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Public Confidence in Official Statistics 2021– Technical Report

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The Public Confidence in Official Statistics (PCOS) survey provides an insight into the knowledge and opinions of the British public on official statistics, including their knowledge of, use of and trust in these statistics.

The research was commissioned by the UK Statistics Authority (the Authority), an independent body at arm's length from Government. Its executive office, the Office for National Statistics (ONS), is the UK's National Statistical Institute and largest producer of official statistics. The Authority also has an independent regulatory function (Office for Statistics Regulation, OSR), which ensures that statistics are produced and disseminated in the public interest and acts as a watchdog against misuse of statistics.

PCOS has been run intermittently over the last two decades including, most recently, in 2014, 2016 and 2018. From 2009 - 2018, PCOS was fielded as a module on NatCen's British Social Attitudes survey (BSA). However, when BSA 2020 was delayed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic which began in that year and switched from its traditional face-to-face methodology to an online survey, it was decided to field PCOS as a stand-alone survey.

1.2 Summary of methodology

The 2021 survey was designed to allow comparisons to be made with previous waves of the survey including that fielded on BSA 2018.

In 2021 PCOS was run as a stand-alone push-to-web survey instead of as a face-to-face survey as in previous years. It was designed to encourage participants to complete the survey online but offered paper self-completion surveys to all non-responding households to maximise response and sample quality. Fieldwork took place between 15th October and 20th December 2021. Interviews were achieved with a representative sample of 3,398 adults aged 18 and over in Britain.

The move to online fieldwork does create a risk that any differences we identify between the results of the 2021 survey and those of previous waves of PCOS might, at least in part, be occasioned by the change of method rather than reflecting real change in public attitudes (for example as a result of the increased prominence of statistics in

the news as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic). Changing the way a survey is conducted brings a risk of both selection and measurement effects. Selection effects arise because different ways of collecting data have different coverage and response rates, meaning that the profile of people who complete a survey in one mode may differ from the profile of people who complete the survey in another mode. Measurement effects arise because people may answer the same question in different ways depending on how the question was administered. For example, people may respond to sensitive questions differently with or without an interviewer or choose different response options depending on whether they are reading them on screen or hearing them from an interviewer. In addition, the use of two modes of data collection (online and paper-self completion) in 2021, although considered necessary to improve the representativeness of the survey by giving those without internet access an opportunity to take part, may also have introduced some additional measurement differences.

However, PCOS 2021 has been designed to minimise as far as possible the impact of the change in mode on the comparability of the data over time. The target population and sampling frame are the same (see Section 2). Weighting has been used to correct for differences in sample composition and ensure that the 2021 survey is similarly representative of the underlying population of adults 18+ in Great Britain as previous surveys (see Section 5.3 and Section 7). Measurement differences between online and paper interviews are expected to be relatively small; both modes are similar in that they are self-completion and present information visually, whilst the paper questionnaire has been designed as far as possible to mimic the layout of the online questionnaire (see Section 3.3). Similarly, the PCOS questionnaire is considered well suited to adaptation to online administration; it does not contain long or complex questions, or questions on sensitive topics, which might be considered particularly prone to mode effects. The online questionnaire was designed in consultation with NatCen's Questionnaire Design and Testing Hub who have extensive experiencing of adapting face-to-face surveys for online administration (see Section 3.2 and 3.5).

Although we cannot be certain of the extent to which any changes (or lack thereof) in attitudes observed across time are down to real-world change or methodological change (or seek to quantify formally the extent of any mode effects) we expect the impact of methodological change on findings to be relatively small and are confident that comparisons can be made across survey years. If individual findings are considered to be particularly at risk from mode effects this will be flagged when reporting on the results of the survey.

This report provides further details on the survey methodology and presents headline findings from the survey (Section 8).

2 Sampling

2.1 Sample design

The precise sample design for the Public Confidence in Official Statistics (PCOS) 2021 survey varied somewhat from that used on the 2018 British Social Attitudes (BSA) survey given the move to online survey administration. However, the target population and the sampling frame used are comparable with BSA 2018 allowing comparisons to be made between years.

PCOS used a sample of addresses drawn from the Postcode Address File (PAF), a list of addresses (or postal delivery points) compiled by the Post Office. For practical reasons, the sample is confined to those living in private households. People living in institutions (though not in private households at such institutions) are excluded, as are households whose addresses were not on the PAF.

2.1.1 Selection of addresses

An unclustered sample of addresses was drawn from the PAF. Addresses located north of the Caledonian Canal and on the Isles of Scilly were excluded in order to be consistent with previous years. Prior to selection, all PAF addresses within England, Scotland and Wales were sorted by: (a) region; (b) population density; and (c) tenure profile (% owner occupation). A systematic (1 in N) random sample of addresses was then drawn. The list of sampled addresses was then split into a main sample and a reserve sample, the latter of which was to be issued if considered necessary to meet the target number of around 2,000 completed interviews. 8,300 addresses were selected for the main sample and 4,980 for the reserve sample.

A survey invite was sent to each sample address inviting completion of the survey online. There may be more than one dwelling unit and/or household at an address. Without an interviewer to administer the survey, a random selection of dwelling unit/household is not possible but, given that the overall proportion of such addresses is around 1%, this is generally considered to be a minor issue that is unlikely to lead to any systematic bias in the responding sample. Whichever household opened the invitation letter is effectively the selected household for the survey.

2.1.2 Selection of individuals

Up to two adults aged 18 or over at each sampled address were invited to take part in the survey. The survey invitation posted to each address contained two unique log ins for the web survey.

Although it is possible to provide instructions to randomly select one person per household in a push-to-web survey – as was previously done when PCOS was administered face-to-face - studies have shown that respondent compliance with the instructions is poor.¹ Inviting up to two people to complete the survey reduces the number of households in which selection is necessary (those with three or more adults) and reduces the associated risk of self-selection bias.

2.2 Reserve sample

To ensure that a minimum of 2,000 interviews would be achieved, it was decided to draw a reserve sample to be issued in the event that response rates were lower than anticipated.

The reserve sample was drawn in the same way, and at the same time, as the main sample. A total of 4,800 addresses were allocated between two reserve samples of 2,768 and 2,032 addresses respectively. The first of these reserve samples was issued part way through fieldwork (see Section 4).

¹ <http://the-sra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/social-research-practice-journal-issue-03-winter-2017.pdf>

3 Questionnaire

3.1 Overview

The majority of the Public Confidence in Official Statistics (PCOS) 2021 questionnaire was the same as the questionnaire fielded on British Social Attitudes (BSA) 2018 allowing comparisons to be made across survey years.

Some changes were made to optimise the survey for the new online and paper modes and to reflect real world developments, most notably the collection of new statistics on the COVID-19 pandemic. These changes are detailed below.

Full versions of the online and paper questionnaires can be found in Appendix A and Appendix B respectively. The questionnaire followed the broad structure below:

1. Opening individual questions
2. Experience of statistics generally
3. Awareness of and trust in organisations
4. Awareness of and trust in the Office for National Statistics (ONS)
5. Questions about specific statistics produced by ONS
6. Attitudes to statistics generally
7. Awareness of the UK Statistics Authority (the Authority) and Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR)
8. Closing demographic questions

Opening individual questions – respondents were asked to provide some basic information about themselves including: their age, sex and whether their gender identity is the same as it was at birth. Respondents were also asked about the number of adults (18+) and the number of children (below 18) in the household.

Experience of statistics generally – respondents were asked about how often they saw statistics in the news and on social media and how often they used statistics in their lives.

Awareness of and trust in organisations – respondents were asked about their awareness of a range of different institutions including Greenpeace, the Bank of England and the Department for Work and Pensions and their trust in institutions

including the Civil Service, the UK Parliament, the Government. These questions provide some context for questions asking about awareness of and trust in ONS.

Awareness of and trust in ONS – respondents were asked about their awareness of ONS, use of statistics produced by ONS and participation in ONS surveys.

Respondents were also asked for their level of trust in ONS statistics and the reasons for trusting/not trusting these statistics.

Questions about specific statistics produced by ONS – Respondents were asked about the following statistics produced by ONS.

- Census
- Consumer Prices Index (CPI)
- Employment and unemployment statistics
- Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- Crime statistics

For each of these statistics the survey asked respondents:

- Whether they had ever used the statistics
- Whether the change in the statistic over time reflected the changes in the UK
- Whether the statistics were free from political interference
- Whether the statistics provide useful information
- Whether the statistics were released quickly

For the first time in 2021 respondents were also asked these questions about COVID-19 statistics.

Attitudes to statistics generally – respondents were asked whether they consider statistics in general important, whether they are free from political interference, whether statistics are accurate, and whether government/newspapers present the statistics honestly.

Awareness of the Authority and OSR – respondents were asked about their knowledge of the Authority and OSR and for their views on the role the Authority should have in regulating official statistics.

Closing demographic questions – Information was collected on respondents' religion, ethnicity, economic status, housing tenure and internet usage.

3.2 Summary of changes since 2018

As far as possible, question wording was maintained between 2018 and 2021 to allow analysis of trends over time. However, there were some changes to the questionnaire. These changes can be broken down into the following types:

- Changes to facilitate the move to web and paper self-completion modes from a face-to-face interviewer-administered survey
- Changes to clarify questions for respondents following feedback from question testing (see Section 3.5)
- New questions for 2021

3.2.1 Adaptations for self-completion mode

In order to allow respondents to complete the survey themselves without the aid of the interviewer some minor edits to the questionnaire were made. The wording of question stems was amended to remove reference to the interviewer reading out questions whilst question instructions were updated, for example to remove references to show cards used in the face-to-face interview. The following changes were made to specific questions:

- **Aworg (awareness of different organisations):** This question was changed to a single 'code all that apply' question rather than respondents being asked about each organisation separately.
- **Questions asking about political interference:** A definition of 'political interference' was provided at every question using this term rather than being read out at the interviewer's discretion.
- **ConfNo (confidence that ONS would keep personal data secure)** This was asked as two separate questions in 2018; one for people who had taken part in ONS surveys and one for people who had not. In 2021 a single question was asked of everyone to simplify the routing for the paper questionnaire. It will still be possible to separate responses by survey participation in analysis.

3.2.2 Improvements to question wording

Some questions were amended to make them more appropriate for fielding in 2021 or in response to feedback obtained during usability testing (Section 3.5) or from the Authority.

- **ONSpa (whether respondent participated in ONS surveys):** The list of surveys offered was updated, for example to include mention of the COVID-19 Infection Study.
- **TrONSY, TrONSN (Reasons for (not) trusting ONS):** The list of response options was updated in consultation with the Authority.
- **CenUse, CPIUe, GDPUse (whether used census, CPI, GDP statistics):** Following feedback from usability testing, definitions of these statistic collections were added to the relevant question.
- **FULong, FUOfT (How long/recently use ONS statistics):** The routing for these questions was updated to be asked of everyone who used ONS frequently or occasionally rather than just (as in 2018) frequently.

3.2.3 Addition of new questions

Some questions asking about respondents' use of and attitudes towards COVID-19 statistics were added to the 2021 survey.

Some additional questions around respondent's attitudes towards statistics generally and their awareness of OSR were also added.

Demographic questions were added to the PCOS questionnaire given that, in 2021, PCOS was fielded as a stand-alone survey rather than as a module on a bigger survey. These demographic questions were based on those used for the BSA survey to maximise consistency with previous survey waves.

3.3 Differences Between Online and Paper Questionnaire

The online and paper questionnaire had the same content and, wherever possible, the layout of questions was maintained across modes. However, some differences in question format between the two modes were necessary to ensure the usability of the paper questionnaire and keep it to a reasonable length. The main differences in question layout between the web and paper versions of the questionnaire were:

- **Trust in institutions:** On the web these questions were presented with one institution per page whereas in the paper questionnaire a grid format was used to save space.

- **Reasons for trusting/not trusting ONS:** On the web respondents were first asked to pick up to 3 reasons and then, on a separate screen, to select the most important reason from among those options chosen at the previous question. On paper, the two questions were presented side by side with respondents asked to select up to three reasons in the left-hand column and then select the most important one of these reasons in the right-hand column.
- **Freedom from political interference:** The web version of the questionnaire included a definition of 'political interference' at every question where the term was used. In the paper questionnaire this definition appeared just the first time the term was used.
- **Economic activity:** Respondents were asked what their main activity had been in the past week. In the online survey they were asked about their activity since a particular date (calculated by the interview programme based on the date of the interview). In the paper survey they were asked about 'in the seven days ending last Sunday'.
- **Internet use:** The paper version of the question on 'frequency of internet use' had a 'do not have access to the internet' option which was not displayed to people completing the survey online.

3.4 Don't know responses

Neither the online nor paper questionnaires displayed 'don't know' or 'prefer not to say' options at individual questions. However, it was made clear at the start of both questionnaires that respondents could skip any question. On skipping a question, online respondents could select either 'don't know' or 'prefer not to say'. If a respondent skipped a question in the paper questionnaire this was recorded as 'not answered' and subsequently treated as 'don't know' in all analyses.

The approach to recording 'don't know' responses was the same in 2021 as in 2018, that is 'don't know' responses were hidden from respondents initially. Respondents were not prompted to choose 'don't know' responses by being shown them on showcards/in the questionnaire but were allowed to skip questions (online/paper) or spontaneously give a 'don't know' response (face-to-face) to move on. We would therefore have anticipated similar levels of 'don't know' responses across modes.

However, it appears that the proportion of people with ‘don’t know’ / ‘not answered’ responses on key questions about awareness and knowledge of ONS and the Authority is significantly lower in 2021 compared to 2018 (see Section 8 for specific examples). This could be a genuine increase in awareness brought about, for example, by the increased prominence of statistics during the COVID-19 pandemic. It may also be the result of PCOS respondents – who have chosen to take part in a survey focusing on survey statistics – being more engaged with the topic, and therefore willing to give an opinion, compared with respondents to the more general BSA survey.

It is not possible to know for certain what the ‘don’t know’ rate would have been had the 2021 survey been administered in the same way as previous years or the extent to which the difference represents differences in sample composition. To ensure the best like for like comparison, and to control for differences in the proportion of people giving a response across the two years, time-series comparisons in the headline report focus on comparing responses just among those who were able to give an opinion in each year, excluding any ‘don’t know’ or other missing responses.

3.5 Usability testing

As the interview mode changed in 2021, prior to the start of the mainstage fieldwork PCOS underwent usability testing. This testing focused only on the web version of the questionnaire. The core aspects of the questionnaire the Authority wanted to test were as follows:

- Whether respondents had any issues with an online interview.
- Whether respondents had any problems answering the gender and gender identify questions.
- Whether respondents understood the word ‘use’ the way the Authority intend them to in questions asking about the use of statistics throughout the questionnaire (e.g. ONSus).
- Whether respondents could distinguish between the phrase ‘statistics’ and ‘figures’.

- Confirm for both TrONSY/TrONSN whether respondents could answer the question, whether there were any missing options and if respondents had any issues with the phrase 'vested interest'.
- For the questions on specific statistics, whether these should be asked on one screen (using a collapsible grid) or as a single question per page.
- Confirm what respondents understood by the phrase 'official statistics'.

Researchers from NatCen's Questionnaire Design and Testing Hub completed 10 60-minute interviews with respondents between 8th September and 17th September 2021. Interviews were completed virtually using MS Teams and with the respondent sharing their screen with the interviewer. For participating in the testing, the respondents received a £30 high street voucher.

Interviewees were recruited using non-probability sampling and an external recruitment agency to fulfil quotas by age, sex, and educational qualification. Tables 3.1 and 3.2 give some more information on the characteristics of respondents.

Table 3.1 Number of completed user interviews by sex and age

	Male	Female	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Number of completed interviews	5	5	2	4	2	2

Table 3.2 Number of completed user interviews by highest level of education and frequency of internet use

	GSCE or below	A-levels or higher	Daily internet use	Weekly use	Less than weekly use
Number of completed interviews	5	5	8	1	1

Following fieldwork, a debrief was conducted between the research team at NatCen and the Authority to discuss the result of these interviews and the implications for the questionnaire. The key findings of the cognitive interviews were as follows:

- Broadly respondents were able to complete the survey. However, it was not always clear that respondents could answer 'don't know' or 'prefer not to say'.
- Across all 10 respondents there were no concerns answering the gender and gender identity questions.
- There was some confusion over the word 'use' at ONSus. For some respondents this was defined very broadly and for others more narrowly.
- Respondents often were not able to make a clear distinction between the words 'statistics' and 'figures' in question wording, although some highlighted that this was confusing.
- Respondents did not feel they needed any other options at TrONSY/TrONSN. For the term 'vested interest', respondents understood that it meant that the government/ONS has an ulterior motive in the data or that they were covering the truth.
- Respondents did not report any preference between the collapsible grid and single question per page. Some respondents found the single screen questions easier for smart phones, giving it a slight preference.
- Respondents did not understand the phrase 'official statistics' and they were uncertain what made a statistic 'official'.

In response to these findings from the usability testing the following changes were made to the questionnaire before the start of the main fieldwork:

- Included a screen at the beginning of the online survey to inform respondents that the 'don't know' and 'prefer not to say' options were hidden but available. This also updated them on how to access these options.
- For ONSus, given the confusion around the word 'use' the wording tested in 2021 'Have you ever used statistics produced by ONS?' was dropped and the 2018 wording returned to 'Have you ever used or referred to statistics produced by ONS for any purpose, such as study, work, or personal interest?'.
- Across the whole survey, the word 'statistics' was used instead of 'figures'.

- No additional options were added to TrONSY/TrONSN based on the respondent feedback. 'Vested interest' was kept in the question to match previous years of the survey.
- Based on feedback from the Authority, the statistic-specific questions were formatted for one question per page rather than using collapsible grids.
- In order to help define official statistics (as well as provide some more information about the specific statistics) some further information was provided for respondents defining and clarifying the relevant statistics each question was asking about.

4 Fieldwork Procedures

4.1 Fieldwork period and modes

Fieldwork took place between October and December 2021. Both the main and reserve samples were issued. The reserve sample was issued despite the fact that response rate targets for the main sample were met (see Section 5.1) in order to boost the number of completed interviews and enable greater sub-group analysis.

Sampled addresses were initially directed to an online survey. However, as not all households have access to the internet, reminder mailings were sent out which gave people the option to complete a paper version of the questionnaire.

Invitation letters for the main sample to complete the web survey were sent out to respondents on 14th October with a reminder sent on 20th October.² Paper questionnaires were issued on 29th October to people who had not yet responded online. Invitation letters for the reserve sample were sent out to respondents on 17th November with paper questionnaires sent out on 7th December. Fieldwork ended on 20th December.

4.2 Contact strategy

The main sample were contacted up to three times. All sample members received letters 1 and 2. Letter 3 was sent to households where fewer than two online responses had been received at the time of mailing.

The reserve sample received Letter 1 and Letter 3 only. The number of reminders was reduced for the reserve sample in order to limit the amount of time fieldwork needed to be extended to accommodate the reserve sample.

- Letter 1 – Invitation letter and survey leaflet.
- Letter 2 – Reminder letter.
- Letter 3 - Reminder letter 2 and paper questionnaire.

All communications had NatCen branding and were signed by a NatCen researcher, rather than someone from the UK Statistics Authority (the Authority), in order to promote the survey's independence.

² The first interview was achieved on 15th October

4.2.1 Invitation letter

Initial contact with respondents was via a letter inviting them to participate in the Public Confidence in Official Statistics (PCOS) survey 2021. This letter, which can be seen in Appendix C, contained a summary of what the survey entailed, the role of the Authority in the study, and answered some frequently asked questions that the respondents may have had about why they were selected and what would happen to their data.

The letter contained details of the survey website and access codes as well as a link to a participant web page on the NatCen website and a link to the project privacy notice.

4.2.2 Survey leaflet

To help respondents better understand the survey and encourage participation an information leaflet was included alongside the invitation letter. This leaflet included more details about the survey as well as some of the findings from previous waves of PCOS. This leaflet is available in Appendix D.

4.2.3 Reminder 1

The first reminder was sent seven days after the invitation and contained similar information to the invitation letter. The messaging at the start of the letter varied across the invitation and reminder letters however, stressing different reasons for the importance of the survey, in order to try and encourage participation from as many people as possible (see Appendix E).

Reminder 1 was sent to all addresses from the main sample and again contained two log ins for the web survey.

4.2.4 Reminder 2

After a further seven days, and 14 days after the invitation letter was sent, a second reminder was sent (see Appendix F). This letter was sent only to addresses that had not yet returned two completed questionnaires.

If the address had not yet returned any completed interviews the second reminder contained both of the original web log ins. If one person at the address had already completed the survey only the other, unused, log in was included in the reminder letter.

The second reminder letter also included a paper version of the questionnaire (Appendix B) along with a pre-paid envelope for respondents to complete the survey on paper rather than online. As with the web log ins addresses were sent either one or two

paper questionnaires depending on whether anyone in the household had already returned a completed questionnaire.

4.3 Incentives and thank you letters

In order to encourage respondents to take part in the study, respondents were offered a £10 Love2Shop voucher for completing the survey.

Where respondents provided an email address, they were sent a 'Thank You' email (Appendix H). The email expressed the appreciation of the Authority and issued each respondent a unique online voucher code to be redeemed.

For respondents that did not offer an email address, a 'Thank You' letter was sent out via the post. This letter again directed respondents to an online voucher code.

However, it also offered respondents the opportunity to call the NatCen Freephone team to be issued a physical voucher. This thank you letter can be found in Appendix G.

4.4 Survey length

For the online survey the median completion time was 10.85 minutes. The mean completion time was 11.49 minutes.³ Minimum survey length was 3.37 minutes and maximum length 30.04 minutes.

³ This figure for the mean survey length is calculated using 2,386 interviews, all completed web cases.

5 Response Rates and Sample Composition

This section of the report discusses the response rate achieved on the Public Confidence in Official Statistics (PCOS) 2021 survey and the quality of the achieved sample, that is how well the final sample represents the underlying population. The response rate achieved in 2021 was lower than for the British Social Attitudes survey (BSA) 2018. This is as expected given the move from face-to-face to online fieldwork. However, as detailed below, the quality of the final weighted samples is broadly comparable, suggesting we can be confident in making comparisons across survey years.

5.1 Response rates

When discussing fieldwork figures in this section, response rates are referred to in two different ways:

- **Household response rate** – This is the percentage of households contacted as part of the survey in which at least one interview was completed.
- **Individual-level response rate** – This is the estimated response rate among all adults that were eligible to complete the survey.

In total across the main and reserve samples 11,067 addresses were sampled, from which 3,398 interviews were achieved having removed 59 cases following validation checks (see Section 6). Of these 3,398 interviews 2,794 (82%) came from the main sample and 604 (18%) from the reserve sample.

Overall, at least one interview was completed with 2,379 households, which represents an unadjusted household response rate of 21.5%. In an online survey of this nature no information is known about the reason for non-response in each individual household. However, it can be assumed that around 9% of addresses in the sample were not residential and were therefore ineligible to complete the survey. Once ineligible addresses are removed, the adjusted household response rate is 23.6%.

In total, 3,398 individuals completed the survey. Assuming an average household size of 1.9 adults⁴, this represents an unadjusted individual-level response rate of 16.2%.

⁴ ONS mid-year population estimates (mid-2019) (ONS, 2020); ONS Labour Force Survey (ONS, 2021).

Once ineligible addresses are removed, the adjusted individual-level response rate is 17.8%.

The response rate among the reserve sample was slightly lower than for the main sample, possibly because the fieldwork period was slightly shorter and there was one fewer reminder letter sent (see Section 4.2). However, the composition of the achieved reserve sample looks to be in line with that of the main sample (see Section 5.3).

Table 5.1 Response rates for main, reserve and overall sample

	Main Sample	Reserve Sample	Overall Sample
Issued addresses	8,300	2,767	11,067
Assumed eligible households	7,553	2,518	10,071
Assumed eligible adults	14,351	4,784	19,135
Responding households	1,943	436	2,379
Responding adults	2,794	604	3,398
Responding adults: Online responses	1,924	462	2,386
Responding adults: Paper responses	870	142	1,012
Adjusted household response rate	25.7%	17.3%	23.6%
Adjusted individual response rate	19.5%	12.6%	17.8%

5.2 Break-offs

A break-off occurs when a participant enters the online questionnaire but does not complete it. Software allows this abandoned survey data to be captured. These data can be analysed and used to identify problems with the survey, formatting issues on devices (which can arise on an ad-hoc basis due to device updates), indicate questions that respondents find difficult to answer or that there may be technical issues with. It is possible to quantify an overall break-off rate by dividing the number who abandoned the survey by the number who started the questionnaire.

A total of 103 respondents entered the online questionnaire but did not complete it. This is a break-off rate of 4% for people who entered the online survey. This is lower

than many other online surveys⁵ and probably reflects the fact that the PCOS questionnaire was relatively short. There was no one point in the questionnaire where respondents were particularly likely to break off.

5.3 Sample composition

The composition of the final sample – and the extent to which it is representative of the underlying population – is an important component of survey quality. This section shows the breakdown of the 2021 sample by mode (online vs paper) and whether the participant was part of the main or reserve sample. Table 5.2 shows that 30% of respondents completed the survey on paper.

Table 5.2 Unweighted web/paper and main/reserve sample distribution in PCOS 2021 data

	Number of completed interviews	Percentage of total completed interviews
Web complete	2,386	70
Paper complete	1,012	30
Main sample	2,794	82
Reserve sample	604	18
<i>Total</i>	3,398	100

⁵For example the [Survey of Londoners 2019](#) had a break-off rate of 8.2%, similar to the [Active Lives survey 2019](#) (8.8%).

As expected, the composition of the paper sample differs from the composition of the online sample. Offering paper as an alternative mode will have helped to address some potential biases in the online-only sample (e.g. the overrepresentation of people with a degree) although it will have exacerbated others (e.g. the overrepresentation of older people). Compared with people who completed online, people completing the survey on paper were more likely to be from older age groups, White, and Christian and were less likely to be degree educated or in professional/managerial jobs (Table 5.3).

Table 5.3a Sex and age profile of achieved sample (unweighted): Online vs paper

	Percentage of online completes	Percentage of paper completes
Sex: Male	47	44
Sex: Female	53	56
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>2,383</i>	<i>1,008</i>
Age: 18-24	5	1
Age: 25-34	17	4
Age: 35-44	18	8
Age: 45-54	18	11
Age: 55-64	17	18
Age: 65+	25	57
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>2,368</i>	<i>998</i>

**Table 5.3b Education and occupation profile of achieved sample (unweighted):
Online vs paper**

	Percentage of online completes	Percentage of paper completes
Highest qualification: Degree	45	26
Highest qualification: Higher education below degree	14	16
Highest qualification: A level or equivalent	14	13
Highest qualification: Below A level	19	26
Highest qualification: Other qual	2	3
Highest qualification: No qualification	6	16
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>2,344</i>	<i>970</i>
Managerial & professional occupations	56	45
Intermediate occupations	12	10
Employers in small org; own account workers	1	2
Lower supervisory & technical occupations	6	9
Semi-routine & routine occupations	9	12
Occupation not classifiable	15	21
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>2,386</i>	<i>1,012</i>

Table 5.3c Ethnicity and religion profile of achieved sample (unweighted): Online vs paper

	Percentage of online completes	Percentage of paper completes
Ethnicity: White	88	95
Ethnicity: Other ethnicity	12	5
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>2,304</i>	<i>968</i>
Religion: No religion	41	24
Religion: Christian, all denominations	51	72
Religion: Other religion	7	4
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>2,323</i>	<i>995</i>

Table 5.4 shows that, although the response rate to the reserve sample was lower than that for the main sample, this does not appear to have had a negative impact on the representativeness of the sample. The characteristics of the main and reserve samples were similar.

Table 5.4a Age and sex profile of achieved sample (unweighted): Main vs reserve samples

	Percentage of main sample	Percentage of reserve sample
Sex: Male	46	47
Sex: Female	54	53
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>2,788</i>	<i>603</i>
Age: 18-24	4	4
Age: 25-34	13	14
Age: 35-44	15	15
Age: 45-54	16	16
Age: 55-64	16	14
Age: 65+	36	37
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>2,765</i>	<i>601</i>

**Table 5.4b Education and occupation profile of achieved sample (unweighted):
Main vs reserve samples**

	Percentage of main sample	Percentage of reserve sample
Highest qualification: Degree	40	40
Highest qualification: Higher education below degree	14	16
Highest qualification: A level or equivalent	14	13
Highest qualification: Below A level	21	21
Highest qualification: Other qual	2	2
Highest qualification: No qualification	9	8
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>2,727</i>	<i>587</i>
Managerial & professional occupations	53	52
Intermediate occupations	11	13
Employers in small org; own account workers	2	2
Lower supervisory & technical occupations	7	6
Semi-routine & routine occupations	10	12
Occupation not classifiable	18	15
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>2,794</i>	<i>604</i>

Table 5.4c Ethnicity and religion profile of achieved sample (unweighted): Main vs reserve samples

	Percentage of main sample	Percentage of reserve sample
Ethnicity: White	90	93
Ethnicity: Other ethnicity	10	7
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>2,698</i>	<i>574</i>
Religion: No religion	36	37
Religion: Christian, all denominations	58	57
Religion: Other religion	5	6
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>2,729</i>	<i>589</i>

Finally, it is important to evaluate the quality of the achieved sample for PCOS 2021 relative to that of BSA2018 to be able to be confident that differences in findings observed across the two years are not being driven by differences in sample composition. Differences in the sample design between PCOS 2021 and previous surveys mean that differences between the unweighted samples for both surveys are to be expected. In particular, in previous surveys a single adult per household was selected for interview, whereas in PCOS 2021 up to two adults per household could take part. This means that the face-to-face unweighted sample was biased towards single person households. Conversely, the move to online interviewing and the lower overall response rate achieved in 2021 could potentially have biased the 2021 sample toward groups more likely to respond to surveys, for example better educated, more affluent respondents. Weighting can be used to correct for the possible underrepresentation of certain groups. and it is the quality of the final weighted samples, used in analysis, that is ultimately important.

Table 5.5 shows the profile of the weighted sample from the 2018 and 2021 surveys compared against the population of all adults in Great Britain for a series of key demographic variables: sex, age, number of adults per household, ethnicity, region, tenure, education. and economic activity.

Table 5.5a Weighted distribution of key demographic data: Sex and age

	PCOS 2021	BSA 2018	National estimates
Sex: Male	48.8%	51.2%	48.9%
Sex: Female	51.2%	48.8%	51.1%
<i>Unweighted base</i>	3,391	1,968	
Age: 18-24	10.4%	10.6%	10.6%
Age: 25-34	17.1%	18.6%	17.0%
Age: 35-44	16.1%	15.6%	16.0%
Age: 45-54	16.9%	17.4%	16.8%
Age: 55-64	15.8%	15.1%	15.8%
Age: 65+	23.7%	22.8%	23.7%
<i>Unweighted base</i>	3,366	1,965	

Source of national figures: ONS mid-year population estimates 2020 (published 2021), includes those over 18 and over

Table 5.5b Weighted distribution of key demographic data: Region

	PCOS 2021	BSA 2018	National estimates
North East	4.2%	4.3%	4.2%
North West	11.1%	10.6%	11.3%
Yorkshire and the Humber	8.5%	8.9%	8.5%
East Midlands	7.5%	7.7%	7.5%
West Midlands	9.1%	9.2%	9.1%
East	9.6%	10.2%	9.6%
London	13.5%	13.4%	13.5%
South East	14.1%	13.5%	14.1%
South West	8.9%	8.7%	8.8%
Wales	4.9%	4.9%	4.9%
Scotland	8.6%	8.6%	8.6%
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>3,398</i>	<i>1,968</i>	

Source of national figures: ONS mid-year population estimates 2020 (published 2021), includes those over 18 and over

Table 5.5c Weighted distribution of key demographic data: Household size and tenure

	PCOS 2021	BSA 2018	National estimates
Mean number of adults per household	1.6	1	1.9
Tenure: own outright	33.9%	31.6%	34.1%
Tenure: Buying with mortgage/shared ownership	33.8%	32.3%	33.7%
Tenure: Renting/other	32.3%	36.0%	32.2%
<i>Unweighted base</i>	3,353	1,954	

Source of national figures: ONS mid-year population estimates (mid-2019) (ONS, 2020); ONS Labour Force Survey (ONS, 2021). Please note that the national figure is for UK

Table 5.5d Weighted distribution of key demographic data: Ethnicity

	PCOS 2021	BSA 2018	National estimates
White	87.6%	84.5%	85.6%
Other ethnicity	12.4%	15.5%	14.4%
<i>Unweighted base</i>	3,272	1,956	

Source of national figures: ONS Annual Population Survey Oct 2020-2021. Please note this is a national figure for the UK figure

Table 5.5e Weighted distribution of key demographic data: Economic activity

	PCOS 2021	BSA 2018	National estimates
In employment	61.0%	60.0%	60.6%
ILO unemployed	7.2%	5.7%	2.6%
Inactive	31.8%	34.3%	36.8%
<i>Unweighted base</i>	3,268	1,848	

Source of national figures: Labour Force Survey Summary (seasonally adjusted). Please note data includes 16- and 17-year-olds

Looking at the data in Table 5.5 we can see that the weighted PCOS 2021 sample broadly matches the composition of both the previous PCOS survey as well as the national population. Given this, we can be relatively confident about making comparisons across survey years. It should, however, be borne in mind, that there may be other unobserved differences between the BSA 2018 and PCOS 2021 samples, for example in political engagement or statistical knowledge, which it has not been possible to control for in the weighting. These unobserved differences may in turn still have a role to play in explaining differences over time.

Weighting efficiency, another potential indicator of sample quality, is discussed further in Section 7.2.

5.4 Inclusivity and sub-group analysis

There is interest in being able to breakdown the results of the survey by a variety of demographic characteristics. However, sample sizes limit the extent to which it is possible to draw robust conclusions about some sub-groups of interest. This is particularly the case with respect to breakdowns by ethnicity and/or religion.

The achieved sample sizes for different ethnic and religious groups are given in Table 5.6. It can be seen that the sample sizes for non-white and non-Christian respondents are relatively small. This in turn means that the confidence intervals around estimates for these groups will be large. Tables 5.7 and 5.8 depict the confidence intervals for four key questions.

Tables 5.7 and 5.8 shows that, especially for groups with small sample sizes, the confidence intervals for individual ethnic groups or religions are quite wide. This means that the precision of the survey estimates for these groups is low. The grouped options at the bottom of the table have smaller confidence intervals and greater precision. However, using the combined groups severely restricts the analytical scope of the data and the conclusions that can be drawn about different ethnic or religious groups. For this reason, and to be in line with recommendations from the UK Statistics Authority's Inclusive Data Taskforce, data on ethnicity and religion has not been included in the analytical report.

Table 5.6a Ethnic profile of achieved sample (weighted)

	Number of completed interviews	Percentage of total completed interviews
English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	2,747	85
Irish	29	1
Any other White background	72	2
White and Black Caribbean	7	*
White and Black African	4	*
White and Asian	23	1
Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background	21	1
Indian	77	2
Pakistani	38	1
Bangladeshi	36	1
Chinese	23	1
Any other Asian background	8	*
African	39	1
Caribbean	15	*
Any other Black / African / Caribbean background	3	*
Arab	16	*
Any other ethnic group	91	3

Table 5.6b Religious profile of achieved sample (weighted)

	Number of completed interviews	Percentage of total completed interviews
No religion	1,300	39
Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)	1,746	53
Buddhist	24	1
Hindu	46	1
Jewish	24	1
Muslim	119	4
Sikh	21	1
Any other religion	31	1

Table 5.7a Confidence intervals for key questions for ethnicity full distribution

	Awareness of ONS – ‘Knew it well’	ONS usage – ‘Yes, frequently’	Trust in ONS – ‘Trust it a great deal’	Trust in ONS statistics – ‘Trust them greatly’
English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	(12.6-15.6)	(3.9-5.6)	(15.7-19.1)	(16.8-20.4)
Irish	(12.8-50.0)	(7.9-53.2)	(3.9-35.6)	(4.4-35.2)
Any other White background	(1.6-16.2)	(0.2-11.5)	(12.4-35.0)	(14.2-37.4)
White and Black Caribbean	-	-	-	-
White and Black African	(1.1-47.9)	-	(5.2-82.1)	-
White and Asian	(1.5-29.2)	(0.3-13.4)	(8.1-53.0)	(7.9-51.8)
Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background	(1.7-50.8)	(0.7-28.8)	(8.6-46.4)	(13.8-66.6)
Indian	(2.5-15.3)	(0.4-7.2)	(5.4-24.3)	(5.8-24.9)
Pakistani	(4.8-60.4)	(0.3-16.4)	(9.0-64.7)	(8.0-63.0)
Bangladeshi	(5.6-36.4)	(0.5-20.7)	(12.0-64.2)	(22.9-62.9)
Chinese	-	-	(6.2-58.6)	(5.7-57.8)
Any other Asian background	-	-	(1.5-61.8)	(4.4-70.8)
African	(4.3-38.2)	-	(14.8-61.7)	(12.5-58.1)
Caribbean	(6.5-44.8)	(0.6-27.2)	(3.2-40.7)	(5.2-43.6)
Any other Black / African / Caribbean background	(6.5-90.0)	-	-	-
Arab	(2.2-37.6)	-	(2.2-38.2)	(0.8-37.0)
Any other ethnic group	(5.8-19.6)	(3.5-24.4)	(12.1-35.2)	(17.4-47.4)

Table 5.7b Confidence intervals for key questions for ethnicity grouped

	Awareness of ONS – ‘Knew it well’	ONS usage – ‘Yes, frequently’	Trust in ONS – ‘Trust it a great deal’	Trust in ONS statistics – ‘Trust them greatly’
White	(12.5-15.5)	(4.0-5.8)	(15.8-19.1)	(17.0-20.4)
Other ethnicity	(7.5-16.5)	(1.8-7.2)	(16.1-28.6)	(18.5-31.8)

Table 5.8a Confidence intervals for key questions for religion full distribution

	Awareness of ONS – ‘Knew it well’	ONS usage – ‘Yes, frequently’	Trust in ONS – ‘Trust it a great deal’	Trust in ONS statistics – ‘Trust them greatly’
No religion	(13.2-17.9)	(3.9-6.6)	(17.0-22.4)	(18.8-24.6)
Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)	(10.8-14.3)	(3.3-5.4)	(14.5-18.5)	(15.2-19.4)
Buddhist	(3.6-36.1)	-	(6.9-61.8)	(5.9-57.3)
Hindu	(0.9-19.0)	(0.2-9.7)	(2.0-19.8)	(2.3-20.7)
Jewish	(4.0-41.9)	(1.3-43.9)	(7.4-62.1)	(11.2-62.4)
Muslim	(6.9-30.5)	(1.8-19.2)	(11.6-39.5)	(12.8-38.9)
Sikh	(0.5-27.0)	(0.5-25.8)	(1.3-48.8)	(4.4-50.5)
Any other religion	(1.1-18.8)	-	(8.5-51.2)	(18.0-71.4)

Table 5.8b Confidence intervals for key questions for religion grouped

	Awareness of ONS – ‘Knew it well’	ONS usage – ‘Yes, frequently’	Trust in ONS – ‘Trust it a great deal’	Trust in ONS statistics – ‘Trust them greatly’
No religion	(13.2-17.9)	(3.9-6.6)	(17.0-22.4)	(18.8-24.6)
Christian, all denominations	(10.8-14.3)	(3.3-5.4)	(14.5-18.5)	(15.2-19.4)
Other religion	(6.3-18.5)	(1.6-10.2)	(12.5-29.1)	(15.6-32.7)

6 Data Management

As in previous years of the survey, the Public Confidence in Official Statistics (PCOS) 2021 data underwent coding and editing, and rigorous quality assurance, to ensure that the final data were as accurate as possible. The exact nature of the coding and editing in 2021 reflected the switch to an online survey mode.

6.1 Editing

6.1.1 Edits applied to paper questionnaires

Unlike the web questionnaire, the paper questionnaires do not have computer-assisted routing. As a result, it was possible for some respondents to ignore the routing instructions and answer questions they shouldn't have. Equally, some respondents may have missed questions that they should have answered. Most of these errors were dealt with through standard edit rules. For any question that the paper respondent should have answered but did not, the question received a 'not answered' code (code 9 or 99 depending on the scale of the question). For those questions where the respondent has provided answer when they shouldn't have, the data was edited to be off route (code -1 or 97 'off route'). if a single code question had more than one category ticked, it was set to 'don't know' (code 8 or 88).

6.1.2 Household harmonisation

The PCOS interview was completed at an individual level with most of the questions relating to the respondent's behaviour or attitudes. However, some information was collected about the individual's household, for example the number of adults living in the household. With two respondents in a household it was possible for the household-level information provided to vary between individuals. For weighting purposes, it was necessary to harmonise this information across individuals.

In order to complete the harmonisation, a priority order was established to determine which answer within a household should be taken and applied to all interviews in a household.

1. Take the most common answer within a household

2. If needed, take the answer or the older respondent and apply to all members of the household
3. If both respondents are the same age, take the answer supplied by the respondent using the first household log in and apply to all members of the household
4. If information on household size was not given or did not match the number of valid questionnaires returned, the household size was forced to equal the number of returned questionnaires.

The number of cases for which harmonisation was required was:

- HHIAd: Number of adults aged 18+.
 - 85 cases harmonised because of inconsistent responses within household.
 - 15 harmonised because of missing information.
 - 108 harmonised because response did not match number of returned questionnaires.
- HHIchI: Number of children under 18.
 - 40 cases harmonised because of inconsistent responses within household.
- Tenure:
 - 156 cases harmonised because of inconsistent responses within household.
- Hedqual: Highest qualification of respondent.
 - 296 cases harmonised based on whether anyone in the household was educated to degree level or above.

6.2 Coding

6.2.1 Back coding

Throughout the questionnaire there were several occasions where respondents could answer 'other'. Often when respondents answered these questions, they gave an answer that could fit into one of the response options given in the questionnaire. To ensure that this data was captured correctly, NatCen's Data Unit reviewed the open ended 'other' responses and back coded them into one of the given response options where appropriate. The responses were also reviewed to see if additional response options were needed to capture common 'other' responses. This was not found to be the case for this survey.

The questions where back coding applied are outlined below:

- RspGender - What is the gender you identify as?
- TrONSYO – Other reasons for trust in ONS' statistics
- TrONSNO – Other reasons for not trusting in ONS' statistics other
- RelOther - Other religion
- EthOther - Other ethnicity
- EconFwOther - Other economic activity
- HEdQualOther - Other educational qualification
- TenureOther - Other tenure type

6.2.2 NS-SEC coding

Questions on the respondent's employment status were used to derive the five-category version of the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC). The derivation used information from the following variables in line with standard guidance from the Office for National Statistics.⁶

- EconFW - Economic activity in last 7 days
- EmpStat - Employment status
- Employ - Number of people work at the place where respondent works
- Superv - Responsibility for supervising the work of other employees
- EmpOCC - Type of work being completed

Using the data from the variables listed above, a new variable was derived that coded the data into the standard five-category NS-SEC variable which was then used in the analysis of the final data.

6

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/classificationsandstandards/otherclassifications/thenationalstatisticsocioeconomicclassificationnssecbasedonsoc2010>

6.3 Data quality checks

Without an interviewer to oversee the data collection process, self-completion surveys are susceptible to poor, duplicate, or falsified data. Because households were issued with two web log ins and up to two paper questionnaires it was possible for the same person within the household to have completed the survey twice or for a household to have returned more than two completed surveys. This could be done in error (for example someone completing the paper questionnaire after forgetting that they had already completed the survey online or thinking their data had not been received) or by individuals wishing to claim multiple incentives for completed questionnaires.

The following data quality checks were carried out to ensure that all of the data included in the final dataset was collected in a standardised way and from the right individuals.

6.3.1 Identification of speeders

One way to identify poor quality, or potentially falsified, data is by looking at the length of time taken to complete the questionnaire. An expected interview length for each respondent who completed the survey online was calculated based on the median interview length for someone following a given route through the questionnaire. Any cases where the actual interview length was less than 40% of the expected length were excluded from the final dataset. Seventeen cases were excluded for speeding.

6.3.2 De-duplication

Following removal of interviews identified as too short, the final data was cleaned to:

- Remove any duplicate questionnaires where it appeared from the data that the same individual had returned two questionnaires.
- Ensure that, after removal of duplicates, no more than two completed questionnaires per household were included in the final dataset.

Cases were treated as duplicates if there were two or more completed surveys where the same respondent name and/or email address was given.

Web completes were prioritised over paper completes and, within mode, the first completed survey was kept. Thirty-nine duplicate cases were removed along with three cases where there were more than two completed interviews per household.

6.4 Data outputs

6.4.1 Data files

A cleaned, weighted data files was sent to the UK Statistics Authority. This file contained all survey and derived variables, as well as information on which respondents had agreed to be recontacted.

6.4.2 Derived variables

In addition to the data captured by the questions in the survey some derived variables were created. These variables combine data from single or multiple questions to create measures required for analysis.

A full list of these variables is in Table 6.1.

Table 6.1 Derived variables produced for PCOS 202

Questionnaire variable name	Questionnaire variable label
TrONSWY_All	Most important reason for trusting ONS statistics
TrONSWN_All	Most important reason for not trusting ONS statistics
EmployStat	Employment status - Employed, self-employed, not in employment, other (not known)
RAgeCat	Age of respondent – 18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65+
HhTypeDv	Household type DV – single adult, 2 adults 0 children <18; 3+ adults no children, 1 adult + children, 2 adults + children, 3+ adults + children
TenureDv	Housing tenure summary DV – buying/own outright, shared ownership, renting, living rent free, other (not known)
CountryGrp	Country – Wales/Scotland combined

NSSEC	NSSEC - 5 category
ONSSurv_DV	Whether taken part in ONS survey – Yes/No
ONSaw_DV	How well know ONS (Including people who had not heard of ONS)

7 Weighting

7.1 Weighting Process

This section outlines the weighting process employed to ensure the final data are representative of the population. The precise weighting design followed for the Public Confidence in Official Statistics (PCOS) survey 2021 differs from that followed for the British Social Attitudes (BSA) 2018 survey where necessary to account differences in the sampling design, most notably the possibility of more than one person in a household taking part (see Section 2). However, the overall approach to weighting – that is to correct for different selection probabilities and potential non-response bias and to calibrate the final data to the underlying population of adults 18+ in Great Britain – is comparable across the two surveys.

Selection weights were not required for PCOS as there was no disproportionate probability of address selection in the sampling procedure. The weights instead focused on correcting for differences in i) the probability that a sampled household would respond (between-household non-response) ii) the probability that in a household with two or more adults, two adults would respond rather than just one (within-household non-response). After correcting for non-response, the final weights were calibrated to population totals.

7.1.1 Between-household non-response weights

Household non-response weights were calculated using a logistic regression model. Variables tested for association with household-level non-response included: census indicators of area age profile, education profile, employment profile, ethnicity, car ownership, population density, and indices of multiple deprivation. The final model included variables that significantly predicted household response: region, quintiles of owner occupancy rate, quintiles of education to degree level, and ACORN group. The full model is shown below.

The predicted probabilities from the model were used to create household non-response weights. These were checked and trimmed at the 99th percentile to remove outliers and improve efficiency.

Table 7.1 Household non-response model

	Odds Ratio	p-value	Confidence Interval
GOR		0.001	
North east	1.00	-	-
North west	1.160	0.277	(0.89, 1.52)
Yorks and the Humber	1.254	0.110	(0.95, 1.66)
East midlands	1.379	0.025	(1.04, 1.83)
West midlands	1.216	0.170	(0.92, 1.61)
East of England	1.222	0.153	(0.93, 1.61)
London	0.917	0.577	(0.68, 1.24)
South east	1.145	0.313	(0.88, 1.49)
South west	1.468	0.006	(1.12, 1.93)
Scotland	0.933	0.636	(0.7, 1.24)
Wales	1.151	0.372	(0.85, 1.56)
ACORN groups		0.041	
Rural residents	1.00	-	-
Cosmopolitans	0.981	0.891	(0.74, 1.3)
Ethnicity central	0.868	0.417	(0.62, 1.22)
Multicultural metropolitans	0.800	0.056	(0.64, 1.01)
Urbanites	0.891	0.177	(0.75, 1.05)
Suburbanites	1.106	0.288	(0.92, 1.33)
Constrained city dwellers	0.785	0.081	(0.6, 1.03)
Hard pressed living	1.028	0.787	(0.84, 1.26)
Quintiles of education to degree level		<0.001	
1	1.00	-	-
2			(0.95, 1.32)
	1.119	0.182	
3	1.288	0.004	(1.08, 1.53)
4	1.439	0.000	(1.21, 1.72)
5	1.660	0.000	(1.38, 2)
Quintiles of owner occupation rate		0.020	
1	1.00	-	-
2	1.109	0.249	(0.93, 1.32)
3	1.163	0.133	(0.96, 1.42)
4	1.397	0.002	(1.13, 1.73)
5	1.413	0.007	(1.1, 1.82)
Intercept	0.157	<0.001	

7.1.2 Within-household non-response weights

Within-household response weights were calculated using a logistic regression model weighted by the household non-response weights. The model estimated differences in the probability of more than one adult within a household responding to the survey. It was run for households that provided at least one response and had more than one eligible adult. As well as the variables from the first non-response model, this model included additional variables harmonised at household level such as tenure and number of adults in the household. The final model included variables that significantly predicted more than one response from responding households: region, tenure,

interview mode, quintiles of NS-SEC, quintiles of owner occupation rate, quintiles of ACORN groups A and B, and urban-rural status. The full model is shown below.

The predicted probabilities from the model were used to create within-household non-response weights. These were checked for outliers and left untrimmed, then scaled and combined with the household non-response weights. The combined non-response weights were also checked for outliers and left untrimmed.

7.1.3 Calibration weights

The final step in the weighting process was to calibrate the combined non-response weights to population estimates. These were taken from Labour Force Survey and ONS mid-year population estimates for those aged over 18. Calibration weighting adjusts the weights so that characteristics of the weighted achieved sample match population estimates, thus reducing residual bias. For PCOS, five calibration variables were used: sex by age bands, region, education level by age, tenure, and ethnicity. After calibration, the top three weights were trimmed to improve efficiency and the final weights were scaled to the responding sample size ($n=3,398$).

Table 7.2 Within-household non-response model

	Odds Ratio	p-value	Confidence Interval
GOR		0.502	
North east	1.00	-	-
North west	0.760	0.392	(0.41, 1.43)
Yorks and the Humber	0.752	0.385	(0.4, 1.43)
East midlands	0.782	0.461	(0.41, 1.5)
West midlands	0.798	0.488	(0.42, 1.51)
East of england	0.852	0.621	(0.45, 1.61)
London	0.593	0.103	(0.32, 1.11)
South east	0.623	0.130	(0.34, 1.15)
South west	0.546	0.062	(0.29, 1.03)
Scotland	0.815	0.536	(0.43, 1.56)
Wales	0.608	0.167	(0.3, 1.23)
Quintiles of NS-SEC		0.017	
1	1.00	-	-
2	1.433	0.150	(0.88, 2.34)
3	1.975	0.026	(1.08, 3.6)
4	2.836	0.004	(1.39, 5.78)
5	1.701	0.195	(0.76, 3.8)
Quintiles of ACORN groups A and B		0.038	
1	1.00	-	-
2	0.540	0.013	(0.33, 0.88)
3	0.513	0.027	(0.28, 0.93)
4	0.354	0.004	(0.18, 0.71)
5	0.436	0.043	(0.2, 0.97)
Quintiles of owner occupation rate		0.090	
1	1.00	-	-
2	0.666	0.024	(0.47, 0.95)
3	0.724	0.080	(0.5, 1.04)
4	0.938	0.749	(0.63, 1.39)
5	0.803	0.279	(0.54, 1.20)
Tenure		0.079	
Ownership - outright	1.00	-	-
Ownership - mortgage or shared	0.771	0.036	(0.61, 0.98)
Renting/other	0.787	0.104	(0.59, 1.05)
Urban-rural status		0.078	
Rural	1.00	-	-
Urban	1.281	0.078	(0.97, 1.69)
Survey mode		<0.001	
Paper	1.00	-	-
Online	0.543	<0.001	(0.42, 0.70)
Intercept	4.582	<0.001	

Table 7.3 Unweighted and weighted sample composition

	Unweighted respondents		Weighted respondents		Population estimates	
Sex						
Male	1553	45.7%	1656	48.7%	25,158,646	48.9%
Female	1838	54.1%	1737	51.1%	26,276,996	51.1%
Prefer not to answer	7	0.2%	6	0.2%		
Region						
North East	127	3.7%	142	4.2%	2,147,125	4.2%
North West	392	11.5%	379	11.1%	5,795,875	11.3%
Yorks. & Humber	310	9.1%	288	8.5%	4,351,987	8.5%
East Midlands	299	8.8%	255	7.5%	3,857,688	7.5%
West Midlands	307	9.0%	308	9.1%	4,655,599	9.1%
East of England	349	10.3%	325	9.6%	4,912,789	9.6%
London	323	9.5%	458	13.5%	6,954,893	13.5%
South East	494	14.5%	479	14.1%	7,234,655	14.1%
South West	372	10.9%	301	8.9%	4,546,239	8.8%
Scotland	253	7.4%	294	8.6%	4,439,078	8.6%
Wales	172	5.1%	168	4.9%	2,539,714	4.9%
Age						
18-24	137	4.0%	350	10.3%	5,444,794	10.6%
25-34	433	12.7%	574	16.9%	8,752,204	17.0%
35-44	511	15.0%	541	15.9%	8,253,347	16.0%
45-54	533	15.7%	568	16.7%	8,666,462	16.8%
55-59	257	7.6%	287	8.5%	4,383,348	8.5%
60-64	328	9.7%	246	7.2%	3,746,798	7.3%
65+	1167	34.3%	799	23.5%	12,188,689	23.7%
Age missing	32	0.9%	32	0.9%		

7.2 Estimated effective sample size and design effect

The effect of the sample design on the precision of the survey estimates is indicated by the effective sample size (neff). The effective sample size measures the size of an (unweighted) simple random sample that would achieve the same precision (standard error) as the design that has been implemented. The efficiency of a sample is given by the ratio of the effective sample size to the actual sample size.

Weighting efficiency provides one measure of the representativeness of a survey sample. A perfectly representative sample will have a weighting efficiency of 100%. In contrast, a weighting efficiency of 50% indicates that a lot of difference in the likelihood

of different groups responding was observed and the compensatory weighting was extensive. Although extensive weighting of this type will usually reduce nonresponse bias, it will also usually reduce the stability of the survey estimates (i.e. the standard errors will be wider because the effective sample size will be reduced) making it harder to draw robust conclusions about the underlying population.

The final PCOS weights have a design factor (DEFT) of 1.21, design effect (DEFF) of 1.45, and produce an estimated effective sample size (NEFF) of 2,337. Their efficiency is 69%. For comparison, the BSA 2018 PCOS module (n=1,968) weights have a DEFT of 1.15, a DEFF of 1.33, a NEFF of 1,478, and efficiency of 75%.

The push-to-web survey in 2021 was slightly less efficient than the face-to-face survey run in 2018 reflecting the lower response rate and 'harder to reach' respondents being less likely to take part online. A weighting efficiency of 69% is nevertheless considered reasonable for a general population survey. In addition, because of the larger starting sample which it was feasible to administer via the web compared with face-to-face, the final effective sample size remains larger in 2021 compared with 2018 despite the lower weighting efficiency, enabling us to be confident in the precision of the estimates the push-to-web survey provides and make comparisons across survey years.

8 Summary Tables

The following tables show the breakdown of responses to Public Confidence in Official Statistics (PCOS) survey questions by age, sex, education and NS-SEC. Figures are for 2021 unless otherwise stated.

For questions repeated from 2018, figures for both 2018 and 2021 are presented along with associated confidence intervals and an indication of whether any change observed between 2018 and 2021 is statistically significant at the 5% level.

Comparisons focus on net levels of agreement/trust rather than distinguishing for example between those who strongly agree and those who tend to agree. There is some evidence that respondents are more likely to use the end points of response scales (and thereby express stronger opinions) when a survey is self-completion rather than face-to-face. Focusing on changes in net opinion avoids this possible measurement effect.

All figures presented here are inclusive of 'don't know' and 'prefer not to say' responses whereas findings in the headline report are presented exclusive of 'don't know' and 'prefer not to say' responses. It is not known whether the reduction in don't knows in 2021 is driven by a genuine increase in knowledge and awareness across the population or the self-selection of more engaged respondents into the 2021 responding sample. Controlling for potential differences in sample composition by focusing on those respondents able to give an opinion in each year represents the most appropriate way to isolate real world change. It should, however, be acknowledged that ignoring the reduction in 'don't knows' may potentially lead to underestimating the extent of change and the extent to which there has been a hardening of both positive and negative attitudes towards official statistics.

As noted in Section 3.4 there is a large difference in the level of 'don't know' responses in 2021 compared with 2018. As a result, the pattern of change over time observed after excluding 'don't know' responses may be different from that observed when looking at the whole sample inclusive of 'don't knows'. Differences between 2018 and 2021 are tested for statistical significance both including missing values (all respondents) and excluding them (all respondents able to give an opinion) and any differences between the two results noted.

‘**’ indicates a percentage <0.5 ‘-’ indicates a percentage= 0%

8.1 Awareness of statistics presented in the news or social media

Table 8.1 How often see statistics presented in the news, by age

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
Daily	28%	34%	42%	44%	51%	51%	43%
A few times a week	38%	26%	28%	32%	32%	28%	30%
A few times a month	8%	13%	14%	11%	7%	10%	11%
A few times a year	4%	5%	6%	5%	5%	6%	5%
Never	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%
I do not read or listen to the news	19%	19%	7%	5%	2%	3%	8%
Don't know	-	-	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>433</i>	<i>511</i>	<i>533</i>	<i>585</i>	<i>1,167</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.2 How often see statistics presented in the news, by sex

	Male	Female	Total
Daily	48%	38%	43%
A few times a week	29%	31%	30%
A few times a month	9%	12%	11%
A few times a year	5%	6%	5%
Never	3%	2%	3%
I do not read or listen to the news	6%	10%	8%
Don't know	*	*	*
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,553</i>	<i>1,838</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.3 How often see statistics presented in the news, by occupation

	Managerial and professional occupations	Intermediate occupations	Employers in small organisations; own account workers	Lower supervisory and technical occupations	Semi-routine and routine occupations	Total
Daily	50%	42%	47%	40%	27%	43%
A few times a week	29%	34%	40%	28%	33%	30%
A few times a month	9%	11%	3%	10%	11%	11%
A few times a year	4%	6%	6%	9%	9%	5%
Never	2%	2%	1%	4%	2%	3%
I do not read or listen to the news	5%	6%	2%	10%	17%	8%
Don't know	*	-	-	-	-	*
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,796</i>	<i>383</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>232</i>	<i>346</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.4 How often see statistics presented in the news, by education

	Degree	Higher education below degree	A level or equivalent	Below A level	Other qual	No qualification	Total
Daily	55%	45%	37%	37%	39%	34%	43%
A few times a week	28%	29%	34%	29%	29%	30%	30%
A few times a month	9%	12%	10%	12%	17%	12%	11%
A few times a year	3%	5%	7%	6%	6%	7%	5%
Never	1%	2%	2%	4%	5%	4%	3%
I do not read or listen to the news	3%	7%	10%	13%	4%	12%	8%
Don't know	*	-	*	*	-	*	*
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,320</i>	<i>487</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>690</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>299</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.5 How often see statistics on social media, by age

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
Daily	35%	28%	31%	25%	17%	10%	23%
A few times a week	35%	31%	29%	27%	25%	18%	26%
A few times a month	20%	20%	17%	17%	17%	10%	16%
A few times a year	5%	6%	6%	7%	9%	7%	7%
Never	3%	7%	8%	8%	9%	13%	9%
I do not read or listen to the news	2%	7%	9%	16%	24%	40%	19%
Don't know	-	1%	*	*	*	1%	*
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>433</i>	<i>511</i>	<i>533</i>	<i>585</i>	<i>1,167</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.6 How often see statistics on social media, by sex

	Male	Female	Total
Daily	25%	21%	23%
A few times a week	26%	26%	26%
A few times a month	15%	17%	16%
A few times a year	5%	8%	7%
Never	7%	10%	9%
I do not read or listen to the news	21%	17%	19%
Don't know	*	1%	*
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,553</i>	<i>1,838</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.7 How often see statistics on social media, by occupation

	Managerial and professional occupations	Intermediate occupations	Employers in small organisations; own account workers	Lower supervisory and technical occupations	Semi-routine and routine occupations	Total
Daily	27%	17%	27%	18%	20%	23%
A few times a week	27%	29%	32%	25%	25%	26%
A few times a month	15%	17%	8%	15%	21%	16%
A few times a year	7%	6%	6%	5%	6%	7%
Never	6%	10%	9%	13%	12%	9%
I do not read or listen to the news	17%	21%	19%	22%	17%	19%
Don't know	*	*	-	*	-	*
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	1,796	383	58	232	346	3,398

Base: All respondents

Table 8.8 How often see statistics on social media, by education

	Degree	Higher education below degree	A level or equivalent	Below A level	Other qual	No qualification	Total
Daily	28%	22%	25%	18%	20%	14%	23%
A few times a week	28%	27%	31%	23%	18%	20%	26%
A few times a month	15%	15%	18%	18%	17%	13%	16%
A few times a year	7%	8%	7%	6%	9%	4%	7%
Never	5%	10%	5%	11%	15%	19%	9%
I do not read or listen to the news	16%	19%	13%	23%	21%	30%	19%
Don't know	*	-	*	1%	-	1%	*
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,320</i>	<i>487</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>690</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>299</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

8.2 Use of statistics in daily life

Table 8.9 Agreement that In the past month statistics have helped me to make decisions about my life, by age

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
Strongly agree	13%	9%	12%	11%	9%	7%	10%
Tend to agree	42%	43%	42%	43%	42%	40%	42%
Tend to disagree	34%	31%	30%	30%	31%	31%	31%
Strongly disagree	11%	17%	15%	15%	16%	20%	16%
Don't know	-	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>433</i>	<i>511</i>	<i>533</i>	<i>585</i>	<i>1,167</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.10 Agreement that In the past month statistics have helped me to make decisions about my life, by sex

	Male	Female	Total
Strongly agree	11%	8%	10%
Tend to agree	41%	43%	42%
Tend to disagree	31%	31%	31%
Strongly disagree	15%	17%	16%
Don't know	1%	1%	1%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,553</i>	<i>1,838</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.11 Agreement that in the past month statistics have helped me to make decisions about my life, by education

	Degree	Higher education below degree	A level or equivalent	Below A level	Other qual	No qualification	Total
Strongly agree	16%	7%	8%	6%	6%	6%	10%
Tend to agree	49%	46%	40%	36%	31%	37%	42%
Tend to disagree	26%	27%	34%	36%	35%	31%	31%
Strongly disagree	8%	19%	17%	20%	27%	25%	16%
Don't know	1%	1%	1%	1%	-	2%	1%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,320</i>	<i>487</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>690</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>299</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.12: Agreement that in the past month statistics have helped me to make decisions about my life, by occupation

	Managerial and professional occupations	Intermediate occupations	Employers in small organisations; own account workers	Lower supervisory and technical occupations	Semi-routine and routine occupations	Total
Strongly agree	12%	7%	11%	7%	6%	10%
Tend to agree	46%	42%	35%	35%	39%	42%
Tend to disagree	30%	33%	45%	31%	31%	31%
Strongly disagree	12%	17%	9%	24%	23%	16%
Don't know	0%	1%	-	3%	1%	1%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,796</i>	<i>383</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>232</i>	<i>346</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

8.3 Awareness of ONS and other organisations

Table 8.13 To what extent knew ONS before this survey, by survey year

	2021	2021 confidence interval	2018	2018 confidence interval
I knew it well	13%	(11.9-14.7)	17%	(14.8-18.4)
I knew it somewhat	37%	(34.9-38.9)	30%	(27.7-32.3)
I have only heard the name	24%	(22.5-26.0)	22%	(19.7-24.1)
Not heard of it	25%	(22.8-27.0)	29%	(26.9-32.0)
Don't know	1%	(0.6-1.2)	2%	(1.6-3.0)

Base: All respondents (2021=3,398 2018=1,968)

All respondents: Significant increase between 2018 and 2021 in proportion agreeing that they knew ONS well or knew it somewhat before the survey ($p=0.045$).

All respondents able to give an opinion: No significant change between 2018 and 2021 in proportion agreeing that they knew ONS well or somewhat before the survey (48% vs 51%; $p=0.109$). The proportion reporting they knew it well decreased significantly (from 17% to 13%; $p=0.002$).

Table 8.14 To what extent knew ONS before this survey, by age

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
I knew it well	11%	12%	16%	16%	13%	12%	13%
I knew it somewhat	27%	33%	36%	39%	42%	40%	37%
I have only heard the name	17%	20%	23%	25%	25%	29%	24%
Not heard of it	45%	34%	25%	20%	19%	17%	25%
Don't know	-	*	1%	*	1%	2%	1%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>433</i>	<i>511</i>	<i>533</i>	<i>585</i>	<i>1,167</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.15 To what extent knew ONS before this survey, by sex

	Male	Female	Total
I knew it well	16%	11%	13%
I knew it somewhat	40%	34%	37%
I have only heard the name	21%	27%	24%
Not heard of it	22%	28%	25%
Don't know	1%	1%	1%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,291</i>	<i>1,416</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.16 To what extent knew ONS before this survey, by education

	Degree	Higher education below degree	A level or equivalent	Below A level	Other qual	No qualification	Total
I knew it well	24%	12%	11%	7%	7%	3%	13%
I knew it somewhat	44%	38%	36%	35%	32%	20%	37%
I have only heard the name	18%	26%	24%	27%	42%	31%	24%
Not heard of it	13%	23%	29%	30%	19%	45%	25%
Don't know	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,170</i>	<i>397</i>	<i>346</i>	<i>512</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>175</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.17 To what extent did you know ONS before this survey, by occupation

	Managerial and professional occupations	Intermediate occupations	Employers in small organisations own account workers	Lower supervisory and technical occupations	Semi-routine and routine occupations	Total
I knew it well	19%	11%	4%	5%	6%	13%
I knew it somewhat	43%	39%	40%	28%	26%	37%
I have only heard the name	22%	29%	35%	31%	23%	24%
Not heard of it	16%	21%	21%	35%	44%	25%
Don't know	1%	1%	-	1%	1%	1%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,565</i>	<i>313</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>153</i>	<i>213</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.18 Ever heard of organisation

	Greenpeace	Bank of England	Royal College of Nursing	IBM	DWP	ONS
Yes	86%	94%	78%	70%	90%	75%
No	14%	6%	22%	30%	10%	25%

Base: All respondents (3,398)

8.4 Awareness of the UK Statistics Authority and Office for Statistics Regulation

Table 8.19 To what extent knew the UK Statistics Authority before this survey, by survey year

	2021	2021 confidence interval	2018	2018 confidence interval
I knew it well	2%	(1.5-2.5)	2%	(1.4-2.7)
I knew it somewhat	17%	(15.7-18.8)	11%	(9.5-12.9)
I have only heard the name	28%	(26.3-30.2)	17%	(15.3-18.8)
Not heard of it	51%	(49.2-53.6)	60%	(57.8-62.7)
Don't know	1%	(0.9-1.8)	9%	(7.8-11.3)

Base: All respondents (2021=3,398 2018=1,968)

All respondents: Significant increase between 2018 and 2021 in proportion agreeing that they knew the Authority well or knew it somewhat before the survey ($p=0.000$).

All respondents able to give an opinion: Significant increase between 2018 and 2021 in proportion agreeing that they knew the Authority well or somewhat (from 14% to 19% $p=0.000$).

Table 8.20 To what extent knew the UK Statistics Authority before this survey, by age

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
I knew it well	1%	1%	3%	2%	3%	1%	2%
I knew it somewhat	9%	18%	19%	18%	17%	19%	17%
I have only heard the name	33%	27%	26%	22%	30%	31%	28%
Not heard of it	54%	54%	51%	56%	48%	47%	51%
Don't know	2%	0%	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>433</i>	<i>511</i>	<i>533</i>	<i>585</i>	<i>1,167</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.21 To what extent knew the UK Statistics Authority before this survey, by sex

	Male	Female	Total
I knew it well	3%	1%	2%
I knew it somewhat	20%	15%	17%
I have only heard the name	28%	29%	28%
Not heard of it	48%	54%	51%
Don't know	1%	1%	1%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,553</i>	<i>1,838</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.22 To what extent knew the UK Statistics Authority before this survey, by occupation

	Managerial and professional occupations	Intermediate occupations	Employers in small organisation; own account workers	Lower supervisory and technical occupations	Semi-routine and routine occupations	Total
I knew it well	3%	1%	-	2%	0%	2%
I knew it somewhat	20%	12%	21%	26%	11%	17%
I have only heard the name	27%	34%	36%	34%	28%	28%
Not heard of it	50%	53%	43%	36%	60%	51%
Don't know	1%	1%	-	2%	1%	1%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,796</i>	<i>383</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>232</i>	<i>346</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.23 To what extent knew the UK Statistics Authority before this survey, by education

	Degree	Higher education below degree	A level or equivalent	Below A level	Other qual	No qualification	Total
I knew it well	4%	2%	0%	1%	-	1%	2%
I knew it somewhat	21%	24%	13%	13%	26%	14%	17%
I have only heard the name	25%	30%	28%	33%	26%	26%	28%
Not heard of it	49%	43%	58%	51%	47%	57%	51%
Don't know	*	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,320</i>	<i>487</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>690</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>299</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.24 To what extent knew the Office for Statistics Regulation before this survey, by age

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
I knew it well	1%	2%	3%	2%	3%	1%	2%
I knew it somewhat	10%	16%	15%	16%	14%	16%	15%
I have only heard the name	19%	21%	23%	21%	28%	29%	24%
Not heard of it	68%	61%	58%	60%	55%	53%	58%
Don't know	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>433</i>	<i>511</i>	<i>533</i>	<i>585</i>	<i>1,167</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.25 To what extent knew the Office for Statistics Regulation before this survey, by sex

	Male	Female	Total
I knew it well	3%	1%	2%
I knew it somewhat	16%	14%	15%
I have only heard the name	23%	25%	24%
Not heard of it	58%	59%	58%
Don't know	1%	1%	1%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,553</i>	<i>1,838</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.26 To what extent knew the Office for Statistics Regulation before this survey, by occupation

	Managerial and professional occupations	Intermediate occupations	Employers in small organisation; own account workers	Lower supervisory and technical occupations	Semi-routine and routine occupations	Total
I knew it well	3%	0%	3%	1%	1%	2%
I knew it somewhat	15%	11%	12%	20%	14%	15%
I have only heard the name	24%	25%	32%	32%	23%	24%
Not heard of it	58%	62%	53%	45%	62%	58%
Don't know	0%	1%	-	3%	0%	1%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,796</i>	<i>383</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>232</i>	<i>346</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.27 To what extent knew the Office for Statistics Regulation before this survey, by education

	Degree	Higher education below degree	A level or equivalent	Below A level	Other qual	No qualification	Total
I knew it well	2%	2%	2%	2%	4%	1%	2%
I knew it somewhat	15%	19%	11%	15%	26%	15%	15%
I have only heard the name	21%	27%	22%	27%	30%	29%	24%
Not heard of it	61%	50%	65%	55%	40%	54%	58%
Don't know	0%	1%	0%	2%	-	2%	1%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,320</i>	<i>487</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>690</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>299</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

8.5 Use of Office for National Statistics (ONS) statistics

Table 8.28 Have you ever used statistics produced by ONS, by survey year

	2021	2021 confidence interval	2018	2018 confidence interval
Yes, frequently	5%	(3.8-5.4)	4%	(3.2-4.9)
Yes, occasionally	25%	(23.4-27.0)	14%	(12.8-16.4)
Yes, at least 5 years ago	6%	(5.3-7.1)	5%	(4.2-6.6)
No	64%	(61.8-65.9)	76%	(73.4-77.9)
Don't know	*	(0.2-0.6)	*	(0.2-1.0)

Base: All respondents (2021=3,398 2018=1,968)

All respondents: Significant increase between 2018 and 2021 in proportion reporting that they use ONS statistics frequently or occasionally ($p=0.000$).

All respondents able to give an opinion: Significant increase between 2018 and 2021 in proportion reporting that they use ONS statistics frequently or occasionally ($p=0.000$).

Table 8.29 Have you ever used statistics produced by ONS, by age

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
Yes, frequently	5%	4%	5%	4%	5%	4%	5%
Yes, occasionally	26%	25%	27%	27%	26%	22%	25%
Yes, at least 5 years ago	6%	8%	6%	7%	5%	5%	6%
No	62%	63%	61%	62%	63%	69%	64%
Don't know	-	*	*	*	1%	*	*
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>433</i>	<i>511</i>	<i>533</i>	<i>585</i>	<i>1,167</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.30 Have you ever used statistics produced by ONS, by sex

	Male	Female	Total
Yes, frequently	4%	5%	5%
Yes, occasionally	29%	21%	25%
Yes, at least 5 years ago	6%	6%	6%
No	60%	67%	64%
Don't know	*	*	*
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,553</i>	<i>1,838</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.31 Have you ever used statistics produced by ONS, by occupation

	Managerial and professional occupations	Intermediate occupations	Employers in small organisation; own account workers	Lower supervisory and technical occupations	Semi-routine and routine occupations	Total
Yes, frequently	7%	2%	7%	1%	2%	5%
Yes, occasionally	33%	20%	21%	18%	9%	25%
Yes, at least 5 years ago	8%	5%	1%	3%	2%	6%
No	51%	72%	71%	78%	87%	64%
Don't know	*	*	-	-	-	*
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,796</i>	<i>383</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>232</i>	<i>346</i>	<i>3,398</i>

*Base: All respondents***Table 8.32 Have you ever used statistics produced by ONS, by education**

	Degree	Higher education below degree	A level or equivalent	Below A level	Other qual	No qualification	Total
Yes, frequently	10%	3%	3%	1%	2%	1%	5%
Yes, occasionally	39%	28%	23%	16%	17%	7%	25%
Yes, at least 5 years ago	10%	10%	5%	3%	2%	0%	6%
No	42%	58%	68%	79%	79%	91%	64%
Don't know	*	1%	*	*	-	*	*
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,320</i>	<i>487</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>690</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>299</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

8.6 Trust in ONS and other organisations

Table 8.33 Do you tend to trust or tend not to trust ONS, by survey year

	2021	2021 confidence interval	2018	2018 confidence interval
Trust it a great deal	17%	(15.1-18.1)	10%	(8.8-12.1)
Tend to trust it	66%	(63.9-67.9)	57%	(54.5-60.0)
Tend to distrust it	9%	(7.9-10.6)	7%	(6.1-8.8)
Distrust it greatly	1%	(1.1-2.1)	1%	(1.0-2.2)
Don't know	7%	(5.7-7.9)	23%	(21.2-25.8)

Base: All respondents (2021=3,398 2018=1,968)

All respondents: Significant increase between 2018 and 2021 in proportion agreeing that they trust ONS (p=0.000).

All respondents able to give an opinion: No significant change between 2018 and 2021 in proportion agreeing that they trust ONS (88% vs 89%; p=0.933).

Table 8.34 Do you tend to trust or tend not to trust ONS, by age

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
Trust it a great deal	16%	16%	18%	18%	17%	16%	17%
Tend to trust it	65%	66%	70%	66%	67%	63%	66%
Tend to distrust it	14%	11%	6%	10%	6%	10%	9%
Distrust it greatly	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%
Don't know	3%	5%	5%	5%	9%	9%	7%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>433</i>	<i>511</i>	<i>533</i>	<i>585</i>	<i>1,167</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.35 Do you tend to trust or tend not to trust ONS, by sex

	Male	Female	Total
Trust it a great deal	19%	14%	17%
Tend to trust it	65%	67%	66%
Tend to distrust it	9%	10%	9%
Distrust it greatly	1%	2%	1%
Don't know	5%	8%	7%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,553</i>	<i>1,838</i>	<i>3,398</i>

*Base: All**respondents***Table 8.36 Do you tend to trust or tend not to trust ONS, by occupation***Base: All respondents*

	Managerial and professional occupations	Intermediate occupations	Employees in small organisation; own account workers	Lower supervisory and technical occupations	Semi-routine and routine occupations	Total
Trust it a great deal	21%	13%	23%	9%	10%	17%
Tend to trust it	67%	73%	61%	68%	63%	66%
Tend to distrust it	6%	7%	8%	14%	15%	9%
Distrust it greatly	1%	0%	-	2%	2%	1%
Don't know	4%	7%	8%	7%	9%	7%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,796</i>	<i>383</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>232</i>	<i>346</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Table 8.37 Do you tend to trust or tend not to trust ONS, by education

	Degree	Higher education below degree	A level or equivalent	Below A level	Other qual	No qualification	Total
Trust it a great deal	28%	12%	13%	10%	10%	8%	17%
Tend to trust it	64%	72%	70%	68%	72%	58%	66%
Tend to distrust it	4%	10%	8%	12%	15%	17%	9%
Distrust it greatly	1%	0%	2%	1%	1%	4%	1%
Don't know	2%	5%	7%	10%	2%	13%	7%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,320</i>	<i>487</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>690</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>299</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.38 Trust in Organisations

	Civil Service	UK Parliament	Government	Media	ONS	Courts	Police	Bank of England	High street banks and financial institutions
Trust it a great deal	11%	4%	5%	1%	17%	20%	17%	21%	9%
Tend to trust it	67%	44%	37%	21%	66%	63%	62%	63%	61%
Tend to distrust it	16%	35%	36%	47%	9%	12%	15%	11%	23%
Distrust it greatly	3%	15%	20%	29%	1%	3%	5%	3%	6%
Don't know	3%	1%	1%	1%	7%	2%	1%	3%	2%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	3,398	3,398	3,398	3,398	3,398	3,398	3,398	3,398	3,398

Base: All respondents

Civil Service (All respondents): Significant increase between 2018 (75%) and 2021 in proportion of those that either trust the Civil Service a great deal or tend to trust it ($p=0.026$).

UK Parliament (All respondents): Significant increase between 2018 (45%) and 2021 in proportion of those that either trust the UK parliament a great deal or tend to trust it ($p=0.043$).

Government (All respondents): No significant change between 2018 (39%) and 2021 in proportion of those that trust the Government a great deal or tend to trust it ($p=0.136$).

Media (All respondents): Significant increase between 2018 (19%) and 2021 in proportion of those that either trust the media a great deal or tend to trust it ($p=0.015$).

Courts (All respondents): No significant change between 2018 (80%) and 2021 in proportion of those that either trust the courts a great deal or tend to trust it ($p=0.111$).

Police (All respondents): No significant change between 2018 (81%) and 2021 in proportion of those that either trust the police a great deal or tend to trust it ($p=0.248$).

Bank of England (All respondents): Significant increase between 2018 (74%) and 2021 in proportion of those that either trust the Bank of England a great deal or tend to trust it ($p=0.000$).

High street banks (All respondents): Significant increase between 2018 (59%) and 2021 in proportion of those that trust the high street banks and financial institutions a great deal or tend to trust them ($p=0.000$).

8.7 Trust in ONS statistics

Table 8.39 How much trust do you have in statistics produced by ONS, by survey year

	2021	2021 confidence interval	2018	2018 confidence interval
Trust them greatly	18%	(16.8-20.1)	13%	(10.9-14.4)
Tend to trust them	66%	(63.7-67.8)	56%	(53.7-59.0)
Tend to distrust them	11%	(9.4-12.1)	10%	(8.5-11.6)
Distrust them greatly	2%	(1.3-2.5)	2%	(1.5-3.1)
Don't know	3%	(2.5-3.9)	19%	(16.6-21.3)

Base: All respondents (2021=3,398 2018=1,968)

All respondents: Significant increase between 2018 and 2021 in proportion agreeing that they trust ONS statistics greatly or tend to trust ONS statistics ($p=0.000$).

All respondents able to give an opinion: No significant change between 2018 and 2021 in proportion agreeing that they trust ONS statistics a great deal or tend to trust them (85% vs 87%; $p=0.127$).

Table 8.40 How much trust do you have in statistics produced by ONS, by age

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
Trust them greatly	20%	19%	20%	18%	19%	16%	18%
Tend to trust them	69%	61%	67%	67%	67%	66%	66%
Tend to distrust them	10%	12%	8%	9%	9%	13%	11%
Distrust them greatly	-	4%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%
Don't know	1%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>433</i>	<i>511</i>	<i>533</i>	<i>585</i>	<i>1,167</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.41 How much trust do you have in statistics produced by ONS, by sex

	Male	Female	Total
Trust them greatly	22%	15%	18%
Tend to trust them	63%	68%	66%
Tend to distrust them	10%	12%	11%
Distrust them greatly	2%	1%	2%
Don't know	3%	4%	3%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,553</i>	<i>1,838</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.42 How much trust do you have in statistics produced by ONS, by education

Base: All respondents

	Degree	Higher education below degree	A level or equivalent	Below A level	Other qual	No qualification	Total
Trust them greatly	31%	18%	15%	9%	17%	10%	18%
Tend to trust them	63%	66%	69%	70%	63%	61%	66%
Tend to distrust them	4%	11%	9%	15%	17%	21%	11%
Distrust them greatly	1%	1%	3%	1%	2%	4%	2%
Don't know	1%	3%	3%	4%	1%	5%	3%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,320</i>	<i>487</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>690</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>299</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Table 8.43 How much trust do you have in statistics produced by ONS, by occupation

	Managerial and professional occupations	Intermediate occupations	Employers in small organisation; own account workers	Lower supervisory and technical occupations	Semi-routine and routine occupations	Total
Trust them greatly	23%	13%	13%	13%	16%	18%
Tend to trust them	67%	72%	71%	62%	60%	66%
Tend to distrust them	7%	11%	13%	17%	17%	11%
Distrust them greatly	1%	1%	1%	4%	2%	2%
Don't know	2%	3%	2%	5%	4%	3%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,796</i>	<i>383</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>232</i>	<i>346</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

8.8 Reasons for trusting or not trusting statistics produced by ONS

Table 8.44 Reasons for trusting statistics produced by ONS

	I trust the statistics from personal experience	I have heard something good about the statistics	The statistics are easy to use	ONS does not have a vested interest in or manipulate the results	The Government does not have a vested interest in or manipulate the results	The ONS are experts in statistics	Other reason
Mentioned	17%	20%	28%	64%	23%	57%	1%
Not mentioned	83%	80%	72%	36%	77%	43%	99%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	2,753	2,753	2,753	2,753	2,753	2,753	2,753

Base: Respondents who trust statistics produced by ONS

Table 8.45 Reasons for not trusting statistics produced by ONS

	I don't trust the statistics from personal experience	I heard something bad about the statistics	The statistics are difficult to use	ONS has a vested interest in or manipulates the results	The govt has a vested interest in or manipulates the results	The statistics are misrepresented by politicians	The statistics are misrepresented by the media	The statistics alone do not tell the whole story	I personally don't have a good understanding of statistics	Other reason
Mentioned	8%	6%	13%	5%	45%	47%	48%	43%	25%	2%
Not mentioned	92%	94%	87%	95%	55%	53%	52%	57%	75%	98%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	344	344	344	344	344	344	344	344	344	344

Base: Respondents who do not trust statistics produced by ONS

8.9 Specific statistics published by ONS

Table 8.46 Use of specific statistics published by ONS

	Census	Consumer Price Index	Employment and unemployment statistics	Gross Domestic Product	Crime statistics	COVID-19 Statistics
Yes, within the last 5 years	58%	16%	13%	13%	19%	43%
Yes, but not in the last 5 years	10%	6%	8%	7%	8%	
No	32%	77%	78%	78%	72%	55%
Don't know	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	3,398	3,398	3,398	3,398	3,398	3,398

Base: All respondents

Table 8.47 Whether statistics give useful information

	Census	Consumer Price Index	Employment and unemployment statistics	Gross Domestic Product	Crime statistics	COVID-19 Statistics
Strongly agree	26%	23%	28%	27%	28%	37%
Tend to agree	59%	68%	63%	63%	65%	54%
Tend to disagree	11%	8%	7%	9%	6%	5%
Strongly disagree	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	3%
Don't know	2%	*	1%	1%	1%	*
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	2,280	807	691	698	861	1,444

Base: All respondents

Table 8.48 Whether statistics get released quickly

	Census	Consumer Price Index	Employment and unemployment statistics	Gross Domestic Product	Crime statistics	COVID-19 Statistics
Strongly agree	7%	14%	15%	15%	13%	37%
Tend to agree	56%	66%	68%	67%	61%	56%
Tend to disagree	25%	11%	10%	11%	16%	5%
Strongly disagree	4%	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%
Don't know	8%	7%	6%	6%	8%	1%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>2,280</i>	<i>807</i>	<i>691</i>	<i>698</i>	<i>861</i>	<i>1,444</i>

*Base: All respondents***Table 8.49 Whether changes in statistics accurately reflect what is changing in the UK**

	Census	Consumer Price Index	Employment and unemployment statistics	Gross Domestic Product	Crime statistics	COVID-19 Statistics
Strongly agree	17%	8%	11%	9%	9%	19%
Tend to agree	64%	61%	63%	59%	61%	56%
Tend to disagree	11%	15%	15%	16%	17%	16%
Strongly disagree	2%	3%	3%	3%	4%	5%
Don't know	5%	13%	8%	13%	8%	5%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>3,398</i>	<i>3,398</i>	<i>3,398</i>	<i>3,398</i>	<i>3,398</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.50 Whether statistics are free from political interference

	Census	Consumer Price Index	Employment and unemployment statistics	Gross Domestic Product	Crime statistics	COVID-19 Statistics
Strongly agree	16%	8%	7%	7%	7%	11%
Tend to agree	56%	46%	45%	43%	42%	38%
Tend to disagree	18%	27%	30%	28%	34%	30%
Strongly disagree	4%	5%	8%	7%	9%	13%
Don't know	7%	14%	9%	14%	9%	6%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>3,398</i>	<i>3,398</i>	<i>3,398</i>	<i>3,398</i>	<i>3,398</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

8.10 Importance of official statistics to the country

Table 8.51 How strongly do you agree or disagree that statistics produced by ONS are important to understand our country, by survey year

	2021	2021 confidence interval	2018	2018 confidence interval
Strongly agree	30%	(27.9-31.8)	26%	(23.3-28.1)
Tend to agree	58%	(55.6-59.8)	50%	(47.1-52.7)
Tend to disagree	7%	(5.9-8.3)	5%	(4.1-6.5)
Strongly disagree	1%	(1.0-2.3)	1%	(0.3-1.0)
Don't know	4%	(3.1-4.7)	18%	(16.2-21.0)

Base: All respondents (2021=3,398 2018=1,968)

All respondents: Significant increase between 2018 and 2021 in proportion that agree that ONS statistics are important to the country ($p=0.000$). Also significant increase in proportion disagreeing ($p=0.004$).

All respondents able to give an opinion: No significant change between 2018 and 2021 in proportion agree that ONS statistics are important to the country (93% vs 91%; $p=0.092$).

Table 8.52 How strongly do you agree or disagree that statistics produced by ONS are important to understand our country, by age

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
Strongly agree	28%	31%	33%	29%	30%	29%	30%
Tend to agree	64%	53%	56%	58%	59%	59%	58%
Tend to disagree	4%	9%	7%	7%	7%	8%	7%
Strongly disagree	2%	3%	1%	2%	0%	1%	1%
Don't know	2%	5%	3%	3%	3%	5%	4%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>433</i>	<i>511</i>	<i>533</i>	<i>585</i>	<i>1,167</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.53 How strongly do you agree or disagree that statistics produced by ONS are important to understand our country, by sex

	Male	Female	Total
Strongly agree	31%	28%	30%
Tend to agree	57%	59%	58%
Tend to disagree	7%	7%	7%
Strongly disagree	2%	1%	1%
Don't know	3%	5%	4%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,553</i>	<i>1,838</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.54 How strongly do you agree or disagree that statistics produced by ONS are important to understand our country, by occupation

Base: All respondents

	Degree	Higher education below degree	A level or equivalent	Below A level	Other qual	No qualification	Total
Strongly agree	42%	26%	29%	21%	31%	19%	30%
Tend to agree	52%	63%	58%	64%	58%	55%	58%
Tend to disagree	3%	6%	7%	8%	10%	15%	7%
Strongly disagree	1%	2%	1%	1%	-	5%	1%
Don't know	1%	2%	4%	6%	1%	6%	4%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,320</i>	<i>487</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>690</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>299</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Table 8.55 How strongly do you agree or disagree that statistics produced by ONS are important to understand our country, by education

Base: All respondents

	Managerial and professional occupations	Intermediate occupations	Employers in small organisation; own account workers	Lower supervisory and technical occupations	Semi-routine and routine occupations	Total
Strongly agree	36%	25%	28%	19%	24%	30%
Tend to agree	55%	67%	62%	63%	59%	58%
Tend to disagree	5%	5%	8%	11%	11%	7%
Strongly disagree	1%	0%	-	2%	2%	1%
Don't know	3%	3%	2%	4%	4%	4%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,796</i>	<i>383</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>232</i>	<i>346</i>	<i>3,398</i>

8.11 Whether ONS statistics are free from political interference

Table 8.56 How strongly do you agree or disagree that statistics produced by ONS are free from political interference, by survey year

	2021	2021 confidence interval	2018	2018 confidence interval
Strongly agree	13%	(11.4-14.3)	11%	(9.1-12.2)
Tend to agree	55%	(52.9-57.2)	45%	(41.7-47.4)
Tend to disagree	20%	(17.9-21.6)	17%	(15.2-19.3)
Strongly disagree	4%	(3.6-5.5)	3%	(2.7-4.4)
Don't know	8%	(6.7-9.0)	24%	(21.5-26.8)

Base: All respondents (2021=3,398 2018=1,968)

All respondents: Significant increase between 2018 and 2021 in proportion that agree that ONS statistics are free from political interference ($p=0.000$). Also significant increase in proportion disagreeing ($p=0.021$).

All respondents able to give an opinion: No significant change between 2018 and 2021 in proportion that agree that ONS statistics are free from political interference (73% vs 74%; $p=0.590$).

Table 8.57 How strongly do you agree or disagree that statistics produced by ONS are free from political interference, by age

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
Strongly agree	8%	11%	15%	13%	15%	13%	13%
Tend to agree	58%	53%	57%	57%	55%	54%	55%
Tend to disagree	23%	20%	17%	19%	18%	21%	20%
Strongly disagree	5%	6%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%
Don't know	6%	10%	7%	7%	8%	8%	8%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>433</i>	<i>511</i>	<i>533</i>	<i>585</i>	<i>1,167</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.58 How strongly do you agree or disagree that statistics produced by ONS are free from political interference, by sex

	Male	Female	Total
Strongly agree	14%	12%	13%
Tend to agree	55%	55%	55%
Tend to disagree	19%	20%	20%
Strongly disagree	6%	3%	4%
Don't know	6%	9%	8%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,553</i>	<i>1,838</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.59 How strongly do you agree or disagree that statistics produced by ONS are free from political interference, by occupation

	Managerial and professional occupations	Intermediate occupations	Employers in small organisation; own account workers	Lower supervisory and technical occupations	Semi-routine and routine occupations	Total
Strongly agree	15%	9%	14%	11%	12%	13%
Tend to agree	58%	62%	56%	50%	50%	55%
Tend to disagree	17%	16%	23%	25%	25%	20%
Strongly disagree	4%	3%	1%	6%	5%	4%
Don't know	6%	9%	5%	8%	8%	8%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,796</i>	<i>383</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>232</i>	<i>346</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.60 How strongly do you agree or disagree that statistics produced by ONS are free from political interference, by education

	Degree	Higher education below degree	A level or equivalent	Below A level	Other qual	No qualification	Total
Strongly agree	17%	12%	10%	10%	22%	11%	13%
Tend to agree	62%	56%	58%	52%	44%	41%	55%
Tend to disagree	14%	22%	18%	22%	20%	31%	20%
Strongly disagree	3%	5%	6%	4%	6%	8%	4%
Don't know	4%	6%	8%	11%	8%	9%	8%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,320</i>	<i>487</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>690</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>299</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

8.12 Accuracy of official statistics

Table 8.61 How strongly do you agree or disagree that official statistics are generally accurate, by survey year

	2021	2021 confidence interval	2018	2018 confidence interval
Strongly agree	14%	(12.1-15.1)	7%	(6.2-9.0)
Tend to agree	65%	(62.6-66.7)	56%	(53.1-58.3)
Tend to disagree	14%	(12.6-15.4)	16%	(13.7-17.6)
Strongly disagree	3%	(2.0-3.7)	3%	(2.0-3.3)
Don't know	5%	(4.2-6.0)	18%	(16.3-20.8)

Base: All respondents (2021=3,398 2018=1,968)

All respondents: Significant increase between 2018 and 2021 in proportion agreeing that official statistics are generally accurate ($p=0.000$).

All respondents able to give an opinion: Significant increase between 2018 and 2021 in proportion agreeing that official statistics are generally accurate (from 78% to 82%; $p=0.002$).

Table 8.62 How strongly do you agree or disagree that official statistics are generally accurate, by age

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
Strongly agree	14%	16%	15%	13%	14%	11%	14%
Tend to agree	67%	59%	66%	70%	66%	63%	65%
Tend to disagree	12%	14%	14%	11%	12%	18%	14%
Strongly disagree	4%	5%	1%	3%	1%	2%	3%
Don't know	2%	6%	4%	4%	6%	6%	5%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>433</i>	<i>511</i>	<i>533</i>	<i>585</i>	<i>1,167</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.63 How strongly do you agree or disagree that official statistics are generally accurate, by sex

	Male	Female	Total
Strongly agree	15%	12%	14%
Tend to agree	64%	65%	66%
Tend to disagree	13%	14%	14%
Strongly disagree	4%	2%	2%
Don't know	4%	6%	4%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,553</i>	<i>1,838</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.64 How strongly do you agree or disagree that official statistics are generally accurate, by occupation

	Managerial and professional occupations	Intermediate occupations	Employers in small organisation; own account workers	Lower supervisory and technical occupations	Semi-routine and routine occupations	Total
Strongly agree	16%	13%	19%	9%	12%	14%
Tend to agree	66%	67%	64%	66%	62%	66%
Tend to disagree	11%	14%	14%	17%	18%	14%
Strongly disagree	2%	1%	1%	3%	4%	2%
Don't know	5%	5%	2%	5%	4%	4%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,796</i>	<i>383</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>232</i>	<i>346</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.65 How strongly do you agree or disagree that official statistics are generally accurate, by education

	Degree	Higher education below degree	A level or equivalent	Below A level	Other qual	No qualification	Total
Strongly agree	19%	12%	12%	10%	16%	10%	14%
Tend to agree	67%	67%	69%	63%	65%	56%	66%
Tend to disagree	10%	14%	12%	16%	15%	20%	14%
Strongly disagree	1%	3%	3%	4%	3%	6%	2%
Don't know	3%	4%	5%	7%	1%	7%	4%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,320</i>	<i>487</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>690</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>299</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

8.13 Presentation of official statistics

Table 8.66 How strongly do you agree or disagree that the Government presents official statistics honestly when talking about its policies, by survey year

	2021	2021 confidence interval	2018	2018 confidence interval
Strongly agree	3%	(2.4-4.1)	2%	(1.2-2.5)
Tend to agree	30%	(28.0-32.0)	25%	(22.2-27.2)
Tend to disagree	43%	(40.6-44.8)	39%	(36.4-42.0)
Strongly disagree	19%	(17.5-21.0)	19%	(17.5-21.5)
Don't know	5%	(4.1-5.8)	15%	(12.8-16.9)

Base: All respondents (2021=3,398 2018=1,968)

All respondents: Significant increase between 2018 and 2021 in proportion agreeing that the government presents official statistics accurately ($p=0.000$).

All respondents able to give an opinion: Significant increase between 2018 and 2021 agreeing that the government presents official statistics accurately (from 31% to 35%; $p=0.035$)

Table 8.67 How strongly do you agree or disagree that the Government presents official statistics honestly when talking about its policies, by age

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
Strongly agree	6%	3%	5%	2%	3%	2%	3%
Tend to agree	36%	30%	33%	31%	25%	27%	30%
Tend to disagree	38%	40%	39%	44%	46%	46%	43%
Strongly disagree	16%	23%	19%	18%	19%	18%	19%
Don't know	4%	5%	3%	4%	6%	6%	5%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>433</i>	<i>511</i>	<i>533</i>	<i>585</i>	<i>1,167</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.68 How strongly do you agree or disagree that the Government presents official statistics honestly when talking about its policies, by sex

	Male	Female	Total
Strongly agree	3%	3%	3%
Tend to agree	30%	30%	30%
Tend to disagree	42%	44%	43%
Strongly disagree	22%	16%	19%
Don't know	3%	6%	5%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,553</i>	<i>1,838</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.69 How strongly do you agree or disagree that the Government presents official statistics honestly when talking about its policies, by education

	Degree	Higher education below degree	A level or equivalent	Below A level	Other qual	No qualification	Total
Strongly agree	3%	3%	3%	4%	10%	3%	3%
Tend to agree	27%	28%	34%	31%	35%	29%	30%
Tend to disagree	43%	48%	41%	43%	28%	40%	43%
Strongly disagree	24%	18%	18%	14%	22%	21%	19%
Don't know	3%	3%	5%	7%	5%	6%	5%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,320</i>	<i>487</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>690</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>299</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.70 How strongly do you agree or disagree that the Government presents official statistics honestly when talking about its policies, by occupation

	Managerial and professional occupations	Intermediate occupations	Employers in small organisation; own account workers	Lower supervisory and technical occupations	Semi-routine and routine occupations	Total
Strongly agree	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%
Tend to agree	28%	33%	42%	32%	31%	30%
Tend to disagree	43%	42%	35%	44%	44%	43%
Strongly disagree	20%	16%	17%	18%	17%	19%
Don't know	4%	5%	2%	4%	5%	5%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,796</i>	<i>383</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>232</i>	<i>346</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.71 How strongly do you agree or disagree that newspapers present official statistics honestly, by survey year

	2021	2021 confidence interval	2018	2018 confidence interval
Strongly agree	2%	(1.2-2.3)	1%	(0.7-1.8)
Tend to agree	22%	(20.2-24.0)	19%	(16.6-21.1)
Tend to disagree	47%	(44.5-48.8)	41%	(38.1-43.7)
Strongly disagree	27%	(24.6-28.6)	27%	(24.7-29.4)
Don't know	3%	(2.3-3.7)	12%	(10.2-13.8)

Base: All respondents (2021=3,398 2018=1,968)

All respondents: Significant increase between 2018 and 2021 in proportion agreeing that newspapers present official statistics honestly ($p=0.014$). Also significant increase in proportion disagreeing ($p=0.002$).

All respondents able to give an opinion: the change in the proportion agreeing (23% vs 24%) is not statistically significant ($p=0.277$).

Table 8.72 How strongly do you agree or disagree that newspapers present official statistics honestly, by age

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
Strongly agree	1%	1%	3%	3%	2%	1%	2%
Tend to agree	28%	22%	21%	18%	19%	24%	22%
Tend to disagree	41%	42%	49%	51%	49%	47%	47%
Strongly disagree	28%	34%	25%	25%	27%	23%	27%
Don't know	2%	2%	2%	4%	2%	5%	3%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>433</i>	<i>511</i>	<i>533</i>	<i>585</i>	<i>1,167</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.73 How strongly do you agree or disagree that newspapers present official statistics honestly, by sex

	Male	Female	Total
Strongly agree	1%	2%	2%
Tend to agree	24%	21%	22%
Tend to disagree	43%	50%	47%
Strongly disagree	30%	23%	27%
Don't know	2%	4%	3%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,553</i>	<i>1,838</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.74 How strongly do you agree or disagree that newspapers present official statistics honestly, by occupation

	Managerial and professional occupations	Intermediate occupations	Employers in small organisation; own account workers	Lower supervisory and technical occupations	Semi-routine and routine occupations	Total
Strongly agree	2%	1%	-	1%	2%	2%
Tend to agree	21%	18%	42%	23%	22%	22%
Tend to disagree	47%	50%	30%	48%	49%	47%
Strongly disagree	28%	27%	27%	24%	25%	27%
Don't know	2%	4%	1%	4%	2%	3%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,796</i>	<i>383</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>232</i>	<i>346</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.75 How strongly do you agree or disagree that newspapers present official statistics honestly, by education

	Degree	Higher education below degree	A level or equivalent	Below A level	Other qual	No qualification	Total
Strongly agree	2%	2%	1%	2%	8%	2%	2%
Tend to agree	22%	23%	21%	22%	19%	23%	22%
Tend to disagree	47%	47%	46%	48%	50%	45%	47%
Strongly disagree	27%	26%	30%	24%	20%	26%	27%
Don't know	2%	2%	2%	4%	3%	4%	3%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,320</i>	<i>487</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>690</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>299</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

8.14 Importance of the Authority

Table 8.76 Agreement it is important for an independent body such as the UK Statistics Authority to ensure that official statistics are produced without political interference, by survey year

	2021	2021 confidence interval	2018	2018 confidence interval
Strongly agree	58%	(56.0-60.3)	55%	(51.3-58.4)
Tend to agree	31%	(29.4-33.4)	28%	(25.7-31.2)
Tend to disagree	4%	(3.3-5.3)	2%	(1.5-3.1)
Strongly disagree	2%	(1.2-2.5)	1%	(0.3-1.4)
Don't know	4%	(3.6-5.5)	14%	(11.5-16.0)

Base: All respondents (2021=3,398 2018=1,968)

All respondents: Significant increase 2018 to 2021 in the proportion agreeing that important for an independent body to ensure statistics produced without political interference ($p=0.000$). Also significant increase in proportion disagreeing ($p=0.000$).

All respondents able to give an opinion: Significant decrease 2018 to 2021 in the proportion agreeing that important for an independent body to ensure statistics produced without political interference (from 97% to 94%; $p=0.002$).

Table 8.77 Agreement it is important for an independent body such as the UK Statistics Authority to ensure that official statistics are produced without political interference, by age

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
Strongly agree	54%	53%	54%	54%	64%	66%	58%
Tend to agree	33%	31%	35%	33%	30%	28%	31%
Tend to disagree	6%	7%	4%	5%	2%	2%	4%
Strongly disagree	2%	4%	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%
Don't know	6%	5%	5%	5%	3%	3%	4%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>433</i>	<i>511</i>	<i>533</i>	<i>585</i>	<i>1,167</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.78 Agreement it is important for an independent body such as the UK Statistics Authority to ensure that official statistics are produced without political interference, by sex

	Male	Female	Total
Strongly agree	60%	56%	58%
Tend to agree	29%	34%	31%
Tend to disagree	4%	4%	4%
Strongly disagree	2%	1%	2%
Don't know	4%	5%	4%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,553</i>	<i>1,838</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.79 Agreement it is important for an independent body such as the UK Statistics Authority to ensure that official statistics are produced without political interference, by occupation

	Managerial and professional occupations	Intermediate occupations	Employers in small organisation; own account workers	Lower supervisory and technical occupations	Semi-routine and routine occupations	Total
Strongly agree	63%	58%	48%	45%	55%	58%
Tend to agree	27%	33%	39%	43%	34%	31%
Tend to disagree	4%	3%	8%	4%	6%	4%
Strongly disagree	1%	2%	3%	3%	1%	2%
Don't know	4%	5%	1%	5%	4%	4%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,796</i>	<i>383</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>232</i>	<i>346</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.80 Agreement it is important for an independent body such as the UK Statistics Authority to ensure that official statistics are produced without political interference, by education

	Degree	Higher education below degree	A level or equivalent	Below A level	Other qual	No qualification	Total
Strongly agree	71%	59%	56%	48%	69%	43%	58%
Tend to agree	23%	30%	34%	38%	26%	39%	31%
Tend to disagree	2%	6%	3%	4%	5%	8%	4%
Strongly disagree	1%	2%	2%	1%	-	4%	2%
Don't know	2%	3%	4%	7%	-	4%	4%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,320</i>	<i>487</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>690</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>299</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.81 Agreement it is important for an independent body such as the UK Statistics Authority to speak out publicly against the misuse of official statistics, by survey year

	2021	2021 confidence interval	2018	2018 confidence interval
Strongly agree	66%	(63.7-68.0)	60%	(56.1-63.1)
Tend to agree	27%	(25.1-28.9)	26%	(23.5-29.3)
Tend to disagree	3%	(2.0-3.7)	2%	(1.0-2.5)
Strongly disagree	1%	(0.7-2.0)	*	(0.1-0.9)
Don't know	3%	(2.2-3.8)	12%	(9.8-14.2)

Base: All respondents (2021=3,398 2018=1,968)

All respondents: Significant increase between 2018 and 2021 in proportion agreeing that it is important for an independent body to speak out publicly against the misuse of official statistics ($p=0.000$). Also significant increase in proportion disagreeing ($p=0.006$).

All respondents able to give an opinion: Significant decrease between 2018 and 2021 in proportion agreeing that it is important for an independent body to speak out publicly against the misuse of official statistics (from 98% to 96%; $p=0.013$).

Table 8.82 Agreement it is important for an independent body such as the UK Statistics Authority to speak out publicly against the misuse of official statistics, by age

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
Strongly agree	64%	62%	61%	63%	71%	72%	66%
Tend to agree	26%	26%	31%	32%	24%	24%	27%
Tend to disagree	5%	5%	2%	3%	1%	1%	3%
Strongly disagree	2%	3%	1%	1%	*	1%	1%
Don't know	2%	3%	4%	2%	2%	3%	3%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>433</i>	<i>511</i>	<i>533</i>	<i>585</i>	<i>1,167</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.83 Agreement it is important for an independent body such as the UK Statistics Authority to speak out publicly against the misuse of official statistics, by sex

	Male	Female	Total
Strongly agree	68%	64%	66%
Tend to agree	25%	28%	27%
Tend to disagree	3%	3%	3%
Strongly disagree	1%	1%	1%
Don't know	3%	3%	3%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,553</i>	<i>1,838</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.84 Agreement it is important for an independent body such as the UK Statistics Authority to speak out publicly against the misuse of official statistics, by occupation

	Managerial and professional occupations	Intermediate occupations	Employers in small organisation; own account workers	Lower supervisory and technical occupations	Semi-routine and routine occupations	Total
Strongly agree	71%	66%	57%	54%	62%	66%
Tend to agree	23%	27%	37%	38%	30%	27%
Tend to disagree	2%	3%	5%	3%	4%	3%
Strongly disagree	1%	1%	-	2%	1%	1%
Don't know	2%	3%	1%	4%	2%	3%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,796</i>	<i>383</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>232</i>	<i>346</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.85 Agreement it is important for an independent body such as the UK Statistics Authority to speak out publicly against the misuse of official statistics, by education

	Degree	Higher education below degree	A level or equivalent	Below A level	Other qual	No qualification	Total
Strongly agree	79%	68%	66%	56%	72%	49%	69%
Tend to agree	19%	25%	27%	35%	24%	35%	26%
Tend to disagree	2%	2%	3%	3%	4%	6%	2%
Strongly disagree	*	1%	1%	1%	-	4%	1%
Don't know	1%	3%	2%	4%	-	5%	2%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,320</i>	<i>487</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>690</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>299</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

8.15 Ease of finding and using official statistics

Table 8.86 How much do you agree that official statistics are easy to find, by age

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
Strongly agree	17%	10%	8%	7%	7%	3%	8%
Tend to agree	50%	53%	59%	50%	51%	45%	51%
Tend to disagree	28%	23%	22%	31%	28%	37%	29%
Strongly disagree	3%	6%	4%	3%	4%	4%	4%
Don't know	2%	7%	7%	10%	10%	11%	9%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>433</i>	<i>511</i>	<i>533</i>	<i>585</i>	<i>1,167</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.87 How much do you agree that official statistics are easy to find, by sex

	Male	Female	Total
Strongly agree	9%	7%	8%
Tend to agree	51%	51%	51%
Tend to disagree	29%	28%	29%
Strongly disagree	4%	4%	4%
Don't know	7%	10%	9%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,553</i>	<i>1,838</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.88 How much do you agree that official statistics are easy to find, by occupation

	<i>Managerial and professional occupations</i>	<i>Intermediate occupations</i>	<i>Employers in small organisation; own account workers</i>	<i>Lower supervisory and technical occupations</i>	<i>Semi-routine and routine occupations</i>	<i>Total</i>
Strongly agree	10%	4%	3%	6%	9%	8%
Tend to agree	54%	49%	59%	50%	46%	51%
Tend to disagree	26%	29%	31%	33%	34%	29%
Strongly disagree	3%	6%	2%	4%	2%	4%
Don't know	7%	11%	4%	7%	9%	9%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,796</i>	<i>383</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>232</i>	<i>346</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.89 How much do you agree that official statistics are easy to find, by education

	<i>Degree</i>	<i>Higher education below degree</i>	<i>A level or equivalent</i>	<i>Below A level</i>	<i>Other qual</i>	<i>No qualification</i>	<i>Total</i>
Strongly agree	10%	8%	9%	5%	5%	5%	8%
Tend to agree	57%	51%	54%	46%	58%	38%	51%
Tend to disagree	24%	31%	28%	31%	23%	38%	29%
Strongly disagree	3%	3%	2%	5%	9%	9%	4%
Don't know	5%	7%	7%	13%	4%	11%	9%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,320</i>	<i>487</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>690</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>299</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.90 How much do you agree that official statistics are easy to understand, by age

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
Strongly agree	7%	10%	8%	7%	7%	4%	7%
Tend to agree	54%	57%	62%	56%	53%	48%	54%
Tend to disagree	27%	23%	20%	27%	27%	34%	27%
Strongly disagree	4%	4%	5%	4%	4%	5%	4%
Don't know	7%	6%	5%	7%	9%	9%	7%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>433</i>	<i>511</i>	<i>533</i>	<i>585</i>	<i>1,167</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.91 How much do you agree that official statistics are easy to understand, by sex

	Male	Female	Total
Strongly agree	8%	7%	7%
Tend to agree	57%	52%	54%
Tend to disagree	25%	28%	27%
Strongly disagree	5%	4%	4%
Don't know	5%	9%	7%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,553</i>	<i>1,838</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.92 How much do you agree that official statistics are easy to understand, by occupation

	Managerial and professional occupations	Intermediate occupations	Employers in small organisation; own account workers	Lower supervisory and technical occupations	Semi-routine and routine occupations	Total
Strongly agree	9%	3%	6%	5%	10%	7%
Tend to agree	58%	57%	66%	54%	44%	54%
Tend to disagree	24%	28%	22%	30%	33%	27%
Strongly disagree	3%	5%	1%	7%	4%	4%
Don't know	6%	7%	5%	4%	9%	7%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,796</i>	<i>383</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>232</i>	<i>346</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Table 8.93 How much do you agree that official statistics are easy to understand, by education

	Degree	Higher education below degree	A level or equivalent	Below A level	Other qual	No qualification	Total
Strongly agree	9%	8%	7%	5%	8%	9%	7%
Tend to agree	61%	54%	60%	51%	43%	36%	54%
Tend to disagree	23%	29%	24%	28%	35%	36%	27%
Strongly disagree	3%	2%	3%	5%	8%	11%	4%
Don't know	4%	6%	6%	11%	6%	8%	7%
<i>Unweighted Bases</i>	<i>1,320</i>	<i>487</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>690</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>299</i>	<i>3,398</i>

Base: All respondents

Appendix A: Web Questionnaire

{ASK ALL}

Intro

'Thank you for agreeing to take part in the survey on official numbers and statistics on behalf of both NatCen Social Research, an independent research organisation, and the UK Statistics Authority.

You will be asked to answer some questions about official statistics and the bodies that are responsible for them. This will take about 15 minutes.

As a thank you for completing the survey you will receive a £10 voucher.

At NatCen, we are committed to protecting your privacy and to being transparent about how we collect and use your personal data. For more information about how we protect your privacy, please see our privacy statement {INSERT LINK TO PRIVACY STATEMENT}.

Click 'Next' to continue.'

{ASK ALL}

DKIntro

'Before you start, please remember you do not have to answer any question you do not want to.

If you are asked a question you don't know the answer to, or you would prefer not to answer, simply leave the question blank and click the 'Next' button to make the options 'Don't know' and 'Prefer not to say' appear.'

{ASK ALL}

[Numeric range]

Age

'To start with, the first series of questions are about yourself.

What is your age?'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'Age – Age at last birthday'

{RANGE 18-123}

PAGE START

{ASK ALL}

[Numeric range]

Sex

'What is your sex?'

You can answer about your gender identity below.'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'Sex – respondent's sex'

1. Male
2. Female

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

Gender

'Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?.'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'Gender – Is respondent's gender different to registered sex'

1. Yes
2. No

PAGE END

{ASK IF GENDER=2}

[OPEN END]

RspGender

'What is the gender you identify as?'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'RspGender – the gender that respondent identifies as'

{STRING 150}

{ASK ALL}

[Numeric range]

HhIAd

'Thinking now of everyone living in your household.

Including yourself, how many adults aged 18 or over live there regularly as members of the household?'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'HhIAd – Number of adults over the age 16 in the household'

{RANGE 1-15}

{ASK ALL}

[Numeric range]

HhIChI

'Still thinking of your household, how many children under age 18 live there regularly as members of the household?'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'HhIChI – Number of children in the household'

{RANGE 1-15}

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

Stat1

'Now thinking about statistics generally.

How often do you see statistics presented in the news?'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'Stat1 – Frequency of statistics presented in the news'

1. Daily
2. A few times a week
3. A few times a month
4. A few times a year
5. Never
6. I do not read or listen to the news

{ASK ALL}
[Single code]

Stat2

'How often do you see statistics on social media?'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'Stat2 – Frequency of statistics presented on social media'

1. Daily
2. A few times a week
3. A few times a month
4. A few times a year
5. Never
6. I do not use social media

{ASK ALL}
[Single code]

Stat3

'To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?'

In the past month, statistics have helped me to make decisions about my life'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'Stat3 – Statistics have helped the respondents make decisions about their life'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{ASK ALL}
[Multicode]

AwOrg

'Which of these organisations have you heard of? Please select all that apply.'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'AwOrg – Heard of {INSERT ORGANISATION}'

1. Greenpeace
2. The Bank of England
3. Royal College of Nursing
4. IBM
5. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
6. The Office for National Statistics (ONS)
7. I haven't heard of any of these organisations

{ASK IF AwOrg=6}
[Single code]

ONSaw

'To what extent did you know the ONS before this survey?'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'ONSaw – How well know the ONS'

1. I knew it well
2. I knew it somewhat
3. I have only heard the name

{ASK ALL}
[Single code]

ONSus

'The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is the organisation that produces official statistics on the state of our economy, society, and our environment.'

Have you ever used or referred to statistics produced by ONS for any purpose, such as study, work, or personal interest?'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'ONSus – Ever referred to ONS stats'

1. Yes, frequently
2. Yes, occasionally
3. Yes, at least 5 years ago
4. No

{ASK IF ONSus=1 or 2}
[Single code]

FULong

'For approximately how long have you been using or referring to statistics from ONS?'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'FULong – How long have been using statistics from ONS'

1. For less than 1 year
2. For 2-5 years
3. For 6-10 years
4. For more than 10 years
5. I am not a current user

{ASK IF ONSus=1 or 2}
[Single code]

FUOf

'In the last 12 months, approximately how often have you used or referred to statistics from ONS?'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'FUOf – How often have used statistics from ONS'

1. Daily
2. A few times a month
3. A few times a year
4. Never

{ASK ALL}
[Multicode]

ONSpa

'Have you participated in any of these ONS surveys? Please select all that apply.'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'ONSpa – ONS Survey Participation'

1. Census
2. Labour Force Survey
3. Coronavirus Infection Survey (CIS)
4. Other survey carried out by ONS
5. I have taken part in an ONS survey, but can't remember which one

6. Not participated in any ONS surveys {EXCLUSIVE CODE}

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

ConfNO

'To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement

I believe that personal information that is provided to ONS will be kept confidential.'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'ConfNO – ONS will keep information given to it confidential'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

TrstCS

'You will now be asked about a series of institutions. Please indicate whether you tend to trust this institution or tend not to trust it.

The civil service'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'TrstCS – Trust in the civil service'

1. Trust it a great deal
2. Tend to trust it
3. Tend to distrust it
4. Distrust it greatly

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

Trstparl

'Please indicate whether you tend to trust this institution or tend not to trust it.

The UK Parliament'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'Trstparl – Trust in the UK Parliament'

1. Trust it a great deal
2. Tend to trust it
3. Tend to distrust it
4. Distrust it greatly

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

Trstgov

'Please indicate whether you tend to trust this institution or tend not to trust it.

The Government'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'Trstgov – Trust in the Government'

1. Trust it a great deal
2. Tend to trust it
3. Tend to distrust it
4. Distrust it greatly

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

Trstmed

'Please indicate whether you tend to trust this institution or tend not to trust it.

The media'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'Trstmed – Trust in the media'

1. Trust it a great deal
2. Tend to trust it
3. Tend to distrust it
4. Distrust it greatly

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

Trststat

'Please indicate whether you tend to trust this institution or tend not to trust it.

The ONS'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'Trststat – Trust in the ONS'

1. Trust it a great deal
2. Tend to trust it
3. Tend to distrust it
4. Distrust it greatly

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

Trstct

'Please indicate whether you tend to trust this institution or tend not to trust it.

The courts'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'Trstct – Trust in the courts'

1. Trust it a great deal
2. Tend to trust it
3. Tend to distrust it
4. Distrust it greatly

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

Trstpol

'Please indicate whether you tend to trust this institution or tend not to trust it.

The police'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'Trstpol – Trust in the police'

1. Trust it a great deal
2. Tend to trust it
3. Tend to distrust it
4. Distrust it greatly

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

TrstBoE

'Please indicate whether you tend to trust this institution or tend not to trust it.

The Bank of England'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'TrstBoE – Trust in the police'

1. Trust it a great deal
2. Tend to trust it
3. Tend to distrust it
4. Distrust it greatly

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

Trstbank

'Please indicate whether you tend to trust this institution or tend not to trust it.

High street banks and financial institutions'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'Trstbank – Trust in high street banks and financial institutions'

1. Trust it a great deal
2. Tend to trust it
3. Tend to distrust it
4. Distrust it greatly

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

TrstONS

'How much trust do you have in statistics produced by ONS? For example, on unemployment, inflation, economic growth, or life expectancy.'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'TrstONS – Trust in ONS' statistics'

1. Trust them greatly
2. Tend to trust them
3. Tend not to trust them
4. Distrust them greatly

{ASK IF TrstONS=1 OR TrstONS=2}

[Multicode]

TrONSY

'What are your main reasons for **trusting** ONS statistics? Please select a maximum of three options.'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'TrONSY – Reasons for trust in ONS' statistics'

1. I trust the statistics from personal experience
2. I have heard something good about the statistics
3. The statistics are easy to use
4. ONS does not have a vested interest in or manipulates the results
5. The Government does not have a vested interest in or manipulates the results
6. The ONS are experts in statistics
7. Other reason

{ASK IF TrONSY=7}

[Open end]

TrONSYO

'What is the other reason for trusting ONS statistics?'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'TrONSYO – Reasons for trust in ONS' statistics other'

{STRING 150}

{ASK IF MORE THAN ONE ANSWER SELECTED AT TrONSY}

[Single code]

TrONSWY

'And which of those is the most important reason?'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'TrONSY – Main reasons for trust in ONS' statistics'

1. {Pipe in all answers selected from TrONSY}

{ASK IF TrstONS=3 OR TrstONS=4}

[Multicode]

TrONSN

'What are your main reasons for **not trusting** ONS statistics? Please select a maximum of three options.'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'TrONSN – Reasons for low trust in ONS' statistics'

1. I don't trust the statistics from personal experience
2. I heard something bad about the statistics
3. The statistics are difficult to use
4. ONS has a vested interest in or manipulates the results
5. The Government has a vested interest in or manipulates the results
6. The statistics are misrepresented by politicians
7. The statistics are misrepresented by the media
8. The statistics alone do not tell the whole story
9. I personally don't have a good understanding of statistics
10. Other reason

{ASK IF TrONSN=10}

[Open end]

TrONSNO

'What is the other reason for not trusting ONS statistics?'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'TrONSNO – Reasons for not trusting in ONS' statistics other'

{STRING 150}

{ASK IF MORE THAN ONE ANSWER SELECTED AT TrONSN}

[Single code]

TrONSWN

'And which of those is the most important reason?'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'TrONSWN – Main reasons for not trusting in ONS' statistics'

1. {Pipe in all answers selected from TrONSN}

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

CenUse

'Next, you will be asked some questions about specific statistics published by ONS.

Have you ever used **the Census**?

The Census is a survey completed every 10 years that includes everyone in the UK. It helps give a picture of the lives of people in the country.'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'Use – Usage of Census'

1. Yes, within the last 5 years
2. Yes, but not in the last 5 years
3. No

{ASK IF CenUse=1 OR CenUse=2}

[Single code]

CenHelp

'How much do you agree or disagree with this statement about **the Census**?

It gives me useful information'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'CenHelp – The census is useful'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{ASK IF CenUse=1 OR CenUse=2}

[Single code]

CenQuick

'How much do you agree or disagree with this statement about **the Census**?

It gets released quickly'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'CenQuick –The census is quickly released'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

Cenchang

'How much do you agree or disagree with this statement about **the Census**?

Changes over time in the statistics accurately reflect what is changing in the UK'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'Cenchang – The Census reflect changes in the UK'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

Cenpoli

'How much do you agree or disagree with this statement about **the Census**?

It is free from political interference. {INCLUDE A HELP BOX HERE}'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'Cenpoli – the Census is free from political interference'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{**TEXT FOR HELP BOX:** Political interference refers to successful pressure from politicians on ONS to change statistics, their date of release, or their analysis}

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

CPIUse

'Moving on to another type of statistic produced by ONS.

Have you ever used **the Consumer Price Index (CPI)**?

The Consumer Price Index is a measure of the price of a group of consumer goods and services. Changes in this index allows for the measurement of inflation.'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'CPIUse – Usage of the CPI'

1. Yes, within the last 5 years
2. Yes, but not in the last 5 years
3. No

{ASK IF CPIUse=1 OR CPIUse=2}

[Single code]

CPIHelp

'How much do you agree or disagree with this statement about **the Consumer Price Index (CPI)**?

It gives me useful information'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'CPIHelp – The CPI is useful'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree

3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{ASK IF CPIUse=1 OR CPIUse=2}

[Single code]

CPIquick

'How much do you agree or disagree with this statement about **the Consumer Price Index (CPI)**?

It gets released quickly'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'CPIquick –The CPI is quickly released'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

CPIchang

'How much do you agree or disagree with this statement about **the Consumer Price Index (CPI)**?

Changes over time in the statistics accurately reflect what is changing in the UK'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'CPIchang – The CPI reflect changes in the UK'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

CPIpoli

'How much do you agree or disagree with this statement about **the Consumer Price Index (CPI)**?

It is free from political interference. {INCLUDE A HELP BOX HERE}'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'CPIpoli – the CPI is free from political interference'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{**TEXT FOR HELP BOX:** Political interference refers to successful pressure from politicians on ONS to change statistics, their date of release, or their analysis}

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

EmpUse

'Thinking again about another type of statistic produced by ONS.

Have you ever used **employment and unemployment statistics?**

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'EmpUse – Usage of the employment and unemployment statistics'

1. Yes, within the last 5 years
2. Yes, but not in the last 5 years
3. No

{ASK IF EmpUse=1 OR EmpUse=2}

[Single code]

EmpHelp

'How much do you agree or disagree with this statement about **employment and unemployment statistics?**

It gives me useful information'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'EmpHelp – Employment and unemployment statistics are useful'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{ASK IF EmpUse=1 OR EmpUse=2}

[Single code]

Empquick

'How much do you agree or disagree with this statement about **employment and unemployment statistics?**

It gets released quickly'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'EMPquick – Employment and unemployment statistics are quickly released'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

EMPchang

'How much do you agree or disagree with this statement about **employment and unemployment statistics?**

Changes over time in the statistics accurately reflect what is changing in the UK'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'EMPchang – Employment and unemployment statistics reflect changes in the UK'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{ASK ALL}
[Single code]

EMPpoli

'How much do you agree or disagree with this statement about **employment and unemployment statistics**?

It is free from political interference. {INCLUDE A HELP BOX HERE}'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'EMPpoli – the CPI is free from political interference'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{TEXT FOR HELP BOX: Political interference refers to successful pressure from politicians on ONS to change statistics, their date of release, or their analysis}

{ASK ALL}
[Single code]

GDPUse

'Thinking now about another ONS statistic on the economy.

Have you ever used **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**?

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is a statistic that measures the value of all goods and services made in a country. This can then be used to help gauge how well the economy is doing overall.'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'GDPUse – Usage of GDP statistics'

1. Yes, within the last 5 years
2. Yes, but not in the last 5 years
3. No

{ASK IF GDPUse =1 OR GDPUse =2}
[Single code]

GDPHelp

'How much do you agree or disagree with this statement about **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**?

It gives me useful information'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'GDPHelp – GDP statistics are useful'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{ASK IF GDPUse =1 OR GDPUse =2}
[Single code]

GDPquick

'How much do you agree or disagree with this statement about **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**?

It gets released quickly'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'GDPquick – GDP statistics are quickly released'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

GDPchang

'How much do you agree or disagree with this statement about **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**?

Changes over time in the statistics accurately reflect what is changing in the UK'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'GDPchang – GDP statistics reflect changes in the UK'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

GDPpoli

'How much do you agree or disagree with this statement about **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**?

It is free from political interference. {INCLUDE A HELP BOX HERE}'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'GDPpoli – GDP is free from political interference'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{**TEXT FOR HELP BOX:** Political interference refers to successful pressure from politicians on ONS to change statistics, their date of release, or their analysis}

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

CriUse

'Moving on to another set of statistics produced by the ONS,.

Have you ever used **crime statistics**?'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'CriUse – Usage of crime statistics'

1. Yes, within the last 5 years
2. Yes, but not in the last 5 years
3. No

{ASK IF CriUse =1 OR CriUse =2}

[Single code]

CriHelp

'How much do you agree or disagree with this statement about **crime statistics**?

It gives me useful information'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'CriHelp – Crime statistics are useful'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{ASK IF CriUse =1 OR CriUse =2}

[Single code]

Criquick

'How much do you agree or disagree with this statement about **crime statistics**?

It gets released quickly'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'Criquick – Crime statistics are quickly released'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

Crichang

'How much do you agree or disagree with this statement about **crime statistics**?

Changes over time in the statistics accurately reflect what is changing in the UK'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'Crichang – Crime statistics reflect changes in the UK'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

Cripoli

'How much do you agree or disagree with this statement about **crime statistics**?

It is free from political interference. {INCLUDE A HELP BOX HERE}'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'Cripoli – crime statistics are free from political interference'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{**TEXT FOR HELP BOX:** Political interference refers to successful pressure from politicians on ONS to change statistics, their date of release, or their analysis}

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

StatImp

'Now again thinking about all statistics in general.

'How strongly do you agree or disagree that:

Statistics produced by ONS are important to understand our country.'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'StatImp - ONS stats importance'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

StatPI

'How strongly do you agree or disagree that:

Statistics produced by ONS are free from political interference {INCLUDE A HELP BOX HERE}.'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'StatPI - ONS stats are free from political interference'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{**TEXT FOR HELP BOX:** Political interference refers to successful pressure from politicians on ONS to change statistics, their date of release, or their analysis}

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

StatAcc

'How strongly do you agree or disagree that:

Official statistics are generally accurate.'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'StatAcc - ONS official stats are accurate'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

StatHon

'How strongly do you agree or disagree that:

The Government presents official statistics honestly when talking about its policies'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'StatHon - Government present statistics honestly'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

StatNews

'How strongly do you agree or disagree that:

Newspapers present official statistics honestly'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'StatNews - Newspapers present statistics honestly'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

COVUSe

'ONS publishes weekly statistics on the number of COVID-19 cases and related deaths. These include estimates of people testing positive and the number of people who may have died from COVID-19.

The next section of questions will focus on these COVID-19 statistics produced by ONS.

Have you ever used **COVID-19 statistics** for any purpose?'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'COVUSe – COVID statistics usage'

1. Yes
2. No

{ASK IF COVUSe=1}

[Single code]

COVHelp

'How much do you agree or disagree with this statement about **COVID-19 statistics**?

It gives me useful information'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'COVHelp – COVID-19 statistics are useful'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{ASK IF COVUSe =1}

[Single code]

COVquick

'How much do you agree or disagree with this statement about **COVID-19 statistics**?

It gets released quickly'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'COVquick – COVID-19 statistics quickly released'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

COVchang

'How much do you agree or disagree with this statement about **COVID-19 statistics**?

Changes over time in the statistics accurately reflect what is changing in the UK'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'COVchang – COVID-19 statistics reflect changes in the UK'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

COVpoli

'How much do you agree or disagree with this statement about **COVID-19 statistics**?

It is free from political interference. {INCLUDE A HELP BOX HERE}'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'COVpoli – COVID-19 statistics is free from political interference'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{**TEXT FOR HELP BOX:** Political interference refers to successful pressure from politicians on ONS to change statistics, their date of release, or their analysis}

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

UKSAKn

'The UK Statistics Authority is the independent body whose role is to safeguard official statistics and speak out publicly against the misuse of statistics.

To what extent did you know the UK Statistics Authority before this survey?'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'UKSAKn – Awareness of UKSA'

1. I knew it well
2. I knew it somewhat
3. I have only heard the name
4. I have never heard of it

{ASK ALL}
[Single code]

UKSAPol

'Please say how strongly you agree or disagree with the statement:

It is important for an independent body such as the UK Statistics Authority to ensure that official statistics are produced without political interference

{INCLUDE A HELP BOX HERE}'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'UKSAPol – Political interference in UKSA'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{**TEXT FOR HELP BOX:** Political interference refers to successful pressure from politicians on ONS to change statistics, their date of release, or their analysis}

{ASK ALL}
[Single code]

UKSAsp

'Please say how strongly you agree or disagree with the statement:

It is important for an independent body such as the UK Statistics Authority to speak out publicly against the misuse of official statistics'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'UKSAsp –importance of speaking out against misuse of statistics'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{ASK ALL}
[Single code]

UKSAosr

'The Office for Statistics Regulation is a part of the UK Statistics Authority and is responsible for regulating statistics produced by government departments, which are known as official statistics.

To what extent did you know the Office for Statistics Regulation before this survey?'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'UKSAosr – Awareness of OSR'

1. I knew it well
2. I knew it somewhat
3. I have only heard the name
4. I have never heard of it

{ASK ALL}
[Single code]

Offstat1

'How much do you agree or disagree with the statement:

Official statistics are easy to find'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'Offstat1 – Easy to find official statistics'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

Offstat2

'How much do you agree or disagree with the statement:

Official statistics are easy to understand'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'Offstat2 – Easy to understand official statistics'

1. Strongly agree
2. Tend to agree
3. Tend to disagree
4. Strongly disagree

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

Religion

Finally, now some questions about you.

What is your religion?

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'Religion – respondent's religion'

1. No religion
2. Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)
3. Buddhist
4. Hindu
5. Jewish
6. Muslim
7. Sikh
8. Any other religion

{ASK IF Religion =8}

[Open end]

RelOther

'What religion?'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'RelOther – Other religion'

{STRING 150}

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

Ethnicity

'What is your ethnic group? Choose one option that best describes your ethnic group or background.'

White

1. English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British
2. Irish
3. Gypsy or Irish Traveller
4. Any other White background

Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups

5. White and Black Caribbean
6. White and Black African
7. White and Asian
8. Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background

Asian / Asian British

9. Indian
10. Pakistani
11. Bangladeshi
12. Chinese
13. Any other Asian background

Black / African / Caribbean / Black British

14. African
15. Caribbean
16. Any other Black / African / Caribbean background

Other ethnic group

17. Arab
18. Any other ethnic group

{ASK IF Ethnicity=4 OR Ethnicity=8 OR Ethnicity=13 OR Ethnicity=16 OR Ethnicity=18}
[Open end]

EthOther

'Please confirm the group you belong to.'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'EthOther – Other ethnicity'

{STRING 150}

{ASK ALL}
[Single code]

EconFW

'Which of the options applied to what you were doing in the week Monday {INSERT DATE OF MONDAY FROM LAST FULL WEEK} to Sunday {INSERT DATE OF SUNDAY FROM LAST FULL WEEK}?

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'EconFW – Activity in last 7 days'

1. Employed full time
2. Employed part time
3. Self-employed

4. Retired
5. Unemployed
6. Full time student
7. Other

{ASK IF EconFW =7}

[Open end]

EconFwOther

'Please confirm the other activity you were doing.'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'EconFwOther – Other activity'

{STRING 150}

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

EmpStat

'The next questions refer to your current main job or, if you are not working now, to your last main job.'

In your main job are you (were you):'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'EmpStat – Employment status'

1. An employee
2. Self-employed with employees
3. Self-employed / freelance without employees
4. I have never had a job

{ASK IF EmpStat=1 OR EmpStat=2}

[Single code]

Employ

'How many people work (worked) at the place where you work (worked)?'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'Employ – Number of people work at the place where respondent work'

1. 1 to 24
2. 25 to 499
3. 500 or more

{ASK IF EmpStat=1 OR EmpStat=2}

[Single code]

Superv

'In your job, do you have any formal responsibility for other employees or people's work?'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'Superv – Responsibility for supervising the work of other employees'

1. Yes
2. No

{ASK IF EmpStat=1 OR EmpStat=2}

[Single code]

EmpOCC

'Which of these best describes the sort of work you do in your current job? If you are not working now, please select which best described what you did in your last job.'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'EmpOCC – Type of work being completed at work'

1. Modern professional occupations (e.g. teacher/lecturer, nurse, physiotherapist, social worker, artist, police officer, software designer)
2. Clerical and intermediate occupations (e.g. secretary, personal assistant, clerical worker, office clerk, call centre agent, nursing auxiliary)
3. Senior managers and administrators usually responsible for planning, organising and co-ordinating work and for finance (e.g. finance manager, chief executive)
4. Technical and craft occupations (e.g. motor mechanic, fitter, inspector, plumber, printer, tool maker, electrician, gardener, train driver)
5. Semi-routine manual and service occupations (e.g. postal worker, machine operative, security guard, farm worker, sales assistant)
6. Routine manual and service occupations (e.g. HGV driver, van driver, cleaner, porter, messenger, labourer, waiter / waitress)
7. Middle or junior managers (e.g. office manager, retail manager, bank manager, restaurant manager, warehouse manager, publican)
8. Traditional professional occupations (e.g. accountant, solicitor, medical practitioner, scientist, civil/mechanical engineer)

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

HEdQual

'What is the highest level of educational qualification you have?'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'HEdQual – Education qualification'

1. Degree or equivalent, and above (e.g. University/CNNA first degree BA, BSC or foundation Degree, Postgraduate degree: MA, MSc, MPhil, DPhil, PhD)
2. Other Higher Education, including Diplomas in higher education, HNC and HND (e.g. Teaching qualifications for schools or further education, Nursing or other medical qualifications, City & Guilds level 4)
3. A-levels/SCE Highers including vocational level 3 or equivalent, and above (e.g. S-level, AS-level, A2-Level, Scottish higher, NVQ or SVQ level 3)
4. Qualifications below A-levels (e.g. GCSE/O Level/Standard Grade, vocational level 3 or equivalent, GCE, GSE, CSE level 1)
5. Other qual
6. No qualifications

{ASK IF HEdQual=5}

[Open end]

HEdQualOther

'Please confirm the other type of educational qualification you have.'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'HEdQualOther – Other qual'

{STRING 150}

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

Tenure

'Do you own or rent your main accommodation?'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'Tenure – Type of tenure'

1. Own outright
2. Buying with a mortgage
3. Buying through a shared ownership scheme
4. Rent from a private landlord
5. Rent from housing association or local authority
6. Live rent free
7. Other

{ASK IF Tenure =7}

[Open end]

TenureOther

'Please confirm the other home ownership you have.'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'TenureOther – Other qual'

{STRING 150}

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

InterFreq

'On average, how often would you say you access the internet for personal use? This could be for general web browsing, watching videos or going on social media sites.'

Please include time spent on the internet on all devices you use, for example a computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone.'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'InterFreq – internet access frequency'

1. Several times a day
2. Daily
3. Weekly
4. Monthly
5. Less often than once a month

{ASK ALL}

[Single code]

Recontact

'This survey has been completed on behalf of and funded by the UK Statistics Authority (UKSA). If the UKSA or Office for Statistics Regulation needed help with any future research, would you be happy if they contact you again?'

Any further research would be conducted by either the UKSA or a research organisation contracted to the UKSA. Data passed to the UKSA, or any of its contractors, would be used for research purposes only.

By agreeing for your contact details to be passed on to the UKSA you are not committing to take part in future research and are able to withdraw at any stage.'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'Recontact – re-contact permission'

1. Yes
2. No

PAGE START

{ASK IF Recontact=1}

[Single code]

Phone

'Please enter your telephone number so that we can contact you for any follow-up research.'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'Phone – phone number for recontact'

{RANGE 0-999999999999}

{PLEASE ADD STANDARD CHECKS AROUND PHONE NUMBERS HERE}

{ASK IF Recontact=1}

[Single code]

EmailReCnt

'Please enter your email address so that we can contact you for any follow-up research.'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'EmailReCnt – phonenumber for recontact'

{STRING 150}

{HARDCHECK: If answer provided does not include @ or full-stop: 'Please check and amend. E-mail addresses should contain an @ character and a full stop.'}

{HARDCHECK: IF ContactChk<> Email

'The two email addresses you have entered are not the same. Please check and amend'}

PAGE START

{ASK ALL}

[Open end]

Email

'That is the end of the questions. As a thank you for taking part in the survey we will send you a £10 voucher. You should expect to receive a voucher within one or two weeks after completing the survey.'

Please enter your first and second name and email address to receive an e-voucher.'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'First name'

{STRING 150}

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'Second name'

{STRING 150}

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'Email'

{STRING 150}

1. I don't have an email address

{Please autofill Email if EmailReCnt populated}

PAGE END

{ASK IF Email<>'I don't have an email address'}

[Open end]

ContactChk

'Please confirm your correct email address.'

{STRING 150}

{**HARDCHECK**: If answer provided does not include @ or full-stop: 'Please check and amend. E-mail addresses should contain an @ character and a full stop.'}

{**HARDCHECK**: IF ContactChk<> Email

'The two email addresses you have entered are not the same. Please check and amend'}

{ASK IF Email='I don't have an email address'}

Postal

'We will post a voucher to the address we sent the survey invitation. You should expect to receive a voucher within five or six weeks after completing the survey.'

ANALYSIS LABEL: 'Postal'

{ASK ALL}

Close

'This completes the survey. Thank you for your time, it is much appreciated. You may now close the window.'

Appendix B: Paper Questionnaire

NatCen
Social Research



Official numbers and statistics are vital for modern Britain

Please help us by
filling in this questionnaire

Questionnaire Details

If you would like to complete this online, please go to this web address:
survey.natcen.ac.uk/PCIOS

At this website, you will be asked to enter the following access code
ACCESS CODE: <accesscode1>

If you prefer to complete this paper questionnaire,
please return it to us in the envelope provided by <date>

Questionnaire code: <BARCODE_1>

Questionnaire serial: <Id_1> 1-8

Questionnaire check letter: <CKL_Ind1> 9

CARD 10 BATCH 11-15 SPARE 16 - 50

P16329

Please answer the questions that follow by placing an x in one box next to the response you have chosen.

- For some questions, you may be asked to give more than one answer. These questions are clearly marked.

Questionnaire instructions:

- If you have made a mistake, please completely fill the box to show this was a mistake and then cross the correct answer
- Answer each question in turn unless the instructions next to the answer you have selected indicate that you should skip to a particular question.
- If you do not want to answer a particular question, do not know or are unsure of an answer, you can leave the question blank.

Example question:

Please see an example of how to fill out this questionnaire below:

In which country were you born?

Please select one answer.

- ☐ England
- ☒ Scotland
- ☐ Northern Ireland
- ☐ Republic of Ireland
- ☐ Other country (please specify)

Q1. What is your age?

Please write in using numbers.

91-93

Q2. What is your sex?

You can answer about your gender identity below.

Cross (x) one box

Male ☐ ₁

Female ☐ ₂

94

Q3. Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?

Yes ☐ ₁ → **Go to Q5**

No ☐ ₂ → **Go to Q4**

95

Q4. What is the gender you identify as?

100-106

Q5. Thinking now of everyone living in your household.

Including yourself, how many adults aged 18 or over live there regularly as members of the household?

107-108

Q6. Still thinking of your household, how many children under age 18 live there regularly as members of the household?

109-110

Q7. How often do you see statistics presented in the news?

Cross (x) one box

Daily ☐ ₁

A few times a week ☐ ₂

A few times a month ☐ ₃

A few times a year ☐ ₄

Never ☐ ₅

I do not read or listen to the news ☐ ₆

111

Q8. How often do you see statistics on social media?

Cross (x) one box

Daily ☐ ₁

A few times a week ☐ ₂

A few times a month ☐ ₃

A few times a year ☐ ₄

Never ☐ ₅

I do not use social media ☐ ₆

112

Q9. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement:

In the past month, statistics have helped me to make decisions about my life.

Cross (x) one box

Strongly agree ☐ ₁

Tend to agree ☐ ₂

Tend to disagree ☐ ₃

Strongly disagree ☐ ₄

113

Q10. Which of these organisations have you heard of?

Please select all that apply.

Greenpeace ☐ ₁

The Bank of England ☐ ₂

Royal College of Nursing ☐ ₃

IBM ☐ ₄

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) ☐ ₅

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) ☐ ₆

I haven't heard of any of these organisations ☐ ₇

→ **Go to Q12**

→ **Go to Q11**

→ **Go to Q12**

114-127

SPARE 128 - 158

P18329

Q11. To what extent did you know the ONS before this survey?

Cross (x) one box

- I knew it well ☐ ₁
 I knew it somewhat ☐ ₂
 I have only heard the name ☐ ₃

169

Q12. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is the organisation that produces official statistics on the state of our economy, society, and our environment.

Have you ever used or referred to statistics produced by ONS for any purpose, such as study, work, or personal interest?

Cross (x) one box

- Yes, frequently ☐ ₁ → Go to Q13
 Yes, occasionally ☐ ₂
 Yes, at least 5 years ago ☐ ₃ → Go to Q15
 No ☐ ₄

170

Q13. For approximately how long have you been using or referring to statistics from ONS?

Cross (x) one box

- For less than 1 year ☐ ₁
 For 2-5 years ☐ ₂
 For 6-10 years ☐ ₃
 For more than 10 years ☐ ₄
 I am not a current user ☐ ₅

171

Q14. In the last 12 months, approximately how often have you used or referred to statistics from ONS?

Cross (x) one box

- Daily ☐ ₁
 A few times a month ☐ ₂
 A few times a year ☐ ₃
 Never ☐ ₄

172

Q15. Have you participated in any of these ONS surveys?

Please select all that apply.

- Census ☐ ₁
 Labour Force Survey ☐ ₂
 Coronavirus Infection Survey (CIS) ☐ ₃
 Other survey carried out by ONS ☐ ₄
 I have taken part in an ONS survey, but can't remember which one ☐ ₅
 Not participated in any ONS surveys ☐ ₆

173-176

Q16. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement:

I believe that personal information that is provided to ONS will be kept confidential.

Cross (x) one box

- Strongly agree ☐ ₁
 Tend to agree ☐ ₂
 Tend to disagree ☐ ₃
 Strongly disagree ☐ ₄

179

Q17. For each of the following institutions, please indicate whether you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

Select one answer for each institution.

	Trust it a great deal	Tend to trust it	Tend to distrust it	Distrust it greatly
The civil service	☐ ₁	☐ ₂	☐ ₃	☐ ₄ 180
The UK Parliament	☐ ₁	☐ ₂	☐ ₃	☐ ₄ 181
The Government	☐ ₁	☐ ₂	☐ ₃	☐ ₄ 182
The media	☐ ₁	☐ ₂	☐ ₃	☐ ₄ 183
The ONS	☐ ₁	☐ ₂	☐ ₃	☐ ₄ 184
The courts	☐ ₁	☐ ₂	☐ ₃	☐ ₄ 185
The police	☐ ₁	☐ ₂	☐ ₃	☐ ₄ 186
The Bank of England	☐ ₁	☐ ₂	☐ ₃	☐ ₄ 187
High street banks and financial institutions	☐ ₁	☐ ₂	☐ ₃	☐ ₄ 188

Q18. How much trust do you have in statistics produced by ONS? For example, on unemployment, inflation, economic growth, or life expectancy.

Cross (x) one box

- Trust them greatly ☐ ₁ → Go to Q19
 Tend to trust them ☐ ₂
 Tend not to trust them ☐ ₃ → Go to Q20
 Distrust them greatly ☐ ₄

189

Q19. What are your main reasons for trusting ONS statistics?

Please select a maximum of three options in the first column and then mark one of your chosen options in the second column to indicate the most important reason you trust ONS statistics.

After answering please move on to question Q21

	Reasons for trust (select max of 3)	Most important reason for trust (select 1)
I trust the statistics from personal experience	☐ 01	☐ 01
I have heard something good about the statistics	☐ 02	☐ 02
The statistics are easy to use	☐ 03	☐ 03
ONS does not have a vested interest in or manipulates the results	☐ 04	☐ 04
The Government does not have a vested interest in or manipulates the results	☐ 05	☐ 05
The ONS are experts in statistics	☐ 06	☐ 06
Other reason (please specify)	☐ 07	☐ 07

190-203 204-205

Text 206-259

Q20. What are your main reasons for not trusting ONS statistics?

Please select a maximum of three options in the first column and then mark one of your chosen options in the second column to indicate the most important reason you do not trust ONS statistics.

	Reasons for not trusting (select max of 3)	Most important reason for not trusting (select 1)
I don't trust the statistics from personal experience	☐ 01	☐ 01
I heard something bad about the statistics	☐ 02	☐ 02
The statistics are difficult to use	☐ 03	☐ 03
ONS has a vested interest in or manipulates the results	☐ 04	☐ 04
The Government has a vested interest in or manipulates the results	☐ 05	☐ 05
The statistics are misrepresented by politicians	☐ 06	☐ 06
The statistics are misrepresented by the media	☐ 07	☐ 07
The statistics alone do not tell the whole story	☐ 08	☐ 08
I personally don't have a good understanding of statistics	☐ 09	☐ 09
Other reason (please specify)	☐ 10	☐ 10

260-279 280-281

Text 282-329

Q21. Next, you will be asked some questions about specific statistics published by ONS.

Have you ever used the Census?

The Census is a survey completed every 10 years that includes everyone in the UK. It helps give a picture of the lives of people in the country.

Cross (x) one box

Yes, within the last 5 years	☐ 1	} Go to Q22
Yes, but not in the last 5 years	☐ 2	
No	☐ 3	

330

Q22. How much do you agree or disagree with each statement about the Census?

Please select one box per statement.

a) It gives me useful information

Strongly agree	☐ 1	Tend to agree	☐ 2	Tend to disagree	☐ 3	Strongly disagree	☐ 4
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331

b) It gets released quickly

Strongly agree	☐ 1	Tend to agree	☐ 2	Tend to disagree	☐ 3	Strongly disagree	☐ 4
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332

Q23. How much do you agree or disagree with each statement about the Census?

Please select one box per statement.

Throughout this questionnaire, political interference refers to successful pressure from politicians on ONS to change statistics, their date of release, or their analysis.

a) Changes over time in the statistics accurately reflect what is changing in the UK

Strongly agree	☐ 1	Tend to agree	☐ 2	Tend to disagree	☐ 3	Strongly disagree	☐ 4
----------------	----------------------------	---------------	----------------------------	------------------	----------------------------	-------------------	----------------------------

333

b) It is free from political interference

Strongly agree	☐ 1	Tend to agree	☐ 2	Tend to disagree	☐ 3	Strongly disagree	☐ 4
----------------	----------------------------	---------------	----------------------------	------------------	----------------------------	-------------------	----------------------------

334

Q24. Have you ever used the Consumer Price Index (CPI)?

The Consumer Price Index is a measure of the price of a group of consumer goods and services. Changes in this index allows for the measurement of inflation.

Cross (x) one box

Yes, within the last 5 years	☐ 1	} Go to Q25
Yes, but not in the last 5 years	☐ 2	
No	☐ 3	

335

Q25. How much do you agree or disagree with each statement about the Consumer Price Index (CPI)?

Please select one box per statement.

a) It gives me useful information

Strongly agree ☐ 1 Tend to agree ☐ 2 Tend to disagree ☐ 3 Strongly disagree ☐ 4
336

b) It gets released quickly

Strongly agree ☐ 1 Tend to agree ☐ 2 Tend to disagree ☐ 3 Strongly disagree ☐ 4
337

Q26. How much do you agree or disagree with each statement about the Consumer Price Index (CPI)?

Please select one box per statement.

a) Changes over time in the statistics accurately reflect what is changing in the UK

Strongly agree ☐ 1 Tend to agree ☐ 2 Tend to disagree ☐ 3 Strongly disagree ☐ 4
338

b) It is free from political interference

Strongly agree ☐ 1 Tend to agree ☐ 2 Tend to disagree ☐ 3 Strongly disagree ☐ 4
339

Q27. Have you ever used employment and unemployment statistics?

Cross (x) one box

Yes, within the last 5 years ☐ 1
Yes, but not in the last 5 years ☐ 2
No ☐ 3
Go to Q28
Go to Q29

Q28. How much do you agree or disagree with each statement about employment and unemployment statistics?

Please select one box per statement.

a) It gives me useful information

Strongly agree ☐ 1 Tend to agree ☐ 2 Tend to disagree ☐ 3 Strongly disagree ☐ 4
341

b) It gets released quickly

Strongly agree ☐ 1 Tend to agree ☐ 2 Tend to disagree ☐ 3 Strongly disagree ☐ 4
342

Q29. How much do you agree or disagree with each statement about employment and unemployment statistics?

Please select one box per statement.

a) Changes over time in the statistics accurately reflect what is changing in the UK

Strongly agree ☐ 1 Tend to agree ☐ 2 Tend to disagree ☐ 3 Strongly disagree ☐ 4
343

b) It is free from political interference

Strongly agree ☐ 1 Tend to agree ☐ 2 Tend to disagree ☐ 3 Strongly disagree ☐ 4
344

Q30. Have you ever used Gross Domestic Product (GDP)?

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is a statistic that measures the value of all goods and services made in a country. This can then be used to help gauge how well the economy is doing overall.

Cross (x) one box

Yes, within the last 5 years ☐ 1
Yes, but not in the last 5 years ☐ 2
No ☐ 3
Go to Q31
Go to Q32

Q31. How much do you agree or disagree with each statement about Gross Domestic Product (GDP)?

Please select one box per statement.

a) It gives me useful information

Strongly agree ☐ 1 Tend to agree ☐ 2 Tend to disagree ☐ 3 Strongly disagree ☐ 4
346

b) It gets released quickly

Strongly agree ☐ 1 Tend to agree ☐ 2 Tend to disagree ☐ 3 Strongly disagree ☐ 4
347

Q32. How much do you agree or disagree with each statement about Gross Domestic Product (GDP)?

Please select one box per statement.

a) Changes over time in the statistics accurately reflect what is changing in the UK

Strongly agree ☐ 1 Tend to agree ☐ 2 Tend to disagree ☐ 3 Strongly disagree ☐ 4
348

b) It is free from political interference

Strongly agree ☐ 1 Tend to agree ☐ 2 Tend to disagree ☐ 3 Strongly disagree ☐ 4
349

Q33. Have you ever used crime statistics?

Cross (x) one box

Yes, within the last 5 years ☐ 1
Yes, but not in the last 5 years ☐ 2
No ☐ 3
Go to Q34
Go to Q35

Q34. How much do you agree or disagree with each statement about crime statistics?

Please select one box per statement.

a) It gives me useful information

Strongly agree ☐ 1 Tend to agree ☐ 2 Tend to disagree ☐ 3 Strongly disagree ☐ 4
401

b) It gets released quickly

Strongly agree ☐ 1 Tend to agree ☐ 2 Tend to disagree ☐ 3 Strongly disagree ☐ 4
402

Q35. How much do you agree or disagree with each statement about crime statistics?

Please select one box per statement.

a) Changes over time in the statistics accurately reflect what is changing in the UK

Strongly agree ☐ 1 Tend to agree ☐ 2 Tend to disagree ☐ 3 Strongly disagree ☐ 4
403

b) It is free from political interference

Strongly agree ☐ 1 Tend to agree ☐ 2 Tend to disagree ☐ 3 Strongly disagree ☐ 4
404

Q36. Below are several statements about statistics in general. How strongly do you agree or disagree with each statement?

Please select one box per statement.

a) Statistics produced by ONS are important to understand our country

Strongly agree ☐ 1 Tend to agree ☐ 2 Tend to disagree ☐ 3 Strongly disagree ☐ 4
405

b) Statistics produced by ONS are free from political interference

Strongly agree ☐ 1 Tend to agree ☐ 2 Tend to disagree ☐ 3 Strongly disagree ☐ 4
406

c) Official statistics are generally accurate

Strongly agree ☐ 1 Tend to agree ☐ 2 Tend to disagree ☐ 3 Strongly disagree ☐ 4
407

d) The Government presents official statistics honestly when talking about its policies

Strongly agree ☐ 1 Tend to agree ☐ 2 Tend to disagree ☐ 3 Strongly disagree ☐ 4
408

e) Newspapers present official statistics honestly

Strongly agree ☐ 1 Tend to agree ☐ 2 Tend to disagree ☐ 3 Strongly disagree ☐ 4
409

Q37. ONS publishes weekly statistics on the number of COVID-19 cases and related deaths. These include estimates of people testing positive and the number of people who may have died from COVID-19.

The next section of questions will focus on these COVID-19 statistics produced by ONS.

Have you ever used COVID-19 statistics for any purpose?

Cross (x) one box

Yes ☐ 1 → Go to Q38

No ☐ 2 → Go to Q39
410

Q38. How much do you agree or disagree with each statement about COVID-19 statistics?

Please select one box per statement.

a) It gives me useful information

Strongly agree ☐ 1 Tend to agree ☐ 2 Tend to disagree ☐ 3 Strongly disagree ☐ 4
411

b) It gets released quickly

Strongly agree ☐ 1 Tend to agree ☐ 2 Tend to disagree ☐ 3 Strongly disagree ☐ 4
412

Q39. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about COVID-19 statistics?

Please select one box per statement.

a) Changes over time in the statistics accurately reflect what is changing in the UK

Strongly agree ☐ 1 Tend to agree ☐ 2 Tend to disagree ☐ 3 Strongly disagree ☐ 4
413

b) It is free from political interference

Strongly agree ☐ 1 Tend to agree ☐ 2 Tend to disagree ☐ 3 Strongly disagree ☐ 4
414

Q40. The UK Statistics Authority is the independent body whose role is to safeguard official statistics and speak out publicly against the misuse of statistics.

To what extent did you know the UK Statistics Authority before this survey?

Cross (x) one box

I knew it well ☐ 1

I knew it somewhat ☐ 2

I have only heard the name ☐ 3

I have never heard of it ☐ 4
415

Q41. Please say how strongly you agree or disagree with each statement below.

Please select one box per statement.

a) It is important for an independent body such as the UK Statistics Authority to ensure that official statistics are produced without political interference

Strongly agree ☐ 1 Tend to agree ☐ 2 Tend to disagree ☐ 3 Strongly disagree ☐ 4
416

b) It is important for an independent body such as the UK Statistics Authority to speak out publicly against the misuse of official statistics

Strongly agree ☐ 1 Tend to agree ☐ 2 Tend to disagree ☐ 3 Strongly disagree ☐ 4
417

Q43. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Please select one box per statement.

a) Official statistics are easy to find

Strongly agree ☐ 1 Tend to agree ☐ 2 Tend to disagree ☐ 3 Strongly disagree ☐ 4
419

b) Official statistics are easy to understand

Strongly agree ☐ 1 Tend to agree ☐ 2 Tend to disagree ☐ 3 Strongly disagree ☐ 4
420

The next questions are about you

Q42. The Office for Statistics Regulation is a part of the UK Statistics Authority and is responsible for regulating statistics produced by government departments, which are known as official statistics.

To what extent did you know the Office for Statistics Regulation before this survey?

Cross (x) one box

I knew it well ☐ 1

I knew it somewhat ☐ 2

I have only heard the name ☐ 3

I have never heard of it ☐ 4
418

Q44. What is your religion?

Cross (x) one box

No religion ☐ 1

Christian
(including Church of England,
Catholic, Protestant and all other
Christian denominations) ☐ 2

Buddhist ☐ 3

Hindu ☐ 4

Jewish ☐ 5

Muslim ☐ 6

Sikh ☐ 7

Any other religion (please specify)

 8
421-422

Text 423 - 429

Q45. What is your ethnic group? Choose one option that best describes your ethnic group or background?

White

English/Welsh/Scottish/
Northern Irish/British ☐ 01

Irish ☐ 02

Gypsy or Irish Traveller ☐ 03

Any other White background (please specify)
 04

Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups

White and Black Caribbean ☐ 05

White and Black African ☐ 06

White and Asian ☐ 07

Any other Mixed/Multiple ethnic background
(please specify)
 08

Asian/Asian British

Indian ☐ 09

Pakistani ☐ 10

Bangladeshi ☐ 11

Chinese ☐ 12

Any other Asian background (please specify)
 13

Black/African/ Caribbean/Black British

African ☐ 14

Caribbean ☐ 15

Any other Black/African/ Caribbean
background (please specify)
 16

Other ethnic group

Arab ☐ 17

Any other ethnic group (please specify)
 18

460 - 461 Total 462 - 519

Q46. Which of the following options applied to what you were doing last week, that is the seven days ending last Sunday?

Cross (x) one box

Employed full time ☐ 01

Employed part time ☐ 02

Self-employed ☐ 03

Retired ☐ 04

Unemployed ☐ 05

Full time student ☐ 06

Other (please specify)
 07

500-521

Total 522 - 570

Q47. The next questions refer to your current main job or, if you are not working now, to your last main job.

In your main job are you (were you)...

Cross (x) one box

An employee ☐ 1 } **Go to Q48**

Self-employed with employees ☐ 2 }

Self-employed/freelance without employees ☐ 3 } **Go to Q51**

I have never had a job ☐ 4 }

571

Q48. How many people work (worked) at the place where you work (worked)?

Cross (x) one box

1 to 24 ☐ 1

25 to 499 ☐ 2

500 or more ☐ 3

572

Q49. In your job, do you have any formal responsibility for other employees or people's work?

Cross (x) one box

Yes ☐ 1

No ☐ 2

573

Q50. Which of these best describes the sort of work you do in your current job? If you are not working now, please select which best described what you did in your last job.

Cross (x) one box

Modern professional occupations (e.g. teacher/lecturer, nurse, physiotherapist, social worker, artist, police officer, software designer) ☐ 01

Clerical and intermediate occupations (e.g. secretary, personal assistant, clerical worker, office clerk, call centre agent, nursing auxiliary) ☐ 02

Senior managers and administrators usually responsible for planning, organising and co-ordinating work and for finance (e.g. finance manager, chief executive) ☐ 03

Technical and craft occupations (e.g. motor mechanic, fitter, inspector, plumber, printer, tool maker, electrician, gardener, train driver) ☐ 04

Semi-routine manual and service occupations (e.g. postal worker, machine operative, security guard, farm worker, sales assistant) ☐ 05

Routine manual and service occupations (e.g. HGV driver, van driver, cleaner, porter, messenger, labourer, waiter / waitress) ☐ 06

Middle or junior managers (e.g. office manager, retail manager, bank manager, restaurant manager, warehouse manager, publican) ☐ 07

Traditional professional occupations (e.g. accountant, solicitor, medical practitioner, scientist, civil/mechanical engineer) ☐ 08

574 - 575

Q51. What is the highest level of educational qualification you have?

Cross (x) one box

Degree or equivalent, and above (e.g. University/CNNA first degree BA, BSC or foundation Degree, Postgraduate degree: MA, MSc, MPhil, DPhil, PhD) ☐ 1

Other Higher Education, including Diplomas in higher education, HNC and HND (e.g. Teaching qualifications for schools or further education, Nursing or other medical qualifications, City & Guilds level 4) ☐ 2

A-levels/SCE Highers including vocational level 3 or equivalent, and above (e.g. S-level, AS-level, A2-Level Scottish higher, NVQ or SVQ level 3) ☐ 3

Qualifications below A-levels (e.g. GCSE/O Level/Standard Grade, vocational level 3 or equivalent, GCE, GSE, CSE level 1) ☐ 4

Other qualification (please specify)

No qualifications ☐ 5

576

Text 577 - 639

Q52. Do you own or rent your main accommodation?

Cross (x) one box

Own outright ☐ 01

Buying with a mortgage ☐ 02

Buying through a shared ownership scheme ☐ 03

Rent from a private landlord ☐ 04

Rent from housing association or local authority ☐ 05

Live rent free ☐ 06

Other (please specify)

640-641

Text 642 - 699

Q53. On average, how often would you say you access the internet for personal use? This could be for general web browsing, watching videos or going on social media sites.

Please include time spent on the internet on all devices you use, for example a computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone.

Cross (x) one box

Several times a day ☐ 1

Daily ☐ 2

Weekly ☐ 3

Monthly ☐ 4

Less often than once a month ☐ 5

Do not have access to the internet ☐ 6

690

Q54. This survey has been completed on behalf of and funded by the UK Statistics Authority (UKSA). If the UKSA or Office for Statistics Regulation needed help with any future research, would you be happy if they contact you again?

Any further research would be conducted by either the UKSA or a research organisation contracted to the UKSA. Data passed to the UKSA, or any of its contractors, would be used for research purposes only.

By agreeing for your contact details to be passed on to the UKSA you are not committing to take part in future research and are able to withdraw at any stage.

Cross (x) one box

Yes ☐ 1

No ☐ 2

691

If you are happy to take part in follow up research ...

Q55. Please enter your telephone number so that we can contact you for any follow-up research.

692-702

Q56. Please enter your email address so that we can contact you for any follow-up research.

703-802

SWRE 803 - 829

This completes the questions and the survey. Thank you for your time, it is much appreciated.

Please return the completed questionnaire in the pre-paid envelope enclosed alongside this questionnaire.

As a thank you for doing this, you will receive a £10 voucher. This will be sent to the same address that this questionnaire was sent to. In order to receive a voucher, please write your name below:

Q57. Please write your first name below

830-889

Q58. Please write your second name below

890-949

If you would like to receive the voucher by email please confirm your email address below:

Q59. Please write your email below

950-1049

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Appendix C: Advance Letter

 NatCen Social Research that works for society	 HM Government
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<add1> <add2> <add3> <add4> <add5> <postcode>	Reference: P16329 <Hhserial> <CKL_HH>
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Official numbers help shape our lives. Your chance to tell us your opinions!

Dear Sir or Madam,

Official numbers and statistics can be used in ways that impact our everyday lives.

For example, the government used the COVID-19 infection rate to help manage the pandemic. NatCen and the UK Statistics Authority would like to invite you to give us your thoughts on how numbers and statistics are used in public life in Britain.

To say thank you, each adult who completes the survey will receive a £10 shopping voucher.

What's next?

We would like you to complete a short survey online. This should only take 15 minutes. To take part, please go to this link and enter one of the codes printed below: **<ShortURL>**.

Only people over 18 should answer. Two adults (18+) at most can participate per home.

 Person 1: <accesscode1>	 Person 2: <accesscode2>
---	---

Find out more!

If you need more information, please see the back of this letter or leaflet sent along with it. You can also visit <https://www.natcen.ac.uk/taking-part/pcios>. To speak to someone about the survey, call 0800 652 4569 or email PCIOS@natcen.ac.uk.

Thank you for your help.


Dr Sarah Butt
Research Director

P16329 PCOS 2021 advance letter

Frequently asked questions

Who is carrying out the survey?

The National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) are conducting this study for the UK Statistics Authority (UKSA).

NatCen is Britain's biggest independent research organisation. We carry out many national research studies for a range of government and charitable bodies.

How was I chosen?

You were picked randomly from the Postcode Address File, the Post Office's public list of addresses. The addresses that are picked will come from across Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales). This means a range of people across the country have a chance to take part. The results will not name you or your family.

What is the study about?

You will be asked for your views on numbers and statistics used in public life. This will include whether you see these numbers in the news and whether you think these numbers are trustworthy. You would also be asked about how trustworthy you find different institutions in UK public life. No knowledge of numbers or statistics is needed to take part. It is your opinions that matter.

Please find the study's last set of results here: <https://natcen.ac.uk/our-research/research/public-confidence-in-official-statistics/>

What is the study used for?

The UKSA uses this study to measure the public's trust in official numbers and statistics. The UKSA also use the study to identify the bodies that need to improve how they use and present figures to the public.

I don't really have any views on official numbers or statistics. Should I take part?

We still want to hear from you. It's important that everyone is able to give us their views, even if you don't have any strong opinions. By answering you will help to make the study as accurate as possible. You don't need to have any specialist knowledge to take part. You can skip past any questions you don't want to answer. The study is not a test of your knowledge, we are interested in your opinions.

What will happen to any information I give?

We will follow all data protection legislation. No personal details will be shared with the UKSA. Any data shared with the UKSA will be for research purposes only. Your answers will be put together with those from everyone else taking part in the study. The findings will not focus on any individual.

You can find out more at <https://www.natcen.ac.uk/taking-part/studies-in-field/public-confidence-in-official-statistics/privacy-notice/>

Where can I find out more about this survey?

With this letter there is a leaflet or visit <https://www.natcen.ac.uk/taking-part/pcios>. You can also call 0800 652 4569 or email PCIOS@natcen.ac.uk.

Appendix D: Respondent Information Leaflet

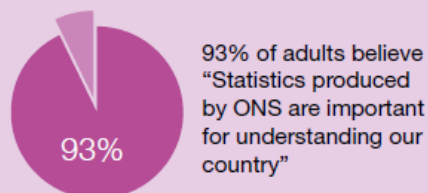
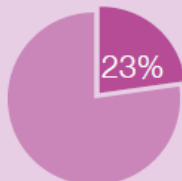
Findings from the 2018 study

This study has been conducted previously. The last time was in 2018. This year's study will allow us to see if the public's attitudes to numbers and statistics have changed.

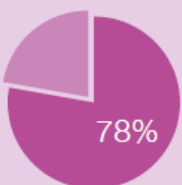
In 2018:



Only 23% of adults believe "Newspapers present official figures honestly"



78% of adults believe "Official statistics are generally accurate"



You can find the full 2018 report here:
<https://natcen.ac.uk/our-research/research/public-confidence-in-official-statistics/>

Our responsibility to you

We answer your questions

We will always tell you the purpose of the research and who is funding it

No 'junk mail'

You will not receive any 'junk mail' as a result of taking part. We do not pass addresses onto other organisations for commercial purposes.

For more information

If you'd like to know more about this study, or have any questions, please visit <https://www.natcen.ac.uk/taking-part/pcios>. If you would prefer you can e-mail us at PCIOS@natcen.ac.uk or call on 0800 652 4569.

NatCen Social Research, Kings House, 101-135 Kings Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4LX Tel. 0800 652 4572. Company limited by guarantee. Reg No. 4392418. A Charity registered in England and Wales (1091768) and in Scotland (SC038454).

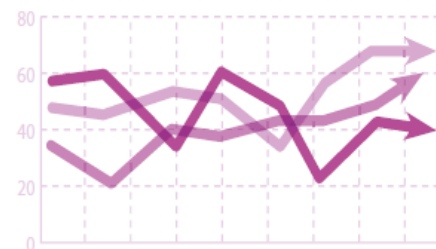
P16329 PCOS information leaflet

NatCen
Social Research



HM Government

Official numbers and statistics help shape our lives



Official figures and statistics can impact our everyday lives. Your thoughts on these numbers and how they are used are vital for public life in Britain.

Take part in this important study here:
survey.natcen.ac.uk/PCIOS

Your unique access code can be found on the invitation letter that arrived with this leaflet.

What is the study?

This study will be a 15 minute online survey checking your opinion on the use and trustworthiness of statistics in the public eye.

£10

As a thank you for taking part we will give you a £10 shopping voucher.

Why does the survey matter?

Official statistics and numbers can impact our lives every day in many different ways. Whether it is helping to decide how to manage the pandemic, local government determining where to build schools and hospitals, or crime figures being used to make policies to improve public safety, numbers and statistics are crucial to modern Britain. It is important that these numbers are high quality and trustworthy. Your thoughts on these numbers and statistics and how they are used are important for Britain's public life.

This is **not** a test of your knowledge or whether you use numbers and statistics. Instead we would like to hear your opinions on how they are used by other people.



How will we use your answers?

This study will be used by the UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) to check the public's views on official numbers and statistics in this country. This includes how trustworthy people think these statistics are. The study will also be used to check the trustworthiness of the institutions that publish these numbers.

No personal details will be shared with the UKSA. Any data shared with the UKSA will be for research purposes only. Your answers will be put together with those from everyone else taking part in the study. The findings will not identify anyone who took part in the study.



Why did we choose you?

Your home was selected at random from the Postcode Address File. This is the Post Office's publicly available list of address covering all of England, Scotland and Wales. Your home was selected in September 2021.



We would like up to two adults (18+) from your home to take part. It is important that we hear from a wide range of people regardless of your knowledge of numbers or statistics.

Who are we?

NatCen Social Research is Britain's largest independent research organisation studying social affairs. We carry out many important national research studies for Government departments, research councils and charitable foundations.

The kinds of policy areas we study include: health, education, work, childcare, housing and transport.

We also regularly study the attitudes of the British population, including confidence and trust in institutions and organisation across the UK. We produce research reports such as British Social Attitudes and the Scottish Social Attitudes Survey.

www.natcen.ac.uk/about-us



Appendix E: Reminder Letter 1

NatCen Social Research that works for society	 HM Government		
<add1> <add2> <add3> <add4> <add5> <postcode>	Reference: P16329 <Hhserial> <CKL_HH>		
Official numbers help improve decisions. Still time to get involved and get a £10 voucher!			
Dear Sir or Madam, A lot of public bodies in the UK publish official numbers and statistics. These numbers are used to make decisions that affect everyone. For example, the census is used by local government to help decide where to build hospitals and schools. To make sure these groups are doing this as well as they can, NatCen and the UK Statistics Authority are inviting you to take part in a study to get your thoughts on how numbers and statistics are used in public life in Britain. To say thank you for completing the study, each adult will receive a £10 shopping voucher. What's next? We would like you to complete a short survey online. This should only take 15 minutes. To take part, please go to this link and enter one of the codes printed below: <ShortURL>. Only people over 18 should answer. Two adults (18+) at most can participate per home. <table border="0"><tr><td> Person 1: <accesscode1></td><td> Person 2: <accesscode2></td></tr></table> Find out more! If you need more information, please see the back of this letter. You can also visit https://www.natcen.ac.uk/taking-part/pcios. To speak to someone about the survey, call 0800 652 4569 or email PCIOS@natcen.ac.uk. Thank you for your help.  Dr Sarah Butt Research Director P16329 PCOS 2021 reminder letter 1		 Person 1: <accesscode1>	 Person 2: <accesscode2>
 Person 1: <accesscode1>	 Person 2: <accesscode2>		

Appendix F: Reminder Letter 2

NatCen
Social Research that works for society



HM Government

<add1>
<add2>
<add3>
<add4>
<add5>
<postcode>

Reference:
P16329
<Hhserial> <CKL_HH>

Official numbers are crucial for Britain. Last chance to get involved and receive £10!

Dear Sir or Madam,

Official numbers and statistics play an important role in the way that modern Britain works. For example, crime statistics are used to make policy to improve public safety and measure specific crimes. This includes anti-social behaviour. NatCen and the UK Statistics Authority want to hear from members of the public to get their thoughts on how much they trust or distrust official numbers and statistics in public life in Britain.

To say thank you, each adult who completes the survey will receive a **£10 shopping voucher**.

What's next?

We would like you to complete a short survey online. This should only take 15 minutes. To take part, please go to this link and enter one of the codes printed below: **<ShortURL>**.

Only people over 18 should answer. Two adults (18+) at most can participate per home.



Person 1:
<accesscode1>



Person 2:
<accesscode2>

Some people prefer to take part in the study on paper. There are two paper questionnaires and return envelopes included with this letter.

Find out more!

If you need more information, please see the back of this letter. You can also visit <https://www.natcen.ac.uk/taking-part/pcios>. To speak to someone about the survey, call 0800 652 4569 or email PCIOS@natcen.ac.uk.

Thank you for your help.

Dr Sarah Butt
Research Director

Appendix G: Thank You Letter

			
		 NatCen Social Research that works for society	 HM Government
<add1> <add2> <add3> <add4> <add5> <postcode>		Reference: P16329 <SerialNumber><CKL_Ind>	
Dear <FirstName> <SecondName>,			
Thank you for taking part in this year's survey on official statistics!			
Your responses will help to make sure public bodies use statistics better in the future.			
Thank You			
As a token of our appreciation, please find below your £10 Love2shop e-voucher code. Please visit www.love2shoprewards.co.uk and follow the onscreen prompts to redeem your voucher.			
Your voucher reward code: <VoucherCode>			
The expiry date: <ExpDate>			
If you are unable to go online, call us on 0800 652 4569, and we can arrange a physical gift card to be sent to you.			
Read Our Findings			
The results of the study will be put into a report for the UK Statistics Authority in 2022. To read the results of the survey from 2018, please visit: https://natcen.ac.uk/our-research/research/public-confidence-in-official-statistics/.			
Thank you once again for your help with the survey.			
 Dr Sarah Butt Research Director			
P16329 PCOS 2021 Thank You Letter			
P16329 PCOS 2021 Thank You Letter v4.indd 1		21/10/2021 15:31	

Appendix H: Thank You Email



PanelID: 10005202 B

Dear {~Forename~} {~Surname~},

Thank you for taking part in this year's survey on official statistics! Your responses will help to make sure public bodies use statistics better in the future.

Thank You

As a token of our appreciation, please find below your **£10 Love2shop e-voucher** code. Please visit www.love2shoprewards.co.uk and follow the onscreen prompts to redeem your voucher.

Your voucher reward code: {~CustomField_1~}

The expiry date: {~CustomField_2~}

If you are unable to go online, call us on **0800 652 4569**, and we can arrange a physical gift card to be sent to you.

Read Our Findings

The results of the study will be put into a report for the UK Statistics Authority in 2022. To read the results of the survey from 2018, please visit:

<https://natcen.ac.uk/our-research/research/public-confidence-in-official-statistics/>

Thank you once again for your help with the survey.

Dr Sarah Butt