

International Steering Group – Note of Key Points

9th March 2023 : 8 am – 10 am (BST)

Attending

Professor James Brown – UTS

Owen Abbott – ONS

Professor David Martin, OBE

Alastair McAlpine - SG

Esta Clark – NRS

Damien Allen – NRS

Will Howes – NRS

Bethanie Fenney – NRS

Tom Macintyre - NRS

David Rowley – NRS

Ralph Mcdevitt – NRS

Jonathan Wroth-Smith - NRS

Janet Egdell - NRS

Michael Edie - NRS

Uche Okoro - NRS

Key Actions

1. NRS provided an update on data acquisition. ISG provided a steer not to use DWP individual data in the estimation system. However, the group was supportive of efforts to continue to pursue this data as it would be useful for QA, particularly for areas with high unemployment and low census response rates.
2. NRS to explore the use of DWP aggregates for QA of the final estimates. NRS to provide more detail on this to the group in the coming weeks.
3. NRS provided a summary of drop-in meetings that had taken place since the last full ISG meeting:

9th Feb 2023

- NRS gave an update on the progress of linking admin data to create a health spine.

ISG were supportive of the approach taken (noting that the linkage approach was discussed in detail in November 2022) and suggested NRS spend more time on analysis for the strength of evidence variable, to ensure the inclusion of census non-responders in this variable.

- NRS also presented a high-level methodology for an Alternative Household Estimate. The discussion focused on whether it would be possible to perform either Modelling or Stratified Odds Ratio analysis using MI returns information about unoccupied properties. ISG recommended further investigation into the accuracy of information from Respondents and Field Force related to unoccupied properties.

Thursday 23rd February 2022

- NRS shared early analysis of potential uses of admin data with a view to get feedback to inform a fuller discussion the following week.
- ISG recommended additional investigation into:
 - Mapping final response levels for census and CCS (including admin data)
 - Applying a basic estimator based on linkage rates

Thursday 2nd March 2022

- NRS presented analysis on the effect of placing administrative data in the census or in the CCS. ISG provided a steer that NRS should continue to develop the method for placing admin data in the CCS as the analysis indicated that this would be more beneficial for producing accurate census estimates. It would also mean that the original design for using a coverage survey (now augmented with admin data) would not be fundamentally changed.
4. NRS provided an update to the group on the decision to use administrative data to enhance the CCS, rather than the Census. ISG supported this decision and provided a steer to NRS to ensure that the rules around the strength of evidence needed to place an admin record in the CCS are clear and have good reasoning.
 5. NRS to provide an update to the group on progress made in census data processing.
 6. NRS to reflect on approach for under 1 year olds in the census, potentially using admin records to add them to the census.
 7. NRS to report back to ISG on work undertaken to assess the quality of communal establishment manager returns.

9th March 2023