Vital Statistics Legislation (England and Wales)

The existing provisions for the registration of deaths and the processing, reporting and analysis of mortality data appear in different legislation that reflects the distinct and separate roles of the Registrar General for England and Wales and the UK Statistics Authority. For information, the Registrar General is guided by the following:

- **Population (Statistics) Act 1938** (deals with the statistical information collected at registration).
- **Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953** (covers all aspects of the registration of births, stillbirths and deaths).
- **Population (Statistics) Act 1960** (makes further provision for collecting statistical detail at registration).
- **Registration of Births and Deaths Regulations 1987** (cover further aspects of the registration of births and deaths).
- **Coroners and Justice Act 2009** (sets out the procedures to be followed by coroners in handling deaths).
- **Stillbirth (Definition) Act 1992** (altered the definition of a stillbirth to 24 or more weeks completed gestation, instead of the previous definition of 28 or more weeks).
- **Deregulation (Stillbirth and Death Registration) Order 1996** (allows for the registration of deaths by declaration).
- **National Health Service Act 2006 and National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006** (consolidates legislation relating to the health service and separate provision of the health service in Wales from that in England. The Acts require notification of a birth or death to the local Primary Care Trust or Local Health Board in Wales where the birth or death occurred. Both Acts include provision for the supply of information on individual deaths to the National Health Service by the Registrar General).

The UK Statistics Authority is guided by the following:

- **Registration Service Act 1953** (section 19 requires the UK Statistics Authority to produce annual abstracts of the number of live births, stillbirths and deaths).
- **Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007** (The 2007 Act transfers some of the statistical functions of the Registrar General, including the production of an annual abstract, to the UK Statistics Authority and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) becomes the executive office of the UK Statistics Authority. The 2007 Act also provides the Registrar General with a power to allow them to disclose any information about a birth, death or a stillbirth to the UK Statistics Authority for statistical purposes. It also enables the UK Statistics Authority to produce and publish statistics relating to any matter).