

CSO Administrative Data Seminar
Dublin Castle, 22 February 2010

NATIONAL STATISTICS BOARD
PERSPECTIVE
Dr Patricia O'Hara
Chairperson

National Statistics Board

- ⦿ Statutory body under Statistics Act 1993
- ⦿ Department of Taoiseach
- ⦿ Guide strategic direction of CSO by
 - Developing strategic priorities for compilation and development of official statistics and ensuring that the necessary resources and cooperation from other public authorities are available to the CSO

NSB STRATEGY 2009-2014

National Context

- ◎ Recession, banking and regulatory systems failures, pressure on public finances, disillusionment with measures of progress
 - greater demand for regular and timely statistics
 - emerging statistical needs
 - resource constraints and emphasis on VFM
- ◎ Need to address data gaps and enhance existing data in key areas e.g. environment, measuring progress

NSB Strategic Priorities

1. Ensure coherence of Irish Statistical System (ISS)
2. Prioritise investment in statistics to underpin policy
3. Maximise value of data and minimise burden on providers
4. Ensure that official statistics are 'fit for purpose'
5. Prioritise links with users

Statistics and Policy

- ⦿ Monitoring trends
- ⦿ Informing decisions e.g. spending, services
- ⦿ Policy effectiveness and VFM
- ⦿ Assessment of progress, dynamics of change and international comparisons
- ⦿ Better services to citizens

Administrative Data Crucial

Irish Statistical System (ISS)

- CSO + range of other data providers mainly Govmt Depts. and agencies
- ISS must be a coherent whole system that is policy oriented
- Networking between admin data providers and CSO crucial
- Need to maximise value of data collected and minimise burden on users

Whole System Approach in Practice

- Statistical Potential of Administrative Records (SPAR)
- Data strategies in Departments to prioritise needs and identify critical gaps
- Developing statistical frameworks and addressing data integration issues
- Building statistical competence

SPAR

- ⦿ Three SPAR exercises – detailed reports and recommendations
- ⦿ Key issues were
 - data organisation and integration
 - classification and coding systems
 - development of core sets of indicators
 - ongoing identification of information needs

NSB has recommended review of progress and further steps needed

Data Strategies

- ⦿ considerable engagement but much to be done
- ⦿ good progress in some Depts.
- ⦿ identification and prioritisation of data gaps crucial

NSB has recommended CSO consult further, review progress and identify way forward

Key Infrastructural Issues

- ⦿ Unique business identifier and Central Business Register
- ⦿ Unique personal identifiers
- ⦿ Spatial and geographic data capture

Linking Data, Linking People

- ⦿ CSO engagement and work with Depts. should be priority for both
- ⦿ Departments, agencies etc need to take ownership of the ISS and their role in it
- ⦿ Data strategies should identify priorities and set out standards and protocols for data collection

NSB believes partnership between providers/users key to better use of administrative data

Implementing the NSB Strategy 2009-2014 Priority Actions

1. Complete statistical frameworks
2. Strengthen institutional commitment
3. Maintain quality and integrity
4. Urgently address data integration issues
5. Fill critical data gaps
6. Improve access and response to user needs
7. Cross-border co-operation