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Central
Statistics
Office

Redevelopment of Irelands Central Business Register – A Centre for Business Statistics Transformation

**26th Meeting of the Wiesbaden Group:
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Data Sources Used

- Tax authorities: Revenue Commissioners
- Quarterly registration and activity files on VAT, Corporation Tax, Income Tax and PREM Employment (register of employers).
- Annual returns for Corporation Tax, Income Tax, VAT and P35 employment.
- All linked to the one Revenue Customer number.
- Companies Registration Office (CRO).
- Survey return updates via Enterprise Updates
- Large Cases Unit (LCU).



Current State of Play

- Multiple registers in existence with no linkages.
- Business Register in existence since the 1990s.
- STS & SBS individual registers in a Data Management System (DMS) application as is the Large Cases Unit (LCU) register.
- Balance of Payments register.
- Trade register.



No
Communication

Business
Register

Balance of
Payments

Trade

DMS

STS
Register

SBS: ASI

SBS:
BERD

EHECS

LCU



Recent Developments

- Push for new BR IT application
- Demand for a respondent portal
- Coherency Project 2013 – 2015: STS & SBS survey areas process mapped, examination of use and application of administrative data, drive for coherency in unit views and statistical outputs as well as metrics collected on all validation work.
- Merger of STS and SBS divisions. Sharing of staff to deal with peaks and troughs. Elimination of waste processes and reduction in staff numbers.
- Coherency Project and Divisional merger has formed the basis of BR IT Development.



Broader picture – some guiding principles post Coherency Project

1. More corporate approach – more commonality, standardisation
2. Our data as a corporate asset to be further used (add more value)– captured once, used often; strong management of the data life cycle
3. Single authoritative source? Drive for coherence (e.g. recent Coherency Boards)
4. Can we deliver enterprise wide benefits, not just our “patch”
5. Joined up view of what we are measuring: Common unit structures as a foundation.
6. More user focused – users want a more complete picture
7. International recommendations and experience as well as legislation. BR Recommendations Manual, FRIBS, UNECE Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers etc. .



Conversations we are having...

- Business Statistics – moving from Silo to Process based operations
- Will facilitate centralisation & standardisation - sampling, questionnaires, code, etc.
- New structures for how we work together (statistical unit models)– need conversations for what this should mean for our data
- What would a process set-up look like for our data, how it links to each other ?(we're already seeing some benefits re our data in Business – storage, metadata, standardisation)
- Broaden it out from just Business - Macro, Social also

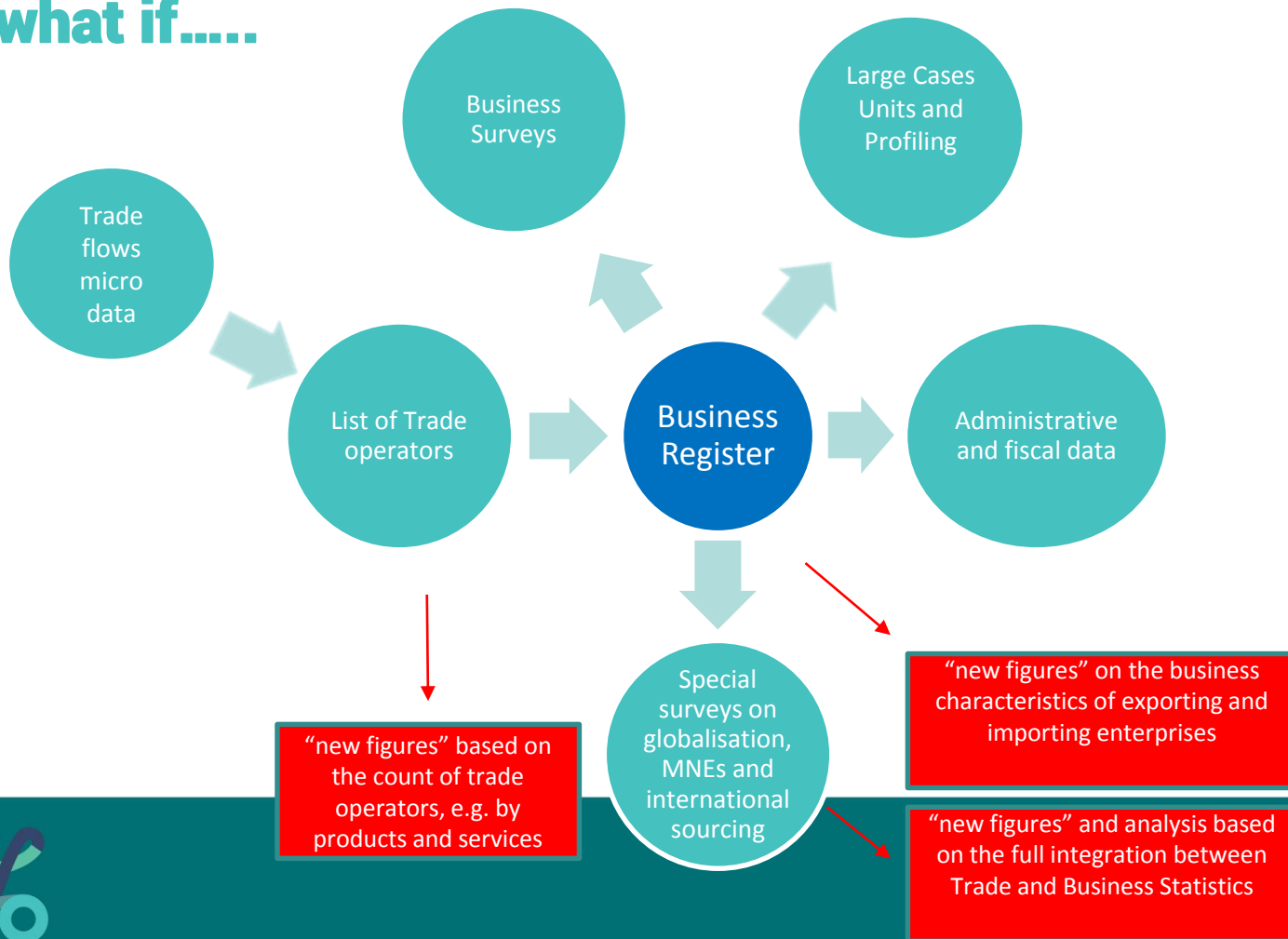


A real life example – PQ on Trade

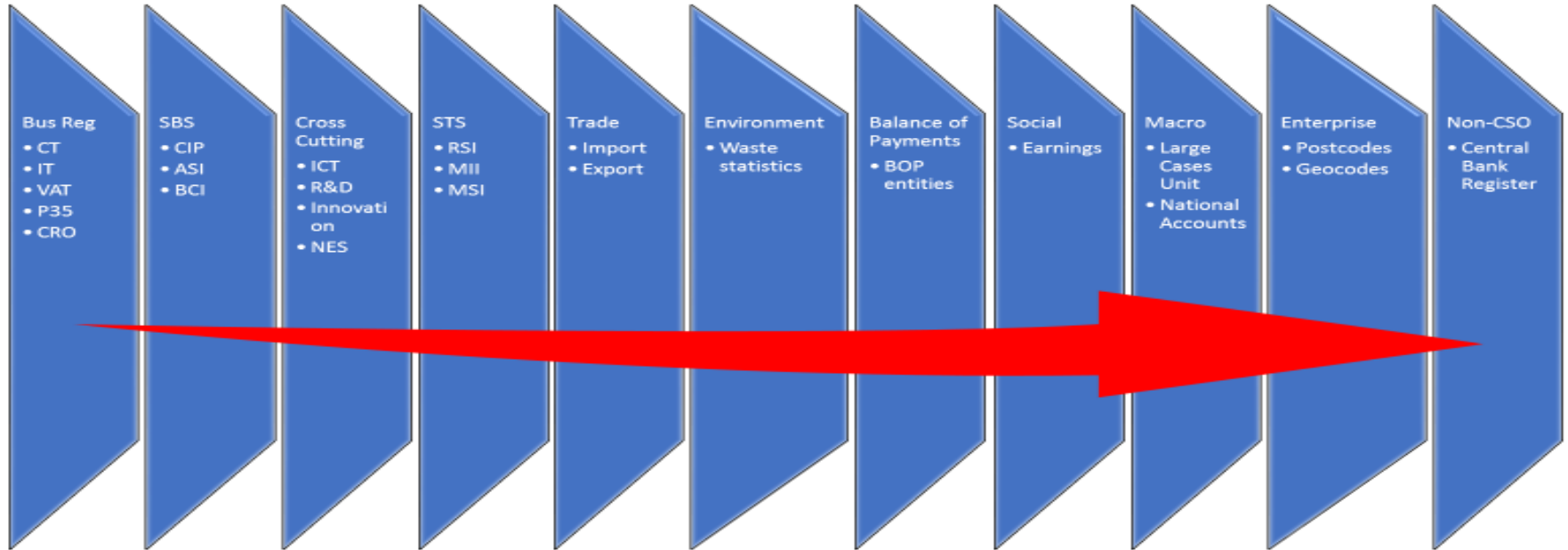
- *To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the number of businesses exporting to Britain; the number of persons employed by these businesses; and the value of this trade in 2015, in tabular form..*
- Very reasonable question to ask at a time of Brexit (these PQs typically ask for the above by size class, nationality also)
- Yet, we (CSO) struggle to answer these questions – our data doesn't talk to each (SBS --- Business Register --- Trade). We lack that joined up view



But what if.....



Longitudinal Business Data – Linked across datasets





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The Present and the Future: BR IT Development & User Needs Specifications

User Needs Specification

- August to December 2018: User needs specification.
- Each survey area is part of the process and user needs regarding the Business Register is discussed, e.g. statistical units, administrative data, sampling, survey specific variables, links to DMS survey management.
- BR functional specification due by end of 2018 to begin development in 2019.
- BR Centura application replaced.
- BR links to DMS survey management system.



Further Developments

Data warehousing

- Implemented August 2018.
- Data warehouse for SBS, STS, National Accounts and Trade data.
- All linked via the BR as a backbone.
- Key development to answer problematic queries and open the possibility for new economic outputs.

Profiling Unit

- Implemented August 2018.
- Extension of the Large Cases Unit (LCU).
- Continuous profiling and survey management of top 200 enterprises in SBS & STS (outside the scope of LCU).
- Data linkages via BR User Needs Specification and ultimately via BR IT application.





Thank you

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