



Office for  
National Statistics

# Update on Semaphore

16 September 2014

Louise O'Leary

# Semaphore data – What is it?

---

Previously known as 'e-Borders'

Variables included:

- Person related (demographic)
- Document related
- Flight related

ONS have focused on data quality

# Where are we now?

---

- Extract supplied to ONS last year covering April 2009 to October 2012
- Research has focused on data quality
- User update published in June covered:
  - Coverage gaps
  - Data quality issues

# Semaphore data – what is not?

---

Will not replace the International Passenger Survey (IPS)

Limitations of dataset:

Coverage, duplicates, missing data, inaccurate and inconsistent data

These issues mean identifying genuine migrants is a challenge too far at the moment, but....

# The good news

---

- Semaphore may be able to help improve the International Passenger Survey (IPS)

It is hoped Semaphore will:

- Be a Quality Assurance tool
- Help identify gaps in the sampling frame
- Explain issues and imbalances in the data

# Plans

---

- Report planned for the end of 2014

It will cover:

- 1) Issues of data quality within the current Semaphore extract
- 2) Improvements that have been made to quality
- 3) What improvements to quality would be required to make the Semaphore dataset fit for purpose?
- 4) Next steps

# Questions for discussion

---

- What would you be most interested in knowing about Semaphore data and what it can provide?
- We talked about quality and what level we require this to be before it can be used for statistical purposes – what do you think constitutes good enough?
- Are there any other uses you can think of for Semaphore data?