

general problem in the field of international migration statistics, and the UK's situation with respect to data sources on emigration is better than that of many comparable countries.

Overview of Review Recommendations

27. The Review has highlighted opportunities to develop and make better use of existing sources, and to develop and prepare for the exploitation of potential new sources. The Review's 19 recommendations range from those that may be researched and implemented quickly with existing data sources, to those that will depend on the development of new data sources over several years ahead.
28. **Development of Better Estimates of Total Migration Flows:** The International Passenger Survey (IPS) has long been the 'workhorse' of international migration statistics, and the review's recommendations are that it be retained at least in the near-term as the main source for the estimation of total annual UK immigration and emigration. The partial uncoupling of the sampling of emigrants from the sampling of all outward travellers, as is already done for the sampling of the majority of immigrants separately from all inward travellers (in 'filter shifts'), would allow for design of a larger sample that would be partially outside of the constraints of the main IPS. It would also better provide for opportunities to experiment with alternate question formats for both immigrants and emigrants to capture respondents' uncertainty about how long they will or had expected to stay in the UK or abroad, and to evaluate non-response biases. Research into the combined use of, and checking against, alternate data sources is also needed to improve estimates of total immigration and emigration. These include other UK survey and general-population administrative data sources, Home Office administrative sources on non-EU immigrants, and other countries' UK-immigrant receiving statistics. Development of the IPS to estimate short-term as well as long-term migration would be expected to aid these matching efforts, and to aid in the synthesis of migration flow estimates with population stock estimates.
29. **Expanded use of Existing Survey and Administrative Data Sources for UK Geography of Migration:** Substantial improvements to the estimation of the within-country geographical distribution of UK international migration may be achieved through the combined use of household (LFS) and port (IPS) survey data on immigration. For estimation of international migration at local authority levels, however, **administrative data** are needed to overcome the sample-size limitations of survey data sources. Again, they are best used in combination with other (survey) sources. NHS patient register data are the best single potential source, covering both immigration and emigration of citizen and non-citizen populations. The NHS registers also have the advantage of already being used for the estimation of internal migration. Methodological research is needed, however, to adjust for coverage and response biases.
30. **Use and Development of Survey and Administrative Data Sources on Persons subject to Immigration Control:** The Home Office's administrative data sources have the potential to better address needs for statistics, at both national and local geographic levels, on the immigration and social and economic outcomes of persons subject to immigration control. Efforts to match estimates and definitions between these sources and those of large-scale surveys and the Census are also crucial for developing better statistics on this important component of all UK international migration.

31. New Administrative Data Sources: Potential new administrative data sources, especially population registers and electronic arrival and departure recording, could radically reshape the empirical framework for international migration estimation. The time frame for their effect on international migration statistics is at least several years out. Planning for their design to best measure international migration, however, should begin much earlier.