

**Statistics at NHSBSA**  
**Official Statistics work plan 2020-21**

## Document Release Note

Document Name: Official Statistics work plan 2020-21

Document Details Name	Version Number	Description
Official Statistics work plan 2020-21	v002	A publicly released document outlining our programme of work for NHSBSA Official Statistics.

Revision Details Revision Number	Revision Date	Revision Description	Page Number	Previous Page Number	Action Taken	Addenda/ New Page
V002	30/09/2020	Time periods for General Pharmaceutical Services and Prescribing for Diabetes publications were incorrect.	6	6	Adjusted the time periods for the respective publications.	

### About this document

This is the NHS Business Services Authority's (NHSBSA) Official Statistics work plan for 2020-21; this is based on user need, organisational and NHS priorities. It is aligned with the pillars of the Code of Practice for Statistics: trustworthiness, quality and value.

Information in this document has been organised as follows:

#### Chapters:

Introduction

What we plan to do in 2020-21

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## Section 1: Introduction

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We strive to generate trust in what we release through a commitment of transparency, and a pledge to increase the scope of what we release. The Official Statistics that we produce are truthful, impartial and independent, and meet consistent standards of behaviour that reflect the wider public good. We recognise that through greater transparency, and making more data open, we can inspire choice and increase accountability.

This document outlines our plans for Official Statistics in the NHSBSA in 2020-21; this is based on user need, organisational and NHS priorities.

In forming our work plan and delivering our releases the pillars of the Code of Practice for Statistics: Trustworthiness, Quality, and Value, guide us:

- **Trustworthiness:** We will be open and transparent with our users about our plans.
- **Quality:** We will strive to maintain and improve the robustness and quality of the statistics we publish.
- **Value:** We will make our statistics available to users in a timely manner and in an accessible format.

We believe publishing effectively is a crucial part of our vision of being a Catalyst for Better Health.

### COVID-19

The UK's statistical system is continuing to serve the public good in the face of the challenges posed by the new coronavirus (COVID-19). The NHSBSA is playing its part in supporting the national effort and helping our friends and colleagues in the NHS to provide the best possible service. It is too early to anticipate how COVID-19 will impact our Official Statistic releases for the forthcoming year, it would be wrong however to say it will not. Official Statistics only have value when they aid understanding of important issues today, and it is likely our releases will adapt to consider COVID-19.

## Section 2: What we plan to do in 2020-21

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### 2a: Summary

In 2019 we launched our [Publication Strategy](#) which set out our ambition to move from a provider of data for Official Statistics to a producer of Official Statistics. This outlined how, by utilising our expertise we can better tell the story of data we collect and inform debate; consolidate and standardising our reporting while removing duplication of effort across the Health Care System, to enable efficiencies.

Our Publication Strategy coincided with NHS Digital holding a public consultation on a series of proposed changes to their Prescribing and Medicines statistical outputs. The changes included the migration of a number of statistical releases. The outcome of the consultation was that three Official Statistics publications were migrated from NHS Digital to the NHSBSA, with the first of these, Prescription Cost Analysis England, having now been released by the NHSBSA.

We are only at the start of our journey as a producer of Official Statistics. We are realistic about the scope of this challenge and recognise we need the support of our external partners to achieve our vision. We believe that we can release not just data, but statistics that add value and inform understanding of key areas of the Health and Social Care system of which we are a part of.

What follows is our plan for Official Statistics 2020-21, it is not exhaustive, we will continue to provide robust, high quality and relevant statistics during a time of new and fast-emerging analytical demands; this includes exploratory analysis to determine potentially new Official Statistic releases.

## 2b: Official Statistic Releases

Official Statistics at the NHSBSA contributes to the collective mission of the Official Statistics system to provide:

High quality statistics, analysis and advice to help Britain make better decisions<sup>1</sup>.

We plan to publish the following Official Statistic releases this year:

- Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) - England 2019<sup>2</sup>.
- Prescribing for Diabetes – England 2015/16 to 2019/20<sup>3</sup>.
- General Pharmaceutical Services in England 2009/10 to 2019/20<sup>4</sup>.
- Medicines used in Mental Health<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Better Statistics, Better Decisions Strategy for UK statistics, 2015 to 2020. UKSA. <https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Better-Statistics-Better-Decisions.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> The [PCA publication](#) was released on 16/04/2020 and is the first Official Statistic release by the NHSBSA. This publication has National Statistic designation, and is subject to a reassessment by the UK Statistical Authority's Office for Statistical Regulation during 2020.

<sup>3</sup> Migrated to NHSBSA following a [public consultation](#) by NHS Digital in 2019.

<sup>4</sup> Migrated to NHSBSA following a [public consultation](#) by NHS Digital in 2019.

## 2c: Improvements to statistics

The Code of Practice for Statistics is at the heart of our Official Statistic production at the NHSBSA, ensuring we produce statistics and analyses that are independent, robust and relevant to users. We are committed to a process of continuing improvement in our publications to ensure they align with these principles. We will be sensitive to emerging trends, and recognise the potential of harnessing technological advances for the development of our publication production process and open data dissemination.

### **Trustworthiness:**

- We will continue to generate trust in what we release through a commitment of transparency and pledge to increase the scope of what we release.
- Publically release our production code for our Official Statistic releases.
- A key element of our commitment is to ensure our plans, priorities and progress against them is transparent; this work plan is part of that.

### **Quality:**

- Continue to update and expand our quality reporting, providing clear, up to date quality information alongside all of our statistical series.
- Keep our methodology and technical documentation under review, to ensure it is up to date and proportionate for all our statistical series.
- Actively participating in Government Statistics Service harmonisation activities, by working with our colleagues in devolved administrations who produce comparable releases.
- Further improve the quality of our releases, in terms of accuracy, reliability, coherence and timeliness by: Increasing transparency about our QA and methodological approaches
- Enhancing our approaches to ensure QA is embedded into automation of processes for the production of statistics as part of reproducible analytical pipelines.

**Value:**

- Reflect to ensure our Official Statistic releases support society's needs for information, ensuring what we produce adds value, is useful, easy to access, and relevant to aid understanding of important issues today.
- Maintain and refresh our understanding of the use and potential use of our statistics and data.

In addition to the above we will hold a public consultation on the Prescription Cost Analysis England publication shortly. This will allow us to better understand the users of this release, gauge interest in new content, and comment on our proposals to change the methodology.

## Contact us

Feedback is important to us; we welcome any questions and comments relating to this document.

Please quote 'Statistics work plan 2020-21' in the subject title of any correspondence.

You can contact us by:

**Email:** [nhsbsa.statistics@nhs.net](mailto:nhsbsa.statistics@nhs.net)

**Telephone:** 0191 203 5050

You can also write to us at:

NHSBSA - Statistics  
NHS Business Services Authority  
Stella House  
Goldcrest Way  
Newburn Riverside  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE15 8NY

**END.**