

"Today's plans take us one step further, narrowing the focus of our portfolio and reducing the number of publications so we can devote resources to our improvement work, putting quality over quantity and working closely with users to rebuild trust."

The announcements today include:

Reducing commitments in health: The ONS played an important role in supporting the UK's COVID-19 response and has continued to provide valued insights on health, drawing on the expertise and capabilities we developed during the pandemic. We will continue to produce statistics such as births, deaths and life expectancy that form part of our core population outputs. However, we will be reducing other health analysis work, engaging stakeholders and other parts of government to identify outputs that others should take forward.

Reviewing funding of crime statistics: We will continue to produce headline crime statistics through the Crime Survey for England and Wales. While the ONS is uniquely placed to produce independent crime statistics, to ensure the funding we receive matches the cost of delivering the statistics, we will review our broader work beyond the Crime Survey for England and Wales.

Reconsidering the subnational statistics portfolio, including the merits of running the Annual Population Survey (APS): Subnational statistics provide a critical evidence base for local decision making and increase the value of the ONS's wider outputs by reflecting them at the local and regional level. Many can only be produced by the ONS. However, we will now take the opportunity to consider the breadth, sequencing and frequency of sub-national publications and development work in the run up to Census 2031, understanding what resource could be freed up in the near term. Given recognised quality concerns on the APS, and the withdrawal of some

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/news/news/onspledgesqualityoverquantitywithkeystatisticsprioritised> 2/4

25/11/2025, 16:20 ONS pledges "quality over quantity" with key statistics prioritised - Office for National Statistics external funding, collection of APS boost data in Scotland will cease in January. We will first reach out to key users to understand how APS data are being used, the impact of reduced quality and whether additional quality guidance will be valuable.

These changes will free up staff for core quality improvement activity and generate capacity to expedite recovery work through our Economic Statistics and Survey Improvement and Enhancement Plans. We will continue to closely engage our stakeholders across local and national government, academia, business and civil society, and ensure our statistics provide the greatest possible value to our end users.

Today's announcement follows the immediate action and improvements taken in the wake of Sir Robert Devereux's review into the organisation, which has included:

Appointing a new Permanent Secretary, separate to the Office of the National Statistician;