

Selective editing was introduced to various business surveys at the Office for National Statistics in 2010 to reduce the amount of work required and the costs associated with editing survey responses. The thresholds in use now were set five years ago and a method is required to review these thresholds regularly and adjust them if necessary. The method which was used in the original review of the Retail Sales Index was to take a sample from the businesses which passed selective editing and traditionally edit them. Different sampling methods were tested to identify the best possible sample design. The full sample and sub sample bias was calculated and compared to assess the ability of a subsample to provide evidence to accurately adjust the thresholds. This paper discusses the roll out of selective editing, issues encountered with applying this method to other surveys, and how successful this method has been. The method is also compared with other review methods such as utilising a contamination model approach. Furthermore a cost - benefit analysis is conducted to assess the advantages of reviewing the selective editing thresholds.