Transforming UK migration statistics:

Concepts and definitions

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July 2019
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 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 21st 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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