

## National Statistics Reviews

### Review of Short-Term Output Indicators - NSQR Series No.1 – Closure Report

*Comment by the National Statistician, ONS.*

I am pleased to announce the publication of the closure report for the Short-Term Output Indicators Review (STOIR). This was ONS' first National Statistics quality review, and was conducted by a team of ONS staff and outside users from Her Majesty's Treasury, the Bank of England, the Department of Trade and Industry and the Royal Statistical Society. The review began in January 2000 and was published on 4th October 2000.

The recommendations of the STOIR were far-reaching and progress towards their implementation has been excellent. To date 30 of the 49 recommendations have been met. These have led to major improvements in the quality of and consistency between these indicators, as well as providing more robust systems, and improved user access.

Of course since the report was first published the environment and drivers to improve the quality of the outputs of ONS has changed considerably. As a result ONS has now decided that the remaining recommendations will be taken forward through the major programme of modernisation now being undertaken by the ONS.

The STOIR review has been a major achievement for ONS. While this closure report formally brings to an end this specific programme of work, ONS continues to improve the quality of short-term indicators and the systems used to produce and disseminate them. This work will lead to the publication of the Index of Services as a mainstream National Statistic in 2006 and, ultimately, to a monthly output measure of GDP. These developments will ensure that ONS remains a world leader in this area.

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