Statistics User Forum

1. SUF is an 'umbrella' organisation which helps to bring together the increasingly large numbers of statistics users. Its role is to support users of official statistics in communicating their needs to the producers of statistics; in turn, it provides a valuable channel through which such producers can communicate and build relationships with a broad range of statistics users. SUF meets three times a year and its website StatsUserNet is always open for on-line discussion and information-sharing.

2. SUF aims to:

- help ONS, the UK Statistics Authority and all providers of UK official statistics (broadly defined) **improve user engagement** and more effectively meet users' needs
- **champion the voice of the user** to be at the heart of the development and production of all official statistics
- **promote the value of official statistics** to society, including by showcasing official statistics products and developments
- encourage the exchange of **good practice in the running of user groups**. This fits with the ONS user engagement strategy, which envisages "a strong, self-sustaining user community".

3. SUF was launched in 2004, building on the long-standing Statistics Users' Council. Until recently, SUF received organizational and administrative support from the Royal Statistical Society, but this support is now provided directly from the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

4. The RSS retains a strong interest in official statistics and SUF will continue to work closely with the RSS. The main point of contact will be the RSS's National Statistics Advisory Group. The RSS has also agreed to continue posting information about SUF on its website here

5. For SUF to be most effective, all groups set up for users of official statistics (including those directly sponsored by ONS/GSS) are strongly encouraged to join. We also welcome other special interest groups around official statistical data, and the organisations that facilitate access to official statistics and data. SUF will continue to help nurture new user groups where fresh needs emerge. The current membership of SUF is shown in the table below.

6. For more information, please contact:

Paul Allin, Chair of SUF, p.allin@imperial.ac.uk

or Steve Mead, Secretary, steven.mead@ons.gov.uk

March 2018

Current SUF membership (March 2018)

User groups with representatives	Organisations*
Construction Statistics User Group Crime and Justice Statistics Network Data Analysts User Group (DUG) Financial and Economic Statistics User Group Fire and Rescue Services User Group Gender Statistics User Group Health Statistics User Group Housing Statistics Network Steering Group International Business Statistics User Group Labour Market Statistics User Group Migration Statistics User Forum Open Data User Group Output Area Classification User Group RPI/CPI User Group Sub-national Data User Group Transport Statistics User Group Water Statistics User Group	Academy of Social Sciences BBC British Society for Population Studies Confederation of British Industry CILIP (The library and information association) and SCOOP (Standing Committee on Official Publications) Equalities and Human Rights Commission ESRC and UKDS Full Fact House of Commons Library IFS Local Authority Research and Intelligence Association (LARIA) Market Research Society CGG NCVO NIESR NOMIS Open Data User Group Royal Statistical Society Social Research Association Society of Professional Economists Trades Union Congress UK Finance UK Statistics Authority/OSR/ONS * these are organisations from which people come to SUF meetings, other than as active user group representatives. It is not necessarily the case that people come as formal representatives of these organisations.