

# Transforming UK migration statistics:

## Concepts and definitions

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# We are transforming the way we produce migration statistics

- Aiming to put administrative data at the core of our evidence on population and migration
- Using the rich administrative data sources that ONS is able to access through the Digital Economy Act
- Working in partnership across the UK Government Statistical Service (GSS) to deliver this

# What do our users need to know?

- Our transformation framework puts users at the heart of what we do
- Users need more detailed evidence on migration, including impacts
- Changing policy context in the UK
- Taking a consultative approach and seeking regular feedback

## Concepts

What concepts do we need to measure, and what definitions support these?

e.g UK Migration



## Data

What data can we use to answer users' questions?

- Administrative
- Census
- Survey
- Big/commercial/other data sources

## What are the user needs?

How is the population changing, including patterns of international migration?

What impact is this having on the economy, labour markets and society?

## Outputs

What outputs do we need to produce?

- Population and international migration outputs
- Migrants and migration analysis
- Population characteristics
- Demographic analysis
- Families and households statistics

## Methods

What methods can we use to analyse administrative data?

Estimate population flows

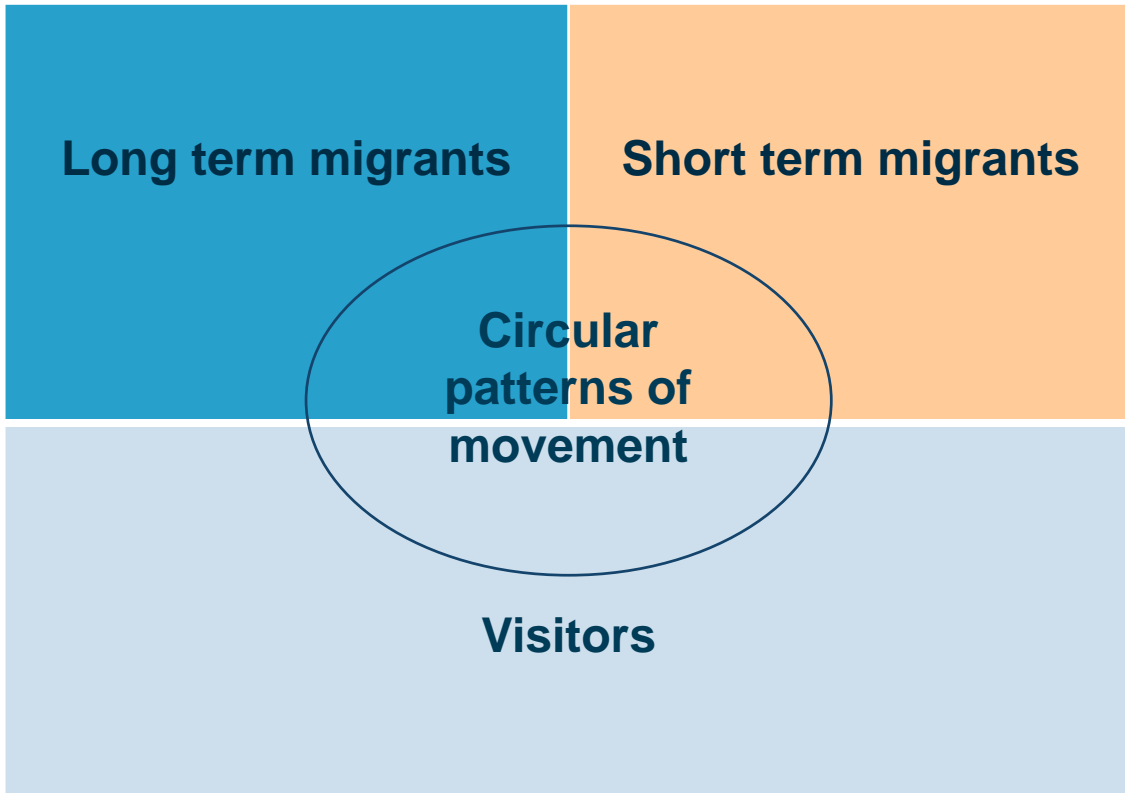
Estimate population stocks

Triangulate the results

# Concepts and definitions: our latest research

- In January 2019 we published an update report on our transformation programme, based around our framework
- Making more use of administrative data gives us a good opportunity to review *what* our migration statistics measure, based on user needs, and add more flexibility as needed (new/alternative definitions)
- Our research using Home Office Exit Checks data (non-EU) showed the complexity of travel patterns – how to better reflect these in our statistics

# Case study: Circular migration

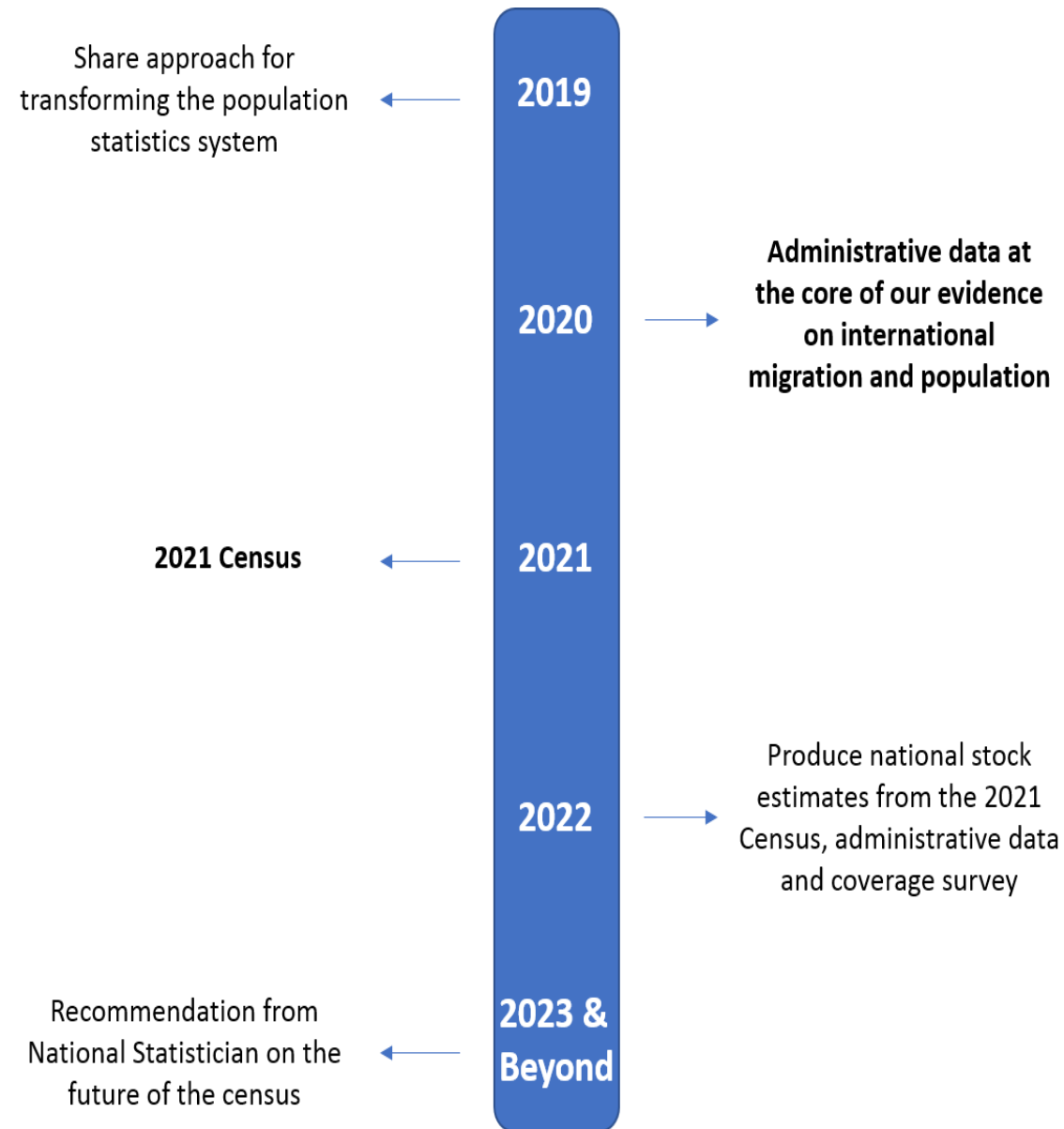


An area where there is potential for us to produce statistics in future – how to define and analyse these types of movements?

Initial research carried out using Home Office data (non-EU). Not a homogenous group, travel for different reasons and different time periods.

# Next steps

- On June 21<sup>st</sup> we published our latest update, including **a report on user feedback**. We heard:
  - Support for reviewing concepts and definitions
  - Importance of short-term and circular migration
  - Range of different user needs
- Plan to publish a report later this year, including our thinking on concepts and definitions



# Any questions?

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