



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Nobel House
17 Smith Square
SW1P 3JR

StatisticsHoP@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

**Date: 25 February
2016**

Dear Consultee

Consultation on a set of specific proposed changes to official statistics produced by the Defra group

The Defra group (the core department, together with our agencies and arm's length bodies) produces and uses a wide range of official statistics. They are used internally to inform policy making and operational delivery and are shared externally, so that others can use the information.

We are inviting your views on a proposed set of specific changes to 'Official Statistics' produced across the Defra group in line with our aim of being an open, efficient and data driven department.

We are also inviting any general feedback on the uses made of our statistical products; other ideas on how we can further reduce burdens on survey respondents or introduce further efficiencies in our compilation of statistics.

While the consultation primarily focuses on the specific proposals, as context all of the statistical activities of the Defra group are listed in the annexes to this document.

There is a requirement to consult users on the proposals under the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Official Statistics (under which all official government statistics are compiled).

The following documents may be found on Defra's [website](#):

- Consultation paper
- Consultation letter

We welcome your views and comments on the proposals. If you wish to obtain a copy of this consultation or have any queries, please contact:

Defra Head of Profession for Statistics team
Email: StatisticsHoP@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Responses

To submit your consultation response please complete the consultation questionnaire online:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/statistics/specific-proposed-changes-to-official-statistics> through Citizen Space (Citizen Space is an on-line consultation tool).

Alternatively, you can complete a Word version of the survey and submit by email to: StatisticsHoP@defra.gsi.gov.uk Please put 'Consultation' in the subject field of the email.

Responses should be received by **24 March 2016**

Consultation Principles

This consultation is in line with the Consultations Principles. This can be found at <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/consultation-principles-guidance>

Summary of responses and confidentiality

1. Any responses you send us will be seen in full by Defra staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other Defra staff to help them plan future consultations.
2. When this consultation ends, we will summarise all responses and place this summary online available through our website at www.gov.uk. This summary will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details. If you require a hard copy of the summary, or have any other enquiries, please contact us by email at: StatisticsHoP@defra.gsi.gov.uk
3. We will store a copy of the responses received for at least six months from the date the consultation responses document has been published. This is so that the public can see them and copies of responses will be made available to the public on request. Also, members of the public may ask for a copy of responses under freedom of information legislation.
4. If you do not want your response - including your name, contact details and any other personal information – to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation.
5. Please note, if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, that won't count as a confidentiality request.
6. Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for this information under freedom of information legislation. But, because of the law, we cannot promise that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

Comments and Complaints

If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to: Defra Consultation Co-ordinator, Room 629, 9 Millbank, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR; or email consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to consider and respond to this consultation. We welcome your views and comments. If you have any queries, please contact us as above.

Yours Faithfully

Defra Head of Profession for Statistics team

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs