

Created By: Susan Williams on 13/04/2016 at 10:13

Title: ONS Response to DECC comment on Uni Southampton smart meter research publication

Categorisation Workstream Correspondence\Smartmeter Data
Originator: Susan Williams/LONDON/ONS on 23/03/2015
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From : Susan Williams/LONDON/ONS
To : ██████████@decc.gsi.gov.uk
CC : ██████████@decc.gsi.gov.uk, ██████████@decc.gsi.gov.uk, ██████████@decc.gsi.gov.uk, ██████████@decc.gsi.gov.uk, ██████████/TITCHFIELD/ONS
Date Sent : 23/03/2015 12:44:14
Subject : [ONS Response to DECC comment on Uni Southampton smart meter research publication](#)

Hi ██████████

I am forwarding your email back to you - and sorry for length of time to deal with this - thanks for your comments on the Southampton research report

I have just implemented the text changes within the report and will get back to you our publication plans which can now proceed. I also see your request to know more about the privacy groups we spoke to - and am sending a word doc with the relevant information.



ONS and privacy groups.docx

I also presented the ONS smart-type meter research to the New Techniques and Technologies for Statistics conference in Brussels two weeks ago - where there was some interest from Sweden and New Zealand - both countries where smart meters have already been rolled out. Public perception around privacy concerns do not appear to be high in these countries - but this may be influenced by the different set up whereby energy suppliers hold their customers' data (rather than a central body)? ... or perhaps the population being more used to smart meters?

Get back to me if you need anything else - we'll keep you aware of other developments

Best regards

Susan

From : ██████████@decc.gsi.gov.uk
To : Susan Williams/LONDON/ONS, ██████████/TITCHFIELD/ONS
CC : ██████████@decc.gsi.gov.uk, ██████████@decc.gsi.gov.uk, ██████████@decc.gsi.gov.uk, ██████████@decc.gsi.gov.uk
Date Sent : 27/02/2015 15:12:58
Subject : [FW: ONS Smart Meter Research publication](#)
Susan / ██████████,

I was aiming to get this to you before both ██████████ left and I went on leave, but timings didn't work out, so apologies for the delay.

Please find attached:

- The Smart Metering Policy response to the publication
- Covering text for report (with suggested amendments).

In line with the Policy response to the covering text, we would welcome further clarification on the exact responses by (and questions posed to) the privacy groups that ONS consulted.

In relation to the report, the methodology itself is sound and has been cleared by the Head of Profession ([REDACTED]). However, please can the following comments be addressed:

- Figure 7 (p.12) include sample sizes in axis for clarity.
- Section 5.2 (p.24) This states that the trials were set-up as an experimental design (intervention vs. control), but neither the intervention or control groups have been defined, nor has the analysis been discussed in this context, therefore I am unsure whether the specified design is correct?
- There is key text at the end of the 1st paragraph of Section 5.2 (p.26) about privacy, consent and bias that should be included in the executive summary / forward for greater clarity up front.
- In line with your comments on p.36, we need to be clear that Governments' brief was not to identify individual households.
- Similarly, although the conclusions have been set out in an Official Statistics context (p.38), they are slightly at odds to the narrative in earlier chapters (i.e. single household identification).

Do you have a publication timetable for i) this paper and ii) any related follow on work around smart metering?

If there are any problems, please let us know.
Many thanks,

[REDACTED]
Susan Williams | [ONS Big Data Project](#) | Office for National Statistics | One Drummond Gate | Pimlico | SW1V 2QQ | [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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