Frequently asked questions:

Voluntarily applying *Trustworthiness, Quality* and *Value*

Frequently Asked Questions

Guide to voluntary application of the Code pillars – general

What is the Guide to committing to *Trustworthiness, Quality* and *Value*?

The Guide is a document published by the UK Statistics Authority that describes the way that producers of all kinds of data and statistics can apply the framework of **Trustworthiness**, **Quality** and **Value** in their production and release of information, and demonstrate their commitment to maintaining these standards.

How is the Guide to committing to *Trustworthiness, Quality* and *Value* different from the main Code?

The *Code of Practice for Statistics* provides the detailed practices that producers of official statistics should commit to in their production and release of official and National Statistics. It uses the framework of the three pillars, **Trustworthiness**, **Quality** and **Value**, with 14 individual principles, and 87 specific practices. The Guide focuses on applying the pillars to the production and release of other kinds of data and statistics and provides examples of organisations that have made this voluntary commitment.

Why is the Guide to committing to *Trustworthiness, Quality* and *Value* relevant to me?

If you produce data or statistics, such as through research, management information, performance management, econometric analysis, then the Guide can help you build confidence in your statistics and analysis. It doesn't matter whether you are within government or outside – thinking about **Trustworthiness**, **Quality** and **Value** can help you improve your data and statistics and increase public confidence in your information.

Voluntary application of the Code pillars

What does voluntary application of the Code pillars mean?

It means that you are publicly committing to demonstrating your trustworthiness, reassuring yourself and users about the quality of your information, and ensuring that the information serves the intended purposes. You will have reviewed your practices against the Code pillars and you will have published a statement saying how far you apply the pillars in your own situation.

What types of organisations are voluntarily applying the pillars?

The examples so far are from organisations inside government but organisations outside government are also considering applying the Code pillars.

Do I need to adopt the principles as well as the pillars?

It is not essential to adopt all the principles and detailed practices of the Code. Not all will apply in all situations.

What happens if I don't fully apply one of the pillars?

The critical requirement is to understand the pillars, to review how these are relevant to your context, and to be clear in your published statement about where and why you cannot apply some

FAQs: applying the Code voluntarily

aspects of the pillars. It is good to also consider whether you will work towards extending your practice to meet these aspects of the pillars.

Do I need to add a statement to my publication/release about voluntary application?
Yes – it is important to be transparent about your approach, to provide reassurance to others about the trustworthiness, quality and value of your information.

Using the Guide to commit to *Trustworthiness*, *Quality* and *Value*

How do I use the Guide to commit to *Trustworthiness, Quality* and *Value*?
See page 3 of the Guide which sets out the steps to follow – to **understand** the pillars, to **review** and **consider** your practices, and to **publish** your statement.

Where can I find guidance about how to voluntarily apply the Code pillars?
You can check out the examples provided in the interactive [Guide](#).

How do I commit to *Trustworthiness, Quality and Value* when publishing my numerical information?
You should understand what the pillars mean to you and colleagues. Then review your approach to see which aspects of the pillars are relevant to your production and release of information. Consider whether you achieve these; or, identify whether there are areas which you think are relevant but that you do not yet achieve. Use this information to inform your public statement that demonstrates your commitment to *Trustworthiness*, *Quality* and *Value*.

OSR and the voluntary application of the Code pillars

Why has OSR introduced voluntary application of the pillars?
In 2018 we published our second edition of the *Code of Practice for Statistics* on behalf of the UK Statistics Authority. The Code has the framework of *Trustworthiness, Quality* and *Value*. We think that it is helpful to anyone producing data and statistics. We have issued the Guide to committing to *Trustworthiness, Quality* and *Value* alongside the Code.

How does the OSR regulate the voluntary application of the Code pillars?
We do not have a formal role in regulating the voluntary application of the pillars. Our role as regulator is to oversee the production and release of official and National Statistics. However, if someone raises a concern with us, we will contact the organisation and review its statement and procedures. We are prepared to comment publicly on the application of the Code's pillars.

What is OSR doing to promote voluntary application of *Trustworthiness, Quality and Value*?
As well as publishing the Guide booklet and interactive Guide, alongside our *Code of Practice*, we are promoting the adoption and application of the Code's pillars through our stakeholder engagement, blogs, public presentations, and through social media.