

## Understanding the *Code of Practice for Statistics*

Organisations that produce official statistics should commit to the standards of the *Code of Practice for Statistics*. The Code applies to everyone working in these organisations.

You can protect the reputation of your organisation by working in line with the *Code of Practice*. By following the Code, your organisation will demonstrate:

- Its **trustworthiness** through commitments to clear, orderly publication of statistics
- The **quality** of its outputs
- The **value** of the insight it provides

The Code will therefore allow your organisation to publish and communicate its statistics in a way that inspires public confidence. The public value of statistics is at the heart of this Code.

### You should:

- Be **ethical and honest** in using any data
- Consult **professional analysts** to assure the appropriate use of evidence
- Use firm evidence that measures what is needed
- Present information accurately, clearly and impartially

*“Everyone that works in organisations producing official statistics should handle and use statistics and data with honesty and integrity, guided by established principles of appropriate behaviour in public life”*

Practice T1.1 of the *Code of Practice for Statistics*

### But you should not:

- Share unpublished data and statistics without authorised pre-release access
- Selectively quote favourable data
- Use other people’s data without checking their reliability first

### Further help

If you are unclear about any aspect of using data and statistics:

- Contact your **Head of Profession for Statistics**
- If you cannot reach them or a deputy, you can contact the **National Statistician’s Good Practice Team** via [goodpracticeteam@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:goodpracticeteam@statistics.gov.uk)
- An interactive guide to the **Code of Practice** is available with further guidance at: <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/code-of-practice/>

The Office for Statistics Regulation assesses compliance with the *Code of Practice for Statistics*. To understand the tools we use to do this, please refer to [Code of Practice for Statistics: Our regulatory approach](#).