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Collection of construction statistics transfers to ONS

The collection of construction statistics based in Bristol will transfer from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR – formerly the DTI) to the Office for National Statistics on 1 March 2008, it has been announced today.

Responsibility for six construction surveys collected at Bristol will be transferred to ONS:

- Quarterly Inquiry of Activity for Construction and Allied Trades
- The Building and Civil Engineering Employment and Output Enquiry
- Monthly Inquiry of Contracts and New Orders
- Annual Inquiry
- Quarterly Inquiry of Projects in Progress
- Key Performance Indicators

Construction statistics are a large component of the National Accounts, and ONS envisages that it can bring the same methodological expertise to this area as it does to other industry statistics. Statisticians in BERR will continue to analyse and interpret construction data for policy colleagues within the department and for industry customers in the same way as the past.

The work will remain in Bristol for the next 12 months. At the end of that time, it will transfer to the ONS headquarters in Newport. The period between March 2008 and March 2009 will give ONS time to familiarise itself fully with the work and plan for its physical transfer.

Welcoming the transfer, National Statistician Karen Dunnell said “I very much welcome this development. Construction statistics complement our other business statistics work, and bringing them all together will enable us to make a better overall assessment of changes in the economy. The BERR staff have done an excellent job producing these statistics to a high standard over the years and I look forward to welcoming them to ONS.”

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BACKGROUND NOTES

1. Associated with this process, 23 BERR posts in Bristol will transfer to ONS. The staff will be seconded to ONS for 12 months. In March 2009, existing staff will have the opportunity to move to Newport with the work. BERR will accept responsibility for those staff who wish to return to it at that time.
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