

Steps to Work Statistical Bulletin – User Consultation February 2012

Details of the Consultation

In February 2012, 26 users were consulted via email on the proposal to supplement the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) data with Department for Social Development (DSD) benefit data and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) employment data in the production of the Steps to Work programme destination statistics. The consultation was also announced on Twitter and included in the *Statistics & Research User Consultation* section of the DEL website (see Annex 1).

Prior to consultation, Steps to Work programme destination statistics were published quarterly and based solely on DEL data. Analytical Services proposed to publish Steps to Work programme destination statistics twice a year based on DEL, DSD and HMRC data. Statistics on starts, occupancy, activities on leaving Step 1, and Contract Management Areas will not be affected by this change and therefore Analytical Services will continue to publish these quarterly.

Results of the Consultation

Of the 26 users emailed, 7 responses were received from both external and internal customers (including policy, operational and financial users). Of those who responded, all were supportive of the proposed change. However, a few issues were raised during the consultation and these have been addressed below.

- There was some concern about the clarity of the statistical information, given that programme and Contract Management Area statistics will no longer be based on the same source of information. Analytical Services will continue to publish 'Notes to Readers', definitions and footnotes to tables which will ensure readers are clear about the source of information being used.
- It was emphasised that the availability of up to date information for monitoring the performance of Steps to Work Lead Contractors is essential. At this stage, Contract Management Area (CMA) statistics will not be affected by this change. Analytical Services will continue to engage with key customers to ensure they are involved in any future proposals affecting CMA statistics.

In light of this, Analytical Services will go ahead with this proposed change. This will be announced in the next Steps to Work statistical bulletin due to be published on 14th March 2012. The changes will then be introduced in the June 2012 statistical bulletin.

For further information:

Email analyticalservices@delni.gov.uk or Telephone 028 9025 7609.

Annex 1

The screenshot shows a Windows Internet Explorer browser window displaying the Twitter profile of Stats & Research (@DELPublications). The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://twitter.com/delpublications>. The Twitter profile header includes the account name "Stats & Research", the handle "@DELPublications", and the location "Northern Ireland". A bio states: "Research and statistical material on the Labour Market, Further and Higher Education and Skills is published by the Department for Employment and Learning. <http://www.delni.gov.uk/statsandresearch.htm>". The profile picture is a blue geometric logo, and the website www.delni.gov.uk is listed. A "Follow" button is visible, along with a text follow option. The main content area shows three tweets from the account, all dated 3 Feb. The first tweet discusses a consultation on changes to the Steps to Work Statistical Bulletin. The second tweet asks about graduates from HE. The third tweet asks about student enrolments in HE. On the right side, there is a "Stay in touch with Stats & Research" section with a "Join Twitter right now:" heading and a sign-up form with fields for "Full name", "Email", and "Password", and a yellow "Sign up" button. Below this is a link to "Discover who @DELPublications follows". At the bottom right, an "About @DELPublications" section shows statistics: 30 Tweets, 21 Following, 94 Followers, and 2 Listed. The browser's status bar at the bottom shows "Done" and "Internet".

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http://www.delni.gov.uk/index/statsandresearch/official-statistics/user-consultation.htm

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User Consultation

Details of consultations initiated by Analytical Services branch in the Department for Employment and Learning are contained on this page.

Current Consultations

Analytical Services are currently undertaking a consultation on proposed changes to the Steps to Work Statistical Bulletin. If you would like to take part in this consultation, please contact Regina McGeown email: regina.mcgeown@delni.gov.uk

Past Consultations

Details of past consultations are listed below:

- [Vacancies Statistical bulletin - Customer Questionnaire 2012 - summary of results \(PDF 30KB\)](#)
- [Changes to Higher Education Enrolments Statistical Bulletin 2008-09](#)
- [Higher Education Statistical Bulletins - Customer Questionnaire 2011 - summary of results](#)
- [Higher Education Statistical Bulletins - Customer Questionnaire 2010 - summary of results](#)

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