**Consultation on a refreshed Code of Practice for Statistics 2017**

About this consultation

Building on the recommendations for changes to the content and scope of the Code of Practice set out in the [Stocktake of the Code of Practice: Exposure Draft](https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/stocktake-of-the-code-of-practice-for-official-statistics-exposure-draft/), this consultation seeks user’s views on a refreshed Code of Practice for Statistics.

The consultation is available for completion through this Word version, or alternatively [online](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/OSR_Code_Consultation), with the questions structured around the following themes:

* A greater emphasis on *Trustworthines*s, *Quality* and *Value*
* Scope of the Code
* Detailed changes to the principles and practices
* Communication and audience

A full, draft version of the [revised Code](https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/DRAFT-Code-2.pdf) is provided for reference along with a summary [consultation document](https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Code-consultation.pdf) that outlines the main proposed changes. The questions include ones about the detailed changes we propose to practices. To help with this, we have provided a [mapping tool](https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Code-mapping.xlsx)to show how we think Edition 2.0 of the Code differs from Edition 1.0.

The questions themselves should only take about 15–20 minutes to complete and we would really appreciate you taking the time to give your feedback. Responses should be submitted to the Authority by **5:00pm on 5 October 2017**.

Please email your completed response to regulation@statistics.gov.uk, or alternatively by post to the following address, marked **Code 2.0 Consultation**:

Office for Statistics Regulation

Government Buildings

Cardiff Road

Newport

Gwent

NP10 8XG

The Authority will publish all responses to the consultation on our website. This will include the name of your organisation, and with your permission, your name. Please indicate if you are content for your name to be published at the end of the consultation. We will not publish your contact details.

We will summarise the main findings in a report in the autumn of 2017, alongside plans for launching a refreshed Code. The Board of the Authority will consider that report and make any decisions on launching the refreshed Code towards the end of 2017.

If you have any queries concerning this consultation, please email regulation@statistics.gov.uk

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**A refreshed Code of Practice for Statistics**

Trustworthiness, Quality and Value (TQV)

1. Our draft refreshed Code is structured around what we have called three pillars of *Trustworthiness*, *Quality* and *Value*. Part 1 of the Code explains what *Trustworthiness, Quality* and *Value* mean and why they are important. To what extent do you think that *Trustworthiness, Quality* and *Value* capture what is needed to enhance public confidence in statistics? What else might be needed?

*Click here to enter your response*

2. Have we explained *Trustworthiness, Quality* and *Value* clearly in the draft refreshed Code? If not, what is unclear?

*Click here to enter your response*

Scope of the Code

3. The draft refreshed Code contains a description of the pillars and how they fit together in Part 1. Our intention is that this will encourage those producing a wider range of numerical information to think about what the Code aims to achieve in principle. How well does this meet our intention? What else could we do?

*Click here to enter your response*

4. To what extent do you think that organisations outside the official statistics system would be able to apply the three pillars of *Trustworthiness, Quality* and *Value* voluntarily? What do you think might prevent this?

*Click here to enter your response*

5. Part 2 of the draft refreshed Code gives the detail of what we mean by *Trustworthiness*, *Quality* and *Value*. How well do you think the principles and practices in Part 2 reflect *Trustworthiness*, *Quality* and *Value*? What additional practices might reflect these three pillars?

*Click here to enter your response*

Changes to the principles and practices

6. We have updated the practices of the refreshed draft Code to reflect how statistics and data are changing, while allowing for further developments. Do you have any comments on the detailed content of the practices of the refreshed Code? Are there any other practices we might cover? Is there anything you think we might change?

*Click here to enter your response*

7. The draft refreshed Code includes practices that set out the responsibilities of each person in the organisation: T1.3iv in relation to pre-release access and T2.1 in ensuring the appropriate handling and use of statistics. How well do these practices cover what you think are the responsibilities of the people in producer organisations involved in the use and handling of statistics? What is unclear?

*Click here to enter your response*

8. The draft refreshed Code includes more specific practices in relation to the roles and responsibilities of the Head of Profession for statistics. Are the practices relating to Heads of Profession (under *Principle T2: Good governance*) sufficient to support them in undertaking their role overseeing and advising on the production of statistics and wider numerical information? Are there other aspects of their roles and responsibilities that the Code might include?

Click here to *enter your response*

9. The draft refreshed Code has an expanded range of principles and practices related to *Quality*, based on the Authority's *Quality Assurance of Administrative Data*. To what extent does the refreshed Code cover aspects of *Quality: robust data, methods and statistics*? What other aspects of *Quality* might they include?

Click here to *enter your response*

10. The draft refreshed Code includes a specific principle on coherence (Q4), that ‘*Statistics should be consistent and comparable, while remaining relevant to society’*. It also has a practice (Q3.3) about the use of similar data sources for quality assurance, and drawing insight from related statistical outputs (V2.4). To what extent do you think that the refreshed Code sufficiently covers the statistical practices related to coherence? Are there other aspects of coherence we might include?

*Click here to enter your response*

11. We have added a new principle: *‘Statistics need to continue to evolve to remain relevant in a changing world’* (*V4: Innovative*),emphasising innovation. To what extent does this new principle have the right focus to encourage and stimulate creativity and continuous improvement across all aspects of statistics production? What do you think we should add or change?

*Click here to enter your response*

12. The detailed practice relating to experimental statistics sits within *Principle V4: Innovative* in the draft refreshed Code. To what extent do you think the practice on experimental statistics (V4.5) is sufficiently clear to encourage the open and transparent development of new statistics that involves users?

*Click here to enter your response*

13. The draft refreshed Code includes a principle that *‘Statistics should help answer society’s important questions’* (*V2: Insightful*). The principle focuses on ensuring the public value of statistics through clear presentation, demonstrating relevance and supporting use, as well as through working collaboratively. How well do the practices under *V2: Insightful* set out what is expected of producers?

*Click here to enter your response*

Communication and audience

14. In previous discussions in the Code Stocktake and subsequent focus groups we found strong interest in the idea of additional guidance to help understand how to apply the Code, with examples of best practice. Which, if any, of the three pillars of *Trustworthiness, Quality* and *Value* or their related principles do you think need additional guidance and why? Select all that apply.

    

 

*Click here to specify your reasons for the additional guidance options selected*

15. To what extent should the guidance be tailored for different audiences? What groups of people in particular might require guidance?

*Click here to enter your response*

16. Annex A of the consultation document includes a data diagnostic tool that is intended for people who want to use statistics, to consider whether to use particular data sources. To what extent will the data diagnostic tool aid users in assessing the suitability of data for their uses? What more might they need?

*Click here to enter your response*

17. How clear and understandable is the language used in the Code? How could it be made clearer? Are there any areas of the draft refreshed Code you believe are at risk of becoming out-dated?

*Click here to enter your response*

18. Overall, how satisfied are you that the draft refreshed Code meets your needs? Please explain your reasons in the comment box below.











*Click here to explain the reasons for your answer to this question*

19. Do you have any further comments on the draft refreshed Code of Practice for Statistics?

*Click here to enter your response*

## A bit about you

20.  Please provide details about your name, organisation and position

Name

*Click here to enter your name*

Organisation

*Click* *here to enter the name of your organisation*

Position

*Click here to enter your position*

21.  What type of organisation do you work in?















*Click here to specify your sector*

22.  Are you responding to this consultation officially, on the behalf of your named organisation or as a private individual?





## Your response

23.  May we contact you to discuss your response to this consultation? This may be to follow up any specific points that we need to clarify. We will not publish your contact details.





Email address

*Click here to enter your email*

24.  Are you happy for us to contact you about future consultations?





25.  To support transparency in our decision making, responses to this consultation will be made public. This will include the name of your organisation where you are responding on their behalf, and with your permission, also your name. Please indicate if you are content for your name to be published. We will not publish contact details. Any information provided in response to this consultation could be made publicly available if required under a Freedom of Information request.





26. Please tell us if you have any specific suggestions for how we might improve this consultation, or any other comments about the consultation process

*Click here to enter any further comments*

Thank you for taking the time to consider and complete this consultation
on a refreshed Code of Practice for Statistics