



Office for  
National Statistics

# Managing the transition to a new Statistical Business Register

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# Background: a New BR

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- Progressing with the development of a new UK SBR  
Moving from a 25 year old system—called IDBR
- Part of an ONS wide technology transformation
- Cloudera based, using shared services. Built on a new Data Access Platform
- Also organisational change separating register functions

# Business Index –SBR relationship

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- Two systems replace the IDBR
- Business Index – legal unit view
- SBR - enterprise view
- Explicitly creating legal unit first, then aggregating to enterprise - a different approach to IDBR, evolved from BI initiative
- So **SBR dependent on BI**

# Main improvements expected

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- Solve under coverage of very small businesses
- More variables available e.g. better for financial surveys.
- Variables clearly defined and up to date for analytical purposes
- Modern User Interface
- More efficient operation

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# Transition Issues

# Challenges: Organisational Change

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- Reorganisation, so that legal unit creation moved to Data Architecture, whereas SBR in Data Collection.
- Create new organisational structure, with different job roles
- More efficient system. Parallel to IT development, we need to consider team size, new jobs and training.
- Managing both new and old roles for transition

# Dual Running

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- User community will need assurance that the new SBR meets their need
- Pressure for an extended dual run. We would like short dual run.
- Dual run starts in mid development , because of Agile delivery
- Will require temporary functionality.

# Dual Running plan

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- Copy over all non admin updates from IDBR to SBR each day.
- When satisfied – reverse the flow
- Copy over clerical updates from SBR to IDBR



# User Acceptance

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- Differences will arise because :
  - Administrative source change
  - New Methods
  - New technical environment
- We will need to be able to decompose the impact
- Will produce a monthly data pack explaining differences

# Survey Migration

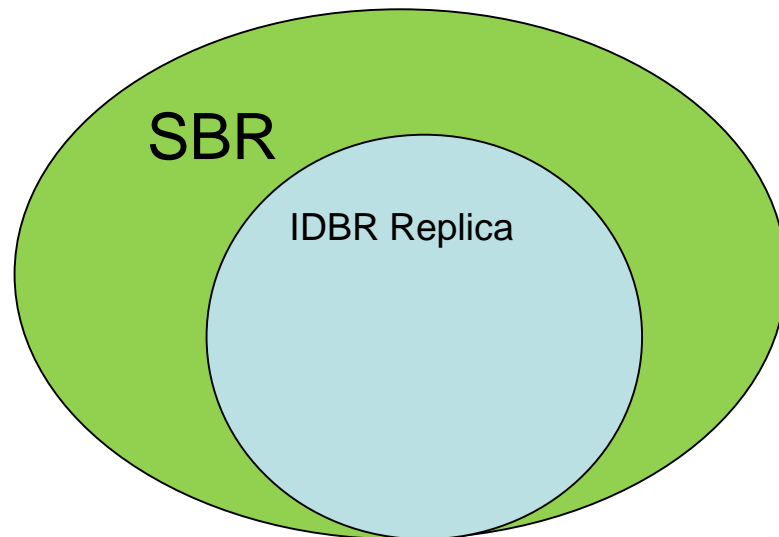
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- All businesses surveys use the register and will need to be migrated.
- Very challenging for survey managers to manage this type of change. They need time!
- We want to move to the new system as soon as possible.
- Resolve this by creating a replicated population on the new system. Well a close approximation!

# Transition to new SBR

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- First aim to create frame that closely replicates IDBR criteria – will not be exactly the same, but relatively close.
- Will allow users **time** to manage bigger transition.
- Also allows new data sources to be introduced over **time**. So we can manage one big discontinuity?



# Survey Management

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- IDBR manages respondent burden, survey overlap and survey holiday.
- Difficult to manage if some surveys on IDBR and others on the new SBR system.
- Will need to copy survey history . Will hold old enterprise number on new system etc.
- But can we maintain the same burden guarantees!

# Transition Group

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- A transition group chaired by National Accounts has been set up
- This group will organise the transition of surveys, scrutinise quality, create external communications on the impact etc.
- Ultimately agree the decommissioning date for the old register.

# Share your experience

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- The Wiesbaden Group is about learning from each other!
- Some have you have experience of introducing a new register.
- So any advice?