**Online Meetings on Migration Statistics** 27-29 October 2020

# ABSTRACT

| Title | Transforming UK migration statistics during Covid-19 |
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| **Session** | Measuring migration at times of the pandemic |

The Office for National Statistics, in collaboration with the UK Government Statistical Service, are progressing an ambitious programme to transform population and migration statistics. Our ambition continues to be to put administrative data at the core of both population and migration statistics, delivering the best quality census outputs in 2022 and a transformed system by 2023.

The presentation will focus on the action we have taken to accelerate our transformation work following the suspension of the International Passenger Survey (IPS) due to the impact of Covid-19, which has previously underpinned the UK international migration statistics.

We will give an overview of the direction of our work and share lessons learned, to provide additional insights into delivering our first experimental admin-based migration estimates (ABMEs) from November 2020 onwards.

The opportunities and challenges of working with administrative data will also be explored. This evolving work relies on collaboration across our statistical system and makes extensive use of administrative data held by partners responsible for border control (Home Office data) and Tax and Benefits (e.g. Department of Work and Pensions data). Our current goal is understanding how interactions in administrative data can help us to provide reliable data on patterns of international migration, and reconciling where coverage differs.

We will briefly discuss how we are also tackling the challenging issue of how to reduce the lag time in estimates derived from administrative data. This occurs a result of having to wait for sufficient time to elapse after someone arrives in the country in order to classify them as a long-term migrant. Finally we will cover how we intend to explore modelling approaches to address this lag time issue and make new UK migration statistics as timely as possible.