

EXECUTIVE NOTE

THE OFFICIAL STATISTICS (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT ORDER 2012

(SSI 2012/Draft)

This statutory instrument will, if approved, be made in exercise of the powers conferred by section 6(1)(b)(ii) and (2) of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 (“the 2007 Act”). It is subject to affirmative resolution procedure.

Policy Objectives

1. The purpose of the Order is to amend the Official Statistics (Scotland) Order 2008 (S.S.I. 2008/131) (“the principal Order”) to add five additional persons to the list of persons specified as producers of official statistics.

Background

2. The 2007 Act created a new non-ministerial department, the UK Statistics Authority (legally known as the Statistics Board), to promote and safeguard the production and publication of official statistics that serve the public good. The UK Statistics Authority is accountable to the Scottish Parliament for the devolved aspects of its work on Scottish official statistics.

3. The principal Order specified three non-Crown bodies as producers of official statistics. The Scottish Government confirmed that in due course it intended to extend this list further to bring in other non-Crown bodies who wish to have their statistics included under the remit of the Statistics Board.

4. The Official Statistics (Scotland) Amendment Order 2010 (S.S.I 2010/448) specified a further five non-Crown bodies as producers of official statistics. Each of these five bodies has subsequently published official statistics.

5. The UK Statistics Authority published the Code of Practice for Official Statistics in January 2009. Its rules apply to all Scottish official statistics but the authority only assesses compliance with the code for those official statistics that were formerly designated as National Statistics, or put forward by the Scottish Ministers to be designated as such.

Policy objectives

6. The five bodies which are being added to the order are:

- NHS 24
- Scottish Ambulance Service Board (SAS)
- Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC)
- Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Care Inspectorate)
- Sustrans Limited

7. Naming these five non-Crown bodies as official statistics producers will mean that they will produce statistics to the standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official

Statistics and the arrangements for pre-release access set out in the Pre-release access to the Official Statistics (Scotland) Order 2008 (S.S.I. 2008/131). This will provide public reassurance of the quality and integrity of the statistics they produce and assist in delivery of the Christie Commission objective that all public services improve performance and reduce costs, are open, transparent and accountable.

8. Naming NHS 24 and SAS as official statistics producers will allow them to bring high profile statistics into the scope of official statistics and therefore provide public reassurance of the quality and integrity of these statistics. SAS currently produce high profile statistics on Category A response times which are used to report on a HEAT standard and it is expected that these will become official statistics.

9. Naming the SSSC and the Care Inspectorate as official statistics producers will allow them to raise the standards to which they produce statistics. The Care Inspectorate will prioritise producing the 'Childcare Statistics Report' as official statistics and the SSSC will prioritise the 'Social Services Workforce Data Report'. These two bodies are keen to adopt a phased approach to producing official statistics with a view to bringing further statistics into scope as appropriate.

10. Naming Sustrans as an official statistics producer would allow them to produce the 'Hands-Up Scotland' survey as official statistics. Sustrans is a registered charity and this survey is commissioned by the Scottish Government. This survey provides important information on how children travel to school that is used to influence policy making in Transport Scotland. The wording used to include Sustrans in the order is such that the official statistics status applies only to those statistics which are produced 'on behalf of the Scottish Ministers'. Sustrans will be the second charity in Scotland to become an official statistics producer following the inclusion of Scottish Consortium for Learning Disability in the Official Statistics (Scotland) Amendment Order 2010.

Consultation

Statutory consultation

11. In accordance with section 6(3) of the 2007 Act, the UK Statistics Authority was consulted and endorsed the naming of these additional bodies.

Consultation with Public Bodies

12. The decision to propose that these five bodies are named as official statistics producers follows liaison between SG Statisticians and these and other public bodies to agree which bodies should be added. The bodies named all produce statistics which would benefit from being produced and published to official statistics standards and have agreed to being added. Consideration will be given to adding others at a later date.

Financial Effects

13. The Order has no financial effects on the Scottish Government, local government or on business. A Business Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been produced as this Order has no impact on the cost of business.

Equality

14. The Order gives rise to no equality impact issues therefore an Equality Impact Assessment has not been produced.

Roger Halliday
Chief Statistician
Scottish Government
April 2012