

25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers  
- International Roundtable on Business Survey Frames

Tokyo, 8 – 11 November 2016

*Andrew Allen*  
*Office for National Statistics*  
*Session No. \_\_*

*Role of Business Register session 2*

***The redevelopment of the UK Business Register***

### **Abstract**

The UK business register was initially developed in 1994, and since that time has been continually enhanced and improved. However, the technology used is now old and this is a critical part of the economic statistical infrastructure. So in 2016, as part of a wider data transformation program, ONS decided to embark on the redevelopment of the register.

The redevelopment project covers more than just a new statistical business register. Working with other government departments, ONS has identified the need for a new administrative database of businesses for the UK. Since the UK does not have a unique business number, this will be the first time the business population has been fully identified – the aim will be to produce a canonical list of businesses for wide use across government and beyond. The UK has a company registration system, but un-incorporated entities are only identifiable through different tax records. This definitive list will then be used as the building block to populate a new statistical business register.

Both the new administrative database and the statistical business register will include new administrative data sources to improve coverage of very small businesses, compared to the existing statistical business register.

The paper will outline the conceptual design for the new registers and how these will change the role of the business register in the UK. It will also discuss the new technology being used and the Agile approach being taken to develop the new systems.

(300 – 500 words)