

How a National Statistics Institute engages with decision makers

Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom

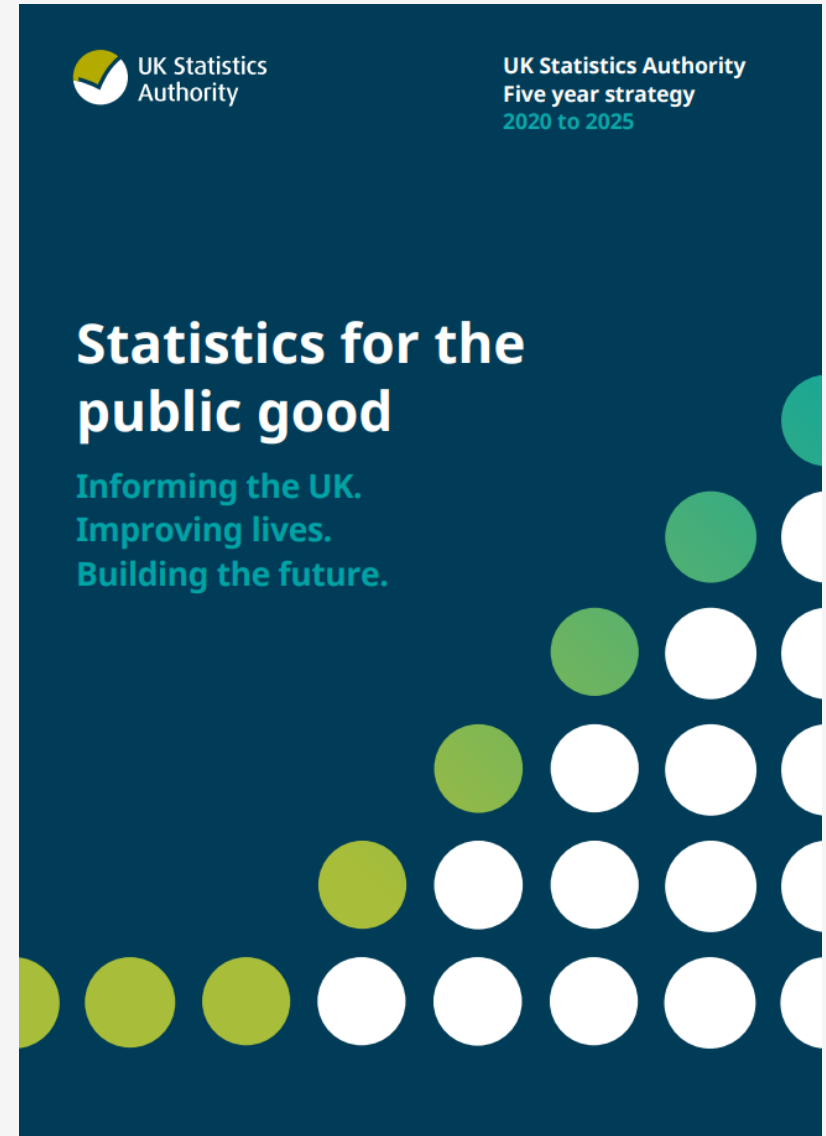
07 April 2022



The mission of the UK statistical system:

“High quality data and analysis to inform the UK, improve lives and build the future.”

Radical • Ambitious • Inclusive • Sustainable





Seat at the table



- In order to efficiently engage with decision makers, it is important that an NSI first has a seat at the table.
- As an NSI, it is vital that we maintain our independence and the public trust in the statistics we produce.
- It is also vital, that we use our capability and expertise to feed high quality data and analysis to decision makers to inform on the key questions of the day.

Creation of ONS Policy Liaison Unit



CabinetOffice

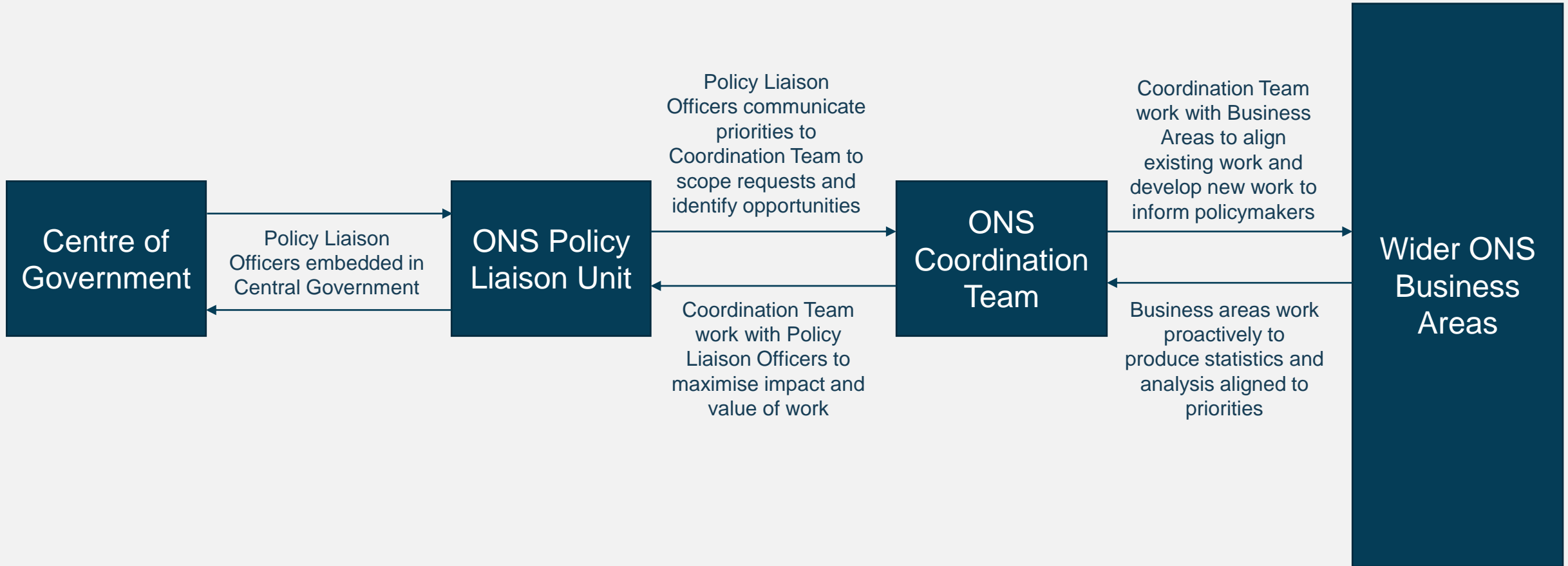


10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

- ONS have **embedded policy liaisons** in teams across central government, such as **COVID-19 Taskforce**, **Levelling Up Task Force**, **Supply Chains Unit** and are working with **No10 Delivery Unit** and **10DS** to support going forward
- These teams **ensure data and evidence are central to the policy process** from day zero, answering key questions



Our Structures





Collaborative projects

- In order to successfully respond and inform on the key, emerging questions it has been crucial that we work collaboratively with other government departments and with external providers.
- This allows us to pool knowledge and expertise and maximise value and impact.
- A key example of this is the Coronavirus Infection Survey which has allowed us to track infection rates over the course of the pandemic.

CORONAVIRUS INFECTION SURVEY



ONS, in partnership with the University of Oxford, the University of Manchester and Public Health England, are conducting a pilot survey of 10,000 households in England, to find out how many people have Coronavirus and how many people are ever likely to have had the infection.

The latest data from the study estimates that at any given time between 25 May and 7 June 2020, that an average of 0.06% of the community population had COVID-19, this equates to an average of 33,000 people. See Figure 1.

Figure 1: There is some evidence that the proportion of people testing positive with COVID-19 has decreased in recent weeks
Estimated percentage of the population in England who had the coronavirus (COVID-19), based on tests conducted between: 27 April to 10 May, 11 May to 24 May and 25 May to 7 June 2020

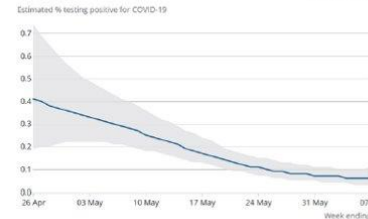
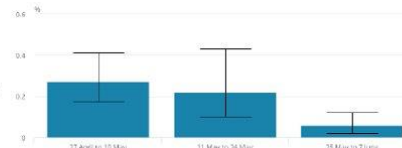


Figure 2: Estimated percent with 95% credible intervals

The study has tracked the falling rates of infection. Figure 2 shows the significant downward trend in those testing positive for COVID-19 since the start of the study on 26 April 2020.



Impact of the study

The study has been used to advise the government's response to the pandemic, as well as inform the public. It's also been frequently and continually referenced in the media, as can be seen by the difference of the coverage below. The Independent article is from 7 May 2020 and mentions an increasing transmission rate. Whereas the BBC article is from 12 June 2020 and uses data from the latest release to report a fall in cases.



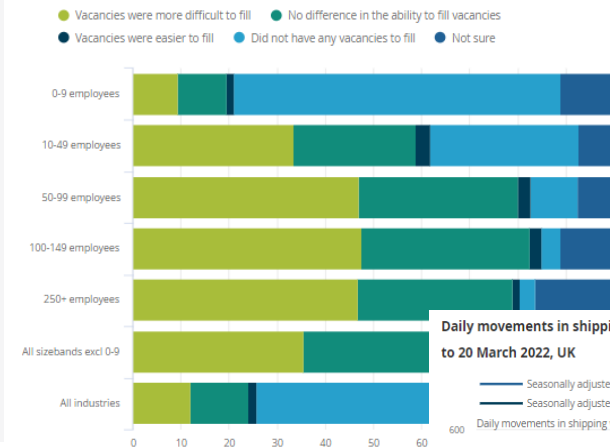
UK National Statistician, Sir Ian Diamond, discussing the results of the study at a government coronavirus press conference on Thursday 7 May 2020.

- Coronavirus cases in the UK have more than halved in a week - ONS figures**
- Coronavirus rate of transmission is increasing, says chief government statistician**
- Coronavirus: Positive tests continue to fall in England, says ONS**
- Coronavirus study finds as many as 80% of positive cases do not show symptoms**

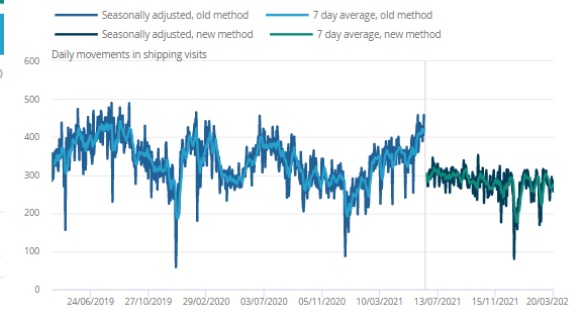


Flexible and innovative sources

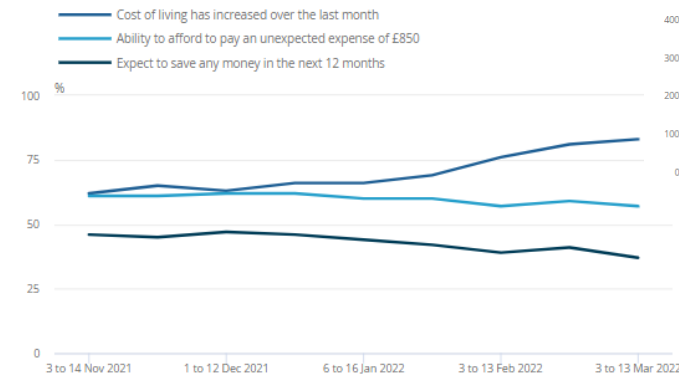
Ability to fill vacancies, businesses not permanently stopped trading, broken down by size band, weighted by count, UK, 21 February to 20 March 2022



Daily movements in shipping visits, UK, seasonally adjusted, 1 April 2019 to 20 March 2022, UK



All adults in Great Britain,



- We've made use of rapid response surveys, novel data sources, and experimental methods to bring together real-time insights

- Key examples of this is our Opinions and Lifestyle Survey to monitor the effect of the pandemic on the population and our Business Insights and Conditions Survey to monitor impacts on businesses, which we have adapted over the last two years to cover the relevant topics of the day.

- This involves engaging with stakeholders across government and wider to establish data requirements and allows us to collect the data that is needed for evidence-based decision making



Presentation and dissemination of data

Coronavirus (COVID-19) latest insights

An interactive tool to explore the latest data and trends about the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic from the ONS and other sources.

11 May 2021

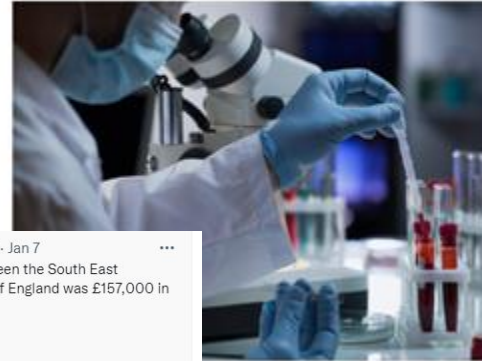
Latest headlines Overview

More detail on

Infections Hospitalisations Deaths Vaccines
Age Area Ethnicity Education Health condition

Antibodies and Immunity - how do they relate to one another?

Sarah Crofts, Jeremy Farrar, Professor Sarah Walker | April 28, 2021
Categories: Coronavirus, Office for National Statistics, ONS



Office for National Statistics (ONS) @ONS · Jan 7

The difference in median individual wealth between the South East (£236,000) and North East (£79,000) regions of England was £157,000 in April 2018 to March 2020.

Explore our interactive map ow.ly/mvoh50Hpj0Q

Source: Office for National Statistics - Wealth and Assets Survey

GIF Interactive product demo Office for National Statistics

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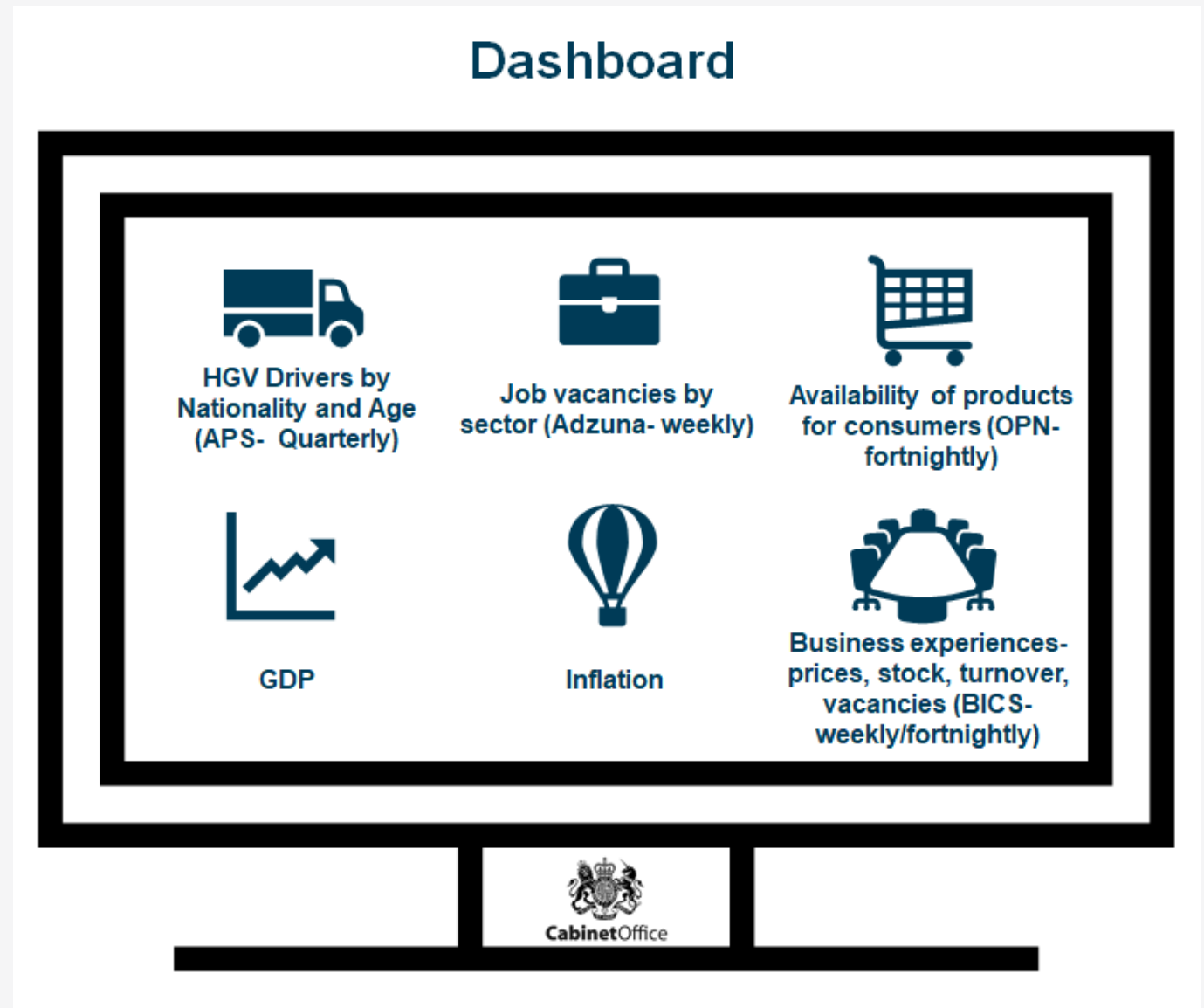
- We have found new ways to disseminate data and analysis to maximise impact through interactive tools and various publishing formats

- We provide colleagues with data and evidence in formats that suit their needs. This includes data deliveries for dashboards, slide packs and presentations.

This varied approach allows us to make sure the key findings, as well as any caveats in the data are understood.

Supply Chains

- ONS represented on xWH DG steering group and the xWH Editorial and Analytical boards for the dashboard.
- We provide weekly evidence to the Supply Chains Dashboard that is used to brief the PM.
- Our Analytical Hub and wider ONS teams have pivoted to provide evidence on key gaps, including: HGV and Adult Social Care workforce shortages, impacts on individuals, and stock availability.
- We are also working closely with OGD to incorporate their analytical requirements.



Levelling Up

- Created a new subnational statistics and analysis division to bring together, build on and co-ordinate the great work ONS was doing on subnational statistics.
- ONS is working closely with Cabinet Office, No10, DLUHC, HMT, OGDs and Devolved Administrations to provide government with a robust set of subnational data.
- We have convened many departments to pull together cross cutting evidence in support of the policy development within the white paper and through recent leadership events.
- We also continue to work with combined authorities and other regional partners.



**Improved access to and
visualisation of data**



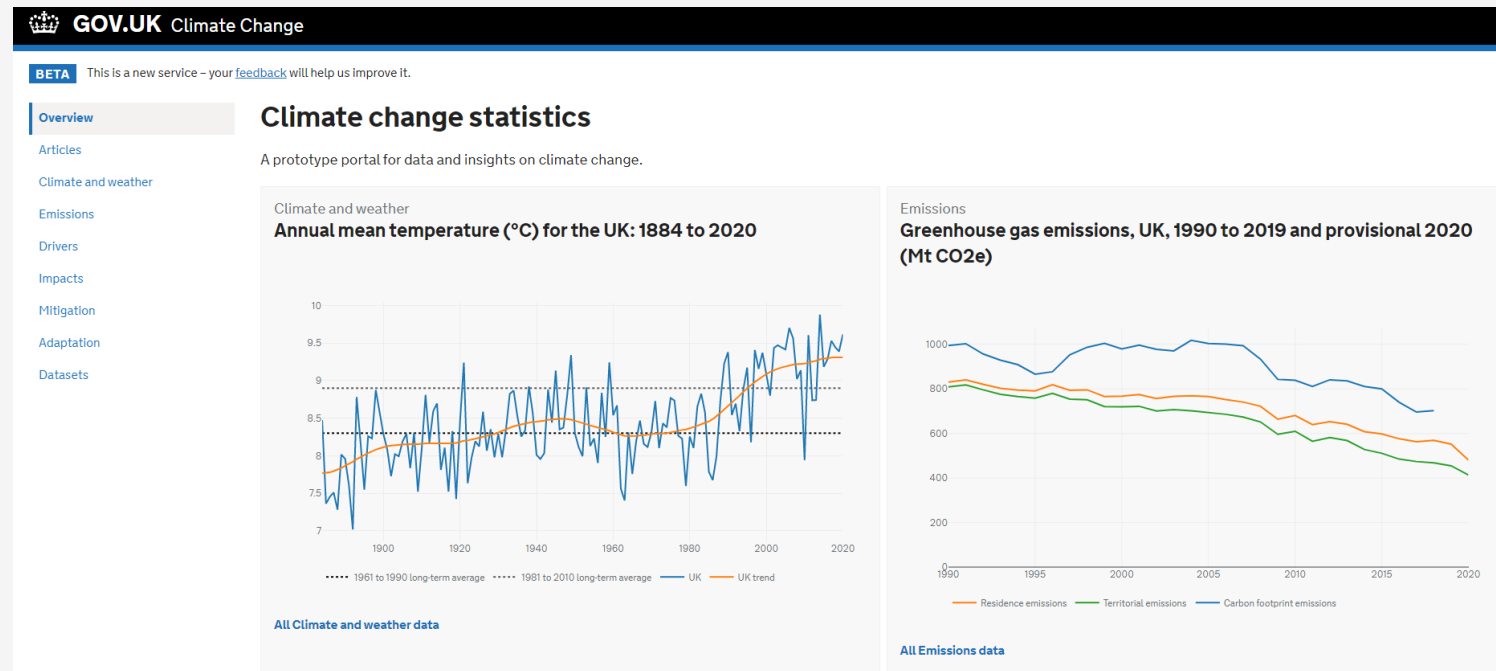
**GSS Sub-National Data
Strategy**



**Continued development of
regional and sub-regional
datasets**

Net Zero

- ONS has an important convening role bringing government departments and Non-Departmental Public Bodies working on environment issues together.
- A key output is the launch of a prototype cross-government climate change statistics portal featuring a dashboard of a sample set of indicators, data visualisations and explanatory narratives.



Building capability across the wider policy and analytical community

- ONS also has a role working across the whole UK Analysis Function. There are over 17,000 analysts based across all government departments
- A current priority is **building analytical skills for policy-makers**
 - Undertaking a review of capability levels and looking at how working practices and relationships support integrating analysis into policy-making
 - Working in partnership with the civil service Policy Profession
 - Includes understanding of concepts, techniques, assessing evidence, communicating findings, evaluation
- Also deliver wider learning and development opportunities (data masterclasses for policy-makers)



Any questions?

Becca Briggs

ONS

07 April 2022

