

**African Conference:
Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics**

**Libreville, Gabon
November 2015**

Session 3:

**Securing foundation to modernization and integrated statistical
systems**

*Mr. Neil Jackson, Chief Statistician, United Kingdom
Department for International Development*

Coordination of National Statistical Systems - the UK experience

**African Conference on a Transformative
Agenda for Official Statistics**

Libreville, November 2015

Neil Jackson (DFID)

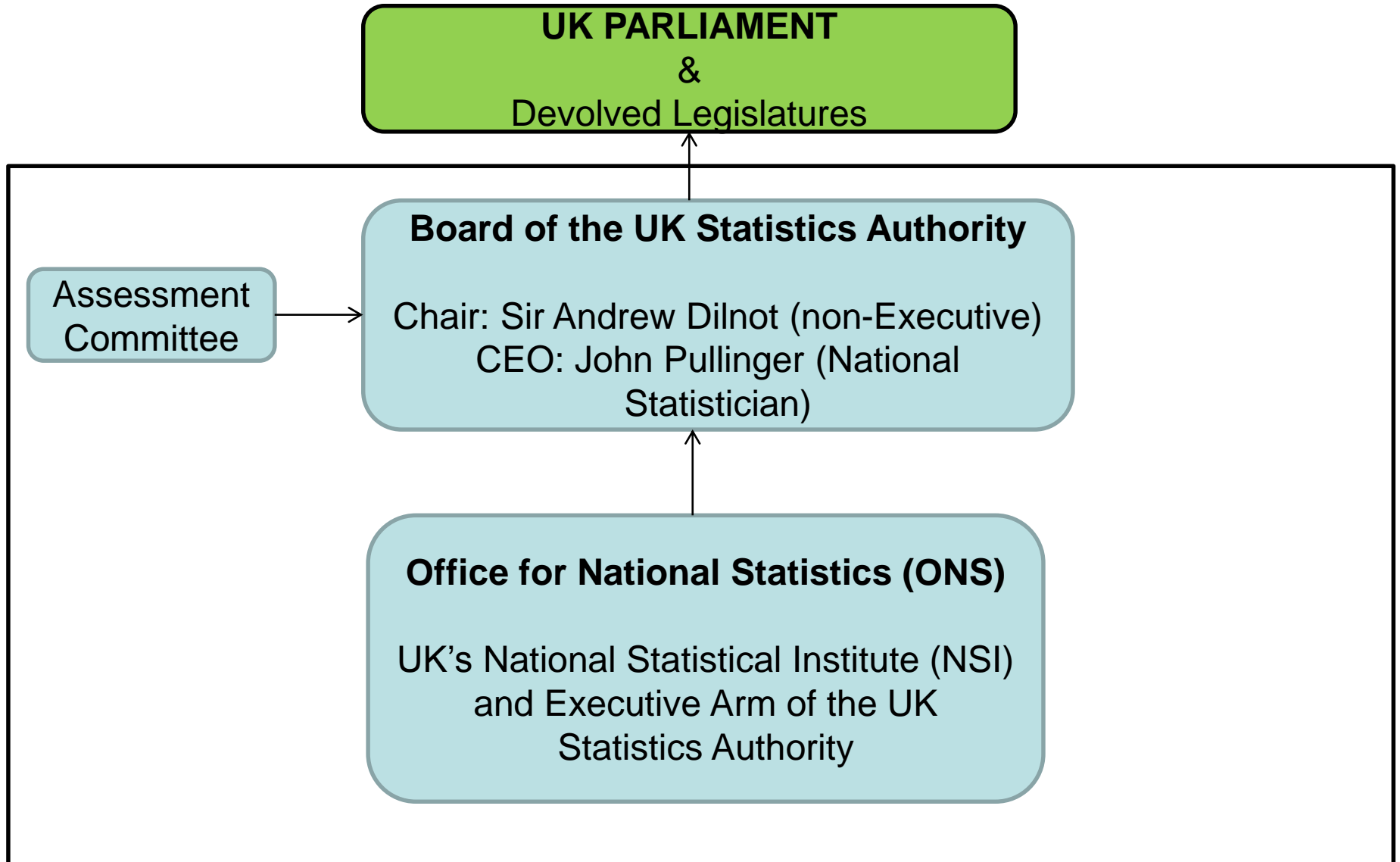
Landmarks in the development of the UK Statistical System

- 1086** Domesday Book – earliest survey of England's population
- 1801** First Population Census in Britain
- 1837** Civil registration (births, marriages and deaths) introduced
- 1929** First official estimates of National Accounts
- 1941** Creation of Central Statistical Office (CSO)
- 1968** Government Statistical Service (GSS) formed with 20 statisticians
- 1996** Creation of the Office for National Statistics (ONS)
- 2007** Statistics and Registration Service Act

Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007

- UK Statistics Authority created
- Strengthened statistical independence – removed Ministerial control of ONS
- National Statistician becomes a *statutory* position
- Code of Practice - a new statutory requirement
- Head of Assessment - a new statutory position associated with a new regulatory function for official statistics

UK Statistical Governance



UK Statistics Authority

Authority Board

Statutory objective: to promote and safeguard the production and publication of official statistics that “serve the public good”

Monitoring & Assessment

- **Head of Assessment**
- Assessment of official statistics
- Monitoring statistical matters

20 staff

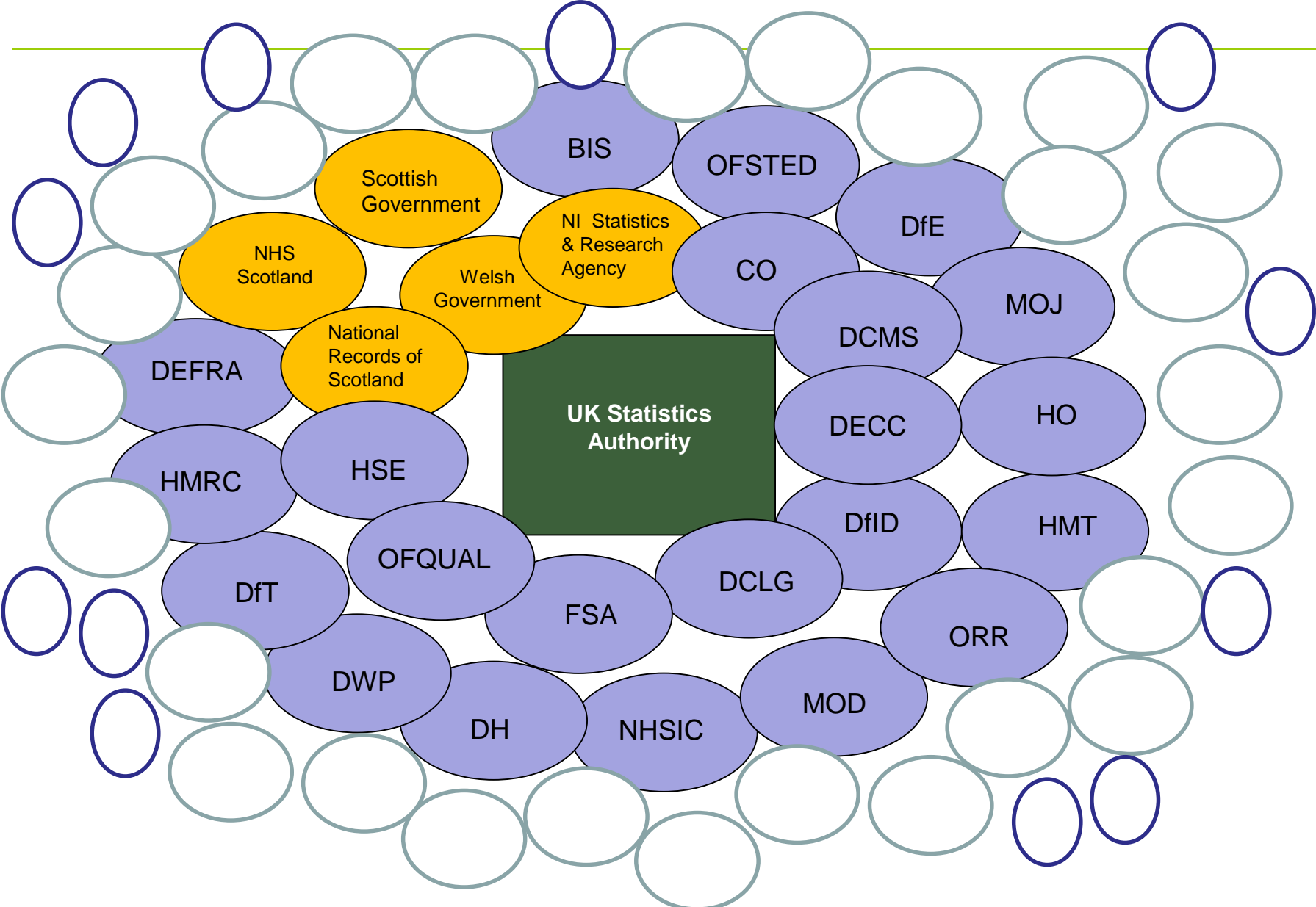
Office for National Statistics

- Executive Office of the UK Statistics Authority
- **Headed by National Statistician head**

- **GSS Professional Support**
- Support to National Statistician
- Support to GSS wide capability
- Centralised recruitment
- Good Practice Team

ONS total 4,000 staff

Devolved production of UK Statistics



Overview of UK Statistical System

- **UK Statistics Authority** Board of the UK Statistics Authority is responsible for promoting and safeguarding the production of all UK official statistics to ensure they serve the public good.
 - **Monitoring and Assessment team** – the regulatory arm of the UK Statistics Authority
 - **Office for National Statistics** (ONS) –the executive office of the UK Statistics Authority, doing its day to day work of producing official statistics. ONS is the largest producer of official statistics in the UK, and the UK’s National Statistical Institute (NSI).
- **UK government departments** and the **devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland** – each UK government department and devolved administration is responsible for producing and publishing statistics related to their area of expertise.
- **Government Statistical Service** (GSS) – The GSS is a community for all staff who work towards producing and publishing official statistics in England, Scotland and Wales. The GSS produces the vast majority of official statistics in the UK. Statistical staff in Northern Ireland maintain a close professional relationship with the GSS but are not formal members.

National Statistician - John Pullinger

Safeguards the production and publication of high quality official statistics by all departments, agencies and institutions within the UK

**Chair of National
Statistics
Executive Group
(NSEG)**

Head of the GSS



Permanent Secretary

**Chief Executive
of the UK
Statistics
Authority**

Head of ONS

Statistical co-ordination depends on institutional and organisational co-operation



"I like things to be done my way but by somebody else.."

Statistical leadership In Government Departments

**Senior statistical
advisor in Government
Department**

**Senior Civil Servant in
larger Government
Departments**



**Professionally
accountable to
National Statistician**

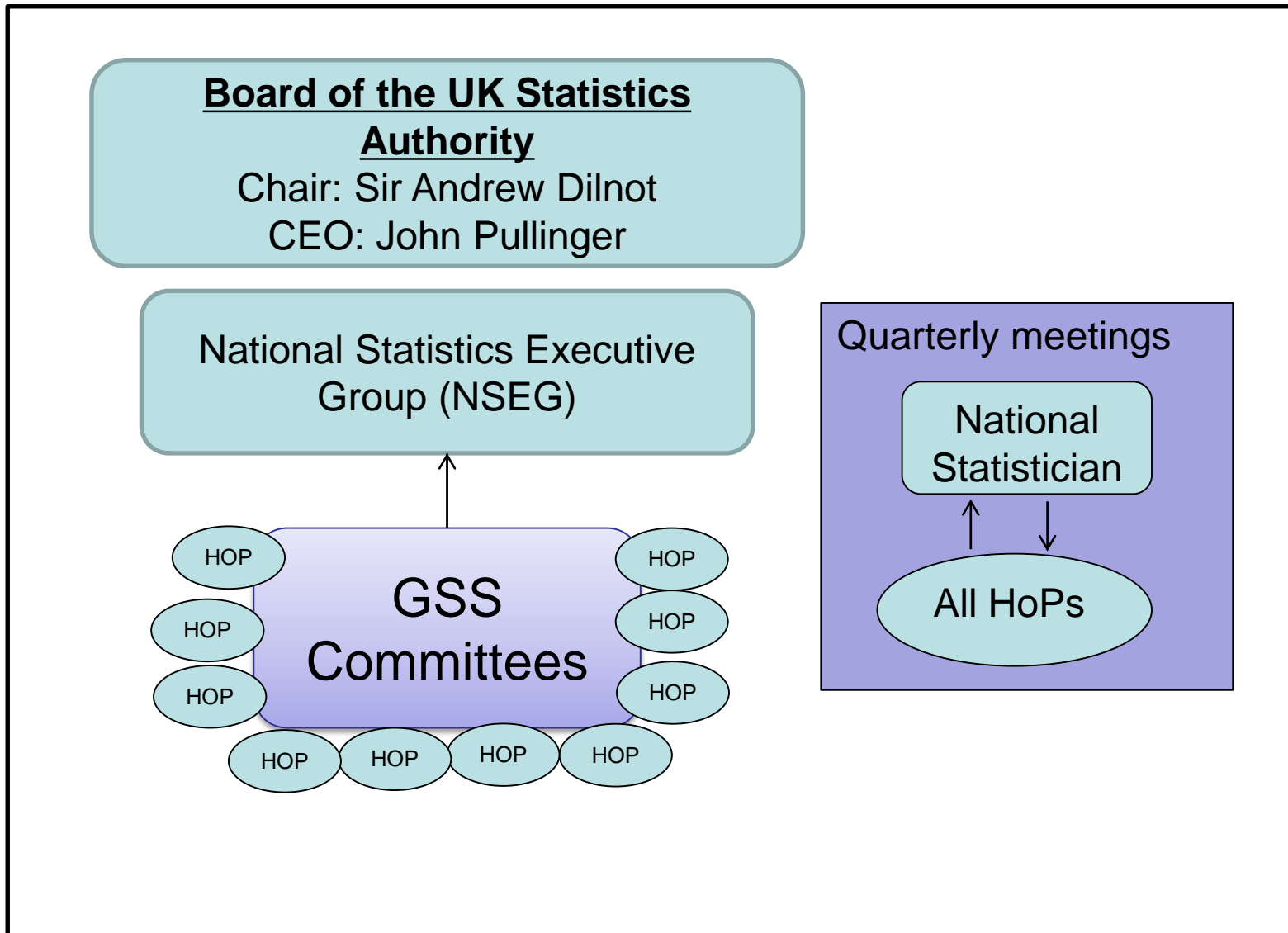
**Role and
responsibilities
agreed between
National
Statistician and
Permanent
Secretaries**

**Appointed by head
of Department and
National Statistician**

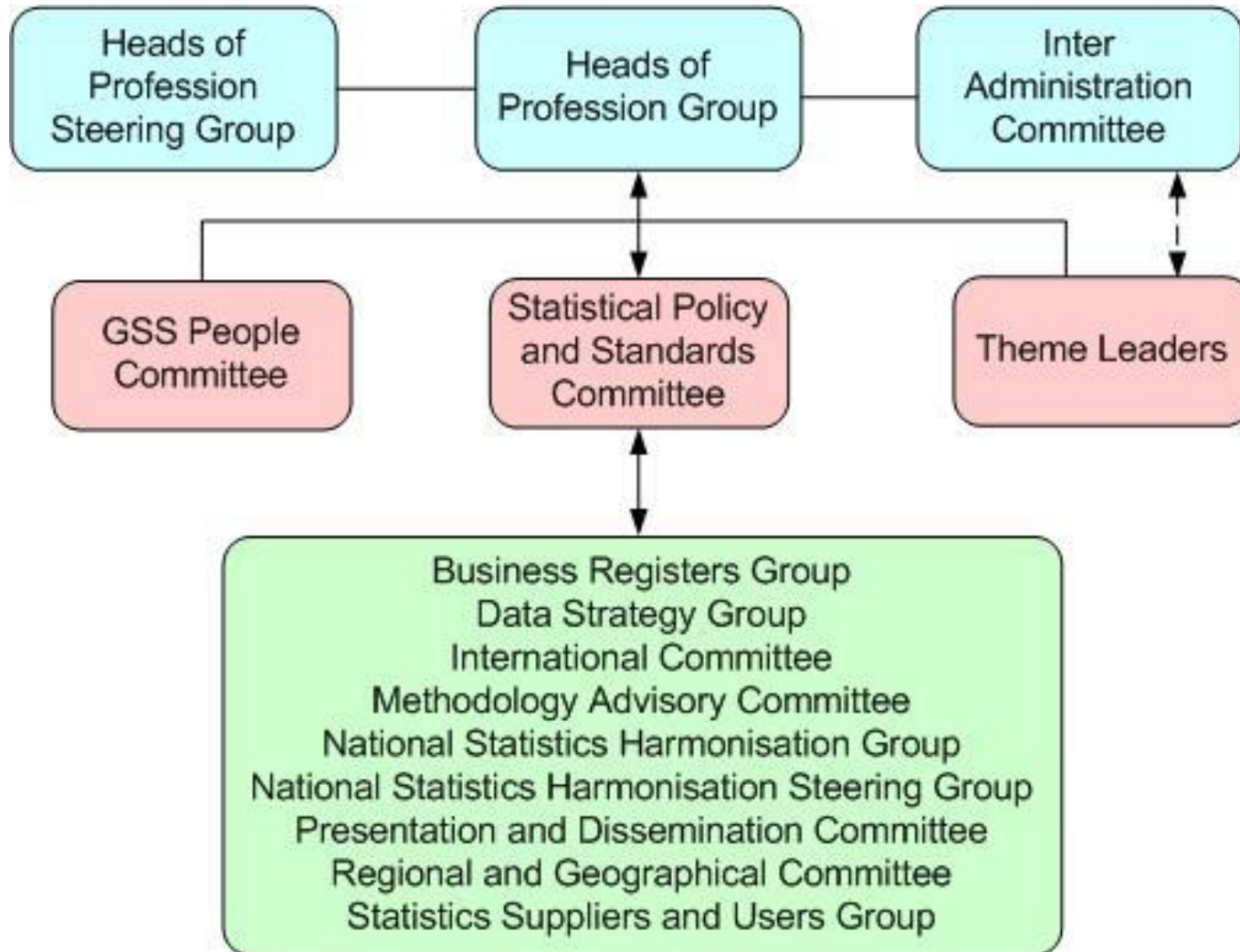
Head of Profession Responsibilities (HoP)

- Oversee the efficient and effective operation of own organisation's statistical work
- Improve and maintain public confidence in National Statistics and official statistics
- Improve and maintain the quality and relevance of National Statistics and other official statistics
- Play a key role in statistical planning and statistical coordination
- Increase and support data sharing for statistical purposes
- Maintain and improve the statistical competency of both the GSS and their organisation through recruitment, training and development

Government Statistical Service Governance



GSS Committees and Governance

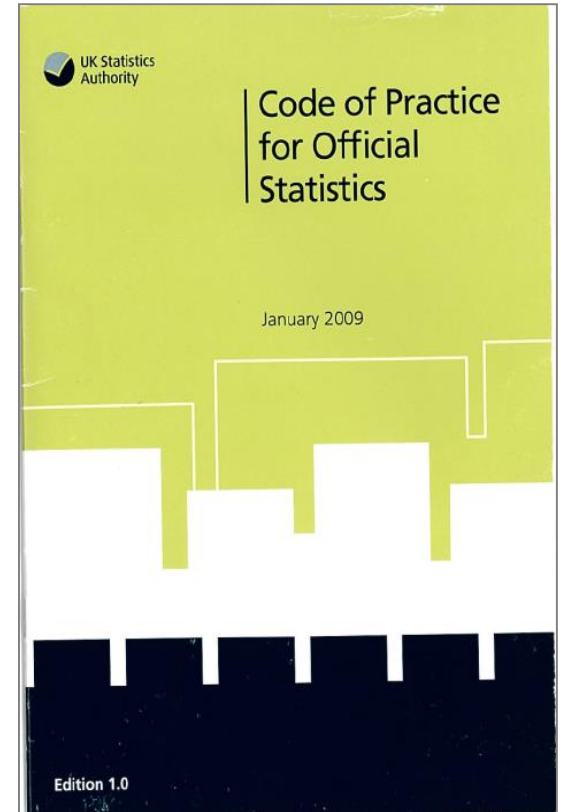


The Code of Practice

The Code of Practice contains eight **Principles** and 74 associated **Practices**

The Code is central to maintaining a unified statistical service that meets the needs of government and society and is both trustworthy and trusted

The UK Code is consistent with the *Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics* and the *European Statistics Code of Practice*



The UK Statistics Authority's Regulatory Role

- The Authority assesses official statistics to determine whether they comply with the Code of Practice
- Statistics that comply with the Code are designated as National Statistics by the Authority
- Producer bodies have a statutory duty to ensure their National Statistics comply with the Code



Statistics Designated as National Statistics

Trustworthy – they are produced by independent statisticians complying with the Code of Practice



High quality – they are produced using sound methods and represent the best available estimate

Valuable – they add value to public debate and decision-making

The Analytical Professions

- Government Statistician Group (GSG)
 - ✓ National Statistician (ONS)
- Government Economics Service (GES)
 - ✓ Government Chief Economic Advisor (HM Treasury)
- Government Operational Research Service (GORS)
 - ✓ GORS Head of Profession (Department of Health)
- Government Social Research (GSR)
 - ✓ Head of GSR (Department of Work and Pensions)

Cross Government Groups

- Heads of Analysis considers issues affecting analytical professions such as Data Science
- Departmental Directors of Analysis Network considers issues that affect analytical professions at departmental level such as Talent management
- Data Science Community of Interest brings Statisticians & Data Scientists together to share, discuss, resolve data science issues