

Migration Statistics Improvement Programme: Annual Overview for 2008/09

Foreword



Knowing the size and characteristics of the population and how it is changing is hugely important for society and the economy. It is essential to have high quality migration and population statistics to provide the evidence base for managing the economy, developing policies and allocating resources for service delivery.

My Task Forceⁱ was the last of several reviews of migration statistics to identify improvements. It noted that departments would need to work together across government to deliver the improvements since it would not be possible for ONS to achieve the changes working alone.

The cross-government Migration Statistics Improvement Programme was launched at the beginning of April 2008 and I very much welcome this first annual overview of progress.

The Programme was set up to deliver users' needs for timely, relevant and accurate statistics that measure change at national and local levels and are capable of detecting turning points in patterns of change. Migration is a key component of population change and it is essential that statistics measuring it are trusted by users. To achieve this they must be based on the best up-to-date sources and use enhanced, transparent and sustainable statistical methods. Objective measures are also needed to help demonstrate quality levels and improvements over time.

This overview summarises the good progress that has been made in the first year. The success in establishing the work programme provides a model for future cross-government projects. It illustrates what can be achieved where there is ministerial support for the aims of a programme and productive working relationships exist between the relevant staff across government at all levels.

We are distributing this overview widely to inform migration and population statistics users of progress. User engagement is a continuing key aim for the current year. Depending on individual requirements, this engagement is taking the form of either technical involvement in development work and quality assurance, or is simply aimed at informing users about progress, to keep them abreast of planned changes and the implications for them and their uses of the statistics.

ⁱ Report of the Inter-departmental Task Force on Migration Statistics (December 2006) See <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=14731>

The short-term work of the Programme is focussed on successful delivery (by May 2010) of improvements to the statistics that will be used to help inform the next Local Government funding round. More radical changes, which will be even more challenging to achieve, are needed in the medium and longer term. The achievements of the first year of the Programme have been in the right direction providing a good basis for the future. It is important that the team continue their work to improve sources of migration statistics, and the estimation methods, and that they take opportunities that may arise through new policy initiatives to develop new sources of information for estimating migration and its characteristics.

Karen Dunnell
National Statistician
June 2009

Executive Summary

1. This annual overview provides a summary of the first year's work under the Migration Statistics Improvement Programme (MSIP). The MSIP has been set up to deliver users' needs for timely, relevant and accurate migration statistics that measure population change at national and local levels and are capable of detecting turning points in patterns of migration.
2. Migration is a key component of population change and it is essential that statistics estimating it are trusted by users. To achieve this they must be based on the best, up to date sources and be estimated using enhanced, transparent and sustainable statistical methods. The MSIP aims are to develop the sources and methods that are needed to produce authoritative migration estimates. Objective measures are also needed to help demonstrate quality levels and improvements over time.
3. Progress has been good over this period, in establishing the MSIP and in developing a package of improvements to local population statistics which is on schedule for delivery before the next Local Government funding round.
4. The MSIP was launched in April 2008 and the governance arrangements were agreed in time for its start. A Programme Board, led by the National Statistician and made up of senior officials from several Government Departments, the Bank of England and the Local Government Association, steers the Programme. A Ministerial Group co-chaired by the Minister for Local Government and the Minister for Borders and Immigration, oversees the work. It coordinates Whitehall support and has helped the National Statistician to make progress and ensure pace in the development and delivery of improvements to the population and migration statistics. This governance structure has delivered a real partnership between the ONS and the Government Departments involved and is in no small way responsible for the success of the Programme in its first year.
5. In the short-term priority has been given to redesigning and boosting the International Passenger Survey to improve the estimation of in and out flows of international migrants, as well as targeted measures that will help improve the scope and quality of the sub-national population data, mainly through making better use of administrative sources (for example, existing data on students). These changes will bring some incremental improvements to the national and local population estimates, particularly those for local areas in England and Wales. The devolved administrations are members of the MSIP and will be considering the need for similar short-term changes in the other countries of the UK.
6. More fundamental change is required which is only deliverable in the medium to longer term. Work has been initiated during the year to prepare the ground for this, including: ensuring the 2011 Census will provide the best possible future population base; planning for the use of statistics from the e-Borders programme to count international migrants in and out of the UK; obtaining access to and testing the linking of administrative records to improve internal migration data and local population distributions; and assessing the feasibility of collecting data from communal

establishments if it can be shown that the additional coverage of migrants within the country would improve the quality of migration statistics.

7. The key achievements of the MSIP so far include:

- Implementing a redesigned International Passenger Survey (IPS) in January 2009, adding to enhancements made in 2007 and 2008;
- Announcing the package and timing of the changes to the mid-2008 based population estimates that will feed into the Local Government Funding settlement in 2010. Work is on-course for delivery and will make greater use of administrative sources, including data on students and pupils;
- Delivering revised short-term migrant estimates in February 2009 with work to produce sub-national level estimates also nearing completion;
- Gaining Parliamentary approval of a regulation to share and use School Census data to improve population statistics (the first use of powers under the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007) and obtaining Migrant Worker Scan data via an existing legal gateway for the same purpose;
- Bringing forward work to produce more timely provisional estimates of international migration, local level data to provide more information on the numbers and characteristics of migration and new quality measures. The provisional estimates to September 2008 were published in May 2009.
- Establishing a 'Counting In/Out Project' to ensure the e-Borders programme will provide statistical benefits and that there will be statistical reporting from related systems;
- Delivering throughout the year joint migration statistics releases drawing together data from various sources across Government
- Preparing a new quarterly migration statistical bulletin, drawing together data from various sources across Government, which was produced for the first time in May 2009.

8. Recently, the UK Statistics Authority has produced an interim report covering the work of the MSIP, following its monitoring review of migration statistics. Having an independent review of the first year of the programme has proved valuable and plans are already in hand to tailor our approach to meet the Authority's recommendations. An open meeting was held to discuss the Authority's findings in April 2009. The final UK Statistics Authority Monitoring Review will be published in July 2009.

9. Many people, from both within and outside of Government, have engaged with the MSIP in its first year of the programme of work and we are especially grateful for your input and support.

Office for National Statistics
June 2009

Migration Statistics Improvement Programme: Annual Overview for 2008/09

1. Background to the Programme

1.1 In response to user concerns regarding the quality of migration statistics, the National Statistician established the inter-departmental Task Force on Migration Statistics which reported in December 2006. The purpose of this group was to 'identify and recommend timely improvements that could be made to estimates of migration and migrant populations in the United Kingdom, both nationally and at local level'¹.

1.2 During 2007, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) worked with the relevant government departments to establish a consensus on the improvements needed to migration statistics. Once agreement was reached, including on funding, the cross-departmental Migration Statistics Improvement Programme (MSIP) was initiated on 1 April 2008. These were important steps because many of the improvements needed could not be delivered by ONS or any one Department on their own.

1.3 Governance arrangements were agreed and established in time for the start of the Programme. The characteristics of this are:

- A Ministerial group, jointly chaired by the Minister for Local Government and the Minister for Borders and Immigration, to help drive the work forward and unblock potential obstacles;
- A senior cross-government Programme Board to steer and oversee progress, chaired by the National Statistician, with Director Generals from the main Government Departments and senior representation from the Local Government Association and the Bank of England;
- The National Statistician and the Registrars General of the devolved administrations (via the UK Population Committee) oversee decision making on the methodologies and statistics used;
- The UK Statistics Authority has a role in monitoring and reviewing progress.

1.4 The new governance arrangements, while complex, have proved successful to date and provided welcome impetus. The Joint Chairs of the Ministerial Group have championed the work of the MSIP and progress has been made in areas, most notably with access to administrative sources, which have proved difficult in the past.

1.5 The work of the MSIP has been organised into five strands, each of which is overseen by a dedicated cross-departmental working group. The five strands are covering:

- data collected at points of entry and exit to and from the United Kingdom;
- use of alternative sources (mainly administrative);
- local population estimates;

¹ The report of the task force is available at <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=14731>.

- analysis and indicators; and
- improved reporting of migration statistics².

1.6 Cash funding to support the MSIP has been obtained from several departments with ONS providing the majority but Communities and Local Government, Department of Health, HM Treasury, the Bank of England and the Home Office also contributing. Other work ('work in kind') is being carried out by business areas in the Departments involved in the programme at their expense. A summary of the funding and work in kind for 2008/09 is provided in Annex C.

1.7 The MSIP is being managed using programme management principles. An internal audit was requested at the beginning of the programme to advise at an early stage on how the programme management was evolving. This audit was completed in autumn 2008 and it highlighted various improvements that could be made, including further work on benefits realisation to help with prioritisation. An action plan is in place to address the audit's recommendations.

1.8 In April 2009, the UK Statistics Authority produced an interim report from its monitoring review of migration statistics and the work of the MSIP. A meeting to discuss its findings was held recently at the Royal Statistical Society. The final report will be published on the Authority's website in July 2009 (at www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk). Having an independent review of the first year of the Programme has proved valuable and plans to tailor our approach to meet the Authority's recommendations are already in hand. The monitoring by the programme of the "work in kind" conducted in Departments is one area which the Programme Board and the Authority have both separately identified as needing strengthening in 2009/10.

2. Work Programme in 2008/09

2.1 The first year of the MSIP has primarily focussed on improvements to the International Passenger Survey (IPS)³ and recommendations which can be delivered in time for the next local funding settlements in 2010. The key short term changes are:

- **Changes to the IPS** to improve the estimation of the numbers of migrants in to and out of the UK and in line with previous recommendations, including those of the Treasury Select Committee report "Counting the Population" (May 2008).⁴ These include: (1) introducing special shifts designed to identify more emigrants (as currently conducted for immigrants) from 2007; (2) an improved sample design from April 2008 that better reflects travel patterns of recent migrants, including special shifts at Stansted, Luton and Manchester; and (3) a complete redesign of the survey from January 2009 to optimise the

² Public versions of the minutes from the Programme Board and the working groups are available on the ONS website at

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/population/future/imps/improvement-prog.asp>

³ The IPS has been referred to as *The Port Survey* in several Programme documents. *IPS* is used here for clarity.

⁴ Available at <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmselect/cmtreasy/183/18302.htm>

sample primarily on migration and accordingly boost the numbers of migrants identified. These changes were delivered on schedule. More details with the anticipated impact on the 2009 survey are shown in Annex D.

- **A greater use of administrative sources** in producing local population statistics. In particular:
 - *Allocating estimates of international in-migrants to local authority area.* Currently, the number of in-migrants is distributed from intermediate geography level (groups of local authorities) to local authority level using 2001 Census data. This is because of limitations in the sample sizes of the survey data. ONS has progressed research on the use of models that incorporate survey and up-to-date administrative data instead of the 2001 Census and is developing an alternative option that models at regional levels thereby eliminating the need for intermediate geographies.
 - *Local student and school populations.* Local authority case studies suggested that improvements could be made by making use of student data with term time addresses (from the Higher Education Statistics Agency⁵) and data on pupil numbers from the School Census.⁶ Plans are in hand to use individual level school Census data and aggregate student level data in the package of improvements for the next funding settlement.
 - *Short term migrants.* National estimates of short term migrants, those that come to stay or leave the country for less than 12 months, were produced for the first time in 2007 but small survey sample sizes did not allow similar estimates to be produced for sub-national areas. In 2008/09, ONS reported on a reconciliation of the national estimates with administrative sources and revised the initial estimates accordingly.⁷ ONS has also worked on a methodology for producing local estimates using a modelling approach which makes use of data from administrative sources. This work is on schedule and first estimates will be published during 2009/10.
- **Improving the scope and timeliness of migration statistics**, including providing better contextual information for users. Most notably:
 - Research into the use of provisional IPS data has been completed. In May 2009, ONS produced *earlier estimates from the IPS* that go up to and include data from quarter three 2008.⁸ These provide more timely data and help identify turning points, for example on emigration where data are not readily available from administrative sources.

⁵ <http://www.hesa.ac.uk/>

⁶ <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/ims/datacollections/scbackground/>

⁷ Latest mid-2007 short-term migrant figures:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/population/future/imps/updates/downloads/STM_mid07.pdf

Reconciliation paper:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/population/future/imps/updates/downloads/Reconciliation_Exercise.pdf

⁸ <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=15240>

- We are trialling a new system from 2009 for *providing local indicators related to migration*.⁹ Initially, only a small number of indicators were published on 20 May 2009 but, during 2009/10, we will continue to build on these and will aim to include estimates of short term migrants and other relevant indicators. Each local authority will be able to see the indicators in one place and compare themselves with other authorities.
 - ONS methodologists are working on providing *improved information on the quality of population estimates*, including at a local level, by May 2010. Initial work is focusing on key quality issues associated with internal migration. Quality measures for population estimates are recognised to be especially difficult in Census-taking countries because of the way the methods use multiple sources and this is innovative, ‘cutting-edge’ research.
- **Improving the coherence of reporting on migration**

In 2006, there were over 40 migration, or migration-related, statistical releases produced across Government. In 2008/09, plans were made to report in a new, more coherent way on migration with fewer releases. Generally, users have welcomed the attempts to bring together data from different sources into one release. Some commentators in the media have though found the quantity of data in the new releases overwhelming and confusing. A new single Migration Statistics Quarterly Report was successfully launched in May 2009, as planned, to improve the reporting further. This formed an important milestone for the programme and attracted positive reactions. A first annual statistical report on migration will be produced on the ONS website¹⁰ in November 2009. Migration reporting is in a period of refinement and ONS recognises that further attention needs to be given to providing improved commentary in the quarterly and annual reports.

2.2 Delivery of the identified short term programme outcomes remained on course during 2008/09. In combination, they represent a significant change in the scope, timeliness and quality of the migration estimates that will be available to users. An announcement of the package of improvements being made before the next funding settlements was published in February 2009¹¹.

2.3 Work has begun on longer term goals and consideration has been given to how the outcomes of the Programme can fit into an integrated future population statistics system. Work has focussed on effective use of administrative sources, improvements to the Census population count and reconciliation of Census and administrative data. This has been done by:

⁹ <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=15239>

¹⁰ Available at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/population/future/imps/updates/default.asp>

¹¹ As footnote 4. Further detail can be requested from the programme team at: imps@ons.gov.uk

- Consideration being given to how the new **e-Borders system**¹² can be set up to give a comprehensive count of international migrants coming into and leaving the UK. A 'Counting In/Out Project' has been established for this purpose. Initial work has been encouraging in this area and there is expected to be 95% coverage of all visits to and from the UK via this system from the end of 2010.
- Seeking **access to and improving the quality of existing administrative sources** that might improve the count and our understanding of local populations. The first use of the Statistics and Registration Service Act (SRSA) 2007 gained access to School Census data and access to student data are similarly being pursued. Access has also been granted to Migrant Worker Scan data (National Insurance numbers issued to foreign nationals) using an existing legal gateway and a business case is to be constructed by ONS and the Department for Work and Pensions to enable access to its larger longitudinal database (the WPLS¹³). Work is proceeding with the Department for Health to improve the quality and use of GP register data. Gaining access to administrative datasets for statistical use through the SRSA is a relatively new process and, in practice, took longer than initially expected. A review of the process for the School Census data has been undertaken so that the process can be shortened in the future where at all possible, and a guide has been produced that others can follow best practice.
- Making changes to the **2011 Census proposals**¹⁴. These include collecting data on those who are resident in the UK for 3 months or more (rather than the traditional 6 months) and a new question suite that includes questions on year and month of arrival, intended length of stay, citizenship and second homes. Discussions are taking place with other Departments, as part of the Beyond 2011 programme, regarding taking copies of key administrative sources near and at the time of the Census so that reconciliation work can be undertaken.
- Developing a pilot **Communal Establishments Survey** which will identify the number and characteristics of migrants that are living in these establishments. The 2001 Census indicated that approximately 14 per cent of recent migrants (those living outside the UK 1 year ago) were in such establishments and it is anticipated that this number may have increased in recent years. Although feasibility work has progressed, there are some complicated issues that still need resolving, most notably concerned with the absence of a suitable address list/sampling frame. Progress in this particular area has been slower than we would have liked in 2008/09.
- Considering options for using other UK Border or Home Office data sources, such as the **new points-based system and Landing Cards**, to improve migration estimates. Following an assessment of these sources, it is clear that they do not offer the same opportunities for improvement as the e-Borders programme potentially does. They could though still be useful, providing

¹² <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/managingborders/technology/eborders/>

¹³ http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/longitudinal_study/ic_longitudinal_study.asp

¹⁴ <http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/2011-census-questionnaire-content/index.html>

information on a sub-group of migrants or as an alternative source to quality assure population statistics. The Home Office has confirmed that some initial data from the points-based system will be made available later in 2009.

2.4 Although much of the work carried out on the longer term goals has been encouraging in 2008/09, the absence of a comprehensive, single address register in England and Wales, that is updated on an on-going basis, is likely to limit options for a future population statistics system unless it is addressed. Discussions on an address register are on-going. The 2011 Census programme is making a significant additional investment, with suppliers, in constructing an address list for the next Census which will improve the nationally available address lists for a period of time post-Census.

3. Communications

3.1 ONS has significantly expanded its communications and engagement with stakeholders, in line with user feedback when received when population estimates were last revised in 2007. Users fed back that they would have liked to have been more engaged throughout the development process, rather than at the start and end of the process; that external experts could have been used more appropriately in the development of methodologies; that ONS could have worked through the Local Government Association (LGA) to identify better opportunities for engaging with local authorities, rather than relying too heavily on the Central and Local Information Partnership (CLIP) sub-group for advice; and, that the timetable became too compressed at the end of the process.

3.2 To address this feedback a formal Communications and Engagement Strategy has been established. This includes:

- Setting up joint local authority workshops with the LGA to keep local authorities up-to-date with developments and by taking other opportunities for early engagement, for example a session was held in 2008/09 with Chief Executives' finance and planning representatives.
- Establishing a list of experts that can be drawn upon throughout the development process. The list is made available on the ONS website;
- Setting up Reference Panels where local authority experts are asked to comment on methods and emerging results. Panels have to date been set up to advise on the long-term migration distribution, short-term migration estimation and the treatment of students;
- Establishing a reference group once revised estimates have been produced. This group will be asked to use their local insight to consider the plausibility of estimates from the combined package of improvements;
- Holding a formal external academic peer review later in the year;
- Producing an annual overview, of which this is the first, by the senior responsible owner in ONS that will be widely circulated to known stakeholders, made available on the web and published in Population Trends.

3.3 ONS has also continued with those elements of the communications strategy for the 2007 revisions exercise that worked well, such as giving talks at conferences (such as the British Society for Population Studies), providing regular updates on the

improvement work on the web¹⁵ and road show events. Two series of seminar road shows are planned for later in 2009.

3.4 While recognising the efforts ONS has made to improve its communications, the UK Statistics Authority has encouraged us to do more in its interim monitoring report. Discussions will take place with the LGA, in particular, to ensure that the momentum in 2008/09 is built upon and taken further. Where it is appropriate to do so, links will be made with the 2011 Census plans for user engagement. ONS is especially grateful for the efforts and time that people from a wide variety of organisations have contributed to the programme's work in 2008/09, often on top of their normal workloads.

4. Forward Look: Work in 2009/10

4.1 The effects of the work carried out in the first year will start to be seen in 2009/10. The key items of the planned work programme for next year are:

- Implementation of the planned improvements to population statistics prior to the next funding settlement rounds in 2010;
- Enhanced engagement with stakeholders and users, including their continued contributions into the migration statistics improvements, as ONS moves towards the implementation of revisions;
- Development and delivery of the new style-Migration Quarterly Reports, the Migration Annual report and the Migration web pages;
- Actively promoting and planning for the use of e-Borders for statistical purposes through the 'Counting In/Out Project'; and
- Conducting a pilot communal establishments data collection that can be used in future population statistics estimates;
- Further work in accessing and developing existing administrative sources, both to use in the short term but also in moving towards a new model for the future of population statistics.

5. Looking Back

5.1 In summary, good progress has been made overall in the first year of the programme, especially in designing and moving towards implementing short term improvements to migration statistics and in planning for potentially a quite different future system to underpin population estimates, based on the e-Borders system and more effective use of other administrative sources.

5.2 The impacts of the work in 2008/09 will be seen next year through new products becoming available, such as local level short-term migrant estimates, and changes being made to the estimation methodology in time for the next Local Government Funding settlement in 2010.

¹⁵ As footnote 4

5.3 The next annual overview for the financial year 2009/10 will be produced in June 2010.

Office for National Statistics
June 2009

Annex A

Operational Status of Migration Statistics Improvement Programme 31 March 2009

Table 1 gives an update of the overall programme as at end-March 2009. It outlines the current status of the operational facets of the programme.

Table 1 Overview of Migration Statistics Improvement Programme Operations

Operational Status	Update
Overall Programme	Package of improvements is on schedule for Local Government Funding round in 2010. However, some issues remain, e.g. access to individual student level data is taking longer than expected.
Finance	Funding for 2009/10 has been confirmed.
Benefits Realisation	Work on analysis and realisation of benefits is progressing. A cross-government meeting is planned for July 2009.
Business Implementation	Timescales are tight but achievable; allows sufficient time for user engagement prior to any changes to population figures.
Delivery Confidence	Confident that the deliverables will be achieved for the next package in time for next Local Government Funding round.

Annex B

Implementation Package for the First Phase of the Migration Statistics Improvement Programme: Deliverables for 2009/10

The overview highlighted some of the on-going and future deliverables for the programme. Table 2 gives an update of the current status of the deliverables due to be completed in the next six months and beyond.

Table 2 Deliverables for 2009/10: Update

Item	Comments
Distribution of long term migrants to local authority level using alternative sources to Census	Good progress has been made. A reference panel has been set up to discuss work
Student adjustment	Aggregate student data were received Feb 2009. Methods are being developed for using this. Access to individual record level data is being addressed, this has taken longer than expected; individual data are not expected until summer 2009
Improved emigration model	Approaching completion.
Short term migration	Local authority estimates are due for completion in Aug 2009. This will provide additional data to supplement population estimates.
Indicators of migration	Local indicators and timely national estimates were published for the first time in May 2009. These indicators provide additional information but do not directly affect population estimates.
Quality measures	Progressing on course. Statements of quality are initially concentrating on internal migration.
Improvements to the IPS	Special emigration sampling in 2007 and changes in 2008 (additional sampling at Luton, Manchester, Stansted) will have some effect for the next Local Government Funding round. Redesigned survey from January 2009 will feed into second half of mid-year 2009 estimates due in 2010.
Migration reporting	Reporting schedule has been initiated, with quarterly reports from May 2009. New web-based annual report is due to be published in late 2009
Improved methods using individual	Migrant Worker Scan data has been

Item	Comments
level DWP data	obtained. Research & development work has commenced.
Improved methods using individual schools census data	Regulation to permit data sharing has been approved by Parliament. Data were transferred to the Office for National Statistics in March 2009.
Communal Establishment Survey	Pilot exercise based on the Postcode Address File has been carried out. This has highlighted problems with the sampling frame and the risk of lower than expected response rates because of coverage issues. Approaches to address this are being considered.
Use of e-Borders	e-Borders programme is on track for roll-out. Statistical benefits are being defined.
Other UKBA data sources	The Points Based System and Landing Cards are unlikely to deliver significant early benefits to the Programme due to coverage, definitional and data capture issues

Annex C

Funding and Work in Kind

ONS and several Departments are funding the migration statistics improvement programme with the amount of funding for 2008/09 and 2009/10 shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Money Expected/Agreed for 2008/09 and 2009/10

£000's		
Funding and Work in Kind	Amount Spent in 2008/09	Amount Agreed for 2009/10
Funding		
ONS	2,850	3,200
OGDs	1,150	1,150
Work in Kind		
ONS		2,500 ¹
OGDs	1,727 ¹	
Total	5,727	6,550

¹ The "work in kind" for 2008/09 excludes statistical work related to e-Borders and for 2009/10 is an initial estimate that will be subject to revision.

Work in kind is not cash funded by the programme but has been committed to by the relevant Departments. The work in kind for 2008/09 is shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Work in Kind for 2008/09

Department	Overview of Work
DWP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to published statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a tabulation tool has been released which provides access to tabulations on National Insurance Numbers with a series back to Jan 2002 • Investigative work to identify feasibility of using DWP sources to improve migration and population statistics • Support work to programme, including facilitating the use of administrative data and access to Migrant Worker Scan which was received by ONS on 5th Feb 2009
Home Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to improved reporting of migration statistics, including contributing to a regular quarterly publication and a joint annual publication, which is being considered. The introduction of a web based tabulation tool is planned. • The e-Borders programme will provide a large quantity of data on travellers arriving in and departing from the UK which will cover migrants. Further work is required to identify the marginal cost to e-Borders development of producing additional reports required for migration reporting • Advice to ONS on data provision from e-Borders and other UK Border Agency systems.

Department	Overview of Work
Department for Children Schools and Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring ONS business case for gaining legal access to School Census data specifies appropriate variables • Ensuring all committees sign off data sharing • Arranging secure transfer of data
Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to a working group spanning ONS, DIUS, Welsh Assembly Government, Higher Education Funding Council for England, Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, HESA. • Legal analysis of gateways for sharing HESA data and whether regulations will be required. • Ensuring ONS business case for regulations correctly reflects requirements and specifies the minimum, appropriate variables. • Ensuring that all necessary committees and groups sign off the data sharing. • Arranging secure transfer of data (if DIUS will be providing this).
Department of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ONS and DH finance officials have jointly written to the Information Centre for Health and Social Care (the IC) identifying the improvements needed to patient registers to both improve population statistics and introduce patient-based resource allocation at PCT-level. ONS are collaborating with the DH-led project to take this work forward. • The main improvements to NHS data used for population and migration are likely to come from the National Programme for IT (NPfIT), operated by NHS Connecting for Health, and systems delivered by the IC (including NHS CR). • Work to improve the quality of patient registers includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analysing the reasons for list variation; and - Enhancing the data quality of information from registered lists and determining a line of accountability for these lists.

Annex D

International Passenger Survey (IPS): Improvements since 2007

From 2007 to 2009 incremental changes were made to the IPS in order to improve the sample of migrants:

1. 2007 - Introduction of special emigration filter shifts

Emigration filter shifts were added at Heathrow and Gatwick to increase the number of emigrants captured. The filter shifts target migrants and are designed specifically to increase the sample of migrants.

2. 2008 - Additional migration filter shifts at Manchester, Luton and Stansted

Additional migration filter shifts were introduced at Manchester, Luton and Stansted airports, on top of the regular IPS shifts.

3. 2009 - New IPS sample design

There are two key but inter-related changes:

1. The sample is optimised for migration purposes (and optimised separately for tourism or balance payments purposes);
2. Migrant filter questions are asked to identify migrants and then sub-sampling takes place to collect data needed for tourism, balance of payments and other purposes.

The overall impacts of the changes are shown in the following table:

Table 4: Impacts of Port Survey Review on Migration Sample:

Year	Long term Migrant Inflow		Long Term Migrant Outflow	
	Contacts	% std err	Contacts	% std err
2006	3005	3.8	789	4.7
2007	3091	3.8	2362	4.3
2008 ¹	2700 ²	3.8 ²	2200 ²	4.3 ²
2009 ¹	3900 ³	2.8 ³	2900 ³	2.9 ³

1. Figures have been estimated for 2008 and forecasted for 2009.

2. The 2008 figures assume a reduced level of contacts identified on the IPS during that year. Within the 2008 figures, the number of interview contacts in Manchester, Luton and Stansted were increased.

3. Values are based on the assumption that migration flows for 2009 are the same as the expected flows for 2008 but have the impacts of the 2009 sample design changes applied.

The changes made in 2009 are expected to increase the migrant contacts by about 45 per cent on inflows and 30 per cent on outflows.

The estimated impacts of the IPS changes are more noticeable at the regional level and can be demonstrated by looking at the *average weight* within each region (rather than making assumptions about migration flows into the regions). The average weight refers to the number of people that each IPS sample member represents in the traffic flow. An estimate with a high average weight is less reliable than an estimate with a low average weight and, ideally, you want these weights to be reducing and reasonably consistent across the regions. The graphs for inflows and outflows can be

seen in Figures 1 and 2 respectively. As can be seen in the graphs, the average weights are lower for all regions in 2009.

Figure 1 IPS Inflows: Average Weights by English GORs and Wales, 2007 versus 2009 (predicted)

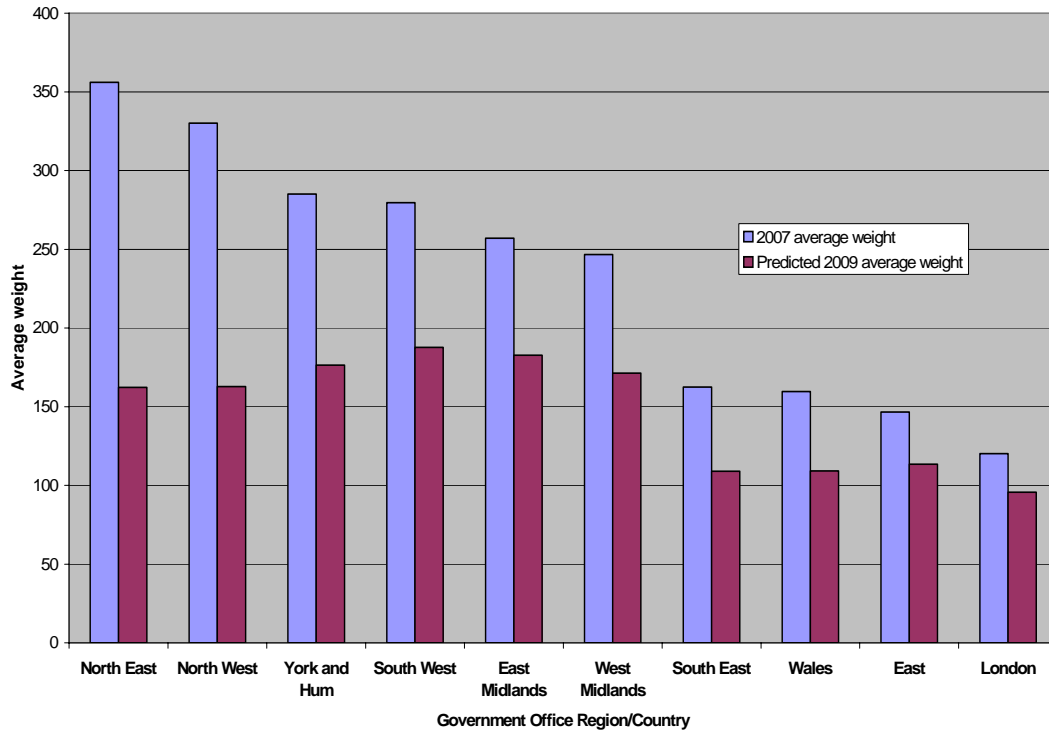


Figure 2: IPS Outflows, Average Weights by English GORs and Wales, 2007 versus 2009 (predicted)

