

## Advisory Group Paper AG (97)09

**HARMONISATION OF SURVEY OUTPUTS - USER CONSULTATION**

The Government Statistical Service (GSS) aims to improve the coherence of its products in order to present ever clearer information. Harmonising key elements in major regular social surveys is an important element of this work, allowing customers to use and interpret data more easily and to plan their data collection and analyses more effectively. The results of the work in this area to date are published as the booklet *Harmonised Concepts and Questions for Government Social Surveys*. (Available from ONS on 0171 533 5678, priced £10).

(See BAG Paper (96) 20)

During 1997, further proposals for harmonisation have been drawn up and are being circulated to a range of customers, producers and users of official social statistics for their comments over the summer. The aim is to publish further harmonised concepts and questions by the end of 1997, and for the new questions and concepts to be incorporated in 1998/99 surveys where appropriate. The topics covered in this latest consultation documentation are:

- reference period
- geography
- gender
- age
- income
- qualifications
- length of time since last job
- length of time in present job
- usual hours worked
- disability related issues

Copies have been circulated to members of the Content Working Group. If any Advisory Group members would like a copy for comment by **29 August 1997**, please contact:

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