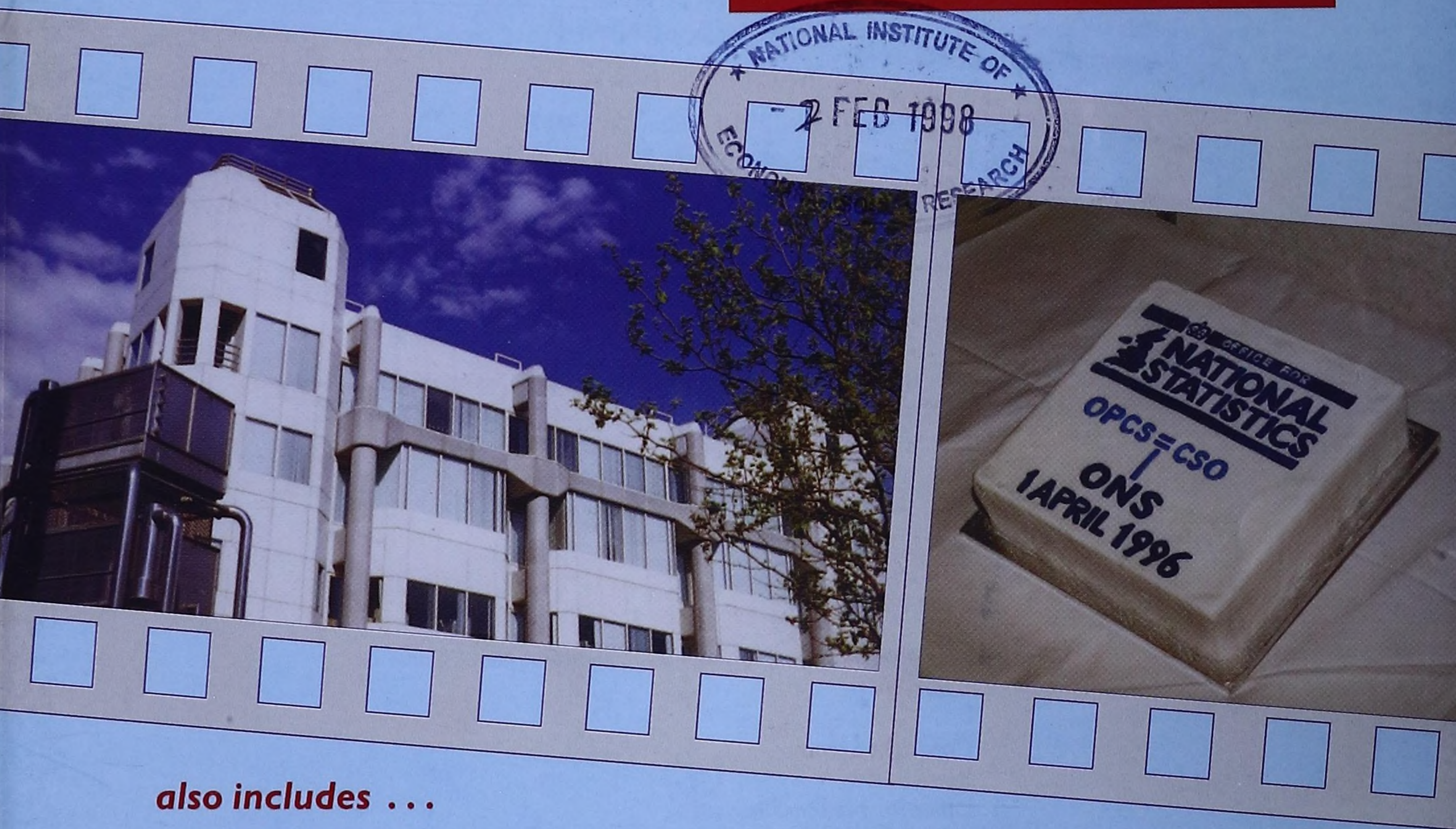
Statistical

News

OFFICE FOR NATIONAL STATISTICS

Autumn 1997 - Issue 117

**The creation of the Office
for National Statistics**



also includes ...

- **Monitoring BT's Compliance with Retail Price Control Arrangements**
- **UK Presidency of the European Union - What does it mean for Official Statistics**

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STATISTICAL NEWS

DEVELOPMENTS IN BRITISH OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Autumn 1997 - No. 117



THE GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL SERVICE MISSION

*'To provide Parliament, government and the wider community
with the statistical information, analysis and advice needed to
improve decision making, stimulate research and inform debate'*

LIST OF CONTENTS

Page

■ Feature Articles

Monitoring BT's Compliance with Retail Price Control Arrangements	3
The Creation of the Office for National Statistics	11
UK Presidency of the European Union - What does it mean for Official Statistics	20
A Personal Note	22

■ News from around the GSS and beyond

Government Statistical Service	24
Office for National Statistics	26
Department for Education and Employment	33
Department of Health	34
Home Office	35
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency	37
Department of Social Security	39
Welsh Office	39
Other Organisations	41
Departmental News Correspondents	46

■ Supplement

New Surveys and Departmental Listings	49
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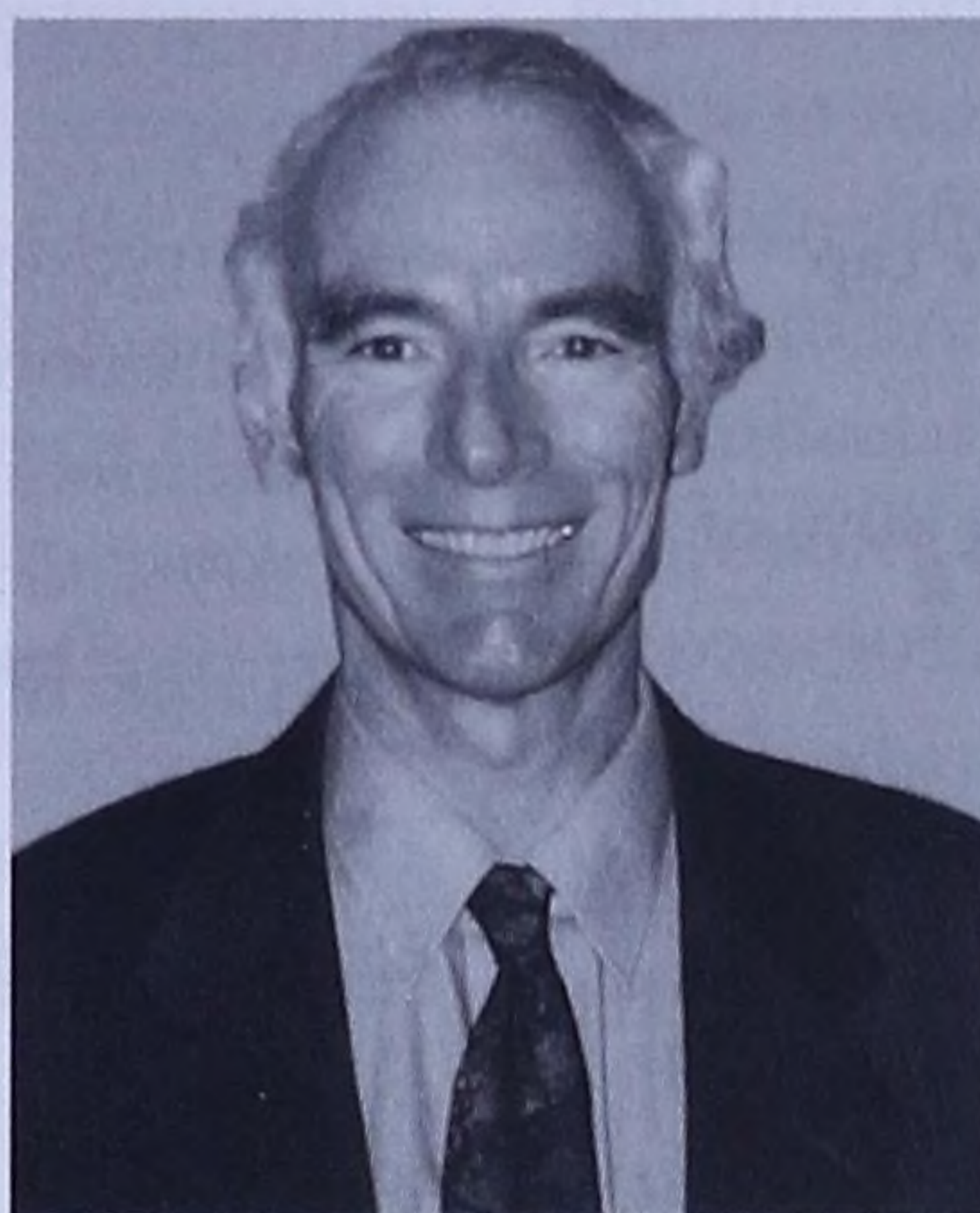
MONITORING BT'S COMPLIANCE WITH RETAIL PRICE CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

When BT was privatised in 1984 it was subjected to price control in the form of a periodic price cap. The prices of a specified basket of BT's main services were controlled such that the Weighted Average Percentage Price change in any year for these services would be no greater than the rate of inflation less a given number of percentage points, ie RPI-X where RPI is the headline rate of inflation, rather than the Index itself. X was set initially at 3.

In 1984, the price cap form of price control was not widely used either in the UK or elsewhere. It was considered to be suitable in the case of BT because it both controlled the level of prices charged to customers and provided clear incentives to BT to reduce costs through improvements in efficiency. The intention of the price cap is to mimic the effects of competition, in the absence of actual competition.

Over the years, both the value of X and the services included in the basket have changed as a result of periodic reviews. In addition, other constraints mainly relating to the control of prices of individual services have been applied, and price control was extended in 1989 to cover a completely separate set of services - BT's private circuit services ie point to point circuits for customers' exclusive use - in addition to the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN).



by Peter Atkinson
OFTEL

This article concentrates on the monitoring carried out by Branch 6C in OFTEL in respect of the price control of switched services in order to give a flavour of the nature of the statistical work in this area. It does not cover statistical input to the periodic reviews of the price control arrangements, for which most of the analytical work is carried out by OFTEL's economists.

A short description of

monitoring in respect of private circuits and a brief mention of network charges - charges for interconnection services between operators - for which a price cap form of control was introduced only in October 1997 appear at the end of the article.

In respect of switched services, the main events over the years have been as follows:

■ **1984 First price cap (RPI-3) introduced.**

Coverage - residential and business exchange line rentals; local and national direct dialled calls.

■ **1989 Basket extended and price cap tightened (RPI-4.5).**

Coverage - as before plus operator assistance and Freefone (0800) and Lo-Call (0345) services.

■ **1991 Basket extended and price cap tightened (RPI-6.25).**

Coverage - as before plus international calls.

■ **1993 Basket extended and price cap tightened (RPI-7.5).**

Coverage - as before plus connection charges.

■ **1997 Basket contracted and price cap loosened (RPI-4.5).**

Coverage - only lowest spending 80% of residential customers.

WHAT MONITORING INVOLVES

Monitoring compliance with the price control rules involves the receipt of data from BT and the analysis of these data. Each Price Control Year has associated with it a Relevant Financial Year, in respect of which BT's revenue for each service in the basket forms the basis for monitoring, and a 12 month period in respect of which the change in the RPI determines the RPI-X and other RPI-based constraints.

Taking as an example the most recently completed Price Control Year we have:

- **Price Control Year** 1 August 1996 - 31 July 1997
- **Relevant Financial Year** 1 April 1995 - 31 March 1996
- **RPI Year** June 1995 - June 1996

There were nearly 300 services in the basket in 1996/97. At the start of each Price Control Year, BT submits to OFTEL the prices in respect of each service at the end of the previous Price Control Year and revenues relating to each service accrued in the Relevant Financial Year. By then, the June RPI has been published and the price control requirement for the basket can be formulated as follows:

Taking 1996/97 as an example:-

June 1995 RPI	149.8
June 1996 RPI	153.0
Increase in the RPI.....	2.1%
RPI-7.5	-5.4%
Carryover of excess price reductions from 1995/96	0.4%
Controlling percentage.....	-4.9%
1995/96 regulated revenue	£7758m
Target in revenue terms	-£381m

Thus, when assessed against consumption patterns in 1995/96, BT's price changes in 1996/97 had to deliver reductions amounting to £381m.

During the course of the Price Control Year BT submits to OFTEL its proposals for price changes. This can happen up to a dozen times in a year, excluding proposals for changes to discounts which I deal with later in this article. Each set of price changes may alter the price of an individual service in the basket or change prices for a group of services eg international calls to various parts of the world.

CALL DURATION DISTRIBUTIONS

Some price changes are fairly straightforward to evaluate. For example, if the price of a residential exchange line rental was to increase by £1 then this increase could be converted into a percentage and applied to the revenue in the Relevant Financial Year. Changes to call prices are more complicated because the price of the call is determined both by the nominal price per minute and by the minimum charge which applies. A reduction of 10% in the nominal price per minute of a particular type of call would translate into a rather lower 'effective' price change. This is because calls previously incurring the minimum charge would still incur the minimum charge and the price of calls which

exceeded the minimum charge by less than 10% would reduce to the minimum charge.

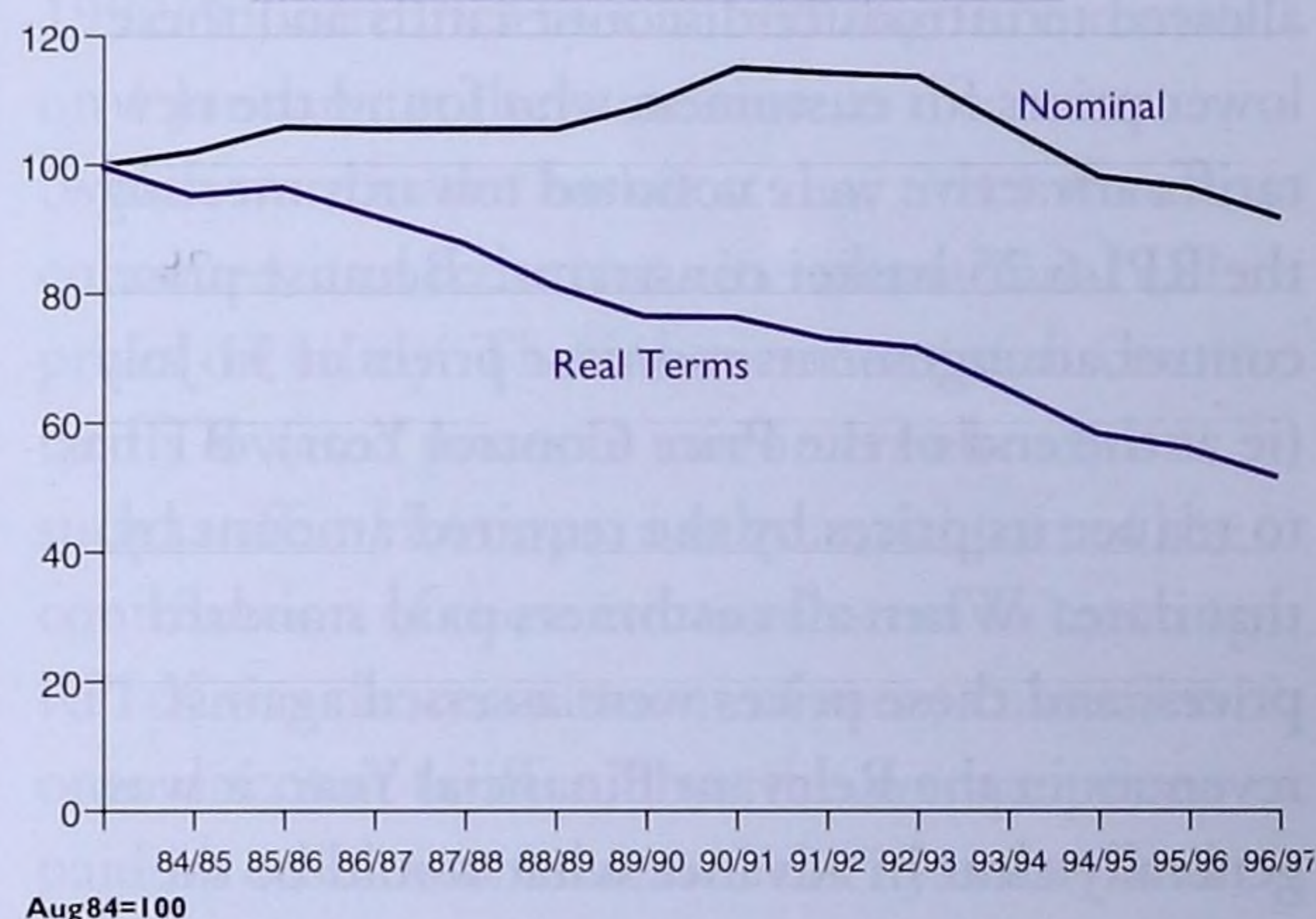
Clearly it is necessary to know the distribution of call durations in order to evaluate the effect of such price changes. Up to the end of the last Price Control Rule in July 1997, call durations for each type of call were represented by fitting the Gamma Distribution. In most instances, the Gamma Distribution with shape parameter equal to 1 (ie the Negative Exponential Distribution) was employed. The Negative Exponential Distribution is commonly employed by telecoms engineers to represent call durations and was generally considered satisfactory for price control purposes. However, for certain types of call characterised by high revenue and low price (ie a significant proportion incurring the minimum fee) it was considered necessary to seek the greater accuracy afforded by the Gamma Distribution, with the shape parameter being re-evaluated from time to time. One disadvantage of the Gamma Distribution for an impatient statistician is that computing effective price changes required an iterative mathematical model and a few minutes delay.

In recent years, however, it has become less easy to represent call durations adequately by means of a fitted statistical distribution. This is because of substantial increases in the proportions of very short duration calls (the popularity of answering machines) and very long duration calls (the Internet). Work was carried out in 1997 to determine the degree of detail which would be required if call durations were to be represented by categorising the data into detailed duration bands, instead of by fitting distributions. It was found that 10 second bands would provide an adequate degree of accuracy for calls of up to 15 minutes, with wider bands for calls of longer duration. Excel models are now employed to analyse the categorized data in respect of price change proposals.

TRENDS IN PRICES OVER THE YEARS

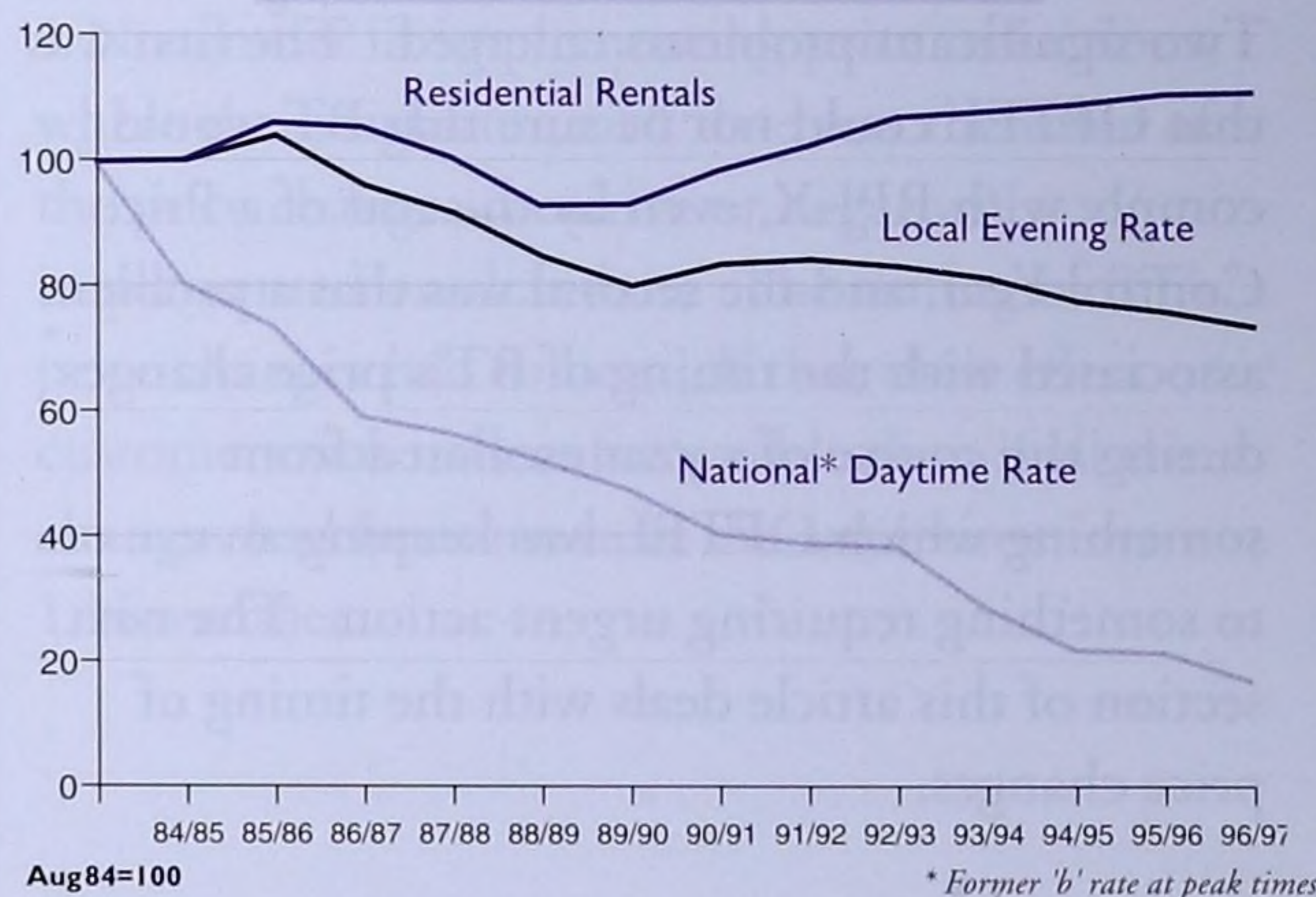
In the first thirteen years of price control, BT's regulated prices for switched services fell by 9% (49% in real terms). There was wide variation between different services as BT rebalanced its prices to bring them more into line with costs. In particular, exchange line rentals, which were constrained by RPI+2 until early 1996, have risen by over 90% (though less than 10% in real terms), whereas the prices for most types of calls have fallen, by up to 70% in money terms and by up to 80% and over in real terms.

**Figure 1 - Price control basket:
Index of price changes 1984-1997**



Figures 1 and 2 show basket prices in aggregate over the thirteen years in both money and real terms and trends for selected individual services in real terms.

Figure 2 - Trends for selected individual services in real terms



COMPLICATIONS WHICH HAVE ARISEN

With the number of services covered by price control and the length of time that price control has been in operation, it was inevitable that complications would arise in the process of monitoring compliance. A couple of these are described below.

■ Discounts

Discounts and price control have had something of a checkered history. As part of the change in the price control arrangements in 1981, BT was allowed to introduce discount tariffs and these lower prices for customers who found the new tariffs attractive were counted towards meeting the RPI-6.25 basket constraint. Because price control arrangements monitor prices at 31 July (ie at the end of the Price Control Year), BT has to reduce its prices by the required amount by that date. When all customers paid standard prices, and these prices were assessed against revenues in the Relevant Financial Year, it was generally clear in advance what would be the effect in price control terms of any price change proposals made by BT. In contrast, the value of discounts at 31 July depends on the numbers of customers who sign up for optional tariffs or change tariff by that date and the nature of the usage of BT's services made by those customers.

Two significant problems emerged. The first was that OFTEL could not be sure that BT would comply with RPI-X, even by the end of a Price Control Year, and the second was that a problem associated with the timing of BT's price changes during the course of a year escalated from something which OFTEL was keeping an eye on to something requiring urgent action. The next section of this article deals with the timing of price changes.

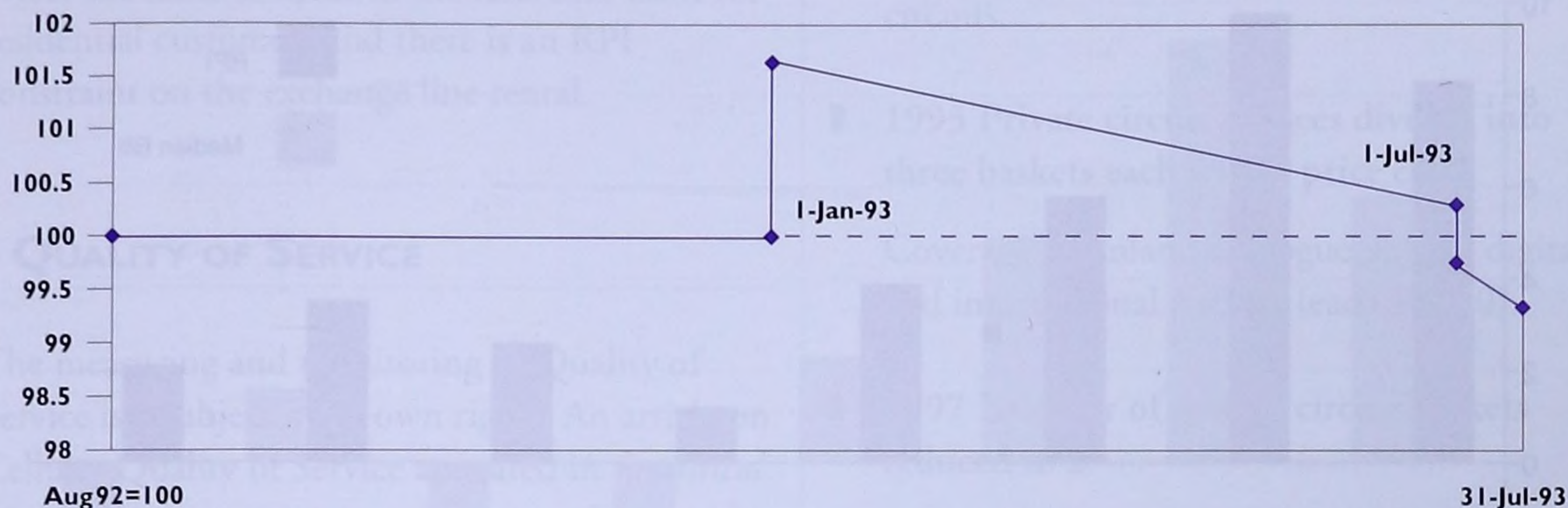
The problem of compliance with RPI-X was addressed by means of a forecasting exercise each spring, with BT's forecasts of take-up of optional tariffs, and the benefits customers were gaining from them, examined in detail by OFTEL in the context of BT's marketing plans. Despite this exercise, BT failed to meet the required value of discounts in both 1993 and 1997.

It became apparent after the introduction of discounts in 1991 that the benefits of price control were going to high spending customers (mainly business customers). This led to discounts being withdrawn from the basket when the new Price Control Rule was put into place in 1993.

From August 1993, discounts were outside the Price Control Basket. However, because BT had obtained credit in the basket for discounts worth over £300m a year by July 1993, a new constraint was introduced which prevented BT from merely withdrawing these discounts. Thus the New Price Control Rule obliged BT to maintain discounts by means of a constraint on what became known as the Discount Yield, or to reduce standard prices to compensate customers.

The Discount Yield, having started as a subsidiary constraint, increased in importance in 1996, when a change in the Price Control Rules allowed BT to designate tariffs other than the standard tariffs as the reference tariffs for price control purposes. BT chose Option 15 as the residential reference tariff and Business Advantage (a new tariff) as the business reference tariff. This changed the situation from one where a large majority of customers were on the reference tariffs, and thus directly protected by RPI-X, to one where only a minority of customers were on the reference tariffs and most customers were protected by the Discount Yield (ie by an evaluation of the difference between the

Figure 3 - Approximate Pattern of Average Prices in 1992/93



prices they were paying and those paid by customers on the new reference tariffs). BT gained a considerable measure of flexibility through this change in the arrangements. The complexity in the statistical work on evaluating compliance with the new arrangements became correspondingly higher.

■ Timing of Price Changes

In the 1980s and early 1990s, when inflation was higher than more recently and X was relatively low, the RPI-X formula allowed BT to raise its prices. BT generally raised prices by means of a single set of price changes on 1 September or 1 November, ie near the start of the Price Control Year.

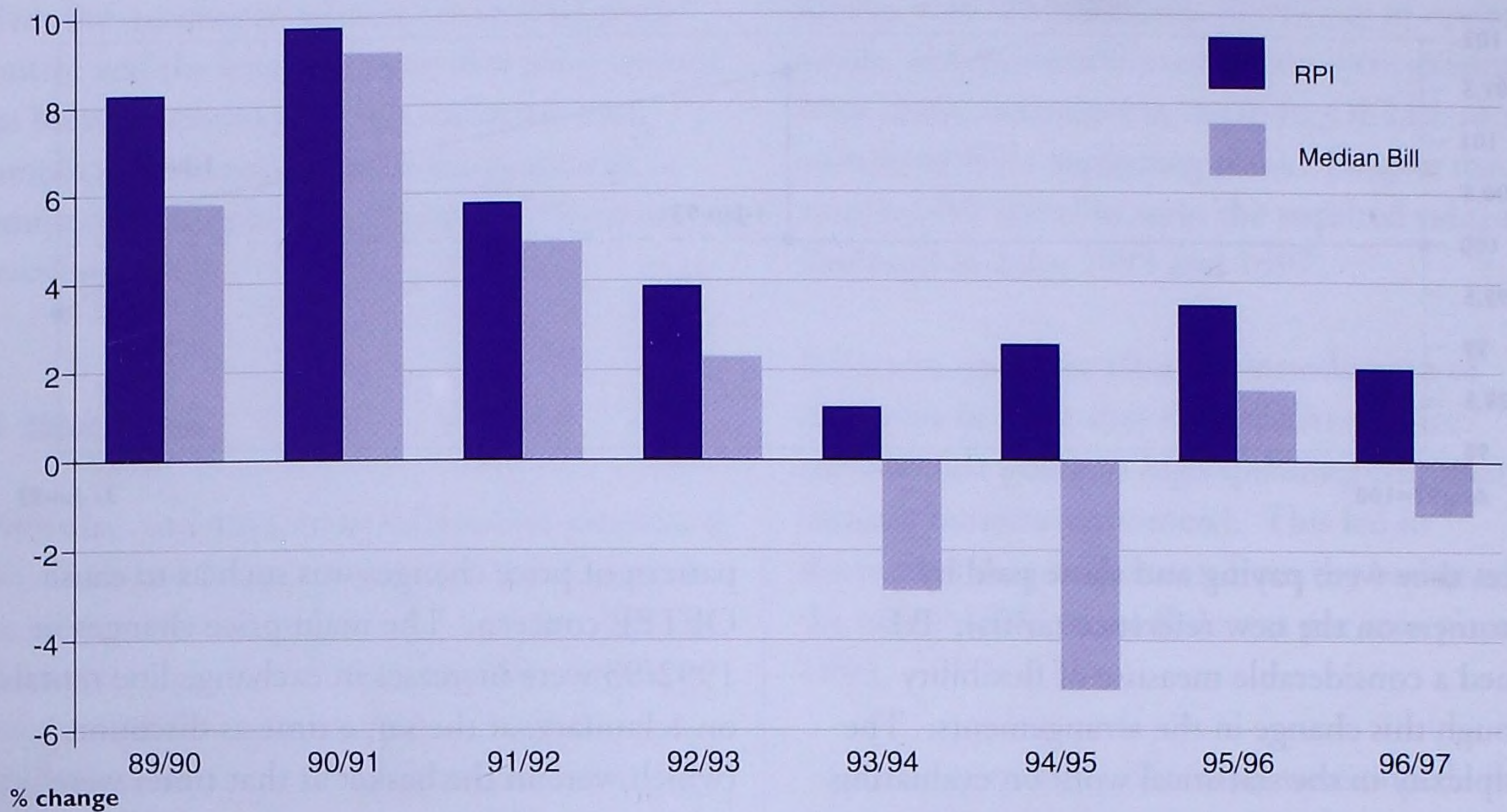
As inflation reduced and X increased BT was required to reduce its prices (on average). As price reductions are rather more popular than price increases, it became attractive for BT to announce and implement several sets of price changes over the course of the year rather than one set on a single date.

However, in 1992/93, when BT was required to reduce its prices by 1.0% by 31 July 1993, the

pattern of price changes was such as to cause OFTEL concern. The main price changes in 1992/93 were increases in exchange line rentals on 1 January, at the same time as discounts (which were in the basket at that time) were enhanced, and reductions in international call prices on 1 July. The enhancement of discount tariffs lowered prices to customers already on such tariffs. However, a substantial part of the contribution of these enhancements to meeting RPI-X was the recruitment of more customers onto discount tariffs. Thus the average prices paid by customers increased on 1 January and declined only gradually over the remainder of the Price Control Year, as broadly illustrated by Figure 3 above.

As a consequence, an amendment to BT's licence was agreed and took effect from 1994/95. This required BT to meet a Weighted Average Date of 1 November in implementing price reductions, where the weight for each date was the value of the price changes (positive or negative) implemented on that date. The timing of BT's price changes had to be such that their effect on customers was no less favourable than if all the changes had been made at the same time, on 1 November.

Figure 4 - Effect of Price Changes on the Median Bill



HOW DIFFERENT CUSTOMERS HAVE FARED

In the early years of price control, business customers benefited to a much greater extent than residential customers from the RPI-3 basket constraint. This was because BT was engaged in rebalancing its prices - by reducing prices of highly profitable national calls while increasing prices of rentals and local calls, often by more than the rate of inflation. In 1989, a new form of control was introduced to ensure that residential customers, who generally make few national calls, were protected to some extent from this process of rebalancing. A typical residential bill was constructed, with the call spend defined as that of the median bill (by size), and the pattern of calls defined by analysing the bills of customers falling into the second and third quartiles (by spend). A constraint (RPI+0) was placed on this constructed bill, which was updated each year. Figure 4 shows the effect of this constraint. In addition, various average and decile bills have been monitored in recent years.

THE NEW PRICE CONTROL REGIME

The 1996 Review of Price Control considered a range of options in the light of an assessment of the degree to which competition had emerged in the supply of telephone services to retail customers. It concluded that a price control concentrating on low and moderate use residential customers and low use business customers would be appropriate from 1997.

Higher spending residential and business customers were already attractive and highly profitable for both BT and its competitors. Thus the Price Control Rule which took effect in August 1997 is based on a basket which reflects the usage patterns of the lowest eight deciles by spend of residential customers, ie the basket is now primarily defined by customers rather than by services. In addition, RPI constraints apply to the average bill for each decile and BT's price changes are monitored accordingly. The Discount Yield was divided into two parts - residential and business - with BT only required to maintain the value of residential discounts.

To protect low use business customers, BT is required to maintain a business tariff with call prices the same as those in the reference tariff for residential customers and there is an RPI constraint on the exchange line rental.

QUALITY OF SERVICE

The measuring and monitoring of Quality of Service is a subject in its own right. An article on Cellular Quality of Service appeared in *Statistical News* about two years ago. However, it is worth mentioning here that there is a link between prices and Quality of Service. A reduction in Quality of Service is regarded by OFTEL as a hidden price rise.

In the mid to late 1980s, BT's Quality of Service deteriorated markedly. A flurry of complaints led to OFTEL carrying out its own surveys and requiring BT to submit statistics from its measurements of quality. These data confirmed the poor level of quality that BT was offering to its customers at that time.

In addition to taking corrective action, BT decided not to take up its permitted increases in prices of 1.3% in 1986/87 and 2.8% in 1987/88. The monitoring of BT's Quality of Service has continued up to the present time.

PRIVATE CIRCUITS

As noted in the introduction to this article, price control on private circuits was not introduced until 1989. This followed a review which was prompted by BT proposing significant price increases and by complaints from users about the Quality of Service. The main events were as follows:

■ 1989 First price cap (RPI+0) introduced.

Coverage - most inland and international circuits.

■ 1993 Private circuit services divided into three baskets each with a price cap.

Coverage - inland analogue, inland digital and international circuits (each RPI+0).

■ 1997 Number of private circuit baskets reduced to 2.

Coverage - inland analogue basket (RPI+0)
- low capacity inland digital circuits (RPI+0).

From the point of view of statistical monitoring, the main differences between switched services and private circuits are the greater complexity of prices for switched services and the daunting number of individual prices for private circuits. As there is a per kilometre element in most private circuit prices and there are many different types of circuit, the quantity of data (in particular the base year revenue weights) is enormous. The detailed checking of spreadsheets each exceeding 1 mbit in size has taxed the patience of generations of assistant statisticians and sandwich students at OFTEL.

It has to be said that the quality of the data submitted by BT in this area has improved greatly over the years. The task of checking, which used to take several person weeks plus meetings with BT for each set of price changes, has reduced to a matter of days and only occasional meetings.

THE FUTURE

Both retail price control and the new network charge control covering interconnection charges paid by telecommunication operators are expected to remain in place until 2001. It is anticipated that there will be a need for network charge control to continue beyond 2001 but it is questionable whether a further retail price control will be necessary.

With or without formal controls, OFTEL's statisticians are likely to continue to monitor retail prices and network charges for the foreseeable future, in order to ensure a fair distribution of benefits to customers and to encourage competition in the telecoms market.

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THE CREATION OF THE OFFICE FOR NATIONAL STATISTICS

Official statistics in the UK has undergone a succession of radical changes over recent years. The most significant of all occurred in April 1996 when a new Office for National Statistics (ONS) was created following a merger between the Central Statistical Office (CSO) and the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (OPCS).



by John Pullinger
ONS

The Office for National Statistics works in partnership with statisticians in other government departments and elsewhere to provide Parliament, government and the wider community with the statistical information, analysis and advice needed to improve decision making, stimulate research and inform debate.

The Office has about 3,000 staff operating in London, Newport (South Wales), Runcorn, Southport and Titchfield (Hampshire). It provides the nation with a wide range of statistical information, including the national accounts, measures of inflation, business statistics, labour market indicators, vital statistics on births, marriages and

deaths and population estimates and projections. The Office provides analysis of social and economic trends, examines regional trends and profiles, and helps to monitor the health of the nation. It seeks to get statistics used for the benefit of all in our society.

This article gives the background to the creation of ONS and explores the case for change that underpinned it. Its

focus is on organisational issues in relation to statistics. The paper does not cover professional or technical questions, nor is the system of civil registration, which is also the responsibility of ONS, analysed.

A list of the references given can be obtained from Frances Pottier; details at the end of the article.



BACKGROUND

Official statistics in the UK has a history of decentralisation, and until the Second World War the structure was essentially of independent statistical units attached to each government departments. Since then there have been four major organisational changes designed to improve coherence and effectiveness:

- The establishment of the CSO in 1941 by Winston Churchill with the clear aim of ensuring coherence of statistical information.

■ The development of a Government Statistical Service (GSS) from the late 1960s, following a report by the Estimates Committee of the House of Commons. This process included the creation of the Business Statistics Office (BSO) and Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (OPCS); an enhanced role for the CSO in managing government statistics; and development of a cadre of professional statisticians across departments. The GSS expanded rapidly during the 1970s, but then reduced staff and administrative costs by a quarter following a review in 1980 conducted by Sir Derek Rayner.

■ The expansion of the CSO in 1989, following a report by the Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee which expressed concerns about the quality of economic statistics, and the resulting investigation by the government (known as the Pickford Review). The newly expanded CSO incorporated the BSO and responsibility for compilation for trade and financial statistics (previously with the Department of Trade and Industry), and responsibility for the retail prices index and family expenditure survey (previously with the Employment Department). The CSO became an Executive Agency in November 1991. During the next few years, and building on the Open Government White Paper and Citizen's Charter, the GSS developed the Official Statistics Code of Practice and the comprehensive Guide to Official Statistics. The Guide became the first publication of ONS following its launch in 1996.

■ The creation of the ONS in 1996, the main theme of this article.

THE CASE FOR CHANGE

By August 1994, the results of investigations carried out by Bill McLennan (then the Head of the GSS) into gaps in official statistics were becoming clear and, after wider-ranging discussions with colleagues across government, he raised with the Prime Minister the arguments for bringing OPCS together with the CSO (Government Statistical Service, 1994). He believed that the quality and reputation of UK national statistics would be enhanced by such a merger, establishing a strong centre for economic and social statistics. He cited three significant benefits.

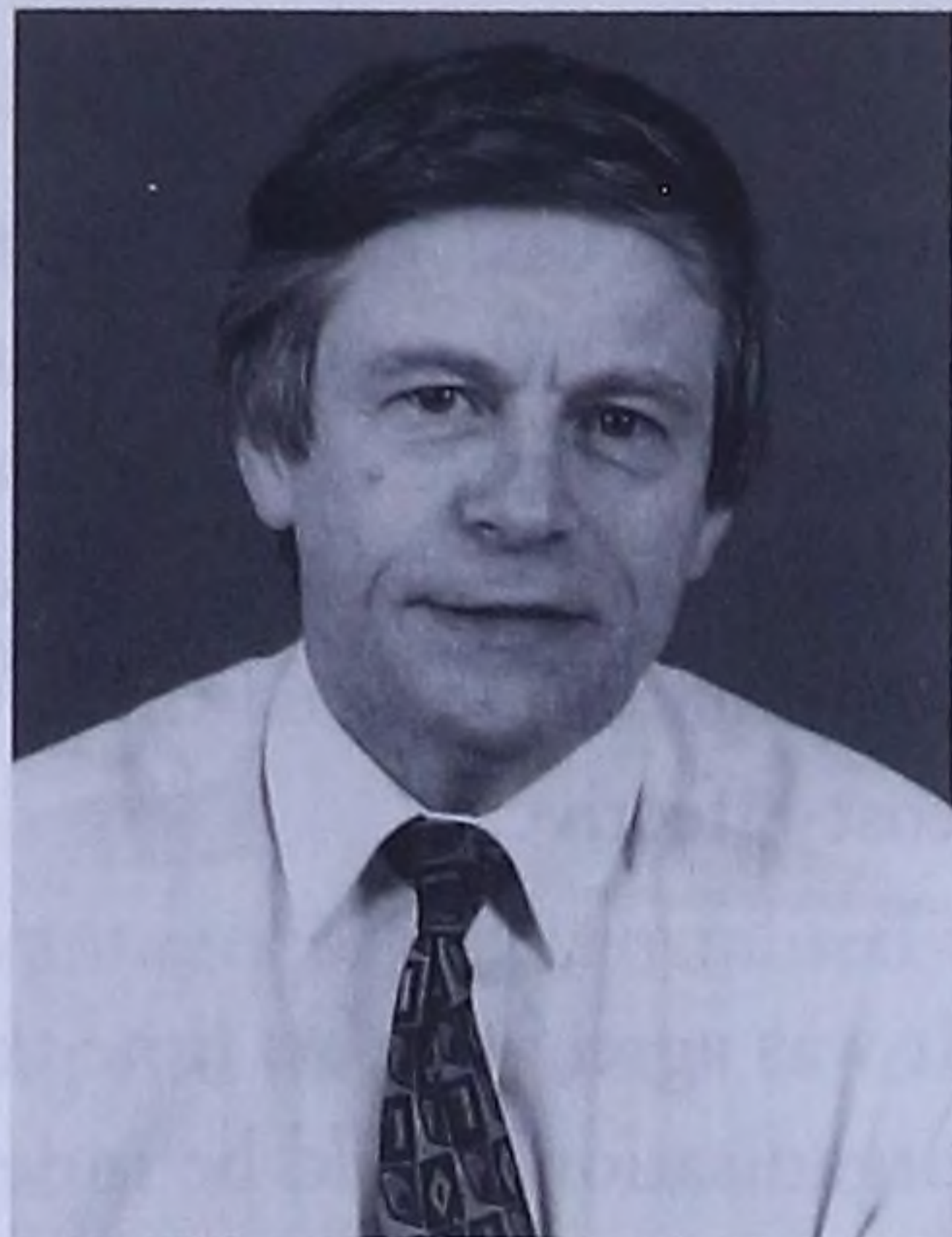
First, the main collection processes would be centralised in the new Office, while the advice and assistance to policy makers and Ministers would remain decentralised in the statistical units which already existed in departments. The aim would be to combine the advantages of centralised and decentralised arrangements. As a by-product it would also make it easier for the head of the GSS to influence standards, classifications and practices across the GSS.

Second, an office encompassing a much wider range of statistical activities would have a more influential role in establishing statistical priorities. As a result management and co-ordination of the GSS would be easier. Also, there would be a firmer basis for identifying gaps in national statistics and realising opportunities to fill them.

Third, the size and range of skills in such an office would make it feasible and easier to bring together the massive amount of data that exists in government, to relate them in a meaningful way,



Bill McLennan



Tim Holt



David Wroe



Peter Wormald

and to make them available across government and to the community in general. Bill McLennan felt that in the longer term this wider aspect of marketing statistics was very important.

He was concerned that further structural change was needed if the positive developments that had been taking place were to have a good chance of enduring and growing in the longer term. In this vein he also lent his support to legislative change in the form of a UK Statistics Act.

As well as raising the matter with the Prime Minister, Bill McLennan took the opportunity of an address to the Royal Statistical Society to put his case for change. His address also described in detail the progress that had already been made in the CSO, developments elsewhere in the GSS and other thoughts on what remained to be done, including a response to the question "how can we be judged". This address was subsequently published by the Royal Statistical Society under the heading *You can count on us with confidence* (McLennan, 1995) and styled as a response to the 1990 RSS report *Counting with Confidence*.

Whilst the case for organisational change was being developed and considered both CSO and OPCS were examining options for new offices in London. It was agreed that irrespective of the

outcome of those considerations it would be valuable for CSO and OPCS to seek to locate their London based staff on a common site.

This search bore fruit in January 1995 when Kenneth Clarke announced that Drummond Gate at Pimlico had been chosen as the common location (CSO, 1995a). He said that:

"The purpose of these moves, which involve the two main statistics collecting arms of the Government Statistical Service (GSS), is to improve the efficiency and quality of Government statistics. Because of the concentration and range of skills at the new location, it will become easier to make further progress in bringing together the massive amount of statistical data currently existing in government, relating them in a meaningful way, and making them more readily available both within government and to the community generally in accordance with the thrust of open government. The co-ordination of government statistics will be improved as it will be easier to develop common standards, classifications and definitions, for use not only by CSO and OPCS but by the rest of the GSS."

He also announced that the government had commissioned further work to establish the additional benefits that would arise from merging

the two organisations, and to assess whether these, coupled with other GSS developments, would justify a merger. He said that if a merger were agreed, it would take effect from April 1996.

In parallel with this further work on the merger, an evaluation of the first three years of CSO as an agency was being conducted. The evaluation concluded (CSO, 1995) that CSO had had a successful three years and made a wide range of recommendations. These proved to be very useful in ensuring that proposals for the merger could learn fully from previous experience. It was also at this time that the Official Statistics Code of Practice was published.

Following detailed analysis of the merger plan within government, Kenneth Clarke announced in April 1995 (CSO, 1995b)

“We have concluded that there would be benefits from such a merger. Subject to the views of other interested parties, we propose that on 1 April 1996 the two organisations would merge ...”

In drawing up the proposals for the new organisation, both government Ministers and official statisticians had concluded that the real benefits in a merger between CSO and OPCS would lie in going beyond the mandate of either of the old organisations to create a new, truly national institution. Two elements in particular were significant:

- that the new organisation should regularly assemble and publish data from across the GSS in a comprehensive range of key statistics; and
- that the Advisory Committee of the new organisation should have a wider role encompassing, in effect, the responsibilities of the Head of the GSS.

It was made clear that whilst the proposals did not remove from departments any of their existing statistical responsibilities, such changes would not be ruled out where individual examination showed them to be sensible and cost-effective.

It was agreed at this time that the new organisation would be independent of any other government department. It would be accountable to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and be headed by Dr Tim Holt, whose appointment as Head of the GSS and Director of the CSO had recently been announced. In addition to his other appointments this would mean that Tim Holt would become Registrar General for England and Wales.

Once the government had set out its proposals, CSO and OPCS conducted a major consultation exercise seeking views from over 300 organisations and individuals. In addition, the merger proposals were widely publicised through a number of newsletters and other channels. Over 100 organisations and individuals provided comments.

The proposal to merge received widespread support. Those involved were particularly gratified by the support from the Royal Statistical Society (OPCS/CSO 1995a), given their well-documented concerns about the quality of, and public confidence in, official statistics. Professor David Bartholomew, the RSS President, wrote:

“The Society’s Executive Committee ... wholeheartedly approve of the proposal. It is entirely consistent with the views that the Society has expressed over many years and, in particular, with those contained in the report Counting with Confidence”.

Overall, there was clear support for four key areas of the proposals:

- greater integration between social and economic statistics;
- improved access to official statistics, especially through the proposed database of key statistics;
- combining the advantages of a decentralised system with a strong and independent co-ordinating agency;
- providing benefits for all users, both government and non-government.

Some consultees sought reassurance on specific points or identified concerns, especially on topics where the consultation document was less detailed. Others made suggestions for refining and improving the proposals. The issues of most concern were:

- the accountability and independence of the new organisation;
- maintaining current CSO and OPCS services and standards;
- maintaining the confidentiality and security of data;
- improving accessibility, including developing an appropriate charging policy;
- clarifying the respective roles of the new organisation and the private sector in providing statistics, and ensuring fair and open competition with the private sector for survey contracts.

The consultation period lasted from 25 April to 31 July 1995. During this period the government abolished the Employment Department, transferring most of its policy functions to a new Department for Education and Employment and the rest to the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of the Environment.

Responsibility for labour market statistics was transferred with immediate effect to the CSO. This transfer was welcomed by both CSO and OPCS as fitting neatly with the merger proposals better to integrate social and economic statistics. Labour market statistics were seen to be particularly important to both economic and social conditions and to the credibility of official statistics.

Following assessment of the outcome of the consultation process the Prime Minister announced on 20 September 1995 that the merger would go ahead and that the new organisation would be called the Office for National Statistics. In welcoming the Prime Minister's announcement Tim Holt and Peter Wormald, the Registrar General (who was to retire in March 1996), said: (OPCS/CSO, 1995b):

“The merger will unite the two central offices within the Government Statistical Service. This is a logical extension of the long-standing collaborative relationship between them. It will help us to improve the range and quality of our work, and also to give strong leadership to the Government Statistical Service on statistical standards and practices.”

“We particularly welcome the remit which the new Office has been given to improve the co-ordination and accessibility of Government statistics generally, and to create a database of key statistics, whose aim will be to give a comprehensive statistical picture of the United Kingdom, its economy and its society.”

On the evening of the Prime Minister's announcement, Tim Holt and Peter Wormald presented the prospectus for ONS to a meeting of the Royal Statistical Society. The case for change had been made, and all that remained was to make it happen.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

In fact, detailed preparations had already been set in train by Peter Wormald and David Wroe (who was acting Director of the CSO in the period April to June 1995 between the departure of Bill McLennan and the arrival of Tim Holt). An action plan had been drawn up in April 1995 which provided a blueprint for bringing ONS into being. The work over the year that was to follow had eight main elements, of which this article will look at the first three:

- managing the process;
- establishing the constitution and governance of ONS;
- the launch of ONS;
- the new London office at Drummond Gate;
- developing the new remit for the office - the "Wider Agenda";
- human resources;
- review of central services;
- financing.

MANAGING THE PROCESS

A first step was the creation in April 1995 of a joint CSO/OPCS Management Board. It comprised the members of the CSO Management Board (including its non-executive members, Paul Thornton and Mary Berg) and the members of the OPCS Management Board. Tim Holt chaired the Joint Board from the outset, even though he did not formally take up appointment until July.

The Joint Board met monthly, essentially as the project management board for the merger. By September the pace of events had increased to the extent that a joint Executive Committee was also

meeting weekly to steer the process and make the large number of fundamental decisions that were necessary to establish the new organisation. This Committee comprised all the Executive Members of the Joint Board and dealt with issues arising not just from the merger between CSO and OPCS, but also from the transfer of labour market statistics from the former Employment Department.

Later, from November 1995, a small Merger Management Steering Group, chaired by David Wroe, was established to review progress on the various merger projects, to ensure co-ordination, to ensure that all the activities were completed to timetable and to keep all those involved informed of progress across the broad range of merger activities.

Throughout the period in the run up to the merger and beyond internal communication was identified as a key priority. At the first meeting of the Joint Board, Tim Holt stressed the importance of winning hearts and minds, and of selling the benefits of the merger. It was agreed that:

- there should be a regular written communication from the Joint Board to all staff
- there would be open meetings with staff to explain the merger plans
- joint discussions would be held with Trades Unions representing staff
- a longer-term process for internal consultation and communication should be established.

A newsletter for staff, called "Merger News" was instituted immediately. The first issue came out only three days after the government's announcement of its proposals on 25 April. At its second meeting the Joint Board agreed to proposals for a longer-term process for internal

communications. As well as the points previously agreed the Joint Board decided:

- to merge the existing CSO and OPCS staff newsletters as soon as possible. In the interim, the next issues would contain an article by Tim Holt on his vision for the new organisation and each would be copied to staff in both organisations;
- that CSO would adopt the OPCS line briefing system as soon as possible. The Joint Board saw a useful opportunity to use this system, that involved face to face briefing of all staff across the new organisation, both to get their message across and provide a means to receive feedback from staff.

In the event all activities required before the launch were completed on time, and, whilst there were ongoing concerns about communication, the channels that were established from the outset were used and were generally considered to be effective against the background of very significant change.

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNANCE

Establishing ONS and its constitution amounted to a quite significant change in the UK machinery of government. Nonetheless, the government did not propose new legislation to Parliament. Instead it proceeded by administrative action, keeping Parliament informed at all stages, coupled with secondary legislation simply to transfer the functions of the former departments into ONS.

It therefore fell to the Joint Board to take the lead in drawing up proposals for the constitution and governance of the organisation. Ministerial statements had given a general steer in that:

- it was to be an independent government department in its own right;
- it was to be an executive agency - with a Framework Document to establish precisely the roles and responsibilities of Ministers and the Director of the Office. The Framework Document would be the constitution of the new organisation;
- it was to be accountable to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The first meeting of the Joint Board looked in detail at how to put flesh on these bones, establishing a timetable for developing the Framework Document encompassing:

- a description of the legislative and statutory framework
- roles and functions - not only of the new organisation, but also its relationship with the rest of the GSS
- aims and objectives
- operating principles
- arrangements for reporting and accountability including performance assessment and targets
- frameworks for personnel management, data collection and accounting.

There was a range of useful information available to assist with this task including the existing business plans of OPCS and CSO, the CSO Framework Document and the about to be published CSO Prior Options and Evaluation Report. Nonetheless, there was a formidable task requiring extensive consultation within ONS, with other government departments and with Ministers. It also had to build in responses to issues arising from the public consultation process which was taking place in parallel.

Almost all government departments had some interest in the new office and most were keen to contribute ideas to the development of its constitution. Following consultation only three issues ultimately proved difficult to resolve:

- the tension between ensuring the relevance of statistical outputs to the needs of particular government departments without jeopardising public confidence in those outputs and the independence of professional decisions.
- the tension between the need to deliver high quality information whilst at the same time seeking to reduce the burden of form-filling on businesses.
- the line of accountability to Parliament and in particular the roles of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Director of ONS, the new Statistics Advisory Committee and the non-executive members of the Management Board.

The final agreed Framework Document (ONS, 1996a) represented a careful balance in these and other areas. A key element was the establishment under the Framework Document of concordats with the four government departments which had, in the past, had a special relationship with the constituent parts of ONS - the Treasury, the Department of Health, the Department for Education and Employment and the Department of Trade and Industry. These concordats established a strategic framework for the relationship between ONS and each of the departments as customers or suppliers. The Framework Document on the other hand dealt with the relationship between ONS and the Chancellor as the owner of the organisation. This separation was critical in balancing relevance and independence in the new constitution.

The Framework Document set out the constitution of the new Office. It was also necessary to look in more detail at governance, not just of ONS but also of the GSS.

As far as the GSS was concerned it was decided that the establishment of a Statistics Advisory Committee should be the focus for the changes that needed to be made. Other aspects of the governance of the GSS would be drawn together, and to some extent consolidated, but not fundamentally reviewed.

The result was a new publication "*Official Statistics: Governance and Consultation*" (Government Statistical Service 1996) which explained how GSS business is governed in a way that takes full account of the views of all its stakeholders - government, Parliament, business, researchers and the wider community. The publication was issued to coincide with the launch of ONS and described the arrangements for accountability, the network of some 40 official advisory bodies which exist covering a wide range of activities, the role of the Statistics Users Council and other user groups, consultation procedures, and the operation of GSS Management Committees.

Within ONS it was not so straightforward to establish the process of governance. Of central importance was a Senior Management Review (OPCS/CSO, 1995c). Senior Management Reviews were taking place across government against the background of White Papers on Continuity and Change in the Civil Service. For ONS the timing meant that the review team, led by independent consultant Sheila Drew Smith, was able to play a full part in the wider project to establish the new organisation. The report recommended:

- streamlining the senior management structure into three layers, and reducing the number of posts
- defining six major business groups
- setting up a system of corporate governance with a Policy Board and Executive Committee



- establishing a small change management team

Once the report was received, and following a period of internal consultation, it was largely accepted by Tim Holt and largely implemented by April 1996.

THE LAUNCH

Taken together, the work on establishing the constitution and governance of ONS, developing its human resources, creating the new London office at Drummond Gate, reviewing central services, securing finance and developing the wider agenda had required a huge effort from a large number of people. All that remained to bring ONS to life was its formal launch.

Planning for the launch itself began in September 1995. Three main areas were identified for action:

- establishing the new identity in the minds of regular customers and suppliers and providing information on any changes in procedures.
- developing a media strategy to promote the ONS, incorporating events both before and after the official launch day as well as a major programme of events on the launch day itself.
- communicating the new identity of the ONS to staff and informing them of relevant developments.

The task of informing customers and suppliers involved a range of activities including preparation of new ONS stationery; preparation of a “launch pack” for press and other contacts; dissemination of a leaflet about ONS to a wide range of customers and suppliers; announcements in bulletins and newsletters including the internet and other publications; and liaison with others in the GSS.

The media strategy encompassed a series of events including press conferences and interviews with Tim Holt leading up to the launch day. The launch day itself, 28 March 1996, was to include a Ministerial Press Conference, more interviews and an evening reception hosted by Kenneth Clarke and attended by key ONS stakeholders as well as representatives of staff, chosen by ballot, from across ONS.

Staff communication focused on using the existing channels to best effect, including merger news and the core briefing process. In addition the Vision and Values was circulated to all staff and the new quarterly staff magazine, *ONSight*, was launched with a leading article by Tim Holt explaining the vision for ONS.

The build up had been completed, the launch a great success, and ONS came into being on time, on budget, on 1 April 1996.

Frances Pottier,
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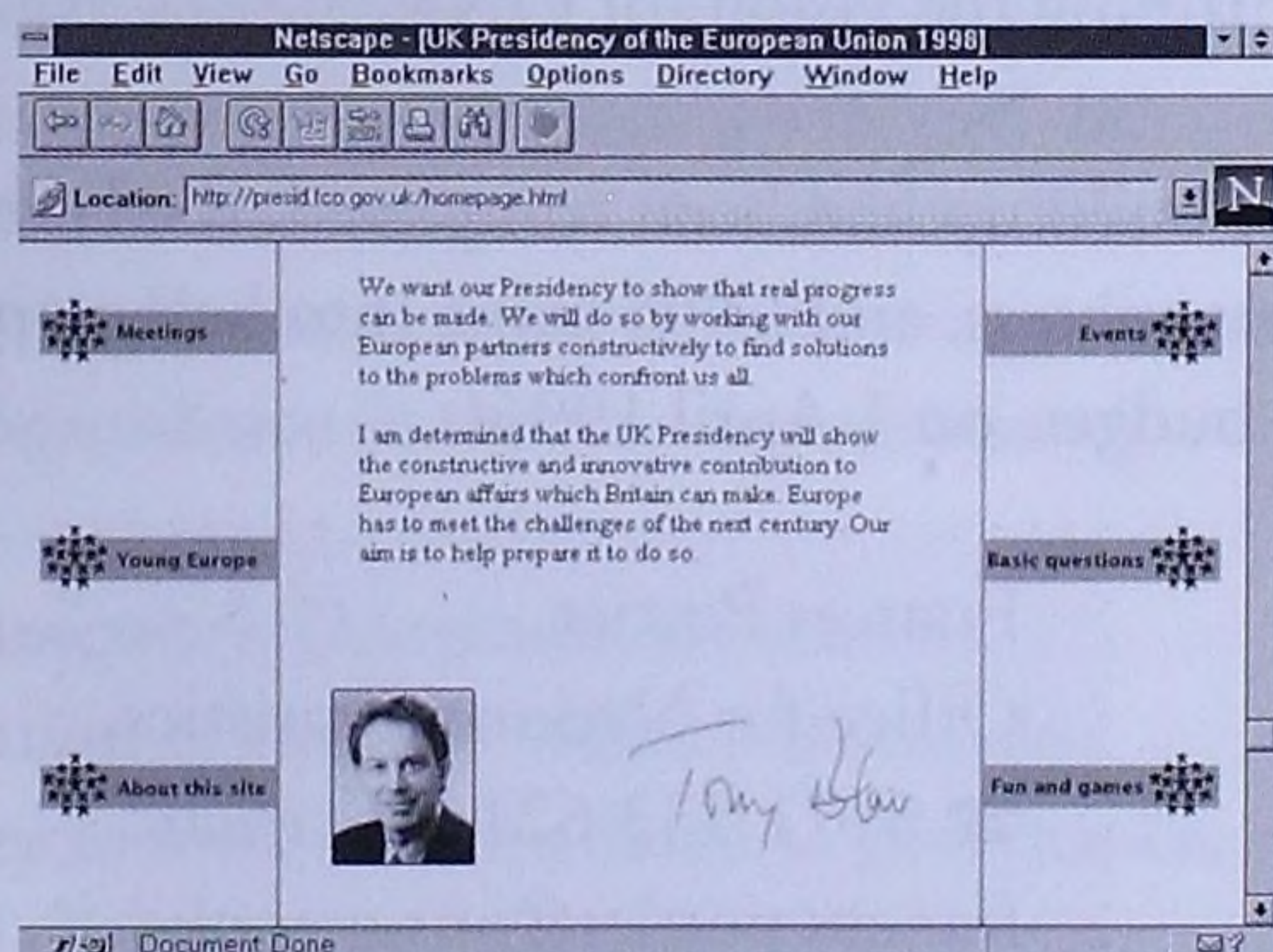
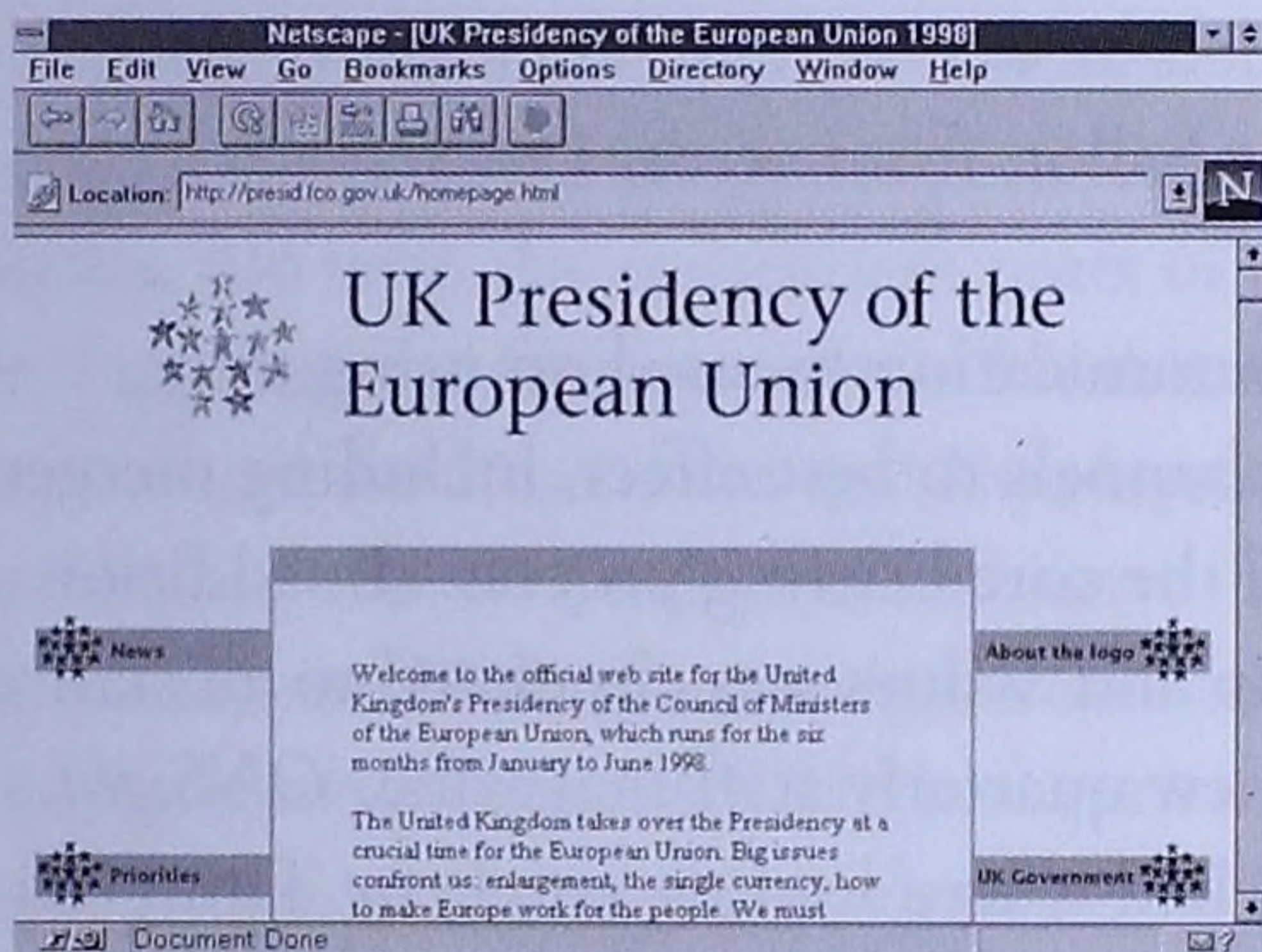
UK PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION - WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS ?

From 1st January to 30th June, the UK will hold the Presidency of the European Union. There will be much talk, debate and discussion during these six months about Britain playing a leading role in the European Union, but what does it all mean for statistics?

The UK Presidency was launched on 5th December 1997, at a ceremony at the Eurostar terminal at Waterloo International station in London. The Prime Minister, Tony Blair, called for

“a Europe that works together as a team, in which our countries retain their distinctive identities... but work together to tackle common problems for the practical benefit of all.”

He also unveiled the official Presidency website, which can be found at <http://presid.fco.gov.uk>



by Frances Pottier
and Matthew
Sudders (not
pictured) ONS

The six months of the UK Presidency will make us responsible for steering the Union through one of the most important periods in its history. The UK government has announced that its priorities during the Presidency will include the following:

- Economic and Monetary Union;
- Employability;
- Enlargement of the European Union and Policy Reform;
- Crime and Drugs;
- The Environment;
- Foreign and Security Policy.

MEETINGS

One major challenge facing the UK is the chairing of meetings. The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary will be chairing meetings of the Council of Ministers. Civil servants will play a key role in preparing for such meetings by chairing council working groups preparing legislation for adoption by the Council of Ministers. Julian Calder (ONS) and Reg Ward (Inland Revenue) will take the chair on behalf of



ONS at the STATEXPO exhibition in Germany

the GSS. Their tasks will include shaping statistical legislation on topics ranging from regulations on the Labour Force Survey to short-term economic indicators.

Tim Holt will also be chairing the partnership group - a steering committee of 5 countries which drives forward EU legislation. This comes at an exciting time, when there is a possibility of making progress on getting member states to play a more important role in the European Statistical system. The challenge facing him will be how to get the 15 member states to agree one common vision of their potential role, treading a line between "anglo-saxon" pragmatism and those countries which feel helpless in the face of legislation which puts Eurostat in the driving seat all the time.

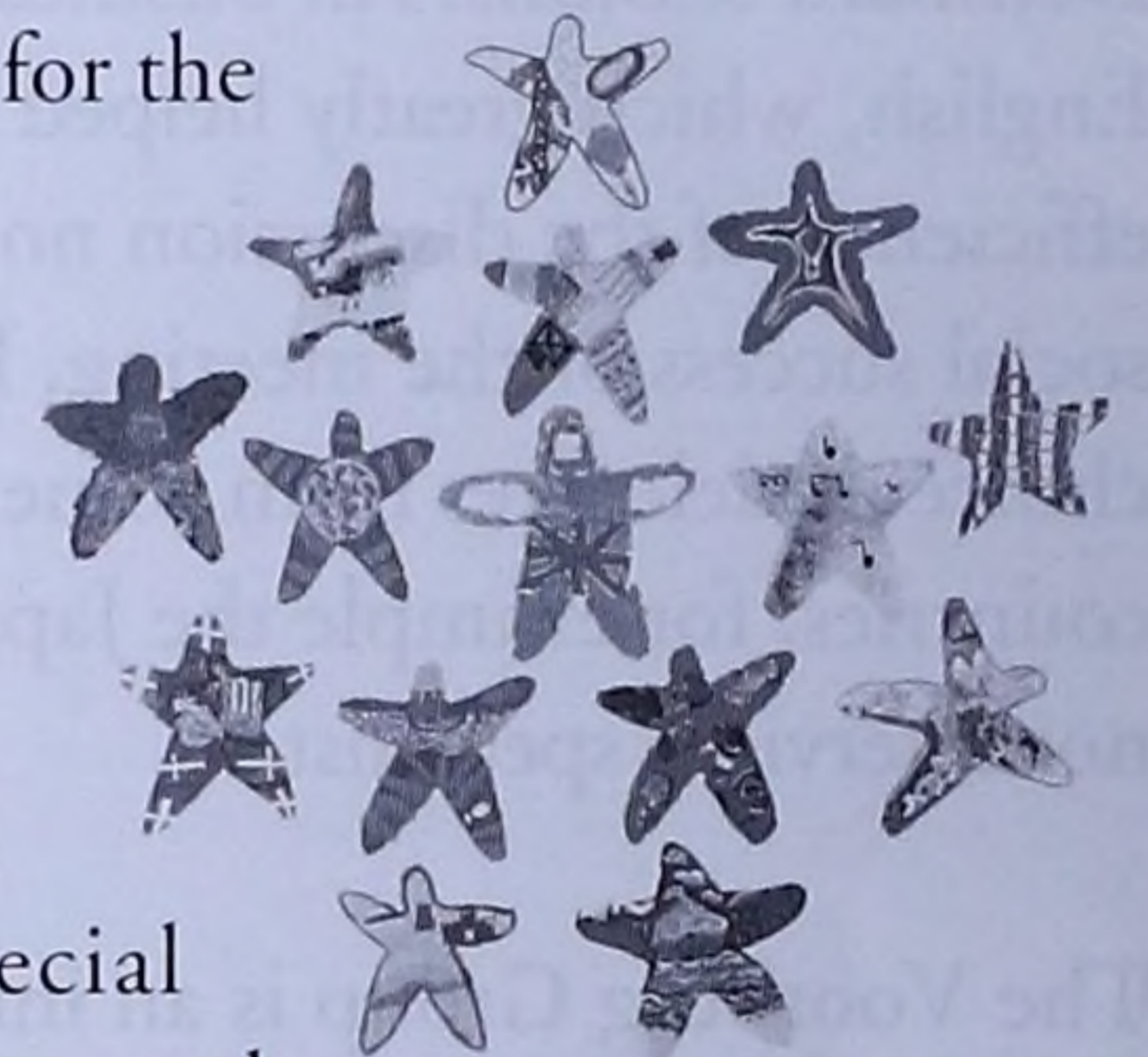
HOW WILL WE BE MARKING THE PRESIDENCY AS STATISTICIANS ?

In the GSS we plan to use the Presidency as an opportunity to raise the profile of official statistics. Many of us will spend time providing data for International comparisons and making such comparisons ourselves. The Presidency is a good opportunity to highlight the work which the GSS is doing with pre-accession countries in Eastern Europe and with statisticians in the developing world. There are a number of activities which are planned to coincide with the Presidency and these include:

- Newspaper coverage of the UK role in world statistics, highlighting the relevance of statistics;
- Publicity literature giving a picture of the UK as a EU member;
- Official launch of the Datashop - the central point in the UK for obtaining data for all EU countries on a wide range of topics;
- The hosting of STATEXPO 98 in London as part of a Business Information exhibition sponsored by ONS.
- special editions of existing journals, such as DIFFUSION - an international journal on census matters.

THE UK PRESIDENCY LOGO

The official symbol for the UK's Presidency of the EU was designed by children from each of the member states. The children gathered at a special workshop in London, and worked in pairs - a British child with a child from each of the other 14 European countries. They found out more about each others' countries and then produced designs reflecting how they see their countries. For example, the Italian star shows a pizza, the Belgian star includes many different aspects of that country such as the Atomium in Brussels, and the Portugese star shows the sun, sky, sand and sea.



For further information, please contact:

.....
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 :

A PERSONAL NOTE

Keith Francombe (ONS) and I attended the UN sponsored Voorburg Group in Copenhagen from 15-19 September. Statistics Denmark were excellent hosts, in their offices in the north of the city, providing a pleasant environment, relaxed and very efficient organisation.

On the Monday we were welcomed officially by their Director General Jan Plovsing, who told us a little of the history of the office - first census in 1769; statistics office formed in 1850; the Statistics Acts; extensive use of good quality registers; annual budget £20m, etc.

The head of business statistics Karsten Stetkaer and the head of services statistics Peter Boegh-Nielsen organised the meeting and chaired the Denmark sessions. All business was conducted in English, which greatly helped the flow and efficiency of the discussion not to mention the social success of the meeting. But it restricts the choice of delegates from some non-anglophone countries, for example the Japanese delegate was not a services specialist.

The Voorburg Group is an informal methodological group set up to improve statistics on services. It was established in 1986 after an initiative from Statistics Canada and the UN Statistical Office and members of the Group contribute in a personal capacity, without committing their employers. This year there were about 40 delegates in all from the UN, OECD, The European Commission, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Holland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Lithuania, New Zealand, Sweden, UK and the US.

The agenda was a heavy one and sessions covered a wide range of subjects including: The Central

Product Classification (CPC), service prices, the so-called 'model' sectoral surveys (a number of which have been provided as a reference for national offices to draw on as they see fit), cross-cutting issues such as measuring the information and communications technology (ICT) sector and the information society; identification of the gaps in services statistics, problems with the implementation of SNA for services, Denmark's system of business, employment and personal registers, alternative aggregations of standard classifications, problems of measuring employment in services and the development of international competitiveness indicators for services.

We learned of the adoption by the UN of the CPC version 1.0, which includes service products and its forthcoming publication. This is the handiwork of Voorburg's classification sub-group of which David Knight (ONS) is a member. They plan to link the CPC to the IMF's trade in services product classification so that services output and trade data could be matched to a greater extent than is currently possible.

The Group recommended amongst other things the use of:

- the CPC to identify which types of service are used for price measurement by national statistical institutes. This would test the CPC's adequacy and allow the consideration of future pricing standards.
- the satellite accounting approach to describe demand based groupings of data, e.g. tourism

Denmark and Canada sought the Group's approval to submit a 'model' employment survey to the UN.

Important gaps were identified which are to be addressed in future work including services prices, short-term indicators, international trade in services, measurement of non-market services output, e.g. education and health. The Group also supported specific proposals for continuation of work on the information society, ICT industries and competitiveness indicators.

ISTAT invited the Group to meet in Rome in 1998, when it was agreed that the agenda would have fewer themes in greater depth than this year.

If you would like to know more, I can provide further details and papers on request.

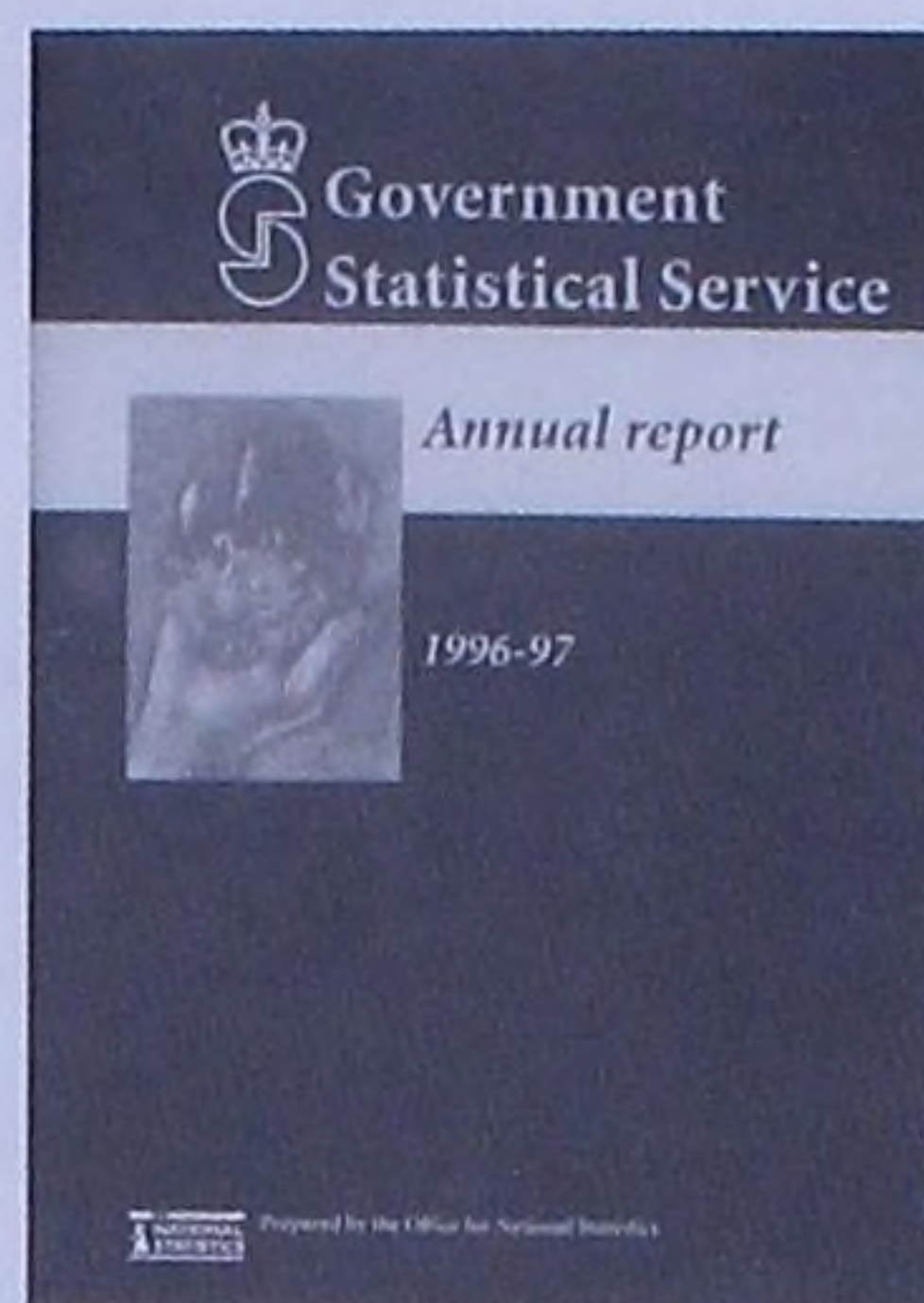
Bill Cave
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10 Victoria St
London SW1H 0NN
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NEWS FROM AROUND THE GSS AND BEYOND

GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL SERVICE

ANNUAL REPORT 1996-97

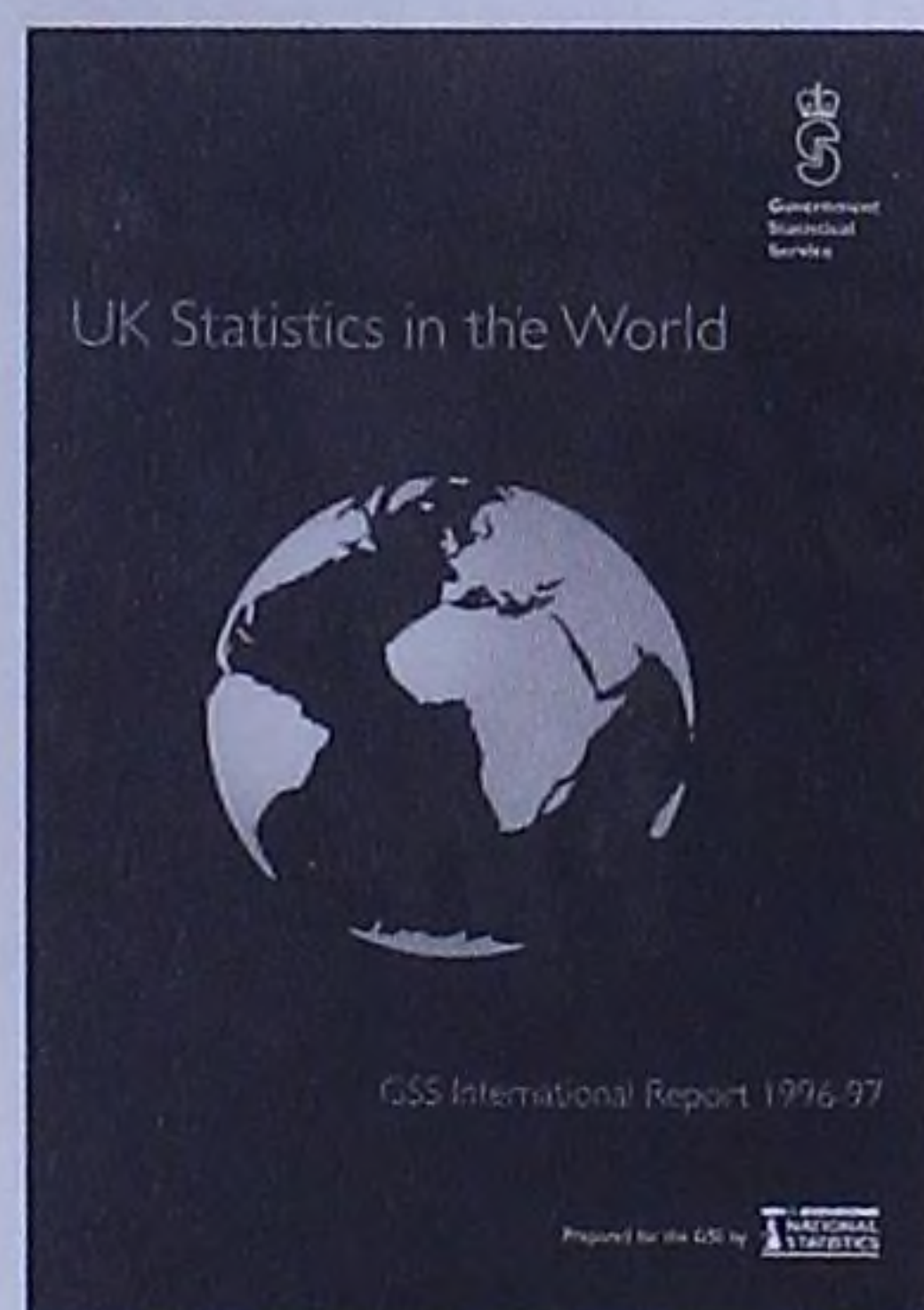
The GSS Annual Report 1996-97 has just been published. It contains information about the structure, aims and objectives of the GSS, the highlights of 1996-97 and future plans, as well as giving details of GSS work in individual departments and contact points for further information.



If you would like a copy, please contact:

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.....

UK STATISTICS IN THE WORLD



The GSS International Annual Report is now available. It puts into context the work which we have all been doing over the past year to ensure the UK place in the statistical world.

The GSS International Strategy sets out the direction for the UK in the

field of statistics. To deliver our vision, in which official statistics are widely used, believed and understood, GSS members need to:

- understand the issues;
- focus our efforts where they will have most effect;
- participate in decision making;
- build alliances; and
- offer technical assistance and be willing to learn from others.

The report includes case studies, such as that by Tim Holt which looks at progress towards harmonised statistics within the EU.

Agricultural statisticians wrote about the challenges they faced when implementing the new European System of Accounts (ESA), such as whether a cow depreciates in the same way as a tractor.

Statisticians working on defence issues give a snapshot of their co-operation with the United States.

There is a section which looks at the work of the GSS members in helping Barbados with the restructuring of their statistical system.

The UK has been an active participant in decision making and has contributed to the development of an EU law on statistics. This addresses, for the first time in the UK, the right of public access to statistics as well as guaranteeing their quality.

Ole Black writes about how the GSS International Strategy was applied in recent negotiations with Eurostat.

The publication shows a snapshot of the extent of UK statistical activity in the world and all contributors sought to provide an honest account of what has happened during their year.

If you would like a copy, please contact:

Hilary Porter
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Zone D4/04
1 Drummond Gate
London, SW1V 2QQ
☎ 0171 533 6206

GSS ASSISTANT STATISTICIAN RECRUITMENT 1998

Our annual Assistant Statistician fast stream open competition is now running and advertising for the scheme is appearing on a monthly basis in the *Guardian* and *Prospects for the Finalist*.

This year we are recruiting both Assistant Statisticians and Statistical Officers and the entry requirement is a first or second honours degree (no 25 per cent statistics requirement) in a numerate discipline.

Assistant Statisticians will be selected for their fast stream skills and those who do not acquire fast stream entry but who have the drive and determination to train as a professional statistician will be selected as Statistical Officers and will be encouraged to develop the necessary skills.

This year's competition involves a one day qualifying test (to be held at seven regional



centres) to test numeracy and those successful will be invited to the Civil Service Selection Board where their fast stream skills will be tested.

Closing date for the competition (Ref: A/561/98) is 5th January 1998 and further information or an application pack is available on request.

For further information, please contact

Bill Wilson
☎ 0171 533 5040

GSS POLICY ON STATISTICS DISAGGREGATED BY GENDER

In the Global Plan for Action arising from the UN World Conference on Women in 1995, a commitment was made by governments, including the UK, to ensure that statistics are presented by 'sex and age and reflect problems, issues and questions related to women and men in society'.

The production and dissemination of gender-disaggregated statistics is a crucial element of the information needed to research and monitor gender related issues. It is also a major plank in

the effort to promote the mainstreaming of gender issues within government. In response to this commitment, the GSS Committees on Social Statistics and Dissemination have agreed a policy statement on the collection and dissemination of statistics disaggregated by gender:

"The GSS aims always to collect and make available, for example in publications, statistics disaggregated by gender, except where considerations of practicality or cost outweigh the identified need. All GSS publications contain the name and contact details of a person who can explain which, if any, of the statistics are available by gender and how they can be obtained"

Tim Holt recently wrote to all the Heads of Profession and Directors of Statistics within the GSS explaining that he is keen that this policy is pursued actively to increase further the availability of gender statistics. In practical terms this could involve:

- reviewing the scope for disaggregating figures where this is not already done;
- seeking opportunities for collecting gender disaggregated statistics where possible;
- ensuring there are staff who can provide information on gender related statistics in answer to queries from customers.

In addition, work has already begun on a Guide to Gender Statistics which will be produced in co-operation with the Equal Opportunities Commission and published early next this year.

It is hoped that the GSS will be successful in providing increasingly comprehensive and coherent statistics in this important policy area, and a review of our progress will be carried out in due course.

If you have any comments please contact:

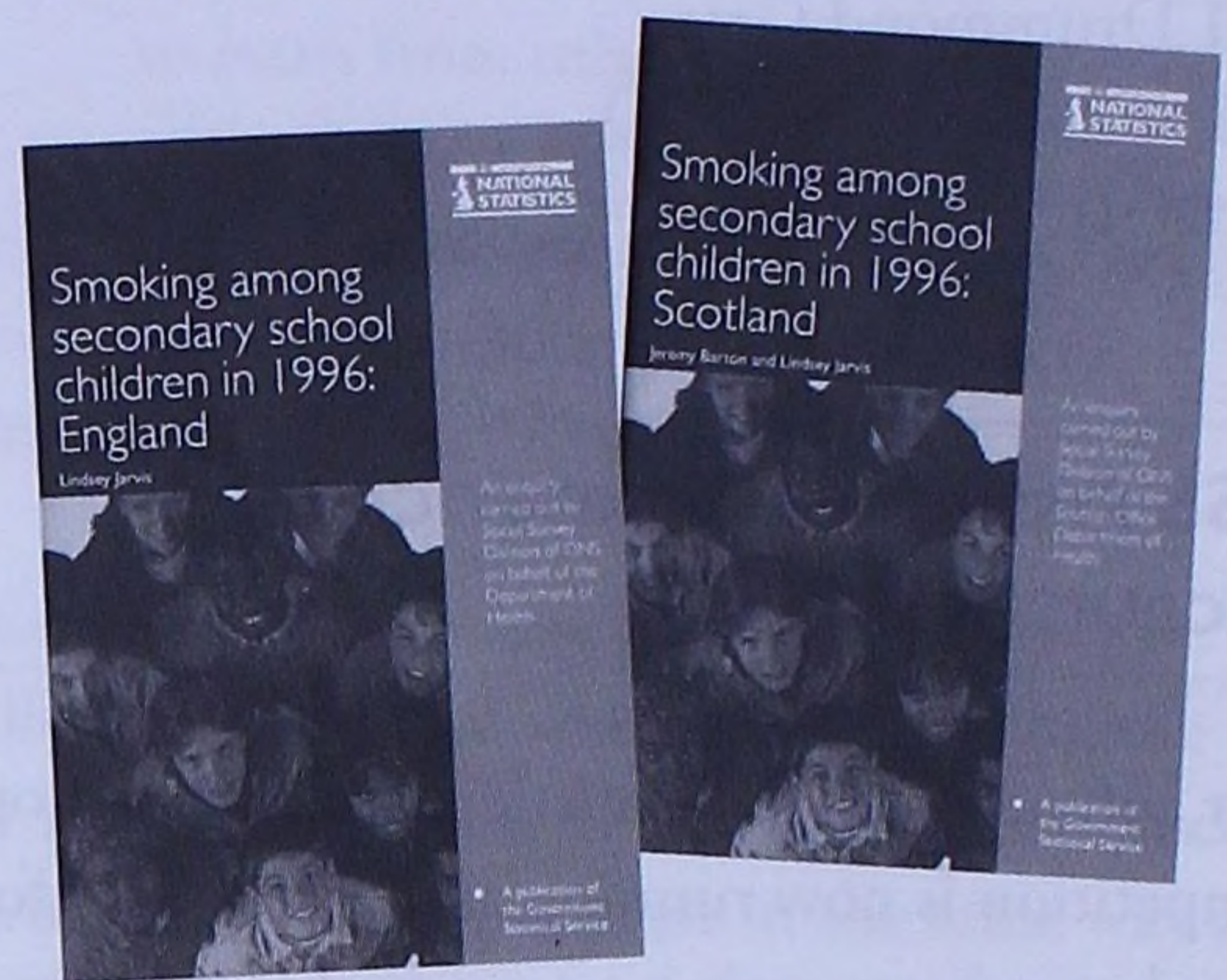
Magdalen Williams
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See also *Equal Opportunities section, page 43*

OFFICE FOR NATIONAL STATISTICS

NEW PUBLICATIONS

■ Smoking Among Secondary School Children in 1996



According to the latest survey from the Office for National Statistics, the upward trend in smoking among secondary school children continued in 1996. Thirteen per cent of secondary school children aged 11-15 in England were regular smokers (defined as usually smoking at least one cigarette a week) - the equivalent figure in 1994 was 12 per cent. Throughout the 1990s, girls have been more likely to smoke than have boys, and in 1996 11 per cent of boys and 15 per cent of girls were regular smokers.

In Scotland, 14 per cent of 12-15 year-olds were smokers in 1996, compared with 12 per cent in 1994. Prior to 1996, the overall prevalence of smoking among boys in Scotland was lower than among girls, and had remained at about the same level since the mid-1980s. The overall increase in

1996 was mainly due to a rise in the proportion of boys who were smokers, from 11 per cent in 1994 to 14 per cent in 1996 (the same level as for girls). The survey found that very few children are smokers when they start secondary school, but about three out of ten 15 year olds in England and Scotland smoke at least one cigarette a week.

The 1996 survey was the latest in a series of national surveys of smoking among secondary school children aged 11-15. The first of this series was carried out in 1982 to provide estimates of the proportion of pupils who smoked and to describe the smoking behaviour of those who did smoke. Similar surveys have been carried out every two years since then to provide further estimates from which trends in the prevalence of cigarette smoking can be monitored. The survey was carried out by the Social Survey Division of the ONS for the Department of Health and the Scottish Office Department of Health.

Smoking among secondary school children in 1996, Volume 1, England - Series SS1415

The Stationery Office

Price £19/ISBN 0 11 620945 3

Smoking among secondary school children in 1996, Volume 2, Scotland - Series SS1415

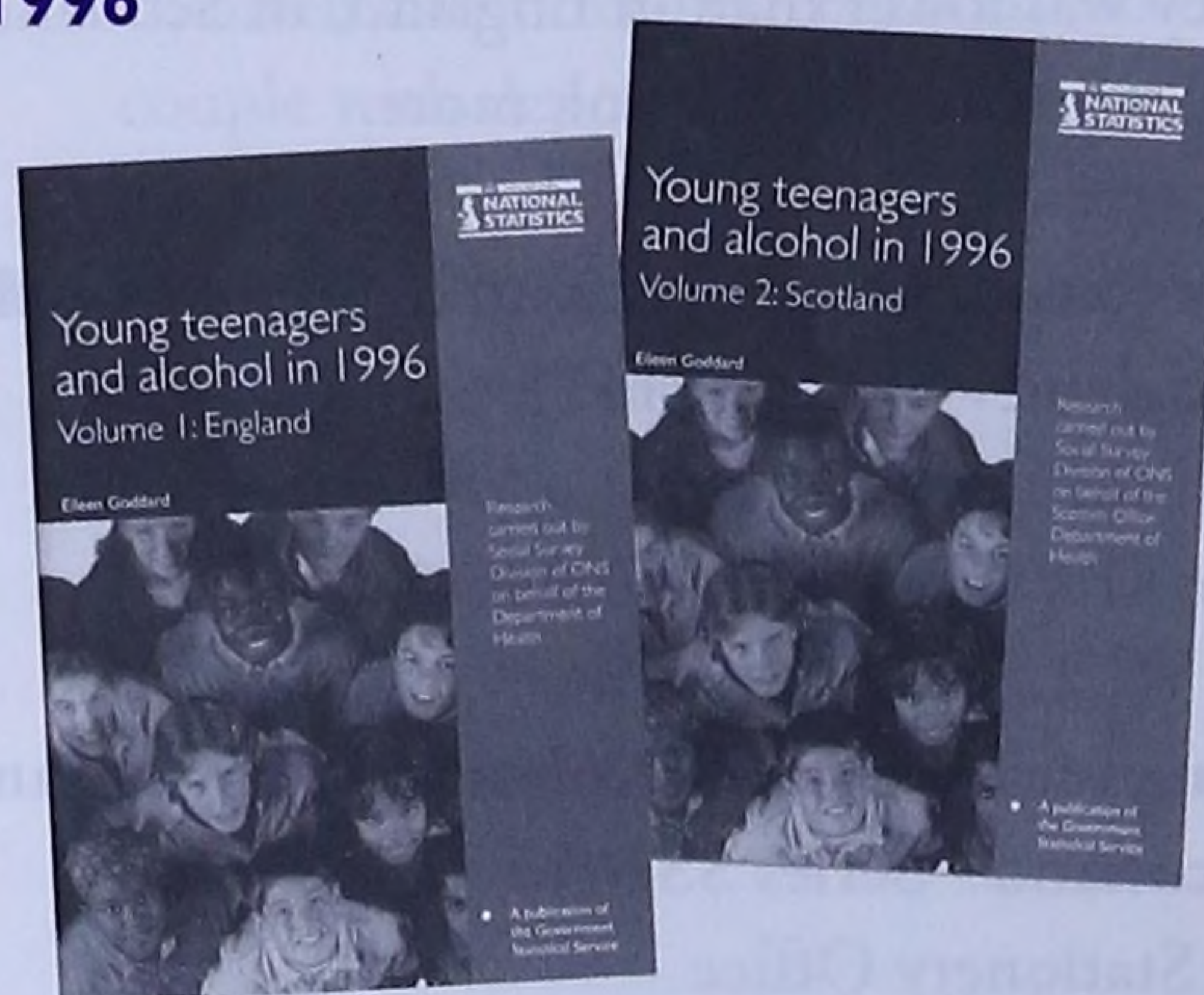
The Stationery Office

Price £19/ISBN 0 11 620944 5

For more information contact:

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: 1 Drummond Gate
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:

■ **Young Teenagers and Alcohol in 1996**



Detailed results from surveys of drinking among young teenagers in England (aged 11-15) and in Scotland (aged 12-15) show that although there has been no increase in the 1990s in the proportion of children who drink alcohol, those who do not drink are drinking more.

The research was carried out by the Office for National Statistics for the Department of health and the Scottish Office Department of Health. Key results were first published by ONS in October.

The surveys found that those who drank were drinking more frequently. In England, the proportion who drank in the week before the survey was carried out rose from 21 per cent in 1990 to 27 per cent in 1996. The average number of units per week drunk by children of this age (based on all children, not just those who had drunk alcohol in the previous week) more than doubled over the period, from 0,8 units in 1990 to 1.8 units in 1996.

In Scotland, the proportion of pupils who drank alcohol during the week before the survey increased from 14 per cent in 1990 to 23 per cent in 1996 and average weekly consumption per pupil rose from 0.8 units to 1.9 units over this period. Although the proportion of pupils

who drank alcohol during the week before the survey was lower than in England, in Scotland those who did drink drank more.

Young teenagers and alcohol in 1996, Volume 1, England - Series SS1415

The Stationery Office

Price £19/ISBN 0 11 620949 6

Young teenagers and alcohol in 1996, Volume 2, Scotland - Series SS1415

The Stationery Office

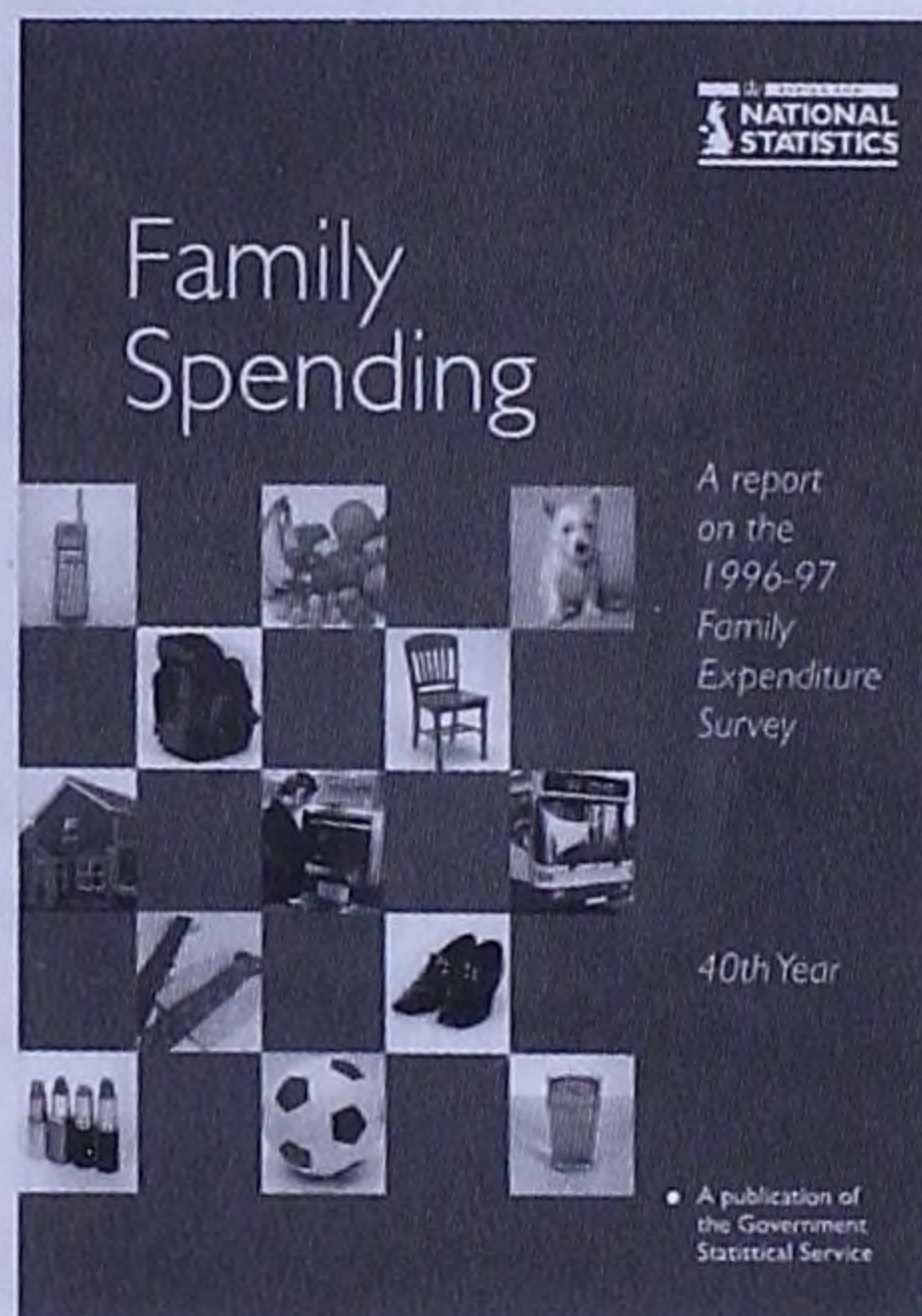
Price £19/ISBN 0 11 620950 X

For more information contact:

Eileen Goddard
Office for National Statistics
Zone D1/19
1 Drummond Gate
London, SW1V 2QQ
☎ 0171 533 5331

■ Family Spending in the United Kingdom 1996-97

Average weekly expenditure of households in the United Kingdom was £309, according to the latest Family Expenditure Survey, compiled by the Office for National Statistics. Households spent £290 in 1995-96.



- Spending on food and non-alcoholic drinks, at an average of £55.10 per week (£52.90 in 1995-96), was the largest element of household expenditure.

- Average weekly expenditure ranged from £265 in the North East to £351 in the South East.
- Average gross weekly income was £397, compared with £381 in 1995-96.
- Average gross weekly income ranged from £321 in the North East to £483 per week in the South East.

Family Spending 1996-97 has two new features: a chapter looking at spending on telecoms and computers and additional analyses of expenditure by place of purchase.

Other findings include:

- Sixteen per cent of households in the United Kingdom had a mobile phone.
- Households with mobile phones spent an average of £5.90 a week on them.
- Over a quarter of households had a personal computer.
- Expenditure on satellite TV subscription and cable TV subscription increased with income.
- Twenty two per cent of households bought newspapers from large supermarket chains and 77 per cent bought newspapers from other outlets.

Family Spending 1996-97

The Stationery Office

Price £37.50/ISBN 0 11 620947 X

For more information contact:

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Office for National Statistics
Zone B2/03
1 Drummond Gate
London, SW1V 2QQ
☎ 0171 533 5760

■ Living in Britain

Preliminary Results from the 1996 General Household Survey

First results from the 1996 General Household Survey (GHS) were published by the Office for National Statistics on 6th November. Each year the GHS collects information on a wide range of socio-



demographic subjects to provide an up to date picture of life and social change in Britain. The results presented in the bulletin *Living in Britain* cover a selection of topics which include household composition, marriage and cohabitation, ethnicity, housing, consumer durables, cars and vans, burglaries in private households, education, economic activity, health, cigarette smoking, drinking, and sport and leisure activities.

Key preliminary findings from the 1996 Survey include:

Household Composition

- The average household size was 2.43 persons. Average household size has decreased gradually since 1971 when it was 2.91 persons.
- The most frequently occurring type of household in 1996 was a married couple with no dependent children (31 per cent), followed by persons living alone (27 per cent), and married couples with dependent children (23 per cent). Seven per cent of households were lone parents with dependent children, four per cent a

cohabiting couple with no dependent children and three per cent a cohabiting couple with dependent children.

- Eight per cent of families with dependent children (whose family head was under 60) contained one or more stepchildren. Of these stepfamilies, 84 per cent contained a stepfather, 12 per cent a stepmother and four per cent contained both.

Marriage and cohabitation

- Fifty six per cent of men and 58 per cent of women aged 16-59 were legally married and living with their spouse and over a fifth (23 per cent of men and 22 per cent of women) were cohabiting.
- Cohabitation rates for single, widowed, divorced or separated women aged 16-49 doubled between 1979 and 1991 from 11 per cent to 23 per cent. Since then the increase has been more gradual, reaching 25 per cent in 1996.

Ethnicity

- Ninety four per cent of respondents to the survey described themselves as White. This proportion has changed little since 1983 when the survey first began asking about ethnicity.
- As a result of different immigration patterns the age distribution for the ethnic minority population varied. Combined data for 1994-6 shows that 29 per cent of people over 25 who defined themselves as Black were born in the UK compared with 12 per cent of Indians and eight per cent of Pakistanis and Bangladeshis.

Housing

- Two thirds of households owned their own home compared with just under a half in 1971.

Consumer durables

- The ownership of CD players has more than doubled in the last five years and between 1995 and 1996 increased from 52 per cent to 58 per cent. Other main differences between 1995 and 1996 have been the proportion of households who own: microwave ovens (70 per cent to 74 per cent); video recorders (79 per cent to 82 per cent); home computers (25 per cent to 27 per cent); and central heating (86 per cent to 88 per cent).
- Nearly one in five (18 per cent) households had a receiver for a satellite television.

Ownership of cars

- Seventy per cent of all households had a car or van compared with 52 per cent in 1972.
- Over a fifth (21 per cent) of households in 1996 had two cars or vans and four per cent had three or more.

Burglaries in private households

- There were 40 incidents of burglary per thousand households during the previous 12 months (this includes incidents where nothing was stolen).
- Households living in private rented and social sector housing were more likely than owner occupiers to be burgled (61 and 58 compared with 32 per thousand households).

Education

- The proportion of people with educational qualifications has continued to rise. In 1996, 69 per cent of all adults had an educational qualification, compared with 63 per cent in 1991 and 41 per cent in 1975.

Health

- In 1996, 34 per cent of men and 35 per cent of women reported they had a longstanding illness compared with 20 per cent and 21 per cent respectively in 1972. This is partly explained by the aging population.
- The proportion of adults reporting a limiting longstanding illness reached its highest point in 1996 with 21 per cent of men and 23 per cent of women reporting such a condition. This is double the proportion mentioning such an illness in 1972.
- Eighteen per cent of women and 14 per cent of men had been to an NHS GP in the 14 days prior to being interviewed.

Sports and physical activities

- Nearly two thirds (64 per cent) of all respondents had taken part in some sport or physical activity during the four weeks before being interviewed.
- Forty five per cent of adults said they had taken a walk of two or more miles in the four weeks before being interviewed. This was the most frequently mentioned form of sport or physical activity followed by swimming (15 per cent of adults), keep fit or yoga (15 per cent), snooker, billiards or pool (11 per cent) and cycling (11 per cent).

- People who took part in cycling, weight lifting, gymnastics or horse riding had done so an average of eight times in the four weeks prior to being interviewed.

Leisure activities

- Almost all respondents (96 per cent) had watched TV in the four weeks before being interviewed and large proportions had also listened to the radio (88 per cent) and CDs, records or tapes (78 per cent).
- Listening to CDs, records or tapes increased from 62 per cent of adults in 1977 to 78 per cent in 1996 and reading books has increased from 54 per cent to 65 per cent, with most of the change occurring during the 1980s.

The GHS, which started in 1971, is carried out by the Social Survey Division of ONS. The data is obtained from interviews with everyone aged 16 or over in a random sample of private households in Great Britain. About 17,000 adults from around 9,000 households are interviewed each year.

Living in Britain: Preliminary results from the 1996 General Household Survey

The Stationery Office

Price £10 / ISBN 0 11 620946 1

For more information contact:

Paul Hunter
 Office for National Statistics
 Zone D1/23
 1 Drummond Gate
 London, SW1V 2QQ
 ☎ 0171 533 5303

ANNUAL SAMPLE SURVEY INTO PRODUCTION INDUSTRIES 1993-1995

Updated results of the Annual Sample Survey into Production Industries are now available in the second edition of the PACSTAT CD-ROM, available from The Stationery Office.



PACSTAT contains a range of industry specific statistics, formerly published in over 100 Annual Census of Production PA Business Monitors. Variables covered include employment, wages and salaries, capital expenditure, total sales and gross value added. This second CD-ROM contains data for 1993, 1994 and 1995, together with figures for selected main variables from 1986-1995. This represents a 50 per cent increase in the amount of data contained on the CD-ROM.

Data on the CD-ROM is multi-dimensional and can be selected in a variety of ways such as employment sizeband, regional, predefined sets or your own chosen combination of variables.

Once selections have been made the information can then be viewed in tables, charts or maps saving many hours of work which would have been needed to input the data into a software package to give this level of manipulation.

The creation of PACSTAT has meant a reduction in the comparative cost of data. In previous years it would have cost over £2,000 to buy the entire Business Monitor series on paper. In addition PACSTAT has greatly improved accessibility and manipulation of production and construction statistics. It is a valuable tool for both business and academic purposes.

Whilst the PA Business Monitor series is no longer available in its original published format individual industry results are available by phoning 01633 812435 or fax 01633 812575. The fee charged will depend on the tables requested. The 1994 Summary Volume (PA1002), giving aggregated results for Production and Construction sectors is also available.

Copies of the PACSTAT CD-ROM (£350) and the Summary Volume (£70) are available from:

.....
: The Stationery Office Publications Centre
: PO Box 276, London SW8 5DT
: ☎ 0171 622 3316
: or through any Government Bookshop
.....

Further information on the Annual Sample Survey, individual industry tables and Summary Volume tables can be obtained from:

.....
: Julian Dowsell
: Office for National Statistics
: Room 1.301
: Government Buildings
: Cardiff Road
: Newport, NP9 1XG
: ☎ 01633 812435
.....

NEW DATA ANALYSIS SERVICE FOR BUSINESS STATISTICS LAUNCHED

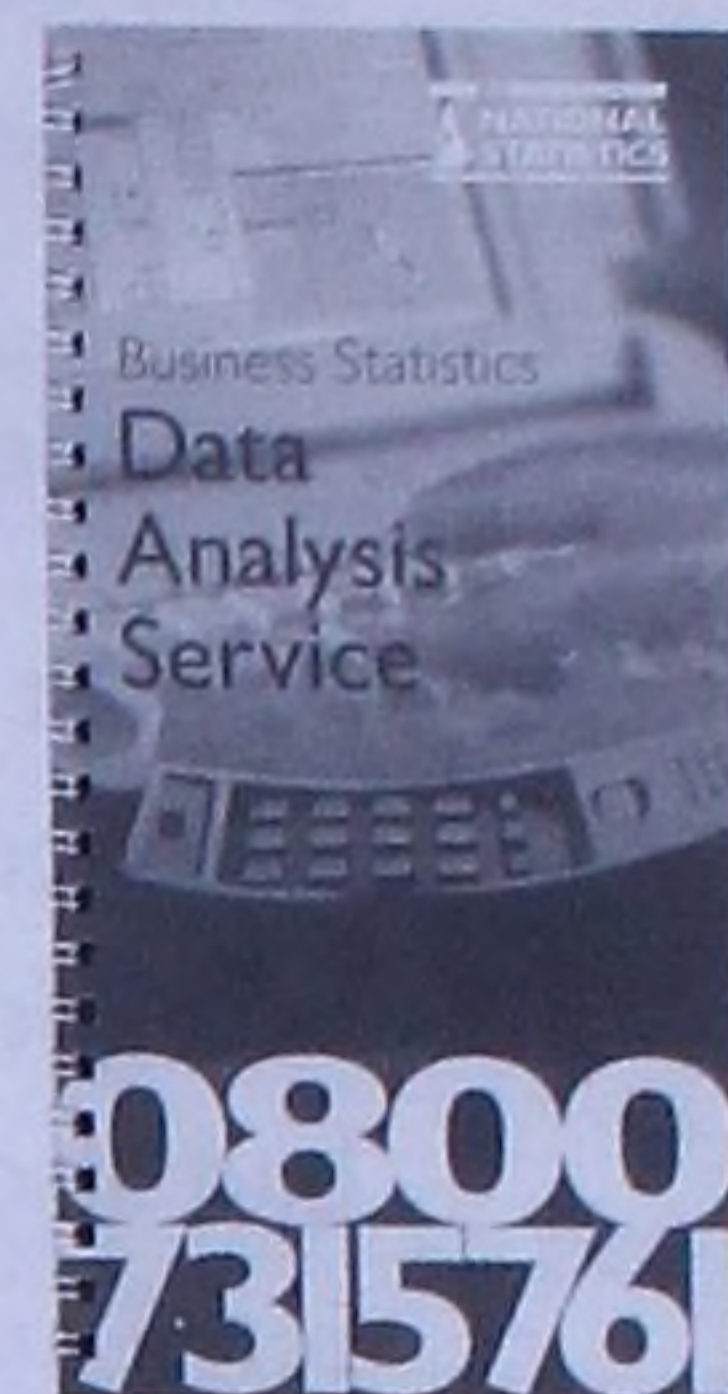
A new freephone service has been launched by the Office for National Statistics to provide business analyses data to customer specifications.

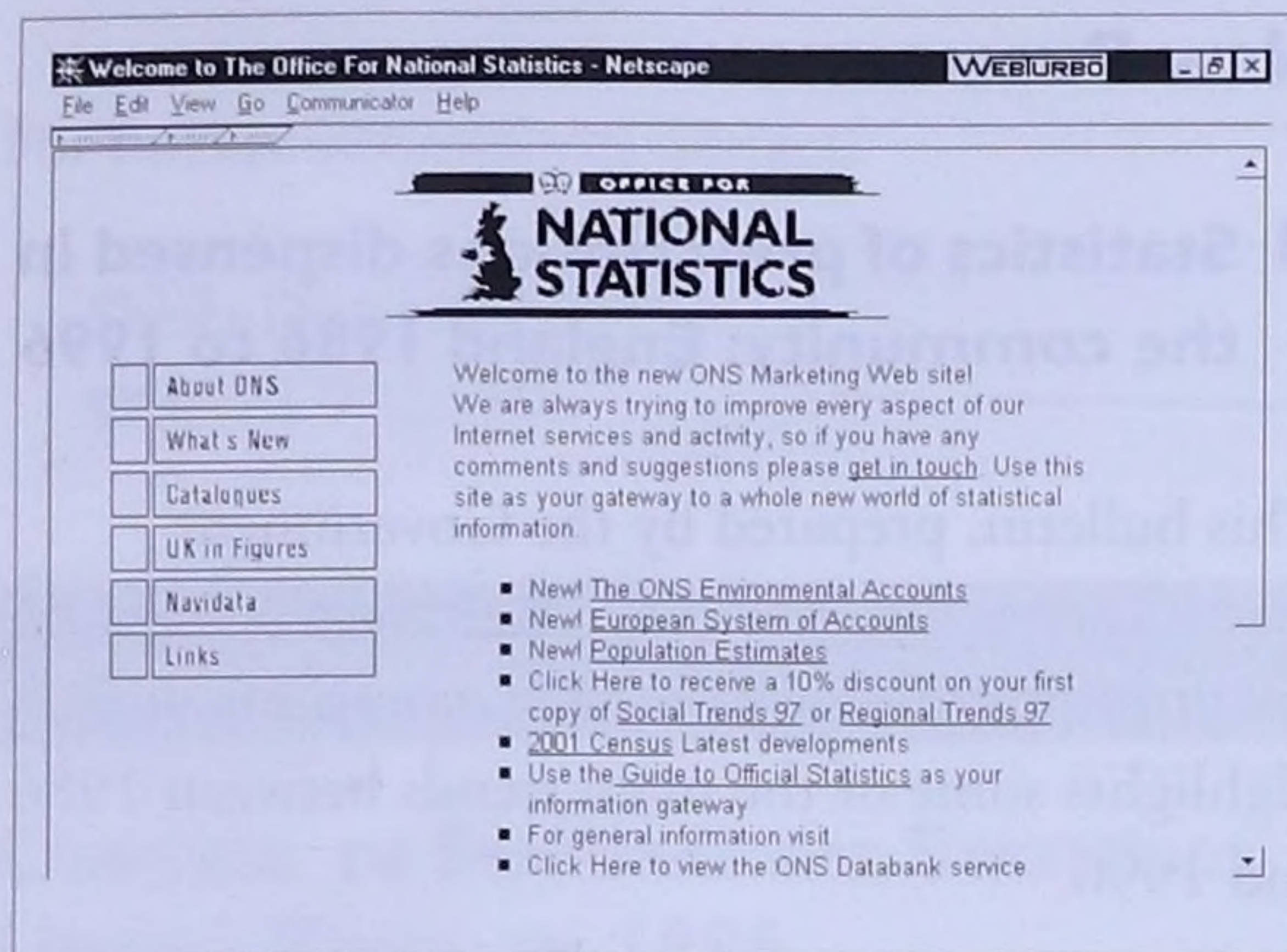
Examples of data available include:

- Information on UK businesses; where they are, what size they are and what they do;
- Price movements of goods bought and sold by UK manufacturers; monitoring and measuring inflation, providing up-to-date market information and gauging industry performance;
- Information on UK manufacturers; how much they produce, how many people they employ, how much they pay their staff, what the relationships are between UK companies and their foreign associates, growth areas for UK investment, how attractive the UK is to foreign investors;
- Product data from over 25,000 businesses; average prices, UK manufacturers' sales and net market data for over 4,800 products.

The freephone is open Monday to Thursday from 9.30 to 5.00 and Friday 9.30 to 4.30. Information identifying specific individuals or firms is not provided. An estimate for the price of the work is given according to the customer's requirements.

.....
: Freephone 0800 731 5761
.....





The Office for National Statistics continues to expand its presence on the Internet. New areas devoted to the Retail Prices Index and Population Estimates will soon be joined by pages featuring the environmental accounts, examining the economy from the perspective of environmental, rather than monetary costs. An interactive on-line catalogue now allows visitors to the site to search for details on any National Statistics product and order it directly. You can also keep up with news from National Statistics, access selected statistics in *UK In Figures* and use hyperlinks to reach statistical offices in other countries. Last month saw 24,000 visits to the site with the continual growth in visits reflecting the increasing importance of the Internet as an access route to business information.

National Statistics has now begun the next phase of its Internet development, which will involve a complete site redesign, access to all UK statistics and in 1998 the introduction of an integrated key statistics database. Watch this space for further news, or visit the site to keep in touch with National Statistics on the net.

<http://www.ons.gov.uk>

SKILL NEEDS IN BRITAIN 1997

Skill Needs in Britain 1997 is the eighth survey in an annual series funded by the Department for Education and Employment. The objectives of the research are to assess the scale and pattern of employer recruitment difficulties, including the occupations affected; employers' commitment to training, specifically the amount of off-the-job training funded or arranged; and employers' awareness of, and participation in, initiatives related to training and skills.

The 1997 report was published on 31 October and covers establishments with 25 or more employees in all regions of Great Britain. All industry sectors except for agriculture, forestry and fishing are covered.

It reports that 18 per cent of employers were experiencing recruitment difficulties (defined as hard-to-fill vacancies) at the time of the survey. This is very slightly up on the 1996 and 1995 results (17 per cent and 16 per cent respectively).

Just under a fifth (18 per cent) of employers felt that a gap existed between the skills their current workforce possessed and those that they needed to meet business objectives. Of those firms who employed 16-19 year olds, 37 per cent thought that a skills gap existed for these employees.

The proportion of employers providing off the job training in the last year was 82 per cent, a similar proportion to that found last year (84 per cent).

Over two thirds (69 per cent) of employers believed that the skills needed in their average

employee were increasing, five percentage points down on last year's figure. The most common reason given by employers believing skill needs were increasing was changes in processes and technology used.

For further information contact:

Patrick O'Donnell
☎ 0114 259 4350
GTN 5301 4350

EDUCATION AND TRAINING STATISTICS FOR THE UK, 1997 EDITION

January 1998 will see the first edition of a new publication entitled *Education and Training Statistics for the United Kingdom, 1997 Edition*. The publication combines the previous volumes *Education Statistics for the United Kingdom* and *Training Statistics* to present, in about 50 tables, largely UK wide information on Education and Training as a whole, under chapters relating to expenditure; schools; post-compulsory education and training; qualifications; destinations and population. In addition one chapter will also be devoted to international comparisons of education and training.

Copies will be available through The Stationery Office.

For further information contact:

Dave Walton
☎ 01325 392754
GTN 5211 2754

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NEW PUBLICATIONS

■ Statistics of prescriptions dispensed in the community: England 1986 to 1996

This bulletin, prepared by the Government Statistical Service, presents a summary of prescriptions dispensed in the community and highlights some of the main trends between 1986 and 1996.

Findings included the net ingredient cost of all prescriptions was £4,007 million; 485 million prescription items were dispensed; the average net ingredient cost per prescription item was £8.26 and there were on average 9.9 prescription items per head.

For further information contact:

Ann Custance
☎ 0171 972 5513

■ Ophthalmic Statistics for England 1986-87 to 1996-97

The Ophthalmic Statistical Bulletin 1986-87 to 1996-97, published on 3rd November 1997, provides information on the General Ophthalmic Services in England.

This annual publication contains information on the number of NHS sight tests paid for, number of vouchers reimbursed, number of practitioners and establishments and GOS expenditure by year. The detailed information relates to the

financial year 1996-97, with some trend in information also provided.

For further information contact:

Sheila Dixon

☎ 0171 972 5506

HOME OFFICE

CONTROL OF IMMIGRATION: STATISTICS, UNITED KINGDOM 1996

The annual Home Office Command Paper on statistics of the control of immigration was published on 21st August 1997. This contains extensive information on grants of entry clearance, admissions to the UK, applications for asylum, extensions of stay including settlement, enforcement action and appeals in 1996 and earlier years.

The main points for 1996 were:

- 10.3 million non-EEA nationals were admitted to the UK, 7 per cent more than in 1995;
- 21,000 non-EEA nationals were refused leave to enter and removed from the UK, an increase of 2,000;
- 30,000 persons (excluding dependants) applied for asylum, a decrease of over 14,000;
- 61,700 persons were accepted for settlement, ie allowed to stay indefinitely, an increase of 6,200;
- 20,900 persons had enforcement action taken against them after entry, an increase of 4,900, and the number of persons who left the UK following such action increased slightly to 5,200.

Control of Immigration: Statistics, United Kingdom 1996

Cm 3737

The Stationery Office

Price £19/ ISBN 0 10 137372 4

PRISON STATISTICS: ENGLAND AND WALES 1996

This Home Office command paper was published in July 1997. It presents data on the population of, receptions into and discharges from Prison Service establishments in 1996. Chapters cover the remand populations, sentenced young offenders, sentenced adult males, sentenced adult females, fine defaulters and life sentence prisoners. It also includes information on reconvictions of discharged prisoners, the ethnic origin and nationality of inmates, restraints and the offences against prison discipline proven and punishments awarded under the prison adjudication process. Some of the most important and interesting findings are reported below.

■ The prison population in 1996

The average population in custody in 1996 was 55,300; 4,200 higher than in 1995 and the highest ever level. This included a rise in the remand population of only 200, to 11,600, and in the sentenced population of 3,900 to 43,000. The female prison population increased by 14 per cent, from an average 2,000 in 1995 to 2,300 in 1996, while the number of male prisoners increased by an average 8 per cent from 49,100 to 53,000. The greatest year-on-year increase in the number of sentenced prisoners was among those sentenced for drug offences and these prisoners have also become more prevalent over the long-term, forming 13 per cent of the prison population in 1996, compared with 8 per cent in

1986. Longer sentence prisoners have increased as a proportion of all prisoners, from 28 per cent of adult males in 1986 to 42 per cent in 1996.

The higher prison population in 1996 is a continuation of the rise which started at the beginning of 1993 and followed a steep fall during 1992. It reflected the increased use of custodial sentences by Magistrates' and Crown Courts and an increasing average sentence length at the Crown Court.

■ **Fine defaulters, non-criminal prisoners and life sentence prisoners**

The population of fine defaulters on 30th June 1996 was 140, about a quarter of the previous year's level. They formed 0.3 per cent of the sentenced population at that date, and formed 10 per cent of all receptions under sentence in 1996, the lowest proportion on record. The main offences for which they were originally fined were motoring offences (41 per cent of males received) and theft and handling (15 per cent of males received).

The population of non-criminal prisoners on 30th June 1996 was 630, 20 lower than in mid-1995. Persons held under the 1971 Immigration Act accounted for 82 per cent of male non-criminal prisoners.

The number of life sentence prisoners increased by 200 to 3,490 in mid-1996, 200 higher than in mid-1995 and 1,300 higher than in mid-1986. The number of receptions of lifers reached a record high of 338.

■ **Statistics of offences against prison discipline and punishments: England and Wales 1996**

This Command Paper, published in July 1997, presents data on the workings of the prison discipline system in 1996. The paper includes details of the disciplinary offences proven and punishments given at each Prison Service establishment. Other tables show the punishments given for each type of disciplinary offence and examine the disciplinary behaviour of different criminal offence groups and ethnic groups. Some of the tables include rates per 100 population and some include time series from 1986 onwards.

■ **Offences**

Some 115,000 offences against prison discipline were punished in 1996, ten per cent more than in 1995. The offence rate of 209 offences per 100 average population was one per cent higher than in 1995.

The most common offences were disobedience/disrespect, forming 40 per cent of all offences and unauthorised transactions (including possession and/or use of controlled drugs), forming 33 per cent of all offences; higher than in previous years due to the universal implementation of Mandatory Drug Testing. Offences involving violence accounted for about 11 per cent of offences, a similar proportion to the previous five years. The number of assaults on prison officers and staff fell by 400 to 2,400 and the number of assaults on prisoners was steady at 2,700, but the number of fights rose.

Those charged or convicted of offences of burglary, robbery or theft committed a disproportionate number of offences against prison discipline. Offence rates were substantially higher for black males than for males of other ethnic groups and were higher for white females than for females for other ethnic groups.

■ Punishments

The most common punishments in male establishments were additional days (often known as loss of remission), followed by forfeiture of privileges and stoppage or reduction of earnings. The average duration of an unsuspended punishment of additional days in 1996 was 11 days for all offences, but as long as 28 days for escaping or absconding. The use of additional days as a punishment added an estimated 1,280 to the average prison population during 1996, about 500 of which was due to punishment drugs offences.

Prison Statistics (Cm. 3732, price £18.30) and *Statistics of Offences* (Cm. 3715, price £7.55) are available from The Stationery Office bookshops and Publications Centre (general enquiries 0171 873 9090; fax orders 0171 873 8200) as well as accredited agents and other bookshops.

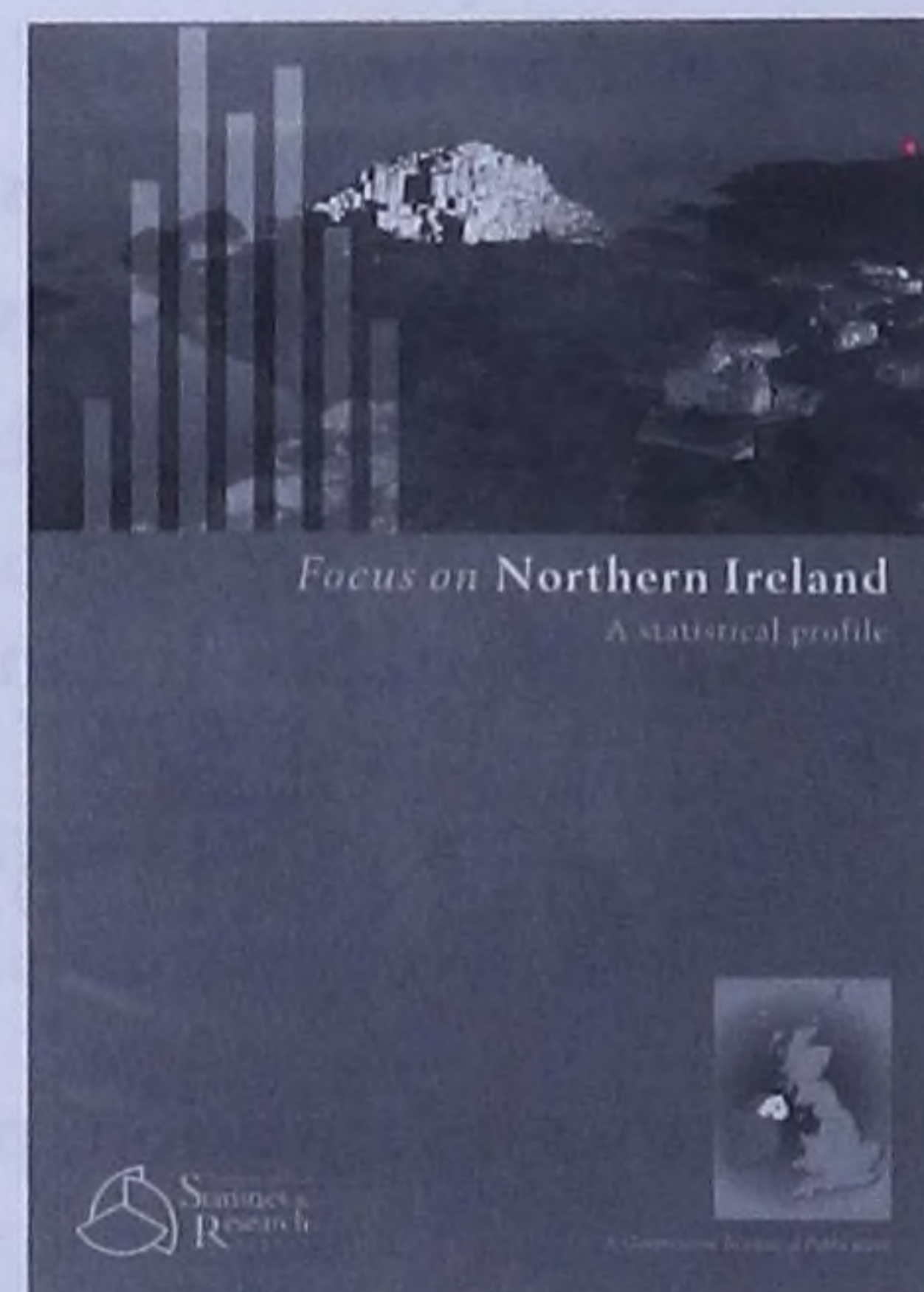
Enquiries about prison statistics should be addressed to:

Home Office Management of
Correctional Systems Section
Room 816
Abell House
John Islip Street
London, SW1P 4LH

NORTHERN IRELAND STATISTICS AND RESEARCH AGENCY

FOCUS ON NORTHERN IRELAND

Compiled and produced by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, *Focus on Northern Ireland* is a statistical profile of the Northern Ireland region which has been written for the



general and specialist reader alike. Using official statistics from a variety of government and other sources, it presents a socio-economic picture of what life is really like in Northern Ireland. With chapters on population and environment, the economy and the people, *Focus on Northern Ireland* makes comparisons between Northern Ireland and the rest of the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland and Europe. Illustrated with tables, charts and maps, its 100 pages are packed with interesting statistics.

For example, did you know that . . .

- Northern Ireland has a young population with proportionately more children and fewer pensioners than the other countries of the United Kingdom.
- One employee in three in Northern Ireland works in the public sector compared with one in five in the United Kingdom.
- Northern Ireland has a higher proportion of teetotallers and a lower proportion of heavy drinkers than Great Britain.

- In 1995, the crime rate in Northern Ireland was less than half the corresponding figure for England and Wales.

Focus on Northern Ireland forms part of a national publication series which is intended to provide a detailed study of life in the regions of the United Kingdom.

Focus on Northern Ireland

The Stationery Office

Price £30/ISBN 0 11 620772 8

For further information, please contact:

.....
 : Anne Jordan ☎ 01232 526933

RYAN AND SHANNON - THE MOST POPULAR FIRST NAMES FOR CHILDREN IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Ryan and Shannon were the most popular first names in Northern Ireland birth registrations in 1995. Fashions in girls' names change more rapidly than for boys. Twenty years ago, in 1975, not a single girl was registered with Shannon as her first name, while the most popular name in 1975, Joanne, is now the only the 75th most popular first name for girls. Other newly popular girls' names that were unused only 20 years ago include Chloe and Courtney. Fashions in boys' names also change, but more slowly; 20 years ago Ryan was the 54th most popular boy's name while 1975's most popular name, David, is now the 12th most popular first name for boys.

This information is contained in a new booklet produced by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency's General Register Office; *A Guide to Popular First Names in Northern Ireland*, published in August 1997. This is the first

publication of this kind to be released by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and is available directly from:

.....
 : The General Register Office,
 : 21-27 Chichester Street,
 : Belfast BT1 4SX.
 : ☎ 01232 252032

or from District Council Registrars and from bookshops, price £4.00.

THE FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF DISABLED PEOPLE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

PPRU Surveys of Disability Report 6

by Gerry Zarb and Lydia Maher

The last of a series of survey reports about disability in Northern Ireland, this report describes the financial consequences of disability for adults and the families of disabled children.

On average disabled adults earned 30 per cent less from employment than adults in the general population. Sixty per cent of disabled adults had weekly net earnings lower than £100. Weekly benefit unit income from benefits averaged £67 per week.

Half of these households had no savings, 62 per cent said they were "just getting by" and 6 per cent said they were "getting into difficulties". The more severe the person's disabilities the less well off the family tended to be and the greater the proportion of their disposable income they spent on items they needed because they were disabled.

Benefit units in which children were disabled derived on average 57 per cent of their net weekly income from benefits and 40 per cent from

earnings. Over a third of these benefit units incurred additional disability related expenditure, 59 per cent were “just getting by” while 16 per cent were “getting into difficulties”. The greater number of disabled children and the more severe the children’s disabilities the less well off these families tended to be.

Price: £10.00. Available from:

.....
: Social Policy Branch
: 21-27 Chichester Street
: Belfast BT1 4SX
: ☎ 01232 252032
:

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY

DEVELOPMENT OF DSS SUMMARY SHEET

The broad aims of the DSS Summary Sheet were that it was to be a release of the most up to date information relating to the major benefits administered by the DSS and it is hoped that it will raise the profile of ASD in the public domain. It will bring the existence of ASD to the attention of the Press and general public, establish a point of contact for any queries and offer an example of what we can provide for them. The sheet is short and is intended to be sent via e-mail and fax primarily, though it is also to be distributed as part of all relevant DSS-related Press Releases.

Following consultation with the Social Security Statistics, a list was drawn up of the benefits to be included. This was later augmented following wider circulation of an initial draft.

The result of these discussions have led to a publication which will:

- cover three sides of A4;

- be regularly updated (on a monthly or quarterly basis);
- use colour and graphics to present two or three bullet points for each of the stated benefits;
- feature both the DSS and the GSS logos;
- be organised into main benefit areas i.e. Elderly, Sick and Disabled, Family, Unemployed and Others;
- contain a footer which will include details of the contact point within ASD (name, telephone number, e-mail address and fax); and
- feature a brief explanation of each of the benefits.

The Summary Sheet is rapidly approaching completion and should be available by the time that *Statistical News* is published.

WELSH OFFICE

WELSH STATISTICAL LIAISON COMMITTEE

The Welsh Statistical Liaison Committee (WSLC) is composed of representatives of the local authorities, the local authority association and the Welsh Office. The Committee generally meets twice a year and is chaired by the Chief Statistician of the Welsh Office. It is one of the consultative committees of the Government Statistical Service.

Meetings in 1997 were held on 27 February in Cardiff and on 9 October in Builth Wells. The most recent meeting discussed the following topics: indicators of socio-economic conditions, population and household sub-national projections, the European NUTS classification, the Best Value initiative, the New Earnings

Survey, synthetic estimates, the 2001 Census of Population, small area agriculture statistics, measurement of health inequalities, statistical indicators in the Revenue Support Grant formula and the Welsh House Condition Survey.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for March 1998. Further details about the activities of the WSLC and copies of papers discussed at meetings are available from the Secretary:

.....
: David Blair
: SD1
: Welsh Office
: Cathays Park
: Cardiff, CF1 3NQ
: ☎ 01222 825085 / GTN 1208 5085
:

The Population and Household Projections Working Group of WSLC arranged a seminar for health and local authority representatives on Population Estimates and Projections at Powys County Hall on 18 June. This was sponsored by the Welsh Local Government Association. A further seminar on Household Projections is planned.

A report of the seminar presentations and question and answer sessions, as well as details of the Working Group, are available from the Secretary:

.....
: Brett Davis
: SD1
: Welsh Office
: Cathays Park
: Cardiff, CF1 3NQ
: ☎ 01222 825058
: GTN 1208 5058
:

BANK OF ENGLAND

RESULTS OF THE BANKING STATISTICS REVIEW

The latest comprehensive review of UK banking statistics was initiated by the Bank of England in 1995. Consultation of users of statistics was followed by discussions with the British Bankers' Association and - because of the detailed nature of the changes - a long implementation period. Many of the changes which affect economic statistics are being introduced in stages from end-September 1997.

They include:

- a monthly economic sector split of M4 deposits and lending, to increase the usefulness of the monthly M4 and lending aggregates (but it will be some time before a seasonally adjusted series can be calculated);
- amended economic sectors, in line with the new European standard, ESA 95 (in particular, the UK offshore islands become non-UK, partnerships move from the personal sector into the corporate sectors, and from April 1998 the Bank of England will be wholly within the new 'monetary financial institutions' sector, with banks and building societies;
- an amended industrial analysis of lending (including more breakdown of service industry and the financial sector), in line with SIC 92, and an industrial analysis of deposits;
- the value of derivatives contracts will be shown on the balance sheet;

- securities etc will be valued at market rather than 'book' value, and accruals accounting will replace cash-value accounting wherever appropriate and possible;
- more detail, at least on a best endeavours basis, of the UK sectoral and foreign geographic splits of banks' income and expenditure.

Many other changes have already been made or are due to be made, including changes to specialist supervisory data on capital adequacy and liquidity and - if the UK enters monetary union - extra detail of maturity and of cross-border positions (to enable the UK to contribute to monetary statistics for the union). A full account, and a list of the report forms, is given in an article by John Thorp in the September issue of *Bank of England: Monetary & Financial Statistics* ('Bankstats').

Contact:

.....
: Daxa Khilosia
: ☎ 0171 601 5353
:

FINANCIAL STATISTICS USER GROUP (FSUG)

European Seminar 18th September 1997

This was the first of a proposed regular series of seminars by this newly formed group and was chaired by Simon Briscoe (Nikko Europe).

A committee has been formed and will decide a program for the coming year. These will be announced as soon as possible.

The first speaker was Peter Bull of the European Monetary Institute (ex Bank of England) on the Statistical Requirements for Monetary Union to maintain price stability and define and implement monetary policy. The European Monetary Institute has statistical responsibility for promoting the harmonisation of the rules and practices governing the collection, compilation and distribution of statistics, within its field of competence.

Harmonisation is required because there are differences of definition in statistical practice which if not attended to will yield inconsistent aggregates. Although the ECB's monetary policy responsibilities will relate to the euro area, the treaty also refers to statistical responsibilities of EU member states who do not participate in this area at the outset. The requirements will have to be met in time for stage three to start in January 1999.

Roger Brown from the BBA and Ian Kerr from the Bank of England (MFSD) were the discussants. They welcomed the decision being taken to devolve responsibility for data collection to national central bank and supported the need for harmonisation of money and banking statistics, but were concerned about several aspects of the reporting requirements and the demands placed on banks.

Part two of the seminar started with August Gotzfried of the Statistical Office of the EC (Eurostat) talking about collection of enterprise statistics in the financial services area. He highlighted users needs, legal framework, organisation of work, aims, current work in progress and future plans.

Discussants were Duncan McKenzie from British Invisible, Stuart Brown from the ONS and Brian Hudson from the Association of British Insurers. They pointed out the need for a better

understanding of financial markets and that better statistics is a key to that, but were also concerned with the costs of compliance. They looked forward to figures becoming available on a harmonised basis.

If you would like to be on the mailing list of this newly formed Financial Statistics User Group please contact:

.....
: Daxa Khilosia
: Secretary to FSUG
: Bank of England
: ☎ 0171 601 5353
: Fax: 0171 601 3334
:

INFLATION REPORT

The August *Inflation Report* provided a detailed analysis of recent monetary, price and demand developments in the UK economy, and offered the Bank of England's current assessment of the prospects for inflation over the following two years. It included analysis of recent money and credit growth and of the latest news on output, the labour market and earnings.

QUARTERLY BULLETIN

In addition to regular articles providing commentaries on the operation of UK monetary policy, developments in the world economy and in financial markets, the August issue of the Bank's *Quarterly Bulletin* contained the following items.

- **Quantifying some benefits of price stability** (by Hasan Bakhshi, Andrew G Haldane and Neal Hatch of the Bank of England's Monetary Analysis Divisions). This article quantifies some of the costs of inflation in the United Kingdom. It focuses in particular on tax distortions under an imperfectly indexed tax system and distortions to

GENDER STATISTICS USERS' GROUP

money demand. In the United States, a similar study found that lowering inflation by 2 percentage points could generate welfare benefits of as much as 1 per cent of GDP per year forever. In the United Kingdom, the benefits are found to be smaller but still substantial, at 0.2 per cent of GDP per year.

● **Inflation and inflation uncertainty** (by Michael Joyce of the Bank's Monetary Assessment and Strategy Division). This article examines whether higher inflation has been associated with greater inflation uncertainty in the United Kingdom during the post-war period, using various descriptive and econometric estimates of uncertainty. Though the results cannot establish conclusively whether there has been a casual link, they do suggest that the level of inflation and inflation uncertainty are positively correlated. If inflation uncertainty is costly, this provides a potential justification for directing policy at establishing and sustaining an environment of low inflation.

● **Quantifying survey data** (by Alastair Cunningham of the Bank's Conjunctural Assessment and Projections Division). In this article Alastair Cunningham explains how data from economic surveys can be used to complement official statistics. He sets out a simple framework to analyse how firms respond to surveys and outlines the most widely used technique for converting qualitative responses into a quantitative measure. He shows that the results of this technique are often biased, and describes a more rigorous approach. Possible explanations are put forward for why survey data tend to be less volatile than official data. Finally, the use of forward-looking survey data is discussed.

For more information:

☎ 0171 601 4030

There is considerable interest in forming a Gender Statistics Users' Group. A working group has now been formed, convened by the Statistics Users' Council, an independent umbrella organisation bringing together users and producers of statistics and the Equal Opportunities Commission. The working group is actively supported by, among others, the Office for National Statistics, the Fawcett Society, the Womens' Unit and the Womens' National Commission.

This seems to be a good time to set up a Users' Group. A policy statement on the collection and dissemination of statistics disaggregated by gender has been published by Tim Holt, the Head of the Government Statistical Service:

'The GSS aims always to collect and make available, for example in publications, statistics disaggregated by gender, except where considerations of practicality or cost outweigh the identified need. All GSS publications contain the name and contact details of a person who can explain which, if any, of the statistics are available by gender and how they can be obtained.'

The working group is planning a seminar to be held in London, probably in March 1998. The aim of the seminar is to:

- identify and discuss key issues of concern to users of gender statistics;
- provide a forum for Government and non-Government producers of statistics to obtain users' views on the availability and usefulness of gender-related statistics and for producers to inform users of developments;

- assess the support for a Gender Statistics Users' Group (GSUG) to provide a continuing dialogue between users and providers and help facilitate further developments to gender related statistics.

To be added to the mailing list for the seminar, please contact:

.....
 : Dr. Karen Hurrell
 : GSUG Seminar
 : Equal Opportunities Commission
 : Overseas House
 : Quay Street
 : Manchester, M3 3HN
 : ☎ 0161 835 1657
 : e-mail karenh@eoc.org.uk
 :

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH

STATISTICS FOR ALL

This is a one day workshop to be held at the Royal Statistical Society, 12 Errol Street, London EC1 on Wednesday 21st January 1998.

It will be a high profile event, to be opened by Alun Michael MP. It will include the first chance to see the Charity Commission's long-awaited new database. Prominent speakers will set the scene and round up the day. Above all, the day is designed to allow practitioners to comment on how statistics, especially official statistics, meet their needs.

The aim of the workshop are: to bring together producers, users and potential users of statistical and survey information; to review and highlight the data that are collected in this area; and to encourage wider use of these data.

The workshop is designed for a wide range of organisations operating within the voluntary and community sector, with some of the contents specifically tailored to meet the needs of smaller organisations working in local areas. The workshop should also be relevant to the statutory health and local authorities, to funding agencies and to those private sector employers supporting volunteering.

Organisers include ARVAC (Association for Research in the Voluntary and Community Sector), Charities Aid Foundation, Community Development Foundation, Home Office, Institute for Social Research (Surrey University), National Centre for Volunteering, National Council for Voluntary Organisations and the Statistics' Users Council.

Fee is £55 per person, with a reduced rate of £30 for voluntary organisations with turnover of less than £25,000 and students.

For more information contact:

.....
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INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION STATISTICS

The sweeping economic and political reforms taking place in the world today have had a profound influence upon international migration. Increasing globalisation of economic networks, rapid population growth in the South and growing poverty have led to increased pressures towards emigration. In the North, increasing unemployment and mounting nationalism and xenophobic sentiments have led to social tensions and led many governments to adopt more restrictive immigration policies. There is thus a growing interest among governments and scholars, in both North and South, in quantifying the volume of international migration flows and assessing their economic and social implications.

The purpose of *International Migration Statistics* is to strengthen national capacities for generating more meaningful data required for migration policy analysis. Within this framework it has three immediate objectives; to provide a critical review of the adequacy of current sources of data on international migration; to discuss the conceptual and analytical issues related to the stocks and flows of international migrants and to suggest improved methods of data collection through administrative records, population censuses, sample surveys, etc. and ways of enhancing the international comparability of migration statistics.

The volume has been prepared with the financial support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) as part of the activities of the International Labour Organization's Interdepartmental Project on Migrant Workers implemented in 22 countries during 1994-95.

International Migration Statistics
International Labour Organization
Price £40.50/ISBN 92 2 109517 7

Copies and more information available from:

.....
: Marion Motts
: International Labour Office
: Millbank Tower
: 21-24 Millbank
: London, SW1P 4QP
: ☎ 0171 828 6401
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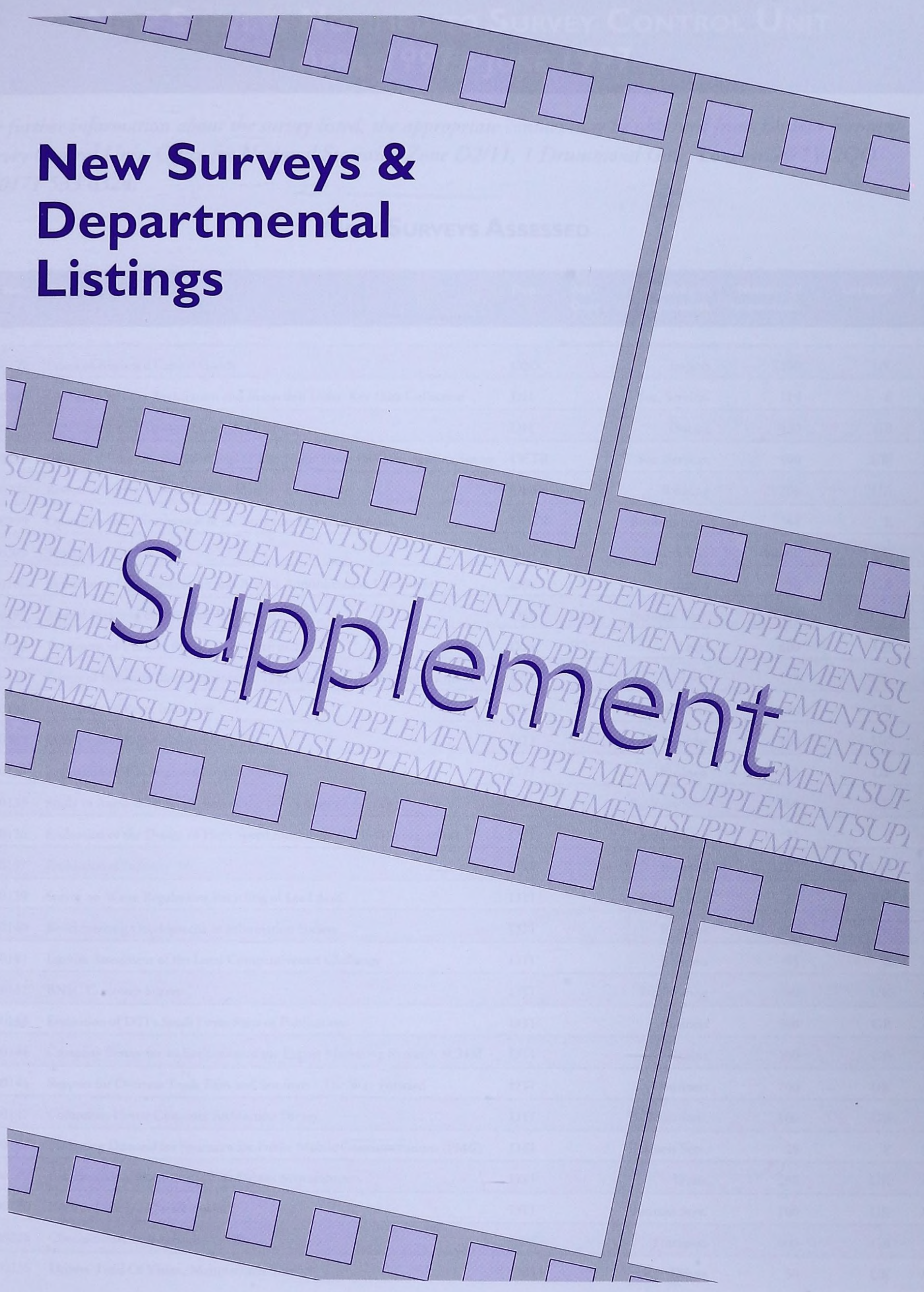
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New Surveys & Departmental Listings

Supplement



Listings
Departmental
& New Surveys

Supplement

NEW SURVEYS NOTIFIED TO SURVEY CONTROL UNIT

APRIL 1997 - JUNE 1997

For further information about the survey listed, the appropriate contact may be obtained from Ehshan Sumun, Survey Control Unit, Office for National Statistics, Zone D2/11, 1 Drummond Gate, London SW1V 2QQ.

☎ 0171 533 6324.

NEW SURVEYS ASSESSED

SCU No.	Title	Dept.	Ass Dept	Activity of respondents	Number of respondents	Location	Freq
12500122	Prices of Imported Capital Goods	ONS		Import	2500	UK	M
13400095	LA Social Services Registration and Inspection Units: Key Data Collection	DH		Soc. Services	119	E	AH
13400096	1997 Dispensing Doctors' Discount Enquiry	DH		Doctor	430	GB	AH
13900297	Review of Take Up and Workings of The Night Noise Offence: Baseline Survey	DETR		Soc. Services	400	EW	AH
13900298	Review of Survey of Mortgage Lenders	DETR		Banking	9700	UK	Q
13900299	Operation and Effectiveness of the Structure Planning Process	DETR		Business Serv.	44	E	AH
13900300	Workload Mix II	DETR		Construction	50000	GB	Y3
14200106	Evaluation of the Verification and Benefit Administration Document	DSS		Finance	50	GB	AH
14200107	Annual Pack and Starter Pack Evaluation	DSS	COI	Business Serv.	1044	EW	AH
14200108	Treatment of Pension Rights on Divorce in 1997	DSS	SO	Legal	800	GB	AH
14400130	Survey of Industrial Requirements for Traceable Humidity Measurements	DTI		Business	175	UK	AH
14400132	Evaluation of Retex Initiatives	DTI		Employer	40	GB	AH
14400133	Evaluation of Konver Initiative	DTI		Business	100	UK	AH
14400134	Evaluation of The Regional Supply Network	DTI		Business	465	GB	AH
14400135	Study to Assess the Effectiveness of the DTI's Activate Service	DTI		Business Serv.	600	UK	AH
14400136	Evaluation of the Design of High Speed Machinery (DHSM) Programme	DTI		Engineering	35	E	AH
14400137	Evaluation of Industry '96	DTI		Business	225	WM	AH
14400139	Survey on Waste Regulations Recycling of Lead Acid	DTI		Engineering	32	YH	AH
14400140	Benchmarking Development of Information Society	DTI		Business	500	UK	AH
14400141	Interim Assessment of the Local Competitiveness Challenge	DTI		Business	65	E	AH
14400142	BNSC Customer Survey	DTI		Engineering	80	UK	AH
14400143	Evaluation of DTI's Small Firms Suite of Publications	DTI		Business	500	GB	AH
14400144	Company Survey for an Evaluation of the Export Marketing Research SCHM	DTI		Export	200	GB	AH
14400145	Support for Overseas Trade Fairs and Seminars - The Way Forward	DTI		Business	700	UK	AH
14400147	Companies House Customer Satisfaction Survey	DTI		Business Serv.	100	GB	Q
14400148	Predicting Demand for Spectrum for Public Mobile Communications (PMC)	DTI		Business Serv.	25	E	AH
14400149	Benchmarking Water Use in Soft Drinks Manufacturers	DTI		Water	250	UK	AH
14400150	KA Band Study - Questionnaire	DTI		Business Serv.	100	UK	AH
14500228	Concessionary Fare Schemes in GB	DETR		Transport	400	GB	Y3
14500236	Drivers' Field Of Vision: Manufacturer Survey	DETR		Driver	50	UK	AH

SCU No.	Title	Dept.	Ass Dept	Activity of respondents	Number of respondents	Location	Freq
14500237	Drivers' Field Of Vision: Operator Survey	DETR		Transport	50	UK	AH
14500238	Large Vehicle Drivers' Field of Vision	DETR		Transport	100	E	AH
14500239	Roadside Interview (RSI) Data	DETR		Transport	150	EW	AH
14500245	Survey of Health Promotion Officers	DETR		Health	215	UK	AH
15100025	Assessment of the Impact of Changes made to Access to Work	ES		Employer	300	GB	AH
16800059	Chemicals: Occupational Exposure Forward Look	HSE		Chemicals	140	GB	AH
17100048	Accounts Office Cumbernauld Correspondence Survey	IR		Customer	1000	GB	A
17100050	Inland Revenue Pensions Scheme Customer Survey	IR		Customer	2000	UK	Y3
17300006	Immigration Appeals Authority Customer Care Survey	LCD		Immigration	700	GB	A
17300007	Ancillary Relief Pilot Scheme	LCD		Court	40	GB	AH
17300008	Lands Tribunal User Survey 1997	LCD		Court	200	GB	AH
17900175	Economic Evaluation of MAFF Policy on Chemical Contaminants in Food	MAFF		Chemicals	369	UK	AH
17900176	Environmental Monitoring and Evaluation of the Countryside Stewardship	MAFF		Farming	660	E	AH
17900177	Economic Evaluating Group Marketing Grant/Marketing Development Scheme	MAFF		Farming	350	E	AH
17900178	Property And Pollution in Arable Agriculture	MAFF		Farming	138	EA	AH
17900179	Economic Evaluation of Access Provisions in MAFF Agri-Envmt Schemes	MAFF		Farming	625	E	AH
17900180	Run-Off and Emissions from Farm Hard-Standings	MAFF		Farming	2000	EW	AH
17900181	Value Added Food Producers Survey	MAFF		Food & Drink	1500	E	AH
17900182	Marketing Structures Locally Grown Produce and the Rural Economy	MAFF		Food & Drink	1500	E	AH
17900184	Economic Evaluation of the Milk Quota System	MAFF		Farming	625	EW	AH
20400014	Construction of an Input-Output Table for Orkney 1995	NGOV		Business	130	S	AH
23200040	Youth Sport Strategy Evaluation	SO	SSC	Education	1958	S	AH
23200042	Incomes in the Highlands And Islands	SO		Finance	4000	S	Y2
23300013	Study of Rural Petrol Stations (Phase-1)	SOAEFD		Business Serv.	35	S	AH
23300014	Economic Evaluation of Hill Livestock Compensation Allowance	SOAEFD		Farming	900	S	AH
23300015	Return of Stock Slaughter For Human Consumption	SOAEFD		Slaughtering	40	S	W
23500016	National Survey of Record-Keeping in the Pre-School Year in Scotland	SOEID		Education	750	S	AH
23500018	Communications Audit/Customer Satisfaction Survey	SOAEFD		Business Serv.	2707	S	Y3
23600017	Housing Allocations and Medical Priority	SOEN		Housing	64	S	AH
23600018	Count of Travelling People in Scotland	SOEN		Traveller	32	S	Y2
23700030	Questionnaire for Sensory Impairment Inspection	SOHH		Disabled	32	S	AH
23700032	The Care Programme Approach	SOHH		Health	32	S	AH
23700033	Evaluation of the Reforms to Charity Law in Scotland	SOHH		Legal	2600	GB	AH
23800046	Skills for the Electronic Sector Research	SOEID		Business	160	UK	AH
23800048	Economic Evaluation of Skillseekers in Scotland	SOEID		Youth	2800	S	AH
23800050	Survey of Scottish Manufacturing and Exports in 1996/97	SOEID		Business	4000	S	A
24900046	Patient Transport Services: Survey Review	WO		Patient	9	W	A
24900047	Community Chiropody Service Survey Review	WO		Health	15	W	AH
24900048	Community Dental Services Review Interim Report	WO		Patient	0	W	A

SCU No.	Title	Dept.	Ass Dept	Activity of respondents	Number of respondents	Location	Freq
24900051	Cardiff Bay Employment Survey	WO	CBDC	Employer	530	W	A
25900010	National Survey of Sports Facility Usage & Management	DCMS		Soc. Services	375	E	Y3
26000102	Training for Work:Entry and Exit	DFEE		Business Serv.	75	GB	AH
26000103	Workskill Pilots: Initial Research into the Effects of Implementation	DFEE		Business Serv.	30	UK	AH
26000104	Evaluation of Key Stage 4 Vocat/Work Related Demonstration Projects	DFEE		Youth	90	UK	AH
26000105	Testing Ways of Using Employers to raise Standards in Schools	DFEE		Education	30	UK	AH
26000106	Benefits to Business of Race Equality	DFEE		Business	10	UK	AH
26000107	The extent to which there is a genuine market in Childcare	DFEE		Parent	120	E	AH
26000108	Impact/The Disability Discrimination Act 1995:The Employers' Response	DFEE		Disabled	1000	E	AH
26000109	Evaluation of TEC-Delivered National Training Awards Competition	DFEE		Education	100	UK	AH
26000110	Evaluation of the early use of the Local Competitiveness Budget	DFEE		Business	340	E	AH
26000111	Follow-up Evaluation on the impact of Enhanced Careers Education	DFEE		Education	40	N/K	AH
26000112	Impact of Enhanced Careers Education and Guidance on Transition at 16	DFEE		Education	40	N/K	AH
26000113	Evaluation of National Traineeships	DFEE		Trainee	900	N/K	AH
26000114	Evaluation of Relaunch And Partnership Projects	DFEE		Youth	50	N/K	AH
26000115	Evaluation of Modern Apprenticeships:Survey Of Employers	DFEE		Education	500	N/K	AH
26000116	Encouraging Young People to be more responsive in the Labour Market	DFEE		Youth	40	N/K	AH
26000117	Supply and Demand Issues for Engineering Science and Maths Graduates	DFEE		Education	120	N/K	AH
26000118	The Learning Line and Local Information Network	DFEE		Business Serv.	30	N/K	AH
26000119	Ex-Post Evaluation of the Interreg I Community Initiative	DFEE		Business Serv.	50	N/K	AH
26000120	Interim Evaluation of Objective 3	DFEE		Finance	20	N/K	AH
26000121	Interim Evaluation of Leader II Community Initiative	DFEE		Business Serv.	100	N/K	AH
26000122	Evaluation of TEC-Chamber Mergers: Follow-Up	DFEE		Business Serv.	400	N/K	AH
26000123	Employers' Views of TECs and their Services	DFEE		Education	2000	N/K	AH
26000124	Research on Support for Business Start-Up Activities under the SRB	DFEE		Business Serv.	50	N/K	AH
26000125	Evaluation of the Network	DFEE		Business Serv.	3000	N/K	AH
26000126	Costs/Outcomes for Pupils with MLD in Special and Mainstream Schools	DFEE		Pupil	50	UK	AH
26000127	Improving the Effectiveness of School Governing Bodies	DFEE		Soc. Services	1000	UK	AH
26000128	Skill Needs in Britain 1998	DFEE		Business	0	GB	AH
26000129	A Study of the Validity and Transferability of NVQs in the Workplace	DFEE		Business Serv.	100	N/K	AH

Household And Individual Surveys Assessed

12500121	Time Use Survey:Pilot Study	ONS		Adult	200	E	AH
13400095	Blood Donation and Advertising Booklet Development Research	DH	COI	Health	101	E	AH
13400097	Public Evaluation Panel - Pilot Study	DH		Health	600	E	AH
13400098	Hospital League Tables - Public Awareness Research	DH		Hospital	2000	GB	AH
13800034	Premium Bonds Correspondence Survey	DCMS		Service	1700	GB	AH
13900302	Noise Insulation Between Commercial & Domestic Premises	DETR	BRE	Construction	100	E	AH
14400146	Consumer Product Recalls	DTI		Retail	60	E	AH

SCU No.	Title	Dept.	Ass Dept	Activity of respondents	Number of respondents	Location	Freq
14500231	Cycling and Rapid Transit	DETR		Cyclist	400	E	AH
14500232	Cycling and Health - Child	DETR		Cyclist	325	GB	AH
14500233	Cycling and Health - Adult	DETR		Cyclist	650	GB	AH
14500234	Cycling and Health- Adult 2	DETR		Adult	150	NW	AH
14500235	Turning Flows at Motorway Service Areas	DETR		Driver	2000	E	AH
14500240	Validation of Cycle Journey Distances (Pilot)	DETR		Cyclist	100	GB	AH
14500241	You and your Driving	DETR		Driver	2000	GB	AH
14500242	Cycle Challenge Initiatives - Taunton Cycle Centre	DETR		Cyclist	150	SW	AH
14500243	Cycle Challenge Project - Cycling To School	DETR		Cyclist	300	WM	AH
14500244	Contraflow Cycling	DETR		Cyclist	150	E	AH
15100026	Programme Centres Pilot Evaluation - Client Postal Survey	ES		Trainee	2000	GB	AH
17100051	Self Assessment Campaign Monitor	IR		Finance	2200	GB	AH
17900183	A Review of Public Concerns and Reactions about Food Safety	MAFF		Food & Drink	180	UK	AH
18600049	RAF Advertising Strategy	MoD	COI	Forces	100	EW	AH
18600050	Technicians Target Market Research	MoD	COI	Forces	114	E	AH
18600051	Be the Best: Tracking	MoD		Forces	2000	GB	AH
20400015	Input-Output Table for Orkney 1995 - Income And Expenditure	NGOV		Business	450	S	AH
20400017	OFGAS National Campaign Strategy Development	NGOV	COI	Consumer	104	GB	AH
23200041	"Tabasco" End Users Evaluation	SO		Driver	620	S	AH
23500017	Communications Audit/Customer Satisfaction Survey	SOEID		Business Serv.	2400	S	AH
23700031	Victim Witness Support Schemes	SOHH		Legal	420	S	AH
23800047	Cycling and Horseriding Survey in Scotland	SOEID		Soc. Services	4000	S	AH
23800049	Economic Evaluation Of Skillseekers in Scotland	SOEID		Youth	40	S	AH
24900049	WTB Advertising Campaign Evaluation	WO		Tourist	700	E	AH
24900050	Conference Delegate Expenditure Survey	WO		Finance	6400	UK	AH
25900011	National Survey of Sports Usage and Management (Customer Survey)	DCMS		Soc. Services	35000	E	AH

Abbreviation

APAG - Asia Pacific Advisory Group
ASS - Associate Government Department
BUS - Business
COI - Central Office of Information
ETU - Earnings Top Up
GPG - Good Practice Guidance
HECA - Housing Energy Conservation Act
HLD - Household
IND - Individual
KA - Radio frequency band
LA - Local Authority
MLD - Moderate Learning Difficulties
OTH - Other
SRB - Single Regeneration Budget
WTB - Welsh Tourist Board

FR-Frequency

A - Annual
AH - Ad hoc
N/K - Not known
I - Irregular
M - Monthly
Q - Quarterly
Y2 - Every 2 years
Y3 - Every 3 years

LOC-Location

E - England
EA - East Anglia
EM - East Midlands
ES - England and Scotland
EW - England and Wales
GB - Great Britain
N - North
NW - North West
N/K - Not Known
S - Scotland
SW - South West
SE - South East
UK - United Kingdom
WM - West Midlands
W - Wales
YH - Yorkshire and Humberside

SURVEY CONTROL UNIT

In accordance with survey control procedures, most regular surveys of businesses or local authorities are subject to thorough review at least every five years. Surveys conducted more frequently than annually are reviewed every three years. The following reviews have recently been completed.

Surveys to Businesses

STB	Scottish Accommodation Survey
DTI	Electricity Generated
WO	Electricity Generation and Supply Return for Wales
SOAEFD	Return of Stock Slaughtered
DH	Pharmacists Discount & Container Inquiries

Surveys to Local Authorities

WO	Patient Transport Services
WO	Community Chiropody Service

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OFFICE FOR NATIONAL STATISTICS

RECENTLY AVAILABLE SOCIAL STATISTICAL SERIES AND PUBLICATIONS

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- Latest population projections for the European Union;
- 1991 population estimates for areas smaller than districts;
- Incidence of Health of the Nation cancers by social class.

New Earnings Survey 1997

- **Part A: Streamlined analyses; description of the survey**
The Stationery Office, September
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 - **Part B: Analyses by agreement; analyses of pension categories**
The Stationery Office, October
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 - **Part F: Distribution of hours; joint distribution of earnings and hours; analyses of earnings and hours for part-time employees; analyses of earnings and hours by age group**
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Price £22, ISBN 0 11 620940 2
- The set of all six parts priced at £110.

Family Spending 1996-97

The Stationery Office, October
Price £37.50
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Results from the 40th year of the Family Expenditure Survey which provides a detailed analysis of all aspects of household income and expenditure from April 1996 to March 1997. More details on page 28.

Mortality statistics general: 1993, 1994 and 1995

The Stationery Office, October
Price £35
ISBN 0 11 620920 8

Reference volume presenting statistics on deaths in England and Wales for the years 1993, 1994 and 1995. Deaths are classified by age, sex, and certain other details collected at the time of registration, such as method of certification and place of death.

Smoking among secondary school children in 1996: England

The Stationery Office, October
Price £19
ISBN 0 11 620945 3

Provides up-to-date estimates of the prevalence of smoking among secondary school children in England. The estimates are based on the seventh survey of smoking among 11-15 year old school children carried out in 1996. More details on page 26.

Smoking among secondary school children in 1996: Scotland

The Stationery Office, October
Price £19
ISBN 0 11 620944 5

Estimates of the prevalence of smoking among secondary school children in Scotland, based on the seventh survey of smoking among 12-15 year old school children in Scotland. More details on page 26.

Smoking-related behaviour and attitudes

The Stationery Office, October
Price £10.95
ISBN 0 11 620948 8

Report based on research carried out as part of the ONS Omnibus Survey in November and December 1995, and repeated in October and November 1996, exploring aspects of smoking behaviour and attitudes to smoking in Great Britain.

Young teenagers and alcohol in 1996, Volume 1: England

The Stationery Office, October
Price £19
ISBN 0 11 620949 6

Presents findings from a nationally representative survey of school children aged 11-15 in 1996 in England. More details on page 27.

Young teenagers and alcohol in 1996, Volume 2: Scotland

The Stationery Office, October
Price £19
ISBN 0 11 620950 X

Presents results from a nationally representative survey for school children aged 12-15 in 1996 in Scotland. More details on page 27.

Annual Employment Survey 1996 Part 1: Results analysed by region and industry

Office for National Statistics, November
Price £25
ISBN 1 85774 245 1

Annual Employment Survey 1996 Part 2: Results analysed by local area and industry and by size-band

Office for National Statistics, December
Price £25
ISBN 1 85774 246 X

1991 Census Key Statistics for Urban and Rural Areas, Great Britain

The Stationery Office, November
Price £35
ISBN 0 11 691679 6

Provides a selection of 140 key statistics for every town and city in Great Britain (with a population of 20,000 or more) at the time of the 1991 Census.

Key Data 1997/98

The Stationery Office, November
Price £10.95
ISBN 0 11 620922 4

A collection of key social and economic statistics about the United Kingdom, aimed specifically at students.

Living in Britain: Preliminary results from the 1996 General Household Survey

The Stationery Office, November
Price £10
ISBN 0 11 620946 1

Bulletin presenting key results from the General Household Survey carried out from April 1996 to March 1997. Special topics of interest this year include: burglaries in private households, cigarette smoking, drinking, and sport and leisure activities. More details on page 29.

Electoral Statistics 1997

The Stationery Office, December
Price £18.95
ISBN 0 11 620989 5

Parliamentary and local government electors in constituencies and local government areas of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, 1997.

Teenage Smoking Attitudes in 1996

The Stationery Office, December
Price £19
ISBN 0 11 620988 7

Findings about the smoking behaviour, knowledge and attitudes of children aged 11-15 in England, including cigarette consumption, perceptions of health risks and awareness of advertising and sponsorship.

Travel Trends A report on the 1996 International Passenger Survey

The Stationery Office, December
Price £30
ISBN 0 11 620966 6

A summary of travel patterns to and from the United Kingdom in 1996, illustrating how many people travelled, where they went and why, how long they stayed and what they spent.

Population and Health Monitors

- Infant and perinatal mortality, social and biological factors 1996 (DH3 97/3, September, £4.00)
- Infectious diseases, March quarter 1997 (MB2, 97/3 September, £4.00)
- Marriages in England and Wales during 1995 (FM2, 97/3, November, £4.00)

- Divorces in England and Wales during 1996 (FM2, 97/4, November, £4.00)
- Legal abortions, June quarter 1997 (AB 97/7, November, £4.00)

- Scotland: Buchan, Culbin, Glen Affric, Kincardine, Glen Trool;
- Wales: Garwnant, Parkwood, Nant Yr Arian.

FORESTRY COMMISSION

Forestry Facts & Figures 1996-97

This free leaflet, published November 1997, gives selected forestry statistics for Great Britain, taken from the 1996-97 Annual Reports of the Forestry Commission and Forest Enterprise and from other sources. Also on Internet.

Forestry Industry Year-Book 1997

Published in December 1997 in association with the Forestry Industry Council of Great Britain, this free publication gives a wide range of forestry statistics compiled by the Forestry Commission, together with information provided by the industry Associations. Also on Internet.

Public Opinion of Forestry 1997

A report, written by Simon Gillam, giving results from the 1997 Survey of Public Opinion of Forestry, and comparing the findings with similar surveys in 1995 and 1993. Published October 1997, price £2.00. Also on Internet.

Forest Visitor Surveys 1996

A series of reports written by Amanda Bellringer, published in June 1997, giving results of visitor surveys carried out at selected Forestry Commission sites during 1996. Reports, each priced £5.00, are available for:

- England: Chopwell, Hamsterley, Sherwood, Sherwood Cycling, Forest of Dean, King's Wood Challock, New Forest, New Forest Dog Walking, Wendover Woods;

Wood Supply & Demand 1996

A new publication, written by Simon Gillam, giving statistics on British wood supply and deliveries to sawmills and other wood processing industries, showing trends over the period 1986-1996. Published October 1997, price £2.00. Also on Internet.

Sawmill Survey 1996

A new publication, written by Simon Gillam, giving results from the Sawmill Survey for 1996, carried out by the Forestry Commission in early 1997. Published October 1997, price £2.00. Also on Internet.

All of the above publications are available from:

Policy Branch - Statistics,
Forestry Commission,
231 Corstorphine Road,
Edinburgh, EH12 7AT
☎ 0131 314 6351

Many of the statistics and reports can also be viewed on the Forestry Commission Internet site:

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk>

For further information contact:

Simon Gillam 0131 314 6280 or
Sheila Ward 0131 314 6218 or
e-mail: statistics@forestry.gov.uk

FULL LIST OF DH STATISTICAL PUBLICATIONS

Statistical Bulletin (Price £2.00) - all annual and relating to England only unless otherwise stated

		<i>Compiler</i>	<i>Copies held by</i> (**)
--	--	-----------------	-------------------------------

FHS RELATED

1	Statistics for general medical practitioners in England	STATS (GMS)	H
2	Statistics of prescriptions dispensed in the community	SD1E	H
3	General Pharmaceutical Services	SD1C	H
4	Community pharmacies England and Wales (<i>six monthly</i>)	SD1C	H
5	Ophthalmic statistics for England 1986-87 to 1996-97	SD1D	H
6	Cervical Cancer Screening	SD2B	H
7	Breast Cancer screening	SD2B	H

HCHS RELATED

8	NHS Hospital Activity Services	FPA-PA	
9	Elective admissions and patients waiting (<i>six monthly</i>)	FPA-PA	
10	HCHS medical staff	STATS (W) A	H
11	HCHS non-medical staff	STATS (W) B	H
12	Waiting times for first outpatient appointments in England (<i>quarterly</i>)	FPA-PA	
13	Ambulance Services, England	SD2B	H
14	Sexually Transmitted Diseases, England	SD2B	H

PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICE

15	Community Care Statistics: Personal Social Services: Day and Domiciliary Services for Adults	SD3B	H
16	Residential Accommodation statistics: Personal Social Services: Residential care homes and supported residents England	SD3B	H
17	Detailed statistics on local authority personal social services for adults	SD3B	H
18	Children looked after by Local Authorities	SD3A	H
19	Personal Social Services: Current and capital expenditure in England: 1994-95	SD3C	H
20	In-patients formally detained in hospital under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation	SD2C	H
21	Drug Misuse Statistics (<i>six monthly</i>)	SD2J	H
22	Bulletin on smoking (<i>occasional</i>)	SD2D	H

OTHER PUBLICATIONS (ENGLAND ONLY AND ANNUAL EXCEPT WHERE OTHERWISE STATED)

PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICES: ADULT SERVICES

- | | | | |
|----|---|------|---|
| 23 | Residential accommodation for elderly and for younger physically disabled people - all residents in LA voluntary and private homes - LA supported residents. Last published for year ending March 1994. (<i>Free</i>) | SD3B | H |
| 24 | Residents in LA voluntary and private registered homes - LA supported residents. Last published for year ending March 1994. (<i>Free</i>) | SD3B | H |
| 25 | Residential accommodation: Detailed statistics on residential care homes and supported residents. First published for year ending March 1995. (<i>Free</i>) | SD3B | H |
| 26 | Community care: Detailed statistics on Local Authority personal social services for adults. First published for 1994. (<i>Free</i>) | SD3B | H |

PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICES: CHILDRENS SERVICES

- | | | |
|----|--|------|
| 27 | Childrens day care facilities (<i>Annual free</i>) | SD3A |
| 28 | Children in Care/Children looked after by local authorities | SD3A |
| 29 | Children and Young People on Child Protection Registers (<i>Annual free</i>) | SD3A |
| 30 | Private fostering and place of safety orders ³ | SD3A |
| 31 | Supervision Orders (<i>Annual free</i>) | SD3A |
| 32 | Children accommodated in secure units (<i>Annual free</i>) | SD3A |
| 33 | Children's homes | SD3A |

PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICES: STAFFING

- | | | |
|----|---|------|
| 34 | Staff of Local Authority Social Services Departments (<i>Annual free</i>) | SD3C |
| 35 | Personal Social Services: A Historical Profile of Reported Current and Capital Expenditure 1983-84 to 1993-94 England | SD3C |

PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICES: KEY INDICATORS

- | | | |
|----|---|------|
| 36 | Key indicators of Local Authority Social Services (includes printed publication, disk version, and graphical presentation package as disk only with printed user guide). (<i>Twice yearly free</i>) | SD3K |
|----|---|------|

GENERAL

- 37 Health Service indicators (a variety of computerised systems are used to disseminate these; there is no printed publication). (*Price on application*) FPA-PA

HOSPITAL ACTIVITY AND FACILITIES

- 38 Summary of bed availability. *Annual* £6.00, ISBN 1 85839 6603 FPA-PA H
- 39 Written complaints by or on behalf of patients. (*Internal reference version*) FPA-PA H
- 40 Out patients and ward attenders. *Annual* £8.00, ISBN 1 85839 622X FPA-PA H
- 41 Ordinary admissions and day case admissions
Annual £6.50, ISBN 1 85839 6611 FPA-PA H
- 42 Private hospitals, homes and clinic - England Regional Health Authority and Regional Office Areas registered under section 23 of the Registered Homes Act 1984, Vol 1. *Annual* £7.00, ISBN 1 85839 4953 SD3B H
- 43 Private hospitals, homes and clinic - District Health Authority summarises registered under section 23 of the Registered Homes Act 1984, Vol 2. *Annual* £11.00, ISBN 1 85839 4961 SD3B H
- 44 Section 17(3) of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act, 1970 (Internal reference version). SD3B H
- 45 Diagnostic departments. *Annual* £6.00, ISBN 1 85839 3434 FPA-PA H
- 46 Wheelchairs and Artificial limbs. *Annual* £3.00, ISBN 1 85839 3450 FPA-PA H

NHS STAFFING

- 47 NHS workforce in England. *Annual* £5.00, ISBN 1 85839 3639 STATS (W) B H

COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

- 48 Immunisation programmes. (*Annual free*) SD2B
- 49 Maternity services - midwife clinics and domiciliary visits. (*Annual free*) SD2B
- 50 Health visitor activity. (*Annual free*) SD2B
- 51 District nurses activity. (*Annual free*) SD2B
- 52 Community psychiatric nurses activity. (*Annual free*) SD2B
- 53 Community mental handicap nurses activity (*Annual free*) SD2B
- 54 Community specialist care nurses activity (*Annual free*) SD2B
- 55 Chiropody services (*Annual free*) SD2B
- 56 Clinical psychology services (*Annual free*) SD2B
- 57 Dietetic services (*Last summary produced is for 94-95. Annual free*) SD2B

58	Occupational therapy services (<i>Annual free</i>)	SD2B	
59	Physiotherapy services (<i>Annual free</i>)	SD2B	
60	Speech and language therapy services (<i>Annual free</i>)	SD2B	
61	Family planning clinic services (<i>Annual free</i>)	SD2B	

OTHER

62	Registered blind and partially sighted people (<i>Triennial</i>)	SD3B	
63	Registers of physically disabled persons (general classes) (<i>Triennial</i>)	SD3B	
64	People registered as the deaf or hard of hearing (<i>Triennial</i>)		
65	Guardianship under the Mental Health Act (1983) (<i>Annual free</i>)	SD3B	
66	Survey of age, sex and length of stay characteristics of residents of homes for elderly and younger people who are physically handicapped (<i>1988 only</i>)	SD3B	
67	NHS Day care facilities. (<i>Annual £2.00, ISBN 1 85839 5100</i>)	SD2CH	
68	In-patients formally detailed in hospitals under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation regional figures. (<i>Annual £2.00, ISBN 1 85839 4376</i>)	SD2C	H
69	Data from the Addicts Index	SD2J	H
70	NHS Spectacle Voucher Scheme - results of 1996 survey	SD1D	
71	Electro convulsive therapy (ECT) ³	SD2C	
72	Hospital Episode statistics:		
	Vol 1: Finished Consultant episodes by diagnosis, operation and speciality	SD2 HES	H
	Vol 2: Finished Consultant episodes by time of elective admissions, injuries/poisoning by external sources	SD2 HES	H
73	Mental Health in England (<i>Annual £2.00, ISBN 1 85839 4295</i>)	SD2C	H
74	Hospital Waiting List statistics: England. (<i>Six monthly £12.80, ISBN 1 85839 6840</i>)	FPA-PA	
75	Quarterly Review.	FPA-PA	HLL
76	Waiting times for first out-patient appointments in England: Detailed statistics (<i>£12.80, ISBN 1 85839 6683</i>)	FPA-PA	
77	Prescription Cost Analysis - prescription items dispensed in England and listed alphabetically within therapeutic class. Annual, £10.	SD1E	H

HEALTH OF THE NATION RELATED PUBLICATIONS

HEALTH OF THE NATION: A STRATEGY FOR HEALTH IN ENGLAND

78	The White Paper. (<i>Free</i>)	HP1	
79	Specification of National Indicators. (<i>Free</i>)	HP1 CHMU	

THE HEALTH SURVEY FOR ENGLAND

An annual survey reporting on the different aspects of the health of people in England. The survey monitors the Health of the Nation targets on blood pressure and obesity. The 1991-1994 surveys also majored on cardiovascular disease and the 1995 and 1996 surveys majored on asthma and accidents. The 1995 survey also covered disability.

80	Health Survey for England 1991 £27.50. (ISBN 0 11 691532 3)	SD3S	TSO
81	Health Survey for England 1992 £27.50. (ISBN 0 11 691569 2)	SD3S	TSO
82	Health Survey for England 1993 £38.00. (ISBN 0 11 691614 1)	SD3S	TSO
83	Health Survey for England 1994 £40.00. (ISBN 0 11 321895 8)	SD3S	TSO
84	Health Survey for England 1995 £60.00. (ISBN 0 11 322021 9)	SD3S	TSO

In addition a Summary of Key Findings booklet is available for the 1994 and 1995 surveys.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMON DATA SET INCORPORATING INDICATORS FROM THE 'HEALTH OF THE NATION'

85	Public Health Common Data Set, data definitions and user guide for computer files available from the years 1990 to 1996. From 1992 onwards, includes indicators from the 'Health of the Nation' and from 1995 'Population Health Outcome Indicators'. Issued annually, the 1996 version includes England and Wales, England, Regional Office areas, DHAs, new HAs, FHSAs and LAs. (Not available outside the NHS.)		SD2F
86	Public Health Common Data Set National Volumes available for the years 1990 to 1996. From 1992 onwards, includes indicators from the 'Health of the Nation' and from 1995 'Population Health Outcome Indicators'. Issued annually, the 1996 edition covers England and Wales, England, Regional Office areas and new Has. (Price for four volumes, 1996 edition, £135, ISBN 1 852 371978)		SD2F NIE

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL OVERVIEWS

87	Asthma. (£11.00, ISBN 0 11 321667 X)	HP1 CHMU	TSO
88	Coronary Heart Disease (£11.00, ISBN 0 11 321667 X)	HP1 CHMU	TSO
89	Stroke. (£11.00, ISBN 0 11 321668 8)	HP1 CHMU	TSO
90	Health of Elderly People. (£10.30, ISBN 0 11 321485 5)	HP1 CHMU	TSO
91	Elderly People Companion Papers. (£6.00, ISBN 0 11 321486 3)	HP1 CHMU	TSO

FORMAL PUBLICATIONS

- 91 Health and Personal Social Service statistics (£11.95) SD3C TSO

OTHER REPORTS (STATUTORY PUBLICATIONS)

- 92 Annual report under Section 83(6) of the Children Act 1989 (formerly section 79(3) of the Child Care Act 1980) on children in care in England and Wales. (For periods following the implementation of the Children Act 1989, this publication will cover a wide range of children's services.)⁴
(Annual £6.80, ISBN 0 10 128782 8) SD3A TSO
- 93 Annual statement under Section 18(3) of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970, on handicapped persons in residential care in England and Wales SD3B/CS TSO

OTHER STATUTORY PUBLICATIONS NOT PRODUCED BY SD BUT WHICH HAVE A STATISTICAL INPUT PROVIDED BY SD

- 94 Annual statement under section 17(2) of the Chronically Sick and Disabled persons Act 1970: Separation of younger patients from older patients in hospitals. (December. ISBN 0 10 206395 8) SD2A TSO
- 95 Report under section 11 of the Disabled Persons (Services, Consultation and Representation) Act 1986 on the development of services for people with learning disabilities (mental handicap) or mental illness in England. SD2C TSO
- 96 The NHS Performance Guide. (Annual Free) FPA-PA HLL

¹ The forms which underlie items 27-33 have been revised to accord with the Children Act 1989 (implemented October 1991)

² Last publication for 1991; successor publication will relate to periods following the implementation of the Children Act.

³ This publication has been discontinued following the 1991 publication.

⁴ This publication has been discontinued following the 1994 publication.

H = Department of Health

PO Box 410

Wetherby, LS23 7LN

☎ 01937 840250

HLL = Health Literature Line

☎ 0800 555 777

NIE = National Institute of Epidemiology

☎ 01483 450450

TSO = The Stationery Office

☎ 0171 873 9090

CONTACTS AND PHONE NUMBERS FOR DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PUBLICATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Skipton House

80 London Road

London, SE1 6LW

☎ 0171 97 (followed by ext number)

FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES (BRANCH SD1)

General Dental and Community

Dental Services *Ext 25392*

General Pharmacy Services *Ext 25504*

General Ophthalmic Services *Ext 25507*

Prescription Analysis *Ext 25515*

HOSPITAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES (BRANCH SD2)

Mental illness/handicap *Ext 25545*

Community and cross-sector services *Ext 25524*

Public Health Common Dataset *Ext 25562*

Drug misuse *Ext 25550*

Legal status *Ext 25545*

Smoking and Alcohol *Ext 25551*

PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICES (BRANCH SD3)

Childrens services *Ext 25689*

Adult services *Ext 25585*

Staffing *Ext 25595*

Financial (Revenue out-turn
expenditure) data *Ext 25595*

Key indicators *Ext 25599*

Quarry House, Quarry Hill

Leeds, LS2 7UE

Tel: 011325 (followed by ext number)

WORKFORCE (BRANCH STATS(W))

NHS medical staff *Ext 45892*

NHS non-medical staff *Ext 45895*

General Medical Services *Ext 45909*

Waiting lists (Branch FPA-PA) *Ext 45549*

Health service indicators
(Branch FPA-PA) *Ext 45555*

NHS Expenditure (FPB-FMA) *Ext 45389*

Richmond House

79 Whitehall

London, SW1A 2NS

☎ 0171 210 (followed by ext number)

PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICES FINANCIAL STATISTICS (BRANCH F6)

PSS Budget data and Public
Expenditure Survey *Ext 5699*

Wellington House

133-135 Waterloo Road

London, SE1 8UG

☎ 0171 97 (followed by ext number)

CENTRAL HEALTH MONITORING UNIT

Health of the Nation target
monitoring *Ext 24645*

National Institute of Epidemiology

14 Fredric Sanger Road

Surrey Research Park

Guildford

Surrey, GU2 5YL

☎ 01483 450540

THE HEALTH LITERATURE LINE

☎ 0800 555 777

**RESEARCH AND STATISTICS
DIRECTORATE PUBLICATIONS Q2 1997**

Research Findings

- 49. **PACE ten years on: A review of research.** David Brown, 1997.
- 51. **Curfew orders with electronic monitoring: The first twelve months.** Ed Mortimer and George Mair, 1997.
- 52. **Police cautioning in the 1990s.** Roger Evans and Rachel Ellis, 1997
- 53. **A reconviction study of HMP Grendon therapeutic community.** Peter Marshall, 1997.
- 54. **Control in category C prisons.** Simon Marshall, 1997
- 55. **The prevalence of convictions for sexual offending.** Peter Marshall, 1997
- 57. **The 1996 international crime victimisation survey.** Pat Mayhew and Philip White, 1997
- 58. **The sentencing of women: a section 95 publication.** Carol Hedderman and Lizanne Dowds, 1997.

Home Office Research Studies (HORS)

- 169. **Addressing the literacy needs of offenders under probation supervision.** Gwynn Davis, Brian Caddick, Kate Lyon, Liz Doling, Julia Hasler, Alec Webster, Malcolm Reed and Karen Ford. 1997. xiv + 110pp. ISBN 1 85893 889 9.
- 170. **Understanding the sentencing of women.** Edited by Carol Hedderman and Lorraine Gelsthorpe. 1997. x +86pp. ISBN 1 85893 893 7.
- 171. **Changing offenders' attitudes and behaviour: what works?**
I - The use of cognitive-behavioural

approaches with offenders: messages from the research. Julie Vennard, Darren Sugg and Carol Hedderman. 1997.

II - The influence of cognitive approaches: a survey of probation programmes. Carol Hedderman and Darren Sugg. 1997. 69pp. ISBN 1 85893 904 6.

Home Office Statistical Bulletins issued in 1997

Issue No	Date	Title
10/97	23.04.97	Statistics of Deaths Reported to Coroners: England and Wales 1996.
11/97	23.04.97	Persons Granted British Citizenship, United Kingdom, 1996.
12/97	21.05.97	Breath Test Statistics, England and Wales 1996.
13/97	22.05.97	Summary Probation Statistics, England and Wales 1996.
14/97	22.05.97	Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom, Second Half and Year 1996.
15/97	22.05.97	Asylum Statistics, United Kingdom 1996.
16/97	16.07.97	Cautions, Court Proceedings and Sentencing, England and Wales 1996.
17/97	31.07.97	Firearm Certificate Statistics, England and Wales 1996.
18/97	31.07.97	The Prison Population in 1996.
19/97	19.08.97	Fire Statistics, United Kingdom, Estimates 1996.

For more information contact:

Home Office Information and
Publications Group
Room 1308
Apollo House, 36 Wellesley Road
Croydon CR9 3RR
☎ 0181 760 8340
e-mail rsd.ho.apollo@gtnet.gov.uk
http://www.open.gov.uk/home_off/rsd/rsdhome.htm

INLAND REVENUE

INLAND REVENUE STATISTICS 1997

The 1997 volume of Inland Revenue Statistics was published on 24th September 1997. It contains information about Income Tax, Corporation Tax, Petroleum Tax, Inheritance Tax, Capital Gains Tax, Stamp Duties, Non-Domestic Rating and Property Transactions. Also provided are analyses of personal income derived from the Survey of Personal Incomes, analyses of company income by industrial sector, and estimates of the distributions of personal wealth.

Further details are available on the internet at:

<http://www.open.gov.uk/inrev/stats2.htm>
or contact: Graham Parker ☎ 0171 438 6472

NORTHERN IRELAND DEPARTMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

The Northern Ireland Annual Report presents information on household consumption and expenditure on food brought into the home. The

1996 Annual Report is the first to be produced for Northern Ireland as this was the first year in which the survey was extended to Northern Ireland. Information on nutrient and energy content of food is also included. *Price: £6.00*

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Housing

- **Northern Ireland Housing and Construction Bulletin (Latest September 1997)**

Compilation of Northern Ireland Housing and Construction Statistics - contains data on house sales and prices, housing starts and construction activity. *Quarterly, free*

Available from:

Central Statistics and Research Branch
Department of the Environment (NI),
Room 436B, Clarence Court,
10 -18 Adelaide Street, Belfast BT2 8GB.
☎ 01232 540808, Fax 01232 540782,
e-mail csrb.doe@nics.gov.uk

- **Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 1996/97**

Comprehensive Northern Ireland Housing Statistics - contains data on: housing stock, new house building, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Housing Associations, housing market activity and household surveys. *Annual. £10.00.*
ISBN 1 89982 435 9

Available from:

Central Statistics and Research Branch
Department of the Environment (NI),
Room 436B, Clarence Court,
10 -18 Adelaide Street, Belfast BT2 8GB.
☎ 01232 540808, Fax 01232 540782,
e-mail csrb.doe@nics.gov.uk

Transport

- **Northern Ireland Road Transport Statistics Bulletin (Latest September 1997)**

Compilation of Northern Ireland Road Transport Statistics - contains data on: new vehicle and car registrations, vehicle and driver testing, road traffic injury accidents, use of public transport and petroleum usage.
Quarterly, free

Available from:

Central Statistics and Research Branch
Department of the Environment (NI),
Room 436B, Clarence Court,
10 -18 Adelaide Street, Belfast BT2 8GB.
☎ 01232 540808, Fax 01232 540782,
e-mail csrb.doe@nics.gov.uk

- **Northern Ireland Transport Statistics 1996/97**

Comprehensive Northern Ireland Transport Statistics - contains data on: roads, road transport, road accidents, air transport, rail transport and waterborne transport.
Annual, £10
ISBN 1 899824 308

Available from:

Central Statistics and Research Branch
Department of the Environment (NI),
Room 436B, Clarence Court,
10 -18 Adelaide Street, Belfast BT2 8GB.
☎ 01232 540808, Fax 01232 540782,
e-mail csrb.doe@nics.gov.uk

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION NORTHERN IRELAND

- **Statistical Press Release: Pupil:Teacher Ratios in grant aided schools in Northern Ireland 1994/95 and 1995/96**
- **Statistical Press Release: Northern Ireland Enrolments on Higher Education Courses 1995/96**

Both publications are free and are available from:

Statistics and Research Branch
Department of Education Northern Ireland
Rathgael House
Balloo Road
Bangor BT19 7PR
☎ 01247 279472

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT AGENCY

- **Labour Market Bulletin**

This annually produced Bulletin provides data and analysis of the Local Labour Market. It should help employers to assess their recruitment and training policies against prevailing market conditions. The bulletin includes articles on Hidden Labour Reserves, Recruitment Difficulties, Trends in Earnings and the Graduate Labour Market.

Published October 1997, Free

Available from:

Training and Employment Agency
Adelaide House
39-49 Adelaide Street
Belfast, BT2 8FD
☎ 01232 257777

SURVEYS NOTIFIED TO NORTHERN IRELAND SURVEY CONTROL UNIT

January to June 1997

For further information about the surveys listed, please contact: Máire Rodgers, Survey Control Unit, NISRA, 2nd Floor, Arches Centre, 11-13 Bloomfield Avenue, Belfast, BT5 5HD. ☎ 01232 526972.

SURVEYS TO BUSINESS

Title	Department/ Agency	Those approached	Approximate number approached	Frequency
Educational survey of farm business	DANI	Farm Businesses	11,000	R
Special support programme for Peace and Reconciliation of District Partnerships and Projects as part of mid-term evaluation	NISRA	District Partnerships	26	AH
Evaluation of District Council Community Relations Programme	CCRU	District Councils	26	AH
Impact of NVQ programmes within hospitality and catering in Northern Ireland	DENI	Hotels, restaurants and public houses		
Need Analysis for community banking in Northern Ireland	DoE	Individual groups for Partnership Development and support agencies	45	AH
Employers and Service Providers' knowledge of Disability Discrimination Act	DHSS	Employers	1,732	AH
Food Quality Research Needs	DANI	Food industry	60	AH
An assessment of farmer attitudes to agro-forestry	DANI	Sheep and cereal farmers	500	AH
Land Registers of Northern Ireland Customer Survey	DoE/LRNI	Solicitors and mortgage lenders	450	R
Livestock Chain Management Initiative	DANI	Farming and food processing industry	370	AH
IDB Customers Services Survey	DED/IDB	Client companies	500	R
Survey of R&D Activity among independent contractors in the HPSS	DHSS	Health practitioners	1,400	AH

SURVEYS TO HOUSEHOLDS AND INDIVIDUALS

DVTA Disabled Customer Survey	DoE/DVTA	Disabled customers	250	AH
DVTA Customer Survey	DoE/DVTA	Customers	1,600	AH
Residents' Views about Glenfield Estate	DoE/NIHE	Tenants and owner occupiers	230	AH
Victims of road traffic accidents	RUC	Victims of road traffic accidents	1,100	AH
Northern Ireland Survey of health and social well-being	DHSS	Adults	6,000	AH
1997/1998 Programme of Estate Based Surveys	DoE/NIHE	Residents	2,600	AH
Health and Housing in Divis	DoE/NIHE	Households	235	AH
Continuous Tenant Omnibus Survey 1997/1998	DoE/NIHE NIHE	Tenants	3,800	AH
Welfare Adaptions Belfast	DoE/NIHE	Tenants of properties with welfare adaptions	200	AH
Public Attitudes Survey 1996/97 (Part of Northern Ireland Social Omnibus Survey 1997)	DoE/NIHE	Adults	1,157	AH
Cycle usage in Northern Ireland	DoE	Adults	1,042	AH

ABBREVIATIONS

Departments/Agencies

CCRU	Central Community Relations Unit
DANI	Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland
DED	Department of Economic Development
DENI	Department of Education for Northern Ireland
DHSS	Department of Health and Social Services
DoE	Department of the Environment
DVTA	Driver Vehicle and Testing Agency
IDB	Industrial Development Board
LRNI	Land Registers of Northern Ireland
NIHE	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
NISRA	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
RUC	Royal Ulster Constabulary

Frequency

AH	Ad Hoc
R	Regular

Location

All surveys were carried out in Northern Ireland

WELSH OFFICE

WELSH TRANSPORT STATISTICS 1997

The latest edition of this annual was published on 3rd September 1997. It contains the latest available information on transport in Wales over a range of years. Some figures relating to the United Kingdom or Great Britain are given for comparison purposes. Subjects covered include road lengths, vehicles registered and licensed, driving tests, road freight, road accidents, motor vehicle offences, journeys by length and purpose (from the National Travel Survey), traffic volume, bus and coach statistics, sea and air transport statistics, finance and the economy (covering expenditure on roads and other transport services as well as indicators of transport in the broader economy).

ROAD ACCIDENTS: WALES 1996

This was published on 19th November 1997. It will contain road accident statistics for the calendar year 1996 and comparative, historical data where possible. The topics covered include accidents and casualties analysed according to the following variables: age, sex and severity of casualty, type of casualty (e.g. pedestrian, pedal cyclist, car driver, motorcyclist), unitary authority where accident occurred, time of day, day of week and month, speed limit, weather conditions and information on breath tests. Comparisons with the casualty reduction targets are also made. For more information contact:

.....
: Mrs C R Owen
: Statistical Publications Unit
: Welsh Office
: Cathays Park
: Cardiff, CF1 3NQ
: ☎ 01222 825054
: Fax 01222 825350
:

SCOTTISH OFFICE

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE FOR SCOTLAND

1991 Census Index of Populated Areas in Scotland. For more information contact:

.....
: Alan MacGill
: Customer Services
: Population Statistics Branch
: Room 1/2/7
: Ladywell House
: Ladywell Road
: Edinburgh EH12 7TF
: ☎ 0131-314 4325
: Fax: 0131-314 4344
:

ARTICLES IN RECENT ISSUES OF STATISTICAL NEWS

- No 109 Autumn 1995**
The mobility of disabled adults
The Labour Force Survey? - What do they want all that information for?
Small and medium size enterprises - How many and how important
The Inter-Departmental Business Register
The Central Statistical Office's distribution of Income Estimates
Kerrick Macafee
Frances Sly
Ian Dale
John Perry
Eloise Critchley
- No 110 Winter 1995/96**
Occupational ill health
Getting it right first time
The MAFF Reference Database
Documenting the Labour Force Survey
Survey of the Miscellaneous Mechanical Engineering Sector (Activity Heading 3289 in SIC 80)
Business Statistics Users' Conference
Trevor Benn
Beccy Wallace
Ian Webb
Richard Laux
Nick Rudoe
Michael Prestwood/Chris Kirri
- No 111 Spring 1996**
Introducing the Office for National Statistics
The new face of statistics in Northern Ireland
Electronic dissemination of official statistics
Users' views of GSS Social and Regional Publications
A seminar on Financial Data
Assessing the quality of Industry and Occupation Coding
Where have all the hours gone? Measuring time use in the UK
Dr Tim Holt
Edgar Jardine
Edie Purdie
Tim Harris
Edward Hayman
Paul Keech/Terry Orchard
Mike Koudra/Jenny Church/Linda Murgatroyd
- No 112 Summer 1996**
How on earth do we measure Sustainable Development?
Internet and Official Statistics
The New Welsh Unitary Authorities: Key Population Statistics
Chris Morrey/Hilary Hillier
Philip Powell
Ian White
- No 113 Autumn 1996**
The Wider Agenda
Monitoring Equal Opportunities in the Civil Service
Statisticians face new challenges
Brian Meakings/Jenny Church
Frances Pottier
Dr Stephen Hickey
- No 114 Winter 1996/97**
Statistics in the Department of National Heritage
Competitiveness of UK Industries: Statistical Measurement
Service Sector Statistics and the President's Task Force
(Originally prepared as a contribution to the Voorburg Group of Service Statistics)
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