Transport Statistics work plan 2014/15
DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

Background

1. Transport Analytical Services sit within Finance and Analytical Services Directorate of Transport Scotland. It aims to support the delivery of the Scottish Government’s purpose and priorities through the provision of high quality evidence and advice. Transport Statistics are a part of this team, currently consisting of one Statistician Team Leader, one Assistant Statistician and two Statistical Administrators.

2. The main areas of work of the Transport Statistics team are:
   - Road accidents and road casualties
   - Personal transport
   - Modes of transport.

3. The work of Transport Statistics fits within the Transport Scotland corporate plan 2012-2015 (http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/strategy-and-research/publications-and-consultations/j236392-00.htm). The work of the team fits under the delivery priority ‘Continuously improving performance and organisation’. Within this, the work of the team fits beneath two corporate delivery commitments:
   - 47 - Develop and deliver a programme of transport statistics collection, analysis and publication, and for Transport Social and Economic Research.
   - 48 - Deliver an evidence base to inform the development of effective Scottish transport policy including a Transport Social and Economic Research Programme.

4. The work of Transport Statistics forms one programme within the Transport Analytical Services work plan. Other programmes in the wider plan include monitoring and evaluation of ferry services, appraisal and evaluation of infrastructure investment business case development, reducing emissions from transport and improving road safety.

5. The work of Transport Statistics also provides updates to three of the National indicators set out in the National Performance Framework.

6. The Scottish Safety Camera Programme (SSCP), became part of Transport Scotland in 2012. The programme is responsible for the Scottish Safety Camera Statistical bulletin, though the programme and it’s outputs including the statistical bulletin are currently under review. The work of the SSCP is not covered by this workplan.
Transport Statistics work plan

47 - Develop and deliver a programme of transport statistics collection, analysis and publication, and for Transport Social and Economic Research.

7. The overall aims are to improve the timeliness of publications and to streamline publications whilst continuing to meet user needs. This will allow more time to be spent on conducting analysis of the data and adding value.

8. In 2013/14 we:
   - Continued to publish Key Reported Road Casualties (KRRCS) in Mid-June and Reported Road Casualties Scotland (RRCS) publication in October (earlier than in previous years).
   - Adapted Transport And Travel In Scotland (TATIS) and the SHS Travel Diary publication to make use of data from the new SHS survey.
   - Included tables by police Scotland division and an analysis of vulnerable road users in RRCS.
   - Incorporated the Bus and Coach statistics publication into the bus chapter of Scottish Transport Statistics.
   - Improved Scottish Transport Statistics (STS) as a result of user feedback, adding an environment chapter and expanding the road freight chapter to cover all freight modes.
   - Carried out a consultation to obtain users views on the changes to STS. A write up of consultation responses will be published on the Transport Scotland website by summer 2014.
   - Supported Sustrans through the process of becoming an Official Statistics producer body.

9. The main changes for 2014/15 will be:
   - Working with Police Scotland to improve the quality of Stats19 data road casualties data, including a project to look at the design of the Stats19 form used by Police Scotland.
   - Combining the SHS travel diary publication with TATIS in a new publication so all SHS data is released at the same time in late August.
   - Reviews of the overview, rail and personal travel chapters of STS.
   - Reviewing the content and format of Transport Fact Card.
   - Reviewing accessibility of information on the Transport Scotland website, particularly the content of the High Level Summary pages.
   - Further work on annualised data and comparisons with National Travel Survey (NTS), including further investigation of Travel Diary (TD) weighting, delayed from 2013/2014.

10. The statistical publication timetable for 2014/15 is as follows:
    25 June 2014 - Key Reported Road Casualties Scotland 2013
    Late August 2014 – Transport and Travel in Scotland and SHS travel diary 2013 (Publication to be renamed)
    October 2014 – Reported Road Casualties Scotland 2013
11. Other planned work for the year includes:
   - Consultation on proposed changes to the SHS Transport and Travel questions for the 2015 survey
   - Working to improve Transport data sources, for example through working with MORI on the processing of data from the new SHS.
   - Further development of the Transport Statistics web pages including to the High Level Summary and inclusion of equalities data.
   - Ongoing work to collect and quality assure road accident and casualty data for Scotland
   - Continuing to provide statistical support to Sustrans in the production of the Hands Up Survey and the possibility of a UK Statistics Authority Assessment.
   - Responding to stakeholder queries and enquiries.

**48 - Deliver an evidence base to inform the development of effective Scottish transport policy** including a Transport Social and Economic Research Programme.

12. It is intended for this area to become more of a focus of the work of Transport Statistics as the streamlining of the publication process frees up resources.

13. Activities include:
   - Work with Transport Scotland (TS) colleagues to look at ways to add value to operational data and new technologies, through possible reporting or analysis.

14. The team will continue to provide statistical support to policy and other analytical colleagues within TS and Scottish Government as issues arise and work to promote the use of statistics. Support will continue to be provided to external stakeholders via email and by telephone.
Statistics Plan Sections

Improvements in efficiency

15. Planned improvements in publications and dissemination are:
   - Reduction in number of publications, from eight down to four per year\(^1\).
   - Regular updates to STS tables as new data is published.
   - Further improvements to the Transport Statistics website to provide a better user experience and accessibility.

   These should free up more time for further analysis of data sets.

Respondent burden

16. Key data sources are the Scottish Household Survey and Road Accident Statistics data collection, as well as various data sets held by DfT.
   - The SHS questions and travel diary content were reviewed in 2011 and a number of questions were dropped and others will be asked less frequently. A further review will be carried out in 2014.
   - Work with DfT and the police forces continues to improve the collection of Road Accident statistics.
   - Work to improve the Stats 19 data collection system used by Transport Scotland produced an XML schema which can be used by the police to submit and compile data.
   - The move to an online data collection for road lengths data has reduced the burden on Local Authorities. A fully pre-populated form for 2014 should reduce the burden further.

User Engagement

17. As well as regular emails using the ScotStat mailing list, planned events for the year include:
   - Liaison Group on Road Accident Statistics (LGRAS) meeting organised for Friday 16\(^{th}\) May 2014.
   - Transport and Travel Statistics Advisory Committee (TTSAC) meeting organised for Thursday 12\(^{th}\) June 2014.
   - Consultation on the proposed changes to SHS questions in July 2014.

The National Performance Framework and Government Purpose

18. The work of Transport Statistics contributes directly and indirectly to a number of National Outcomes and the team are responsible for three national indicators:
   - The Key Reported Road Casualties Scotland publication releases an update to National Indicator 32 “Reduce deaths on Scotland’s roads”
   - The new publication combining Transport and Travel in Scotland and the SHS Travel Diary, to be published in August, will release an update to National Indicator 48 “Increase the proportion of journeys to work made

---

\(^1\) Publication list was previously: Bus and Coach, NTS, KRRC, Household Transport, Main Transport Trends, RRCS, SHS Travel Diary, STS.
by public or active transport” and National Indicator 4 “Reduce the proportion of driver journeys delayed due to traffic congestion”.

Outcomes based approach

19. Requirements for analysis and statistics at sub-Scotland level will be considered in all work and outputs, for example:
   - The SHS provides transport and travel data at local authority level at least biennially.
   - Administrative data sources will continue to be published at Local Authority level where appropriate.
   - Further work will be done to improve awareness to and accessibility of Local Authority level tables within the TS website.

Compliance with Official Statistics Code

20. The outputs of the Transport Statistics team were assessed by the UK Statistics Authority in 2010. All requirements of the assessment have now been met and the publications have retained National Statistics status.

21. Transport Statistics will work with Scottish Safety Camera Project and Sustrans as their outputs go through the assessment process.

Quality

22. We will work to improve the quality of administrative and survey data sources relevant to transport including:
   - Working with the SHS contractors to ensure changes to the data processing improve the quality of transport and travel diary data collected through the survey.
   - Continue to work with DfT and Scottish police forces to develop and improve the collection of road accident data.
   - Work with other data owners eg within Transport Scotland to ensure administrative datasets provide quality data for analysis purposes.

Timeliness

23. We are continuing to review the timeliness of publications whilst maintaining the balance with data quality and meeting user needs.

24. In 2013/14 we delayed the publication of STS from December until February to provide the Transport Statistics team with more time to produce analysis of the data. Alongside a later publication date, updates to the accompanying web tables will be made throughout the year alongside other publications.

25. In 2014/15, after working with the SHS contractors on data delivery timetables, we will now publish the SHS Travel Diary data in August alongside data from the rest of the SHS, instead of releasing it in a separate publication in November.
26. We have previously looked at the timing of the KRRCS publication. Whilst completeness of the data set would not be an issue, it would create a third set of figures for Scotland (as DfT would be unable to change their publication date) so the decision was taken to retain the June publication but aim for mid June instead of late June.

Relevance

27. It is intended to spend more time producing analysis of the data that we hold through the production of short papers looking at particular issues, for example we will continue to look into the estimation of annual figures from SHS Travel Diary data.

Accessibility

28. After reviewing the Transport Statistics web pages as part of the move to Transport Scotland in 2011, and the move to a new look Transport Scotland website, we will continue with work to further improve the accessibility of the data.

Expertise

29. The branch will continue to undertake training and development as appropriate.

Coherence and Comparability

30. We will continue to work with DfT as appropriate and consider the user requirement for UK comparability. Some examples of this include:
   - Biannual meetings with other devolved administrations and DfT.
   - Regular communication with DfT statisticians in each area eg over the publication of bus statistics
   - Ongoing work regarding the Stats19 data collection for Road Casualty statistics.
   - National Travel Survey / SHS comparability, particularly around annual totals, distance and purpose of travel.

Scope

31. There are no planned changes to Transport Scotland statistics outputs, other than combining the SHS travel diary publication with TATIS.

32. The Scottish Safety Camera Partnership statistical bulletin is currently on hold pending the outcome of the review of the programme. We will continue to work with colleagues in Sustrans on the Hands Up Scotland publication, a survey of how children travel to school.

Transport Statistics,
Transport Analytical Services
Transport Scotland,
Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ
TEL: 0131-244-7254