

PRESS RELEASE

20 January 2017

Embargo: Immediate

The Royal Statistical Society (RSS) warmly welcomes the provisional appointment of Sir David Norgrove as new Chair of the UK Statistics Authority (UKSA), subject to the confirmation hearing by the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee, PACAC, on 24th January.

The RSS has been engaging with the work of the UKSA since its creation in 2007, and continues to take a keen interest in the development of good quality official statistics in the UK, as set out in our [Data Manifesto](#). At the start of his new term, we consider the following points to be a priority for the incoming Chair:

- To continue to improve economic statistics so they command the confidence of all stakeholders, and in particular ensuring inflation measures are fit for purpose;
- To deliver a trusted and successful 2021 online census, whilst vigorously developing the work with administrative data to provide better and more timely population statistics which will enable the next census to be the last of its kind;
- To work with partners to reduce the misuse of statistics in public debates, especially in the run up to the next General Election;
- To continue to ensure official statistics are at the heart of the policymaking process;
- The approach to take to statistics after Brexit, including the relationship with Eurostat, and which parts of existing EU regulations to incorporate into UK law;
- To personally be an outward facing ambassador to policymakers, the media and others for the importance of statistics.

Commenting on the provisional appointment, Mike Hughes, Chair of the RSS National Statistics Advisory Group said: “We are looking forward to working with Sir David to continue to improve the relevance and quality of official statistics in the UK, and wish him well in the new role”.

ENDS

Notes to editors

1. For more information, contact Magdalen Wiley, RSS Press & Policy Officer, on 020 7614 3920 or at m.wiley@rss.org.uk.

2. The Royal Statistical Society (RSS) founded in 1834 is one of the world's most distinguished and renowned statistical societies. It is a learned society for statistics, a professional body for statisticians and a charity which promotes statistics, data and evidence for the public good. Today the Society has nearly 8000 members around the world. www.rss.org.uk