



Department for
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Lord Howell of Guildford
House of Lords
London
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Dear Lord Howell,

Thank you for your question in the chamber on Thursday 4th December. This letter is to follow up on your question of errors, delays and de-accreditation of official statistics.

On 4 December, the ONS published updates on progress to the [Plan for Economic Statistics \(ESP\)](#) and [Survey Improvement and Enhancement Plan \(SIEP\)](#) since their publication in June 2025.

These plans are critical to the ONS achieving its mission to deliver trustworthy, independent, high-quality statistics that underpin the UK's most critical economic and societal decisions and inform the public. With several ESP and SIEP milestones completed and delivery in progress across other actions, the quality and trustworthiness of the statistics has improved.

While a recovery is underway, the ONS know there is further to go to fully restore the quality of data. The ONS have been open about the lessons learned, which have prompted improvements to processes and governance, including quality assurance and supplier engagement. To strengthen momentum, the ONS has recently announced plans to narrow the range of their statistics, prioritising quality over quantity and underlining how delivery against the ESP and SIEP is their top priority.

I hope this is reassuring on steps that the ONS are taking on the publication of UK statistics.

I will place a copy of this letter in the libraries of the House.

Yours sincerely,

Baroness Lloyd

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Digital Economy

