

Session 5

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Measuring education output and productivity in the UK

Progress made since the Atkinson Review:

- publications on measuring productivity
- moved to measuring output volume using attendance figures, not numbers enrolled
- extended coverage to some items previously misclassified (courses for health professions and training of teachers)
- better coverage: now includes all component parts of UK

Currently investigating various alternatives for measuring quality change:

- attainment (such as grades in school leaving exams)
- quality of teaching (based on inspectors' assessments)
- class size

Considering the advantages and disadvantages of each alternative and their impact on output and productivity figures

Triangulation evidence: how consistent are output and productivity figures with wider evidence on the performance of government education services?

Future work:

- a public consultation to give direction on which method of measuring quality change is the most suitable
- improving input deflators and
- developing a direct measure of inputs volume where possible (based, for example, on hours worked).