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Statistical Classifications Forum – 24th January 2017

Room P1 New Building, Rathgael House, Bangor, Northern Ireland

12:00-15:15

Minutes

Attendees:

David Beckett, ONS Head of Economic Statistics Classification Branch (chair)

[Redacted] ONS Economic Statistics Classifications Branch

[Redacted] ONS Economic Statistics Classifications Branch

[Redacted] HM Treasury

[Redacted] Scottish Government

[Redacted] Scottish Government

[Redacted] Scottish Futures Trust (SFT)

[Redacted] Department for Finance, Northern Ireland Government

[Redacted] Welsh Government (via audio conference)

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the Forum. Attendees, both in the meeting room and on the telephone introduced themselves to the Forum.

2. Review of minutes and actions from last meeting

The Chair asked attendees if they were happy that the minutes from the last meeting were a true reflection of what was discussed. All confirmed they were.

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[Redacted] The Welsh Government confirmed that their timetable was similar for the April meeting. They asked for the Circuit of Wales PPP to be removed from the list.

Action 1: Circuit of Wales to be removed from the FWP

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7. PPPs

HM Treasury informed the meeting that an EPEC meeting is to be held on 2 March regarding writing new guidance on Concessions and energy performance contracts (EPCs). There is a classification issue for the latter, as they look like PPPs but are not because the refurbishment costs to make buildings more energy efficient, do not significantly impact on the value of the asset, so government is investing. The Concession guidance in MGDD is insufficient, and this will be discussed further at a future Eurostat Working Group. Eurostat have agreed to look at rewriting in consultation with Member States. A workshop will follow in the New Year (2018). The UK will input into the 2 stage process of updating the MGDD Chapter on Concessions, and then creating the new EPEC Guidance.

Action 7: HM Treasury to share the paper for the 2 March meeting

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It has also been raised with Eurostat that there needs to be more guidance on institutional unit classification in the context of PPPs.

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[REDACTED] The Welsh Government have nothing for this calendar year, but will be launching the Welsh Mutual Investment Model at a bidders information day in March 2017. The relaunch of their plan is coming forward.

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