

Dr Sarah Cumbers, chief executive of the Royal Statistical Society, responding to the Devereux Review of the Office for National Statistics, the response from the UK Statistics Authority and Cabinet Office, and the ONS plan for economic statistics, said:

“This review offers an opportunity for a reset for the ONS, given the challenges it has faced in recent years. Holding both positions of National Statistician and head of the ONS is a mighty task so splitting the role – at least in the short term – is welcome. This will ensure that a smooth path to recovery for the ONS can be prioritised while the National Statistician can act as an independent figurehead, renewing confidence in statistics across the UK.

“It’s right that economic statistics are now prioritised to ensure the issues identified are addressed, and I welcome the new and transparent approach ONS has taken in setting out clearly the task ahead.

“Like many public sector bodies, the ONS is operating in the context of budget constraints, and it is important that wider societal needs for data are appropriately prioritised. I welcome the commitment to working with users of statistics as the governance of the system and ONS moves forward.”

Notes to editors

- The review and accompanying documents can be found here:
<https://uksa.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/news/devereux-review-of-the-office-for-national-statistics-published/>
- The [Royal Statistical Society \(RSS\)](#), founded in 1834 is a charity which promotes statistics, data and evidence for the public good. We are one of the world’s leading learned societies and the only UK professional body for all statisticians and other data professionals.