

Handling large datasets

News story

We deal with a huge volume of complex data every day. The backgrounds, skills and interests within the Government Actuary's Department are an advantage in doing this.



In our blog [Handling large datasets](#) we explore the challenges with data processing and analysis. GAD's diverse team of analysts, trainee actuaries, qualified actuaries and pensions professionals means we can overcome the challenges and produce high quality analysis for government.

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Results of the annual ICIBI stakeholder survey 2022

In response to the results of the annual stakeholder survey, David Neal, the Independent Chief Inspector, said:

I welcome the responses to this survey and thank all those who took the time to contribute.

I am encouraged to find that stakeholders mostly find participation with the ICIBI worthwhile and are satisfied with their communication with my organisation.

Feedback indicates that there are concerns relating to the Home Office's response to ICIBI recommendations. This is a

concern of which I am aware and that I intend to explore further over the coming months.

Many suggestions were made for topics for future inspections, all of which have been noted and will form part of consideration for my 2023-24 inspection programme.

I would like to remind stakeholders that they are free to contact me at any time, either directly or through my inspectors.

Stakeholders who have previously engaged with the ICIBI through our forums, in interviews or by submitting evidence for an inspection were invited by email and through the ICIBI's website and Twitter to participate in the survey.

The survey asked questions relating to stakeholders' experiences of engaging with the ICIBI. It also asked for their views on inspection reports, effectiveness of recommendations, and new ways of working.

Thirty-seven stakeholders completed the survey, an increase from 22 in 2021. Respondents represented a range of organisations, including charities, trade associations, the aviation and maritime sectors, and local authority partnerships:

Participant	Number of respondents
Charity	18
Other*	6
Trade association	5
Local authority partnership (e.g. regional strategic migration partnership), or devolved nation	4
Academic or researcher	1
Direct personal experience of Home Office's border or immigration functions, e.g. EU citizen, asylum seeker, refugee	1
Trade union	1
Legal representative, firm or chamber	1
Legal representative, firm or chamber	1

*Of those who selected other, respondents were:

- 3 from aviation sector
- 1 from the maritime sector
- 1 non-Home Office civil servant

Headline findings are as follows:

Engagement with ICIBI

Generally, scores indicated that stakeholders find engaging with the ICIBI worthwhile, with 60% of respondents using ICIBI inspection reports for advocacy or engagement with the Home Office, and 16% for information only.

Of 37 respondents, 29 (78.4%) were 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' with their communication with ICIBI over the past year, while 3 (8.1%) had not had any recent communication.

Inspection reports

Of 37 respondents, 33 (89.2%) said the following statement, "ICIBI inspection reports provide constructive challenge to the Home Office", either 'fully' or 'somewhat' reflected their opinion.

On whether "ICIBI inspection reports highlight good practice when it is encountered at the Home Office", 34 out of 37 (94.4%) said this statement 'fully' or 'somewhat' reflected their opinion.

On whether "ICIBI inspection reports address equality and diversity issues", 26 out of 37 respondents (70.3%) said it 'fully' or 'somewhat' reflected their opinion. This compares to 38.5% of respondents who were asked the same question last year, who either 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' with this statement.

Recommendations

Satisfaction in the Home Office's responses to ICIBI reports had decreased since 2021.

Although 86.5% of respondents agreed 'fully' or 'somewhat' that recommendations are well focused, when asked whether "ICIBI recommendations are effective in driving change within the Home Office", only 20 out of 37 respondents (54%) said the statement either 'fully' or 'somewhat' reflected their opinion.

Just 8 out of 37 (21.6%) respondents believed the Home Office's responses to ICIBI's recommendations to be adequate.

New ways of working

ICIBI introduced new ways of working in August 2021, which included the commencement of shorter length inspections to complement the existing standard inspections, which last around 100 working days. The introduction of these shorter length inspections was to enable the inspectorate to be more agile and responsive to emerging issues, such as the increase in migrants arriving by small boat, and the use of hotels for housing unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

A further aim of the new approach was to increase the inspectorate's output, to enable it to examine more of the Home Office's operations and activity, in

shorter timeframes.

Short inspections in particular focus on inspectors' observations, while medium inspections focus on a combination of observation and evidence analysis. In both cases, the scope must remain focused.

The survey asked stakeholders whether the following statement, "I support the new approach to inspecting", reflected their opinion. Of 37 respondents, 33 (89.2%) said this statement 'fully' or 'somewhat' reflected their opinion.

Looking forward

The responses to this survey will inform future stakeholder engagement and feed into our inspection planning. Work is already underway to follow up on feedback received.

[Public asked to help shape UK's Covid-19 commemoration plans](#)

Press release

People across the UK are being invited to have their say on how the nation should remember those who lost their lives during the Covid-19 pandemic.



UK Commission on Covid Commemoration

Today, the UK Commission on Covid Commemoration has launched a consultation giving people across the UK the opportunity to say how they think the pandemic should be remembered and with possible suggestions including the adoption of a Remembrance Sunday-style symbol, dedicated memorials and reflective spaces.

The Commission is also seeking suggestions on suitable dates to hold a national day of remembrance and views on how future generations should be educated about the sacrifices made throughout the pandemic, as well as marking key achievements such as the development of the vaccines and the

valuable contribution made by volunteers.

The Chair of the UK Commission on Covid Commemoration, Nicky Morgan, said:

The pandemic had a profound impact on all our lives and will be remembered in our history forever.

Through this consultation, we want to hear from as many people as possible about how we should remember those who lost their lives and those who cared for those in need as well as those who kept our essential services running or stepped up in other ways such as taking on volunteering responsibilities.

We know there are some incredible initiatives already happening across the UK and we want to build on this great work and consider further ways to commemorate and mark this period in our history.

The public consultation will close on Monday, 5 December 2022.

As part of its engagement programme, the Commission has already met a number of interested parties to seek their views with further regional events planned across the UK. These events provide an opportunity for bereaved families and local stakeholders to offer suggestions for how to commemorate those who died, as well as discuss how the pandemic should be marked more generally.

The Commission will report its recommendations to the Prime Minister by the end of March 2023.

To take part in the consultation visit [Covid Commemoration Consultation](#)

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'Inspirational' FUSION22 energises global industry

FUSION22 has energised the global fusion industry following an "inspirational" first of its kind event at London's Science Museum.

The conference showcased the goals and vision of the international fusion community on the path to delivering near limitless and low carbon energy in the future.

Delegates from around the world were part of the inaugural hybrid event,

which covered a wide range of thought-provoking panel sessions and keynote speeches across two stages.

This included an in-depth look at the solutions to technical challenges, funding fusion, building an industry, diversity of ideas, regulation and a spotlight on the talent needed to succeed.

Tim Bestwick, UK Atomic Energy Authority's Chief Technology Officer, said: "New energy solutions are required for a sustainable future, and fusion offers huge potential and hope. We are all part of an exciting, expanding and dynamic field, and those at an inspirational FUSION22 have the solutions. Fusion is coming."

A 'global gains' session toured the world to report on international achievements and efforts to get fusion energy, which is based on the same processes that power the sun and stars, onto the grid.

Eloise Francis, Director of Innovation at BRE, said it was "great to see the science and technology moving forwards", while a Kyoto Fusioneering delegation from Japan said the event brought together a valuable fusion energy network.

Sachin Desai, of US-based Helion Energy, added: "FUSION22 has brought important international attention to the near-term deployment of fusion as a tool to win the fight against climate change, the amazing accomplishments that have been made to date, and the substantial work that still has to be done."

FUSION22 was organised by UKAEA and the UK Fusion Cluster founding partners. For more information visit fusioniscoming.com.

Russian war in Ukraine: P3 statement

Press release

The Foreign Ministers of the UK, USA and France have issued a statement rejecting Russia's transparently false allegations about Ukraine.



We, the Foreign Ministers of France, the United Kingdom, and the United States, reiterate our steadfast support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of Russia's ongoing aggression. We remain committed to continue supporting Ukraine's efforts to defend its territory for as long as it takes.

Earlier today, the defence ministers of each of our countries spoke to Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu at his request. Our countries made clear that we all reject Russia's transparently false allegations that Ukraine is preparing to use a dirty bomb on its own territory. The world would see through any attempt to use this allegation as a pretext for escalation. We further reject any pretext for escalation by Russia.

The Foreign Ministers also discussed their shared determination to continue supporting Ukraine and the Ukrainian people with security, economic, and humanitarian assistance in the face of President Putin's brutal war of aggression.

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