

FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH



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Dear *Penny*

TRANSPARENCY AND A REFRESHED CODE OF PRACTICE FOR STATISTICS

Thank you for your letter of 19 November 2025 regarding intelligent transparency and a refreshed Code of Practice for Statistics.


My department has a longstanding history of collaborative working where senior statisticians provide independent advice on the appropriate use of official statistics to further both the internal decision-making process and provide transparency into the effects of policy.

I fully support the UKSA's aim of combating misinformation and disinformation by embedding intelligent transparency in departmental communications. I note in particular the importance of recommendation 2, 3 and 4 where we will undertake to

- ensure as far as possible that all public communications cite and link official statistics to strengthen trust and reduce misinterpretation,
- implement monitoring systems to detect and address misuse of our statistics in public discourse; and
- publish a Statement of Compliance by April 2026, outlining our commitments to these tasks.

I wish you well in implementing the updated Code of Practice.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mike Nesbitt', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mike Nesbitt MLA
Minister of Health